



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 11 February 2014

Subject	Page
ASSENT TO BILLS	1
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 27 November 2013, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to bills on 27 November 2013.	1
REPORT	1
Auditor-General	1
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 13: 2013-14—Right of private practice: Senior medical officer conduct.	1
SPEAKER'S STATEMENT	2
Driscoll, Mr SN, Service of Order	2
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Affidavit of Service by the Parliamentary Security Supervisor, dated 22 November 2013, and attachments to the affidavit which evidences the service of the Order of the House dated 21 November 2013 to Mr Scott Driscoll.	2
ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF REDCLIFFE	2
By-Election, Issue of Writ	2
<i>Table paper:</i> Copy of Writ for by-election – Electorate of Redcliffe.....	2
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	2
Lawfulness of Order; Points of Order	2
Parliamentary Procedures and Rules, Guide	3
PETITIONS	3
DRISCOLL, MR SN	4
TABLED PAPERS	4
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	14
Newman Government, Performance	14
Governing for Growth Economic Strategy and Action Plan	16
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Governing for Growth, Economic Strategy and Action Plan—February 2014.	16

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 11 February 2014

Queensland Economy	17
Queensland Audit Office, Report.....	18
MOTION	18
Suspension of Standing Orders; Vacancy in Senate of Commonwealth of Australia	18
MOTION	18
Amendments to Standing Orders.....	18
NOTICE OF MOTION	20
Redcliffe Electorate	20
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	20
1 William Street.....	20
Skilling Queenslanders for Work.....	21
Redcliffe Electorate, Initiatives.....	21
Government Administrative Precinct, Redevelopment.....	22
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Map of Brisbane Queen’s Wharf proposed development.	22
Redcliffe Electorate, Economic Strategy	23
Newman Government, Asset Sales	24
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Australian Financial Review</i> , dated 21 February 2012, titled ‘State Election: LNP Scraps \$1bn property sell-off’.	24
Queensland Economy	25
Treasurer and Minister for Trade, Expenses	25
Redcliffe Hospital, Waiting Lists	26
Law and Order	27
Speaker’s Ruling, Question Out of Order	27
Water and Electricity Prices.....	27
Senior Medical Officers.....	28
Speaker’s Ruling, Question Out of Order	28
Education.....	28
Police Service, Accommodation	28
Redcliffe Electorate, Transport.....	29
Electricity Prices	29
Small Business.....	30
Remembrance Drive, Surfers Paradise.....	31
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 10 January 2014, to member for Gaven, Dr Douglas, from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Jeff Seeney, regarding transfer of state land adjacent to the Surfers Paradise Bowls Club.	31
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document titled ‘Item 3 (Continued) Material Change of Use for apartment (389 units)’.	31
Get in the Game Policy.....	31
SPEAKER’S STATEMENT	32
School Group Tours.....	32
MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST	32
Redcliffe Electorate, By-election; 1 William Street.....	32
Newman Government, Achievements.....	34
Mason’s Law	35
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Non-conforming petition regarding Queensland child care centres/services and their staff become lawfully mandated notifiers, 551 total petitioners.	36
Drought Assistance.....	36
Youth Justice.....	37
Alcohol Abuse and Violence.....	38
Drought.....	39
Crime and Misconduct Commission	40
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Accountability Round Table document titled ‘Queensland CMC—Independent Advisory Panel Review’.	41
Council Amalgamation.....	41
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of documents regarding the Toowoomba Range Crossing and the Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy.	42
Queensland Health, Senior Medical Officers Awards	42
Indigenous Community Development.....	43
CRIMINAL CODE AND ANOTHER ACT (STOCK) AMENDMENT BILL	44
Introduction	44
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill 2014.....	44
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	44
First Reading	45
Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.....	45
YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	45
Introduction	45
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.....	45
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	45
First Reading	47
Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.....	47

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 11 February 2014

COMMUNITIES LEGISLATION (FUNDING RED TAPE REDUCTION) AMENDMENT BILL	47
Introduction	47
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Communities Legislation (Funding Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2014.	47
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Communities Legislation (Funding Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	47
First Reading	50
Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee	50
WATER SUPPLY SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	50
Introduction	50
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014.	50
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	50
First Reading	52
Referral to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee	52
CHICKEN MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT BILL	52
Introduction	52
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014.	52
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes.	52
First Reading	53
Referral to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee	53
POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	53
Second Reading	53
VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA	56
Election of Senator	56
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from www.brisbanetimes.com.au, dated 21 October 2011, titled ‘Senior LNP figure’s explicit rant was ‘inappropriate’’.	60
Notification of Election	67
POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	68
Second Reading	68
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document titled ‘How new police party powers could affect ordinary Queenslanders’.	68
MOTION	86
Redcliffe Electorate	86
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from <i>Redcliffe & Bayside Herald</i> , dated 1 August 2012, titled ‘State axes bus interchange’.	94
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.	96
Resolved in the affirmative.	96
Division: Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.	96
Resolved in the affirmative.	96
SPEAKER’S STATEMENT	97
Tabled Documents	97
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	97
Auditor-General’s Reports, Referral to Portfolio Committees	97
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates	98
POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	98
Second Reading	98
PERSONAL EXPLANATION	117
Tabled Documents	117
POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	117
Second Reading	117
Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.	120
Resolved in the affirmative.	120
Consideration in Detail	121
Clause 1, as read, agreed to.	121
Clause 2—	121
Clause 2, as read, negatived.	121
Clauses 3 to 38, as read, agreed to.	121
Clause 39—	121
Clause 39, as read, negatived.	121
Clauses 40 and 41, as read, agreed to.	121
Clause 42—	121
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes to Hon. Jack Dempsey’s amendments.	121
Clause 42, as amended, agreed to.	121
Clauses 43 to 45, as read, agreed to.	121
Insertion of new clause—	121
Amendment agreed to.	122
Third Reading	122
Long Title	122
Amendment agreed to.	122
ADJOURNMENT	122
Vietnamese Community	122
PL Travers	123
South Burnett Citizen of the Year Awards	124
Newman Government, Performance	124
Coomera Electorate, Australia Day Awards	125
Gaythorne RSL Volunteers Appreciation Dinner; McIntyre, Mr DJ	125

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 11 February 2014

Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee	126
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media article from abc.net, dated 3 February 2014 titled 'Abuse of Power does nothing to protect us'.....	126
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 16 December 2013, from the Whistleblowers Action Group (Queensland) to the Speaker regarding the discharge of the PCMC members in November 2013....	126
Beauresert Hospital	126
LNG Industry	127
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Media article from the <i>Australian</i> , dated 7 February 2014, titled 'Gas prices drives industry to coal'.....	127
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Bundle of media articles dated 6 February 2014 regarding the gas industry.	127
State Schools; Milne, Mrs I	128
PRIVILEGE	128
Correction to Matters of Public Interest; Mason's Law	128
ATTENDANCE	128

TUESDAY, 11 FEBRUARY 2014

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Madam Speaker (Hon. Fiona Simpson, Maroochydore) read prayers and took the chair.

For the sitting week, Madam Speaker acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land upon which this parliament is assembled.

ASSENT TO BILLS

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

The Honourable F. Simpson MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 27 November 2013

“A Bill for An Act to amend the Industrial Relations Act 1999, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990, the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Regulation 2006 and the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990, and to make minor and consequential amendments to the Acts listed in schedule 1, for particular purposes”

“A Bill for An Act to amend the Casino Control Act 1982, the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Liquor Act 1992, the Roman Catholic Church (Incorporation of Church Entities) Act 1994, the Roman Catholic Church Lands Act 1985, the Security Providers Act 1993 and the Wagering Act 1998 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for An Act to amend the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability Act 2011 and the Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Act 2013 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for An Act to amend the Bail Act 1980, the Corrective Services Act 2006, the Crime and Misconduct Act 2001, the Criminal Code, the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002, the District Court of Queensland Act 1967, the Electrical Safety Act 2002, the Evidence Act 1977, the Justices Act 1886, the Liquor Act 1992, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Queensland Building Services Authority Act 1991, the Racing Act 2002, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Act 2003, the Security Providers Act 1993, the Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991, the Tattoo Parlours Act 2013, the Tow Truck Act 1973, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994, the Transport Planning and Coordination Regulation 2005, the Weapons Act 1990 and the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 for particular purposes”

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

27 November 2013

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 November 2013, from Her Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to bills on 27 November 2013 [[4230](#)].

REPORT

Auditor-General

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 13 of 2013-14 titled *Right of private practice: senior medical officer conduct*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 13: 2013-14—Right of private practice: Senior medical officer conduct [[4229](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Driscoll, Mr SN, Service of Order

 **Madam SPEAKER:** I table for the information of members an affidavit of service by the parliamentary security supervisor dated 22 November 2013 and attachments to that affidavit which evidences the service of the order of the House dated 21 November 2013 to Mr Scott Driscoll.

Tabled paper: Affidavit of Service by the Parliamentary Security Supervisor, dated 22 November 2013, and attachments to the affidavit which evidences the service of the Order of the House dated 21 November 2013 to Mr Scott Driscoll [[4231](#)].

ELECTORAL DISTRICT OF REDCLIFFE

By-Election, Issue of Writ

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have issued a writ for the election of a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly for the electoral district of Redcliffe. The dates in connection with the issue of the writ are as follows:

- Issue of writ—Tuesday, 28 January 2014;
- Cut-off day for electoral rolls—Monday, 3 February 2014;
- Cut-off day for nominations—Thursday, 13 February 2014;
- Polling day—Saturday, 22 February 2014;
- Return of writ—Friday, 14 March 2014.

Table paper: Copy of Writ for by-election – Electorate of Redcliffe [[4232](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Lawfulness of Order; Points of Order

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 28 November 2013 the member for Nicklin, Mr Peter Wellington MP, wrote to me regarding the lawfulness of an order of the Legislative Assembly on 21 November 2013 as it related to the discharge of members from the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee. The member asked me to rule that the order was unlawful or not effective. There are two matters which I will address. The first is the legal advice I received and the second is the request from the member for Nicklin that I make a ruling.

In recognition of some of the external community commentary around this motion and the keen public interest which followed, I sought independent legal advice from a Queen's Counsel with constitutional experience. This was an integrity measure to protect in-house parliamentary legal officers from any perception of conflict as they had originally advised on the motion. Independent counsel Mr Mark Hinson QC confirmed that the motion was lawful and not in conflict with statute law. The House was notified of this with the tabling of that advice on 10 December 2013. Mr Wellington then wrote to me on 16 December 2013 asking whether I was making a ruling in respect of the lawfulness of the motion and, if so, when the ruling would be made. This is the second matter I address today.

As to the timing of a point of order, general practice is that a point of order must be raised immediately. Standing orders 248 and 249 emphasise that points of order must be dealt with before proceeding to other business. It is not acceptable to raise points of order concerning proceedings which have occurred earlier in the day or on a previous day.

The issue of delay in this case is even more acute because the member is essentially seeking a ruling on a matter that the House had already determined. In effect the member is asking the Speaker to overturn a decision of the House. Put simply, it is outside the jurisdiction of a Speaker to retrospectively rule a matter out of order if the House has already resolved the matter.

I seek leave to incorporate the remainder of the statement, circulated in my name, which provides further references and precedents.

Leave granted.

Ability of a Speaker to make a ruling

There are many sources of parliamentary procedure: Statute, standing orders, sessional orders or other orders, Speaker's rulings and general practice.

Part of a Speaker's role is to make rulings on the correctness of procedure in particular circumstances. Ultimately Speaker's rulings can then be dissented upon, which is essentially an appeal to the House—the House being the final arbiter on most matters relating to its procedure (as most procedural issues are non-justiciable by the courts).

Where a statute applies to a procedure, all other procedures are subservient to it (See Standing Order 6).

There is precedent from other Westminster style parliaments which suggests it is generally not a duty of the Speaker to give a decision on (to interpret) a question of law. (*Australian House of Representatives Practice*, online version at page 191; *Marleau Canadian House of Commons Practice* at page 211, *McRae ACT Practice* at page 72).

However, other precedents suggest the Speaker has a 'special duty' to ensure that the House observes any statutory requirements applying to it. (See McGee, *New Zealand House of Representatives Practice*, page 114-115).

I also note a ruling by Speaker Reynolds in 2008 on the lawfulness of a motion (27 February 2008 p422 of the Parliamentary Record).

On balance I persuaded that a Speaker, whilst not an interpreter of the law in the same way as a court, must be able to rule on the correctness, including the lawfulness, of a procedure if raised appropriately. This is especially the case if the decision will be otherwise non-justiciable (not reviewable by the courts).

The timing of a point of order

Mr Wellington first raised his point of order a week after the motion for the order had been passed by the Assembly.

General practice is that a point of order must be raised immediately. It is not acceptable to raise points of order concerning proceedings earlier in the day or concerning proceedings of a previous day.

Standing Orders 248 and 249 emphasise that points of order must be dealt with before proceeding to other business.

In this case the issue of delay is even more acute because the Member is essentially seeking a ruling on a matter that the House has already determined. In effect the Member is asking the Speaker to overturn a decision already made by the House.

It is one thing to ask a Speaker to rule on a matter before it is considered by the Assembly. It is another to ask a Speaker to rule on a matter in such a way as to attempt to set aside an order of the House.

The Clerk has during January initiated a survey of the precedents and procedures of New Zealand and other Australian jurisdictions on this issue of the timing of a point of order.

The general response is that points of order should be raised at the time the matter of order to be determined arises. Whilst some Houses reported presiding officers making rulings and giving the reasons for their ruling at a later time, no House reported a presiding officer making a ruling that would effectively overturn a decision already made by the House.

Based on this advice provided by the Clerk, I therefore find that a Speaker cannot retrospectively rule a matter out of order if the House has already resolved the matter.

Counsel's advice

Finally, as I have noted, my purpose in obtaining Counsel's advice was to simply inform the Assembly.

The advice makes it very clear that the order was lawful.

If the advice had been different then it would be for the Assembly itself to address the matter as it saw fit.

Parliamentary Procedures and Rules, Guide

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, being distributed around the chamber is a helpful guide for members with quick reference to some important parliamentary procedures and rules. I encourage all members to make themselves familiar with the rulings of the House. An electronic copy will also be provided.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated—

Ridgeway TAFE Campus

Mr Molhoek, from 138 petitioners, requesting the House to recommend that the Ridgeway Campus of TAFE be gifted to the City of Gold Coast [4233].

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3)—

Mount Warren Park State School, Flashing Lights

163 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the installation of school flashing lights at Mt Warren Park State School [4234].

Gold Coast City Council, Development Proposals

6,090 petitioners, requesting the House to discontinue investigations into any shipping terminal developments along the Gold Coast and instead promote the Broadwater and other coastal areas as essential assets for the city [4235].

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

Queensland Parliament, Upper House Referendum

Mr Wellington, from 1,938 petitioners, requesting the House to hold a referendum on the reintroduction of an Upper House in the Queensland Parliament with the make up being 59 members in the Lower House and 30 members in the Upper House, the boundaries of both Houses to be determined by the Electoral Commission of Queensland [\[4236\]](#) [\[4237\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motor Vehicle Impoundment) and Other Legislation Bill

Mr Holswich, from 3,610 petitioners, requesting the House to replace 'Driving an illegally modified vehicle', with 'Driving an unsafe vehicle' in the Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motor Vehicle Impoundment) and Other Legislation Bill [\[4238\]](#).

Graceville, Chelmer and Sherwood Railways Stations, Upgrade

Ms Trad, from 196 petitioners, requesting the House to provide funds to upgrade the Graceville, Chelmer and Sherwood railway stations to give universal access [\[4239\]](#).

Caningeraba State School, Flashing Lights

Mr Hart, from 109 petitioners, requesting the House to install flashing speed limit signage around Caningeraba State School [\[4240\]](#).

GST Law

Mrs Miller, from 140 petitioners, requesting the House to request the Federal Government to direct the Australian Tax Office to withdraw this proposed GST ruling 2013/D2 and to amend section 195-1 of the GST Law to include 'mobile home estate' in the definition of 'commercial residential premises' [\[4241\]](#).

Mason's Law

Hon. Cripps, from 711 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate mandatory reporting by Queensland child care centres and services, and their staff to become lawfully mandated notifiers, of suspected child abuse and or neglect to be known as Mason's Law [\[4242\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4)—

North Queensland, Separation Referendum

248 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct a referendum regarding the formation of a North Queensland State with the question to be asked of the people: 'Should North Queensland become a separate State?' [\[4243\]](#)

Coal Dust Emissions, Hauling

271 petitioners, requesting the House to require companies producing and hauling coal to put covers over rail wagons and trucks carrying coal to port and back to the mines [\[4244\]](#).

Mackay Harbour and Slade Point, Access

170 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that Vines Creek Bridge on Harbour Road is upgraded to a standard necessary for access to Mackay Harbour and Slade Point [\[4245\]](#).

Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Bill

3,202 petitioners, requesting the House to abolish the new VLAD laws, reinstate former criminal laws so that criminal offenders are charged according to the crime committed, not by association or affiliation [\[4246\]](#).

Radiation Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2012

8,007 petitioners, requesting the House to uphold Radiation Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2012 [\[4247\]](#).

Narangba, New Settlement Road and Banyan Street Roundabout

2 petitioners, requesting the House to address the significant safety issues associated with the roundabout located at New Settlement Road and Banyan Street, Narangba and provide funding to implement solutions [\[4248\]](#).

Petitions received.

DRISCOLL, MR SN

The CLERK: Honourable members, I advise that on 21 November 2013 the Legislative Assembly found Mr Scott Driscoll guilty of 49 instances of contempt and ordered that Mr Driscoll be fined a total of \$90,000. I advise that on 22 November 2013 I received from Mr Driscoll the sum of \$90,000, being full payment of the fines.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

22 November 2013—

[4150](#) Letter, dated 22 November 2013 to Mr Neil Laurie, Clerk of the Parliament, from Mr Ray Stevens MP, Leader of the House, regarding the appointment of government members to the Select Committee on Ethics and the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee

- [4151](#) Department of Health—Review of Root Cause Analysis Legislation
- [4152](#) Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency—Annual Report 2012-13
- [4153](#) Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service: Acute Medical Admissions—A Clinical Review, Report and Recommendations dated 28 October 2013
- 25 November 2013—
- [4154](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 47—Classification of Publications (Billboard Advertising) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013
- [4155](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience (Mr Crisafulli) to a paper petition (2184-13) presented by Mr Springborg and an ePetition (2112-13) sponsored by the Clerk, from 550 and 160 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to enable all residents of Queensland affected by the forced local government amalgamations to exercise their democratic right to be heard and facilitate a referendum that enables communities to return to natural boundaries or create new boundaries
- 26 November 2013—
- [4156](#) Response from the Minister Energy and Water Supply (Mr McArdle) to an ePetition (2142-13) sponsored by Mr Pitt, from 914 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the proposed closure of more than 30 Ergon Energy Depots and outsourcing of energy jobs as indicated by the Government's in principle agreement of recommendation 23 contained in the Independent Review Committee Report
- [4157](#) Response from the Minister Energy and Water Supply (Mr McArdle) to an ePetition (2143-13) sponsored by Mr Pitt, from 671 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the proposed privatisation of Ergon Energy's isolated generation assets and the outsourcing of more than 160 energy jobs as indicated in Recommendation 29 of the Independent Review Panel's final report
- 27 November 2013—
- [4158](#) President of the Industrial Court of Queensland (in respect of the Industrial Court of Queensland, Queensland Industrial Relations Commission and the Queensland Industrial Registry)—Annual Report 2012-13
- 28 November 2013—
- [4159](#) Letter, dated 28 November 2013 to Mr Neil Laurie, Clerk of the Parliament, from Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Leader of the Opposition, regarding the appointment of members to the Select Committee on Ethics
- [4160](#) Letter, dated 28 November 2013 to Mr Neil Laurie, Clerk of the Parliament, from Ms Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Leader of the Opposition, regarding the appointment of members to the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee
- [4161](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 44—Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—Government response
- [4162](#) Response from the Minister Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to an ePetition (2109-13) sponsored by Dr Flegg, from 6,198 petitioners, requesting the House to enact legislation to modify existing regulations requiring that a motorist maintain a minimum safe distance of one point five metres between their vehicle and a cyclist whilst overtaking, with a thirty metre exemption at intersections to allow for filtering
- 29 November 2013—
- [4163](#) Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee: Report No. 39—Inquiry into Cycling Issues: A new direction for cycling in Queensland
- 2 December 2013—
- [4164](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2185-13) presented by Mr Ruthenberg and an ePetition (2098-13) sponsored by the Clerk from 392 and 26 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to rename Anzac Avenue, which runs from Petrie to Redcliffe, back to the original name of Anzac Memorial Avenue
- [4165](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2194-13) presented by Mr Ruthenberg, from 22 petitioners, requesting the House to rename Anzac Avenue, which runs from Petrie to Redcliffe, back to the original name of Anzac Memorial Avenue
- [4166](#) Overseas travel report: Report on an overseas visit by the Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr McArdle) to Singapore from 27 October 2013 to 3 November 2013—Singapore International Energy Week
- 3 December 2013—
- [4167](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 9: 2013-14—Results of Audit: Energy sector entities 2012-13
- [4168](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 10: 2013-14—Contract management: renewal and transition
- 4 December 2013—
- [4169](#) Report on the administration of the Nature Conservation Act 1992—2012-13
- 6 December 2013—
- [4170](#) Childrens Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2012-13
- [4171](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection (Mr Powell) to an ePetition (2128-13) sponsored by Mr Dowling, from 473 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the release of helium balloons in Queensland, with an appropriate penalty for deliberately doing so
- 9 December 2013—
- [4172](#) Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee: Report No. 32—Protection of Prime Agricultural Land and Other Land from Coal Seam Gas Mining Bill 2013
- [4173](#) Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee: Report No. 33—Subordinate legislation tabled between 20 August and 10 September 2013

10 December 2013—

- [4174](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 11: 2013-14—Results of audit: State public sector entities for 2012-13
- [4175](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 12: 2013-14—Results of audit: Queensland state government financial statements 2012-13
- [4176](#) Speaker's advice to Parliament regarding the lawfulness of the motion regarding the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee, dated 10 December 2013 (enclosing advice received from Mr Mark Hinson QC, dated 9 December 2013)
- [4177](#) Parliamentary Crime Misconduct Committee: Report No. 92—Complaint about the CMC investigation into the University of Queensland—Government Response
- [4178](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 40—Criminal Code (Looting in Declared Areas) Amendment Bill 2013—Government Response

11 December 2013—

- [4179](#) Response from the Minister for Health (Mr Springborg) to a paper petition (2197-13) sponsored by Dr Davis, from 1,812 petitioners, requesting the House to retain and resource Queensland's Royal Children's Hospital as a leading centre of excellence in patient care, that will benefit current and future generations of sick babies and children, their families, healthcare trainees, researchers and taxpayers
- [4180](#) Administrator National Health Funding Pool—Annual Report 2012-13

16 December 2013—

- [4181](#) Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry final report: Taking Responsibility: A Roadmap for Queensland Child Protection—government response, December 2013

17 December 2013—

- [4182](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Report, dated December 2013, titled 'The Liquor Report—An investigation into the regulation and licensed premises by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation'
- [4183](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience (Mr Crisafulli) to an ePetition (2172-13) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 54 petitioners, requesting the House as the level of Government with primary responsibility for planning to take the lead role in co-ordinating the road safety aspects of planning and implementation process to King Arthur Terrace, Tennyson
- [4184](#) Response from the Minister for Education, Training and Employment (Mr Langbroek) to an ePetition (2173-13) sponsored by Ms Palaszczuk, from 820 petitioners, requesting the House to stay the closure of the Charlton, Fortitude Valley, Old Yarranlea, Stuart and Toowoomba South State Schools and the Nyanda State High School for at least 12 months

18 December 2013—

- [4185](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie) to an ePetition (2134-13) sponsored by Ms Barton, from 12 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the integrity of Queensland's Restrictive Practices regime 'safeguards and protections', by removing conflicting authorities and practices of the Office of the Adult Guardian over the Community Visitors Program
- [4186](#) Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 28—Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Bill 2013
- [4187](#) Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 28—Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry

19 December 2013—

- [4188](#) Overseas travel report: Report on an overseas visit by the Treasurer (Mr Nicholls) to the Queensland Treasury Corporation Annual Investor Roadshow, 23 September 2013-6 October 2013
- [4189](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2195-13) presented by Hon Seeney, from 757 petitioners, requesting the House to transfer to a community trust the rail corridor and existing rail infrastructure relative to the Mungar to Gladstone (inland route) rail line

20 December 2013—

- [4190](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 29—Public Health (Exclusion of Unvaccinated Children from Child Care) Amendment Bill 2013—Government response
- [4191](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2196-13) presented by Mr Holswich, from 411 petitioners, requesting the House to provide additional bus services for route 669 through Lawnton, Bray Park and Strathpine
- [4192](#) Queensland Rail—Annual and Financial Report 2012-13
- [4193](#) Queensland Rail Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2012-13

24 December 2013—

- [4194](#) Letter, dated 20 December 2013, to the Premier (Mr Newman) from the Clerk of the Parliament, regarding the outcome of allegations against the Member for Redlands
- [4195](#) Parklands Gold Coast—Annual Report 2013-14—Final Report for the period 1 July-30-September 2013

6 January 2014—

- [4196](#) Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 25—The assessment methods used in senior mathematics, chemistry and physics in Queensland schools—Government response

- [4197](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to an ePetition (2171-13) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 28 petitioners, requesting the House to install flashing lights on Fryar Road to alert drivers to the Eagle South State School
- 10 January 2014—
- [4198](#) Supreme Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2012-13
- 13 January 2014—
- [4199](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 37—Review of the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament 12: 2012-13 Community Benefit Funds: Grant Management—Government Response
- 17 January 2014—
- [4200](#) Response from the Minister for Health (Mr Springborg) to an ePetition (2140-13) sponsored by Dr Davis, from 3,748 petitioners, requesting the House to retain and resource Queensland's Royal Children's Hospital as a leading centre of excellence in patient care, that will benefit current and future generations of sick babies and children, their families, healthcare trainees, researchers and taxpayers
- [4201](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 30—Subordinate legislation tabled between 5 June 2013 and 10 September 2013—Government response
- 21 January 2014—
- [4202](#) Cardwell Shire River Improvement Trust—Final Annual Report 2012-13
- [4203](#) Clifton Shire River Improvement Trust—Final Annual Report 2012-13
- [4204](#) Jondaryan Shire River Improvement Trust—Final Annual Report 2012-13
- 29 January 2014—
- [4205](#) Health Quality and Complaints Commission: Doctor Right—Volume 4: A special report on credentialing and defining the scope of clinical practice for doctors working in Queensland hospitals
- [4206](#) Health Quality and Complaints Commission: Driving quality improvement—A special report on the HQCC's role in improving healthcare in Queensland, November 2013
- 30 January 2014—
- [4207](#) Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee: Report No. 39—Inquiry into Cycling Issues: A new direction for cycling in Queensland—Interim Government Response
- 31 January 2014—
- [4208](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 36—Inquiry into sexually explicit outdoor advertising
- [4209](#) National Heavy Vehicle Regulator—Annual Report 2012-13
- [4210](#) Ethics Committee Report: No. 141—Matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 31 October 2012 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by a Minister or, in the alternative, a Chief Executive Officer of an Estimates Committee
- [4211](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 36—Inquiry into sexually explicit outdoor advertising—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- 3 February 2014—
- [4212](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 35—Auditor-General's Report to Parliament No. 6 for 2012-13—Implementing the National Partnership Agreement on Homelessness in Queensland—government response
- [4213](#) Nature Conservation Act 1992: Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 188, Erratum to explanatory notes
- [4214](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 37—Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013
- [4215](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 37—Disability Services (Restrictive Practices) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [4216](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 37—Public Service and Other Legislation (Civil Liability) Amendment Bill 2013
- [4217](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 37—Public Service and Other Legislation (Civil Liability) Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [4218](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 48—Penalties and Sentences (Indexation) Amendment Bill 2013
- [4219](#) Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee: Report No. 34—Agricultural College Amendment Bill 2013
- 4 February 2014—
- [4220](#) Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee: Report No. 30—Milk Pricing (Fair Milk Mark) Bill 2013—government response
- 5 February 2014—
- [4221](#) Nature Conservation Act 1992: Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 178, Erratum to explanatory notes
- 6 February 2014—
- [4222](#) Report by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Mr Seeney), pursuant to section 432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application at 1513, 1515-1521 Mount Cotton Road and 163-177, 195 Gramzow Road, Mount Cotton [Volume 1 of 5]

- [4223](#) Report by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Mr Seeney), pursuant to section 432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application at 1513, 1515-1521 Mount Cotton Road and 163-177, 195 Gramzow Road, Mount Cotton [Volume 2 of 5]
- [4224](#) Report by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Mr Seeney), pursuant to section 432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application at 1513, 1515-1521 Mount Cotton Road and 163-177, 195 Gramzow Road, Mount Cotton [Volume 3 of 5]
- [4225](#) Report by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Mr Seeney), pursuant to section 432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application at 1513, 1515-1521 Mount Cotton Road and 163-177, 195 Gramzow Road, Mount Cotton [Volume 4 of 5]
- [4226](#) Report by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Mr Seeney), pursuant to section 432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application at 1513, 1515-1521 Mount Cotton Road and 163-177, 195 Gramzow Road, Mount Cotton [Volume 5 of 5]

7 February 2014—

- [4227](#) Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 25—The assessment methods used in senior mathematics, chemistry and physics in Queensland schools—submissions received in relation to the inquiry

10 February 2014—

- [4228](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee; Report No. 49—Identification Laws Amendment Bill 2013

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990—

- [4249](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 226
- [4250](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment of Deed Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 226, explanatory notes
- Vocational Education, Training and Employment (Skills Queensland) and Another Act Amendment Act 2013—

- [4251](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 227
- [4252](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 227, explanatory notes

Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001, Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002, Public Sector Ethics Act 1994, Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Act 1982, Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000—

- [4253](#) Education, Training and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 228
- [4254](#) Education, Training and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 228, explanatory notes

Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001—

- [4255](#) Education (Accreditation of Non-state Schools) Transitional Regulation 2013, No. 229
- [4256](#) Education (Accreditation of Non-state Schools) Transitional Regulation 2013, No. 229, explanatory notes

Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000—

- [4257](#) Property Agents and Motor Dealers Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 230
- [4258](#) Property Agents and Motor Dealers Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 230, explanatory notes

Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Act 2013—

- [4259](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 231
- [4260](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 231, explanatory notes

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966—

- [4261](#) Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 232
- [4262](#) Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 232, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

- [4263](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 233
- [4264](#) Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 233, explanatory notes

Land, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013—

- [4265](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 234
- [4266](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 234, explanatory notes

Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004—

- [4267](#) Petroleum Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 235
- [4268](#) Petroleum Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 235, explanatory notes

South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009, Sustainable Planning Act 2009—

- [4269](#) South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 236
- [4270](#) South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 236, explanatory notes

Forestry Act 1959, Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[4271](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 237

[4272](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 237, explanatory notes

Housing and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013—

[4273](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 238

[4274](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 238, explanatory notes

Housing Act 2003—

[4275](#) Housing Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 239

[4276](#) Housing Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 239, explanatory notes

Queensland Building Services Authority Amendment Act 2013—

[4277](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 240

[4278](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 240, explanatory notes

Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013—

[4279](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 241

[4280](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 241, explanatory notes

Local Government and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013—

[4281](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 242

[4282](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 242, explanatory notes

Tattoo Parlours Act 2013—

[4283](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 243

[4284](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 243, explanatory notes

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Tattoo Parlours Act 2013—

[4285](#) Tattoo Parlours Regulation 2013, No. 244

[4286](#) Tattoo Parlours Regulation 2013, No. 244, explanatory notes

Land Sales Act 1984—

[4287](#) Land Sales Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 245

[4288](#) Land Sales Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 245, explanatory notes

Wagering Act 1998—

[4289](#) Wagering Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 246

[4290](#) Wagering Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 246, explanatory notes

Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988—

[4291](#) Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 247

[4292](#) Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 247, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[4293](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 248

[4294](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 248, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[4295](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 249

[4296](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 249, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[4297](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 250

[4298](#) Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 250, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

[4299](#) Water Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 251

[4300](#) Water Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 251, explanatory notes

Land Act 1994, Land Title Act 1994, Water Act 2000—

[4301](#) Land Title and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 252

[4302](#) Land Title and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 252, explanatory notes

Land, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013—

[4303](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 253

[4304](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 253, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [4305](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2013, No. 254
- [4306](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2013, No. 254, explanatory notes

Vegetation Management Framework Amendment Act 2013—

- [4307](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 255
- [4308](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 255, explanatory notes

Vegetation Management Act 1999—

- [4309](#) Vegetation Management Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 256
- [4310](#) Vegetation Management Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 256, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975, Professional Engineers Act 2002, Sustainable Planning Act 2009—

- [4311](#) Building and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 257
- [4312](#) Building and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 257, explanatory notes

Sustainable Planning Act 2009—

- [4313](#) Sustainable Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 7) 2013, No. 258
- [4314](#) Sustainable Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 7) 2013, No. 258, explanatory notes

Work Health and Safety Act 2011—

- [4315](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 2013, No. 259
- [4316](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 2013, No. 259, explanatory notes

City of Brisbane Act 2010, Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Industrial Relations Act 1999, Local Government Act 2009, Police Service Administration Act 1990, Public Sector Ethics Act 1994, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [4317](#) Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 260
- [4318](#) Industrial Relations and Other Legislation Amendment and Repeal Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 260, explanatory notes

Economic Development Act 2012—

- [4319](#) Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2013, No. 261
- [4320](#) Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2013, No. 261, explanatory notes
- [4321](#) Document, Parklands Priority Development Area Development Scheme (refer to Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2013: Subordinate Legislation No. 261 of 2013)

Education (Strengthening Discipline in State Schools) Amendment Act 2013—

- [4322](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 262
- [4323](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 262, explanatory notes

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006—

- [4324](#) Education (General Provisions) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 263
- [4325](#) Education (General Provisions) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 263, explanatory notes

Education and Care Services Act 2013—

- [4326](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 264
- [4327](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 264, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975, Child Employment Act 2006, Education and Care Services Act 2013, Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990, Food Act 2006, Health Act 1937, Public Health Act 2005, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, Sustainable Planning Act 2009—

- [4328](#) Education and Care Services Regulation 2013, No. 265
- [4329](#) Education and Care Services Regulation 2013, No. 265, explanatory notes

Drugs Misuse Act 1986—

- [4330](#) Drugs Misuse Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 266
- [4331](#) Drugs Misuse Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 266, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [4332](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 267
- [4333](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 267, explanatory notes

Industrial Relations Act 1999—

- [4334](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 268
- [4335](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 268, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994—

[4336](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 269

[4337](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 269, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

[4338](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 270

[4339](#) Fisheries Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 270, explanatory notes

Environmental Protection Act 1994—

[4340](#) Environmental Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 271

[4341](#) Environmental Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 271, explanatory notes

Environmental Protection Act 1994—

[4342](#) Environmental Protection (Water) Amendment Policy (No. 2) 2013, No. 272

[4343](#) Environmental Protection (Water) Amendment Policy (No. 2) 2013, No. 272, explanatory notes

City of Brisbane Act 2010, Local Government Act 2009—

[4344](#) Local Government Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 273

[4345](#) Local Government Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 273, explanatory notes

Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013—

[4346](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 274

[4347](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 274, explanatory notes

Public Records Act 2002—

[4348](#) Public Records Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 275

[4349](#) Public Records Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 275, explanatory notes

Electrical Safety Act 2002—

[4350](#) Electrical Safety (Codes of Practice) Notice 2013, No. 276

[4351](#) Electrical Safety (Codes of Practice) Notice 2013, No. 276, explanatory notes

Liquor Act 1992—

[4352](#) Liquor Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 277

[4353](#) Liquor Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 277, explanatory notes

Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Act 1991—

[4354](#) Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 278

[4355](#) Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 278, explanatory notes

Wagering Act 1998—

[4356](#) Wagering Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 279

[4357](#) Wagering Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 279, explanatory notes

Land Court Act 2000—

[4358](#) Land Court Amendment Rule (No. 1) 2013, No. 280

[4359](#) Land Court Amendment Rule (No. 1) 2013, No. 280, explanatory notes

Adult Proof of Age Card Act 2008, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[4360](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 281

[4361](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 281, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

[4362](#) Water Resource (Wet Tropics) Plan 2013, No. 282

[4363](#) Water Resource (Wet Tropics) Plan 2013, No. 282, explanatory notes

Forestry Act 1959—

[4364](#) Forestry Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 283

[4365](#) Forestry Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 283, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975—

[4366](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 284

[4367](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 284, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

- [4368](#) Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2014) Notice 2013, No. 285
[4369](#) Nature Conservation (Macropod Harvest Period 2014) Notice 2013, No. 285, explanatory notes

Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) Act 2003—

- [4370](#) Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) (Infection Control Guideline) Notice 2013, No. 286
[4371](#) Public Health (Infection Control for Personal Appearance Services) (Infection Control Guideline) Notice 2013, No. 286, explanatory notes

Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011—

- [4372](#) Hospital and Health Boards Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 287
[4373](#) Hospital and Health Boards Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 287, explanatory notes

Radiation Safety Act 1999—

- [4374](#) Radiation Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 288
[4375](#) Radiation Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 288, explanatory notes

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991—

- [4376](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 289
[4377](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Fees) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 289, explanatory notes

Criminal Code Act 1899—

- [4378](#) Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 290
[4379](#) Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 290, explanatory notes

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013—

- [4380](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 291
[4381](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 291, explanatory notes

Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009—

- [4382](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Rule (No. 2) 2013, No. 292
[4383](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Amendment Rule (No. 2) 2013, No. 292, explanatory notes

Public Trustee Act 1978—

- [4384](#) Public Trustee Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 293
[4385](#) Public Trustee Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 293, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [4386](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 294
[4387](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 294, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [4388](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 295
[4389](#) Transport Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 295, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [4390](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 296
[4391](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2013, No. 296, explanatory notes

Fire and Rescue Service Act 1990—

- [4392](#) Fire and Rescue Service Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 297
[4393](#) Fire and Rescue Service Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 297, explanatory notes

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001—

- [4394](#) Animal Care and Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 298
[4395](#) Animal Care and Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 298, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [4396](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 7) 2013, No. 299
[4397](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 7) 2013, No. 299, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

- [4398](#) Water Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 300
[4399](#) Water Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 300, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

[4400](#) Water Resource (Boyne River Basin) Plan 2013, No. 301

[4401](#) Water Resource (Boyne River Basin) Plan 2013, No. 301, explanatory notes

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999—

[4402](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 302

[4403](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2013, No. 302, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[4404](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 303

[4405](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2013, No. 303, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975, Sustainable Planning Act 2009—

[4406](#) Building and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 304

[4407](#) Building and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2013, No. 304, explanatory notes

Professional Standards Act 2004—

[4408](#) Professional Standards (Engineers Australia Northern Territory Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2013, No. 305

[4409](#) Professional Standards (Engineers Australia Northern Territory Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2013, No. 305, explanatory notes

[4410](#) Engineers Australia Northern Territory Professional Standards Scheme

Trade and Investment Queensland Act 2013—

[4411](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 1

[4412](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 1, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

[4413](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 2

[4414](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 2, explanatory notes

North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Another Act Amendment Act 2013—

[4415](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 3

[4416](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 3, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Act 2013—

[4417](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 4

[4418](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 4, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012—

[4419](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 5

[4420](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 5, explanatory notes

Transport and Other Legislation (Heavy Vehicle National Law) Amendment Act 2013—

[4421](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 6

[4422](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 6, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012—

[4423](#) Heavy Vehicle National Law Regulation 2014, No. 7

[4424](#) Heavy Vehicle National Law Regulation 2014, No. 7, explanatory notes

Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[4425](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 8

[4426](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 8, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law as applied by the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 (Qld) and by the law of States and Territories—

[4427](#) Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Amendment Regulation, No. 9

[4428](#) Heavy Vehicle (Mass, Dimension and Loading) National Amendment Regulation, No. 9, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law as applied by the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 (Qld) and by the law of States and Territories—

[4429](#) Heavy Vehicle (Transitional) National Regulation, No. 10

[4430](#) Heavy Vehicle (Transitional) National Regulation, No. 10, explanatory notes

Professional Standards Act 2004—

[4431](#) Professional Standards (CPA Australia Limited Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2014, No. 11

[4432](#) Professional Standards (CPA Australia Limited Professional Standards Scheme) Notice 2014, No. 11, explanatory notes

[4433](#) The CPA Australia Limited Professional Standards Scheme

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001—

[4434](#) Animal Care and Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 12

[4435](#) Animal Care and Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 12, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[4436](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 13

[4437](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 13, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975—

[4438](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 14

[4439](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 14, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Acting Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Mr Walker)—

[4440](#) Report by the Acting Minister for Statement Development, Infrastructure and Planning, pursuant to s.432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application by FKP Commercial Developments Pty Ltd at 50A Cribb Street and 41-55 Railway Terrace, Milton.

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services (Mr Dempsey)—

[4441](#) Board of the Australian Crime Commission—Annual Report 2012-13

MEMBERS' PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Ferny Grove (Mr Shuttleworth)—

[4442](#) Non-conforming petition relating to flashing school zone signs along McGinn Road and Archdate Road, Ferny Grove

Member for Inala (Ms Palaszczuk)—

[4443](#) Letter, dated 15 November 2013 from the Leader of the Opposition (Ms Palaszczuk) to the Integrity Commissioner (Dr David Solomon)

[4444](#) Opposition Diary—Leader of the Opposition, 1 September 2013-30 September 2013

[4445](#) Letter, dated 3 December 2013, from the Leader of the Opposition (Ms Palaszczuk) to the Integrity Commissioner (Dr David Solomon)

[4446](#) Opposition Diary—Leader of the Opposition, 1 October 2013-31 October 2013

[4447](#) Letter, undated from the Leader of the Opposition (Ms Palaszczuk) to the Integrity Commissioner (Dr David Solomon)

[4448](#) Opposition Diary—Leader of the Opposition, 1 November 2013-30 November 2013

Member for Albert (Mr Boothman)—

[4449](#) Non-conforming petition relating to flashing school zone lights at Mt Warren Park State School

Member for Southport (Mr Molhoek)—

[4450](#) Non-conforming petition relating to Ridgeway Campus TAFE

Member for Stretton (Mrs Ostapovitch)—

[4451](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an overseas visit by the Member for Stretton (Mrs Ostapovitch) to the 2013 Oceania and World Taiwanese Chamber of Commerce Conference, Taichung, Taiwan, 27 September-2 October 2013

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Newman Government, Performance



Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (9.40 am): Madam Speaker, isn't it fantastic to live in this great state, a state of great opportunities. That is even more the case as we look forward confidently to the year 2014, a year I am sure will be one of promise and indeed excitement. It is a significant year because in many ways it will set the standard for the years to come.

I have said several times in the last few weeks that 2014 is indeed the year where it all comes together for Queensland. All the hard work of the last two years will come together. The green shoots of recovery that we saw beginning to emerge will bear fruit. People across this state will see that prosperity and job creation flowing down to local communities.

Over the coming months Queensland will be the lead state from an economic point of view. We have already seen great results with increases in business confidence, in consumer confidence and in retail sales. I particularly point to the Property Council-ANZ confidence survey last month which

showed the property and construction industry in Queensland has experienced a great surge in confidence, and we are now the lead state in terms of that benchmark index that they publish—ahead of all other states. We have surged ahead of New South Wales, which was our key competitor.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics in recent times tell us this: that 75 per cent of all the jobs created in Australia last year were created—that is right—here in Queensland. In trend terms, that is 35,200 jobs created in Queensland over the last 12 months.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: Those opposite are interjecting. I saw the ‘member for way up north’ there trying to spin it the other day about the types of jobs. A job is a job. Three-quarters of the nation’s jobs were created in Queensland. We will proudly proclaim that because there are a lot more on the way in the year 2014.

We have already seen some great results—actually they are more than great: they are amazing results in the health area. I know the Labor Party do not want to talk about health. They thought that somehow that was a vulnerability. How can it be a vulnerability when Minister Springborg, the health services and the hardworking men and women—the nurses and doctors and support workers—in Queensland Health have turned the system around? We are seeing a huge improvement in waiting times for elective surgery. The emergency departments are performing well. Ambulance ramping has almost been ended. And what about the results in the dental health waiting list? There has been a huge slashing of that, and it continues to be the case that we chop through those waiting lists.

Ms Palaszczuk: What about James Cook University?

Mr NEWMAN: I love it when they interject, Madam Speaker. I am clearly getting on their nerves.

Tourism is back in Queensland thanks to some very hard work from Minister Stuckey and indeed all participants, whether they be Tourism and Events Queensland, the RTOs, the tourism operator themselves or QTIC. We have seen the best season arguably ever, but certainly the best for many, many years. It is not just in the south-east or the Gold Coast; it is right across the state—maybe not at the Coolool result but that is another question.

Mr Wellington: Look at Ashgrove!

Mr NEWMAN: The member for Nicklin interjecting? How puzzling.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr NEWMAN: We have had some big funding announcements recently in education. We have had a great program of expenditure that sees money targeted particularly to our primary schools, coming from the federal government, but given in a way that gives principals, school leadership teams and the P&Cs the flexibility to spend that money wisely.

Ms Trad: A third of what they would have got.

Mr NEWMAN: Again, I hear interjections from the Labor Party, who would like to do it—that is right—from central control, whereas this is about empowering school communities.

Of course we are delivering on our election promise to make this state a safer place by introducing stronger laws and putting more police on the beat. We will not blink. We will not go to custard. You see the look in the eyes of some on the other side of the chamber as they look with unease out there. But we will stay the course in terms of dealing with criminal gangs.

We are also taking steps to address the problem of alcohol related violence. Doing nothing is not an option, nor is jumping in with a knee-jerk reaction as the opposition have done. That is why we released our alcohol related violence survey on the government’s website. We want to hear what Queenslanders think. We want to hear what young Queenslanders think. We know how the Leader of the Opposition has been besieged by young people who are quite cranky about the knee-jerk reaction from the Labor Party. It is a pity they did not implement their stated policy when they were in government and they had the chance.

Our approach on this important issue will be released next month after extensive consultation—not a knee-jerk reaction like we have seen from Labor. I just say to young people across this state: just remember who are the people who wanted to tell you how you were going to live your lives. Just remember that. We will also be introducing laws later in the year that will mean sex offenders who remove or tamper with their GPS tracking devices will be sentenced to one year's mandatory jail time.

There are many great things happening in Queensland right now, but we are still a state with many challenges. The floods of early last year have been replaced by drought for around 70 per cent of the state. At times like this I particularly think about our hardworking members—in our team the member for Gregory and the member for Warrego, and I do acknowledge the member for Mount Isa—and their communities. Particularly these three honourable members are out there feeling that pain with people on the land every day of the week, and I see it written all over their faces. People like the member for Gregory I know is carrying that burden with the people he represents. We are doing everything we can to support those people.

The resilience we have seen in this state in the aftermath of Cyclone Oswald and the same resilience being shown now by our farmers makes me proud to be both the Premier and a Queenslanders. Madam Speaker, we will work hard this year. We will continue to do what is right for the people of this state. We are going to give our all in 2014 so that Queenslanders can have confidence in this state now and can look forward to a great future, particularly in 2014 as it all comes together for Queensland.

Governing for Growth Economic Strategy and Action Plan

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): Our government is well prepared to continue the great work of the last two years to get Queensland back on track, as the Premier has outlined. But from the beginning our government recognised that an important part of the long-term solution to the financial calamity left to us by Labor was to grow the Queensland economy. Reining in the unsustainable levels of government spending was our first priority, and under the guidance of the Treasurer every department has achieved that goal.

But from day one my department has led a strategy of boosting economic growth across the four pillars of our economy. Our entire government's disciplined, methodical approach has ensured that we are well on track to making Queensland the No. 1 performing economy in the nation. To guide the continuation of these achievements into 2014, I am today releasing the Governing for Growth Economic Strategy and Action Plan. I table a copy for the benefit of the House and I commend it to every member of the House.

Tabled paper: Governing for Growth, Economic Strategy and Action Plan—February 2014 [\[4452\]](#).

It is a clear strategy and an action plan to achieve sustained levels of economic growth in Queensland in 2014 and across the next decade. The Governing for Growth Strategy identifies the priority reforms, the actions and the programs that will help continue to revitalise the Queensland economy into 2014 and beyond. It will ensure that all government departments and entities remain focused on the task of growing the state's economy and delivering the aspirations and targets set out in the Queensland Plan by the people of Queensland themselves. The state government has a critical role to play in establishing the right economic policy settings and programs to lay the foundations and steer the economy on a path to higher growth.

We recognise that the private sector is the engine of economic growth, and the Newman government is determined to shape our economy with reforms in areas such as planning and development, property and land, regulatory and business environment, science and innovation, infrastructure and major projects, and skills and education.

Our objectives remain clear. We aim to provide the best business environment in the nation to start or grow a business. We aim to ensure that Queensland has the infrastructure that best connects people to jobs, businesses to markets and visitors to our exceptional destinations. We aim to ensure that the state government plays its full role in delivering strong, prosperous and resilient regional economies. Our strategy will continue to reduce the cost of doing business and make it easier to start, operate and expand a business in Queensland.

Our strategy will also focus on the regions, as the backbone of Queensland's economy, to ensure that our regions continue to prosper and thrive. We will continue to work with other levels of government to make it easier for Queensland companies to grow and to export to world markets. We

will assess whether the infrastructure to support expansion of our export base is constraining growth, particularly for mining and agriculture. We have developed a list of infrastructure priorities that will drive economic development across the state. We will seek opportunities to stimulate economic development through public and private infrastructure investment in roads, rail, port, water, electricity and community services.

The Governing for Growth strategy and action plan creates a pathway to a more productive and resilient Queensland economy—a pathway that will boost jobs growth and deliver greater prosperity for all Queenslanders, no matter where they live. It is a strategy that will develop and evolve as circumstances change, but what will never change is our government's determination to pursue economic growth and to get Queensland back on track in 2014 and beyond.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (9.51 am): The year 2014 is shaping up to be a year in which important financial and economic decisions the government has made during our first two years in office will deliver even more positive results for Queensland and Queenslanders. We have already made considerable progress in restoring Queensland's financial viability and boosting prosperity, but I firmly believe, as does the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the whole of this side of the House, that in 2014 we are on the cusp of greater prosperity and greater opportunity.

In looking towards the year ahead, it is important to reflect on where we have come from and the progress we have made. One of our key election promises identified in our contract with Queensland was to grow the Queensland economy by focusing on four key pillars. We made that commitment because economic growth in Queensland had been stagnating. In the last years of the Bligh Labor government, economic growth averaged only 2.1 per cent. Under Labor, Queensland consistently had the highest unemployment rate in mainland Australia. The state's building approvals were plummeting, retail trade had either fallen or remained flat in two of the last three years, and business confidence was plummeting. Contrast that with the results we are achieving now. Last year Queensland's economy grew by 3.6 per cent, outstripping the national average and outstripping our own predictions. Economic growth over the next two years is forecast to average four per cent. By 2014-15, a year earlier than we predicted at the last budget, we will have the fastest growing state economy in the nation, with economic growth strengthening to six per cent in 2015-16.

The story is just as positive when it comes to job creation and business investment. The Premier has already mentioned the record, but let us hear it one more time. Jobs growth in Queensland is the strongest in the nation. In fact, 75 per cent of the jobs created last year were created here in the Sunshine State. Forty-four thousand more Queenslanders now have a job than a year ago, and that is using the seasonally adjusted measure. Instead of having the highest unemployment rate in mainland Australia, as Labor did in 2011, we now have the second lowest.

We are also seeing considerable activity in the construction sector—one of those vital four economic pillars that was neglected by the former Labor government. Trend building approvals are now at their highest levels in almost six years and have been growing constantly every month since the Newman government was elected. Total approvals are now 55 per cent higher than they were when this government came to office—building the future of Queensland, their homes, their offices and their places of work. Similarly, retail trade continues to grow. Last week ABS data showed nominal retail turnover was almost five per cent higher over the year to December 2013. People have confidence to spend in Queensland. Monthly retail turnover is now more than \$300 million higher than it was in March 2012. This increased spending has translated into increased sales and revenue which has further boosted business confidence—more confidence, more jobs.

You only have to look at the latest Westpac Group CCIQ Pulse Survey of Business Conditions to see that Queensland small business operators are confident about where they are placed and what is on the horizon in 2014. Three-quarters of all CCIQ survey respondents are expecting stronger profitability levels over the next quarter. More profitability means more staff being employed. The government's careful, disciplined and methodical economic management is fostering an environment that gives consumers the confidence to spend and business the confidence to expand. We are not going to rest on our laurels in 2014 and we will not lose sight of our goal of supercharging the Queensland economy. Already the government's pro-growth approach is delivering results for the state's economy. I look forward in 2014 to building on the momentum we have created so that we continue to build this great state and great opportunities for all Queenslanders.

Queensland Audit Office, Report

Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (9.55 am): Today the Auditor-General has released a report on *Right of private practice: senior medical officer conduct*. As members will recall, this investigation and consequent report was conducted at my instigation. The findings of this investigation are so significant that the Auditor-General had advised—

The findings and information supporting this report warrant further consideration as to the potential for misconduct and accordingly, this report has been provided to the Crime and Misconduct Commission as required under section 38 of the *Crime and Misconduct Act 2001*.

This investigation reports on the consequence of right of private practice arrangements and specialised loading that were established under the previous Labor government in January 2006. The overseeing architects of these arrangements in 2005 and 2006 were Labor's then health ministers Gordon Nuttall and Stephen Robertson along with their shared assistant health minister, then called a parliamentary secretary, the current member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller. I will let the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Bundamba explain how Labor introduced, oversaw and allowed flourish a public hospital system that resulted in 'prima facie, private patients were being seen in time more consistently than public patients'. I will let health union bosses explain to their rank and file members how and why they donated and bankrolled Labor's re-election to preserve this failed arrangement that strikes at the heart of taxpayer funded free health care in Queensland.

Let me emphasise: this report should not be used to question the conduct and character of the overwhelming majority of Queensland Health's approximately 2,800 senior medical officers whose service to our sick are greatly appreciated and valued by all. But this report does highlight the need for major reform in the employment practices and accountabilities relating to our senior medical officers. The truth about abuses of right of private practice arrangements is committed to writing for the first time in this report. The report highlights gaps in both rostering and attendance processes as well as treatment and billing practices, which have been open to exploitation. It also tells us how to fix these problems. I am pleased to inform the House that work on all six recommendations is well underway as the Newman LNP government sets about righting another Labor wrong.

The report also contains a body of evidence so compelling that it exposes the weaknesses of the nay-sayers who oppose contracts for senior doctors. Duplication, waste and a lack of, or an unwillingness to accept, responsibility or accountability are some of the common themes running through this report. I will have much more to say about this over the coming hours and days, but it again exposes the real legacy of our predecessors and how they have again exposed Queensland taxpayers to a broken system which we are fixing. We will be mopping up their mess for years to come.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders; Vacancy in Senate of Commonwealth of Australia

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.00 am): By leave, without notice, I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing orders, the meeting of the House for the purpose of the election of a senator, adjourned on 12 September 2013 and postponed on 17 October 2013, be resumed at 2.30 pm today.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Amendments to Standing Orders

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (10.00 am): By leave, without notice, I move—

That the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly be amended in accordance with the amendments circulated in my name.

1. CHAPTER 19 (DIVISIONS)—

Omit, Insert—

CHAPTER 19 DIVISIONS**103. Procedure for putting question and calling a division**

(1) When the Speaker has put a question to the House, after the voices have been given, the Speaker shall declare whether the "Ayes" or the "Noes" have it.

(2) Any member who has voted against the majority as declared by the Speaker may demand a division by calling "divide".

(3) When a division is demanded, the Speaker shall order the division bells to be rung for four minutes.

(4) If there has already been a division in respect of that order of the day or motion, and there is no intervening debate, the Speaker may order the division bells to be rung for one minute.

104. Party vote unless a conscience issue

(1) Where a division is demanded, a party vote is held unless the subject of the vote is to be treated as a conscience vote.

(2) If the Speaker has received prior advice from a party whip of a conscience vote, the Speaker will permit a personal vote to be held instead of a party vote.

105. Bars to be closed after time elapsed

(1) The bars shall not be closed whilst the division bells are ringing.

(2) Immediately after the lapse of the period so specified by the Speaker and the division bells stop ringing, the Speaker shall direct the bars to be closed.

(3) After the bars are closed no member shall then enter or leave the Chamber until after the division is reported.

106. Procedure for a party vote

(1) When the bars have been closed, the Speaker shall state the question to the House.

(2) To cast their votes, members must sit in their allocated places in the Chamber. By doing so, members of parties are deemed to be voting to support the response of their party members given at the time the Speaker originally put the question, unless they inform their whip, or representative, that they intend casting a contrary vote under (5).

(3) First the Speaker asks the whip of each party, or their representative, to report the party's votes; parties are asked to report in the order of the size of their parliamentary membership.

(4) Each whip reports the number of "Ayes" or "Noes". The report must only relate to votes cast by members present in the Chamber and every member present must vote.

(5) After the votes have been reported by the parties, any member who is voting contrary to their party will cast a vote.

(6) The Speaker then asks any independent member to cast their vote.

(7) The whip of each party, or their representative, may before the result of the vote is announced by the Speaker, challenge the report of votes given by another party. If the report is challenged, the Speaker may direct that the matter be resolved by a personal vote.

(8) The Speaker announces the result to the House.

(9) The whip of each party, or their representative, will immediately advise the Speaker of the names of those members of their party that were not present for the vote.

(10) The Clerk will record the result of the vote and the names of those members voting "Aye" and "No" and publish those details in the Record of Proceedings.

107. Procedure for a personal vote

(1) When the bars have been closed, the Speaker shall state the question to the House, and then direct the "Ayes" to proceed to the right of the Chair and the "Noes" to the left.

(2) After members have divided, the Speaker shall appoint two tellers from each side. If two tellers cannot be found for one side of the question, the Speaker must immediately declare the resolution of the House. The member who called for the division may ask for their dissent to be recorded in the Record of Proceedings. The Speaker then directs the Clerk to record that dissent.

(3) The tellers shall count the members voting and record the vote of each member present on the division sheets.

(4) A member may not change their vote once the tellers have been appointed.

(5) The tellers shall report the numbers to the Speaker.

(6) The Speaker shall announce the result of the division to the House.

(7) In case of confusion or error concerning the numbers reported, unless it can be otherwise corrected, the House shall proceed to another division on the question.

(8) The names of the members who have voted are recorded in the Record of Proceedings.

108. Call for division may be withdrawn

(1) At any time before the tellers begin to count the members voting in a division, a call for a division may, by leave, be withdrawn by the member who called for the division, so long as there is no dissenting voice.

(2) If a call for a division is withdrawn, the division shall not be proceeded with and the decision of the Speaker which was challenged shall stand.

109. Rules relating to divisions and voting

(1) A member shall not be entitled to vote in a division unless they are present in the House when the question is put after the bars are closed.

(2) Every member present in the House when the question is put with the bars closed must vote except the Speaker, who shall have a casting vote if the votes are equal. The Speaker may give reasons for the casting vote and those reasons are entered in the Record of Proceedings.

(3) A member having given voice with the "Ayes" or "Noes" shall not, on a division being taken, vote with the opposite side.

(4) If a member contravenes (3), the Speaker, on being informed, shall order the tellers list to be corrected.

(5) A member, when proposing a question of order for the decision of the Speaker during a division, shall remain seated.

2. Schedule 6 (PORTFOLIO COMMITTEES)—**Column 2 (Area of Responsibility)**

Omit—

Community Safety

Insert—

Fire and Emergency Services

Column 3 (Ministers)

Omit—

Minister for Police and Community Safety

Insert—

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

NOTICE OF MOTION**Redcliffe Electorate**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.01 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

- notes that the constituents of the electorate of Redcliffe have been without proper representation in this House for almost two years;
- notes that the Premier was a key supporter of the disgraced former member for Redcliffe;
- notes that services in Redcliffe have declined under the Newman government, particularly in relation to health and community services;
- rejects the Newman government's belated interest in Redcliffe in the last month as 'too little, too late';
- condemns the Premier, his leadership team and the LNP for their failure to take action sooner against the former member for Redcliffe, Scott Driscoll.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**1 William Street**

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (10.01 am): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier explain to Queenslanders why he is wasting \$2.6 billion on his office building fiasco, including his own personal skyscraper?

Mr NEWMAN: It is great to get a question from the Leader of the Opposition to kick the year off, and it is interesting to hear the implied advice on what they see as good value. Where was the value in white elephants like the \$1 billion Tugun desalination plant or the failed Traveston Dam in the Mary Valley? Where was the value in the \$1.2 billion Health payroll system where people were not being properly paid? Another legacy of the former government was the deferral of necessary building repairs, maintenance and capital improvement expenditure for buildings across this state. I recall about a year and a half ago we actually had TV cameras go into some government buildings which showed dingy offices with threadbare carpets and poor ventilation. I am not talking about political offices; I am talking about offices where public servants worked—the same public servants about whom those opposite, with their crocodile tears, expressed concern—their office accommodation was

neglected and run down. We are constructing a new building, but we do not have to pay the capital cost. We are renting that building and a superannuation fund owned by hardworking men and women in the construction industry, Cbus, is paying. I do not know if he would say this today, because he was a factional leader when I last checked, but David Hanna and the BLF thought it was a great idea and so did Michael Ravbar of the CFMEU. They have their flags up; they love the jobs for their members.

This is about giving hardworking men and women in the Public Service decent accommodation and it is about saving money. We believe it will save a lot of money in the years to come—\$60 million a year—and you need to take that into consideration over the life of the deal. The bottom line is that we care about hardworking public servants and those opposite do not.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Ms PALASZCZUK: My next question is to the Premier. Will the Premier confirm that the \$2.6 billion of taxpayers' money he is wasting on his office build fiasco would fund the now abolished Skilling Queenslanders for Work project for almost 30 years, creating thousands of new jobs for Queenslanders?

Mr NEWMAN: The figure that is being thrown around is completely spurious. I will not go into the details of it, but it essentially assumes that we do not have to pay rent to accommodate public servants elsewhere. It is the usual Labor Party mumbo jumbo nonsense.

Those opposite did nothing for 20 years in all sorts of areas of concern in this state. They are the people who allowed a debt approaching \$80 billion to be built up. They are the people who, year after year over the last decade had deficits of billions of dollars, and yet they come in here and talk about financial responsibility! We have sorted out their financial mess and we are well and truly on the way to dealing with it. In the next financial year it is believed that we will see a fiscal deficit of less than \$1 billion, and the year after that in 2015-16 we will go into surplus. 2015-16 will be the first time in over a decade that this state will not have to borrow, and that is what I am focusing on. We are turning the ship around which they had heading towards the rocks. I tell you, those breakers were only a few hundreds of metres away from the great ship of state! The great ship of Queensland was about to run aground and get ripped apart, and all the men and women and boys and girls—4.5 million Queenslanders—would have been lost. The decisions we have made over the last two years to sort out the mess left by Labor are about the people of Queensland.

Ms Trad: You have just transferred the debt on to the community; that is what you have done!

Mr NEWMAN: I hear the member for South Brisbane saying something about the community. The community will increasingly know that their health system is doing a better job than it was two years ago. They may not see it now, but they will see the facts this year.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: The member for South Brisbane can interject and carry on all she likes. I note with great interest that she has just been involved as the campaign director for Terri Butler. I wonder if that is serving the members of South Brisbane productively.

The point is that we are sorting out their mess: the hospitals are working better; there are more police on the beat; the Queensland economy is waking up and is leading the rest of Australia. As I said earlier, in 2014 we will see it all come together for Queensland.

Redcliffe Electorate, Initiatives

Mr GULLEY: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier advise the House how the state government is delivering for the people of Redcliffe?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I rise to a point of order. There is a motion before the House.

Madam SPEAKER: Honourable members, I note the motion that has been moved in the House. I also note that the motion was very broad ranging. I would ask the Premier, in answering the question, to avoid the specifics of the motion, but I make this point: the motion does not preclude questions being asked about the electorate of Redcliffe. I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: In answer to the question, perhaps I should talk about the candidate for Redcliffe first. I will compare and contrast. You can have a failed politician, a union official, a union lawyer, or you can have a registered nurse, a palliative care professional, a volunteer, a mother of four, a true-blue Redcliffe local and someone who wants to serve that electorate. She is not someone who was asked during the federal election whether, if they lost, they would go and stand for the state

seat. That person, the Labor candidate, said no, they would not, but now they are doing that. It was the same as Kevin Rudd, who said he would not resign but he did, and Anna Bligh, who said she would not resign but she did. Now we all have to put up with the member for South Brisbane as a result.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr NEWMAN: What has been going on in Redcliffe? There is \$170 million for the Moreton Bay Rail Link. There is \$3 million for new classrooms at Redcliffe State High School. There is \$1 million—

Ms Trad interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: I will ask the Premier to pause. The member for South Brisbane is engaging in debate across the chamber. I warn the member for South Brisbane under 253A. I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: There is \$1 million for the Great Results Guarantee for the schools on the peninsula, \$10 million in grants for disability services, \$1.4 million to continue paediatric emergency services at the local hospital, more than \$3 million for the construction of 17 new homes under the public housing construction program and \$200,000 to upgrade facilities at the Dolphin Oval and Talobilla Park under the Get in the Game initiative. However, that is just the start. The government is committed to building a new 20-bed supported accommodation centre in Redcliffe to provide short- to medium-term shelter to help keep people off the streets. We have provided \$15 million for the Redcliffe GP superclinic and Think Pharmacy. That is right; that was one that the Labor candidate was going to deliver but did not.

This government will spend \$12 million on the upgrade of two wards and two theatres at Redcliffe Hospital. The Labor Party had 20 years to upgrade those facilities. I note that our candidate actually started her professional life as a registered nurse at that very hospital. She is a caring professional, a health-care professional who would be a great local representative and a great member of this team. What has happened with waiting lists at that hospital? All category 1 patients have been seen within the national guidelines and there has been an 80 per cent reduction in the category 2 long wait list. In education we are also seeing \$2.2 million going to repair basic infrastructure that was, again, neglected by the Labor government. Time does not permit me to talk about the other things that have happened there, but I will enjoy the debate later on today.

Government Administrative Precinct, Redevelopment

Mr MULHERIN: My question is directed to the Premier. I refer to plans for the historic George Street precinct and a map showing the primary redevelopment area covering the current Executive Building, 80 George Street and the Neville Bonner Building in William Street, and I ask: will the Premier rule out the potential wasteful demolition of the Neville Bonner Building, which was opened just 14 years ago at a cost of \$57 million?

Tabled paper: Map of Brisbane Queen's Wharf proposed development [\[4453\]](#).

Mr NEWMAN: I am surprised that the opposition would ask the question because I have already covered it in the media previously.

Ms Palaszczuk: No, you haven't.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members. I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: I just love it! Members opposite know better than me about what I have said! Not only that, they have the powers of Nostradamus because they can look into the crystal and say all sorts of things are going to happen. They can make up all sorts of stuff at a moment's notice. I have actually said something on the public record; it is out there. Whether or not it has been reported, I have actually said it at press conferences. They should listen more closely; they would be a better opposition and they would actually serve the people of Queensland better. They do have a role. They have not been very good at it so far, but we hope they do a better job. They are well resourced to do it. They have 22 staff for their seven members so that they can be an effective opposition.

Ms Palaszczuk: They are very good, hardworking people.

Government members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: I am hearing interjections. They are resourced to do the job for Queenslanders. Never let them pretend that they do not have the ability to be a solid opposition for the people of this state.

Ms Palaszczuk: Answer the question.

Mr NEWMAN: The answer to the question is the one I have already given: it could well be knocked down. That is part of a revitalisation of this precinct. It is about making sure that we get a world-class, multifaceted facility—

Mr Nicholls: Integrated resort.

Mr NEWMAN:—a six-star hotel, perhaps a casino, a great public space, a potential residential and commercial component, an integrated resort. That is what it is all about. We have been saying that for the best part of two years. Again, I do not know what members opposite do with their time. Those staff should sit down and do a better job to serve members opposite who will then also be able to do a better job.

Again, I say that this project is part of our plan to really get tourism and construction going in this state. That is what we are doing. That is why the figures we have been talking about this morning are a reality, that we are seeing three-quarters of all jobs created in the nation in the last 12 months created here in Queensland. It did not happen by accident. It happened because of hard work by this government—not just the ministers, but also the backbench. It happened because we have business friendly policies and less red tape and also because we are keeping business taxes and charges low, making sure that this is the best place in Australia to do business. That is why at the end of the day this will be a very important part of the overall picture of this government precinct redevelopment to actually revitalise this part of the Brisbane CBD.

Redcliffe Electorate, Economic Strategy

Mr RUTHENBERG: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development Infrastructure and Planning. Can the Deputy Premier please explain to the House how the Newman government's economic strategy is delivering benefits for the people of Queensland, including the people of Redcliffe?

Mr SEENEY: Firstly, I thank the member for Kallangur for the question. It is in stark contrast to the ludicrous questions that we have heard from the opposition here this morning. I cannot help but reinforce the comments that the Premier made about the fact that the opposition has 22 staff, considerably more than all ministers have in their offices, and the best they can come up with is the nonsense questions that we have heard this morning. The best that they can come up with is a strategy to try to prevent discussion in this House about the Redcliffe by-election. The motion that the Leader of the Opposition moved was a lamebrained strategy to try to prevent the discussion about the by-election in Redcliffe. Members opposite know that the people of Redcliffe, like the people right across Queensland, understand and appreciate the efforts to which this government has gone to turn around the horrible mess that the former Labor government left. That was obvious to those of us who were doorknocking in Redcliffe last Sunday afternoon. When I knocked on doors in the backstreets of Redcliffe people understood that we are a government that is doing things. In a number of cases people said, 'At least you blokes are doing something. At least things are happening.' That is because this government has taken a very deliberate strategy to turn around the economy, to ensure that we do get Queensland back on track.

That is not about pushing any one single button; it is about a whole-of-government approach. It is about a whole-of-government strategy that we have undertaken, planned and put in place methodically and in a workman-like way over the past two years. That strategy is starting to become apparent to the people of Queensland and the people of Redcliffe. However, there is one group of people in Queensland who do not want to talk about that strategy. There is one group of people who do not even want to know what that strategy is about, and that is the people who are paid to test this government on that strategy. All of the things that we have done over the past two years have been completely ignored by the opposition. They have not asked one single question of this government about the economic strategy that we put in place to clean up their mess, to clean up the mess that was left by the previous government.

While the opposition seeks to ignore this government's strategy, the people right across Queensland in communities right across the state in communities like Redcliffe are understanding that at their level things are starting to happen—planning reform is starting to make it easier for them

to do things, that this state government is working closely with their local government in a better relationship that makes their communities better and a whole range of things that the people of Queensland appreciate but the opposition ignores.

Newman Government, Asset Sales

Mr PITT: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table an article from the *Australian Financial Review* during the last election campaign when the now Treasurer said—

We won't be selling the real estate without putting it forward to get a mandate from the people.

Given the Premier's answers this morning, will he now admit that the \$2.6 billion office building fiasco is yet another broken promise to Queenslanders?

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian Financial Review*, dated 21 February 2012, titled 'State Election: LNP Scraps \$1bn property sell-off' [4454].

Madam SPEAKER: I call the Premier.

Mr NEWMAN: Madam Speaker, could I just ask the honourable member to repeat the question please? Thank you.

Madam SPEAKER: I ask the member to repeat the question.

Mr PITT: Was I not clear with the question, Madam Speaker?

Madam SPEAKER: I will ask you if you could help the House.

Mr PITT: I am happy to. I just wondered if I needed to speak louder. I have already tabled an article from the *Australian Financial Review* during the last election campaign when the now Treasurer said—

We won't be selling the real estate without putting it forward to get a mandate from the people.

Given the Premier's answers this morning, will he now admit that the \$2.6 billion office building fiasco is yet another broken promise to Queenslanders?

Mr NEWMAN: I seem to recall that the Treasurer has already been asked this question before and has actually answered it, so I will rely on his answer as contained in *Hansard*. But it does give me the opportunity therefore to talk about the hypocrisy of the Australian Labor Party in this matter and indeed the Electrical Trades Union, which is campaigning most dishonestly at the moment. Let us be very clear: the only way that any assets will be sold—any government owned corporations will be sold—will be after taking it through a debate explaining what is going on to Queenslanders and then putting it to an election, which is more than those opposite ever did. In contrast, they are the ones who promised that there would be no sale of assets and then after the election went and did it, and that, I am afraid, just is not the way to go about doing business. At the moment the Electrical Trades Union is running around Redcliffe suggesting to people that we are selling assets. We are not selling assets. We will not be selling assets after the Redcliffe by-election. If something was to be sold, it will be done after the 2015 election. I do not know how many times one has to say that, and that is certainly not a broken promise from this side of the House. I will, however, give a reminder of the broken promise of the Australian Labor Party. One must recall that, despite that promise not to sell assets, when it started to sell those assets we have to remember what the member for Mulgrave then went out and did. That is right: he strenuously defended the need to actually sell those assets.

The trouble with the Australian Labor Party today is that it actually does not stand for anything. It does not stand for anything. It flips and flops. It changes its mind. For example, in relation to laws passed in this House last year to deal with criminal gangs, its members voted for them but now people like the member for Bundamba are pretending that she is against them. Either they support the laws or they do not. They voted for them. They voted for these laws. At least have the integrity—

Government members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: In terms of the member for Bundamba and her Facebook page and those people on it saying, 'Good on you, Jo, for being against these laws,' I think she should have the integrity to say, 'Well, by the way, I actually voted for them, but I'm sorry!' At least you could respect that, and so it is with asset sales. It is time those opposite said sorry for misleading Queenslanders on asset sales.

Queensland Economy

Mr HOLSWICH: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. Can the Treasurer update the House on the growth of the Queensland economy and what that means for the people of Redcliffe, together with all Queenslanders?

Mr NICHOLLS: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for his question, because ever since he was preselected he has worked for the people of his area and the businesses of his area and has represented them well and understands what needs to go on in a local area. Not only that, in recent times he has also chosen to extend his area and to work for the people of Redcliffe as well, as have many members in this House. I think that has been a tremendous sign of the dedication people have.

Since we last gathered in this place, as I recited earlier, the Queensland economy has continued to grow and we are producing jobs and opportunity for the people of Queensland and, in particular, we are producing jobs and opportunity for the people of Redcliffe. It is not just me saying that; it is also the vast array of reports that we are receiving—information and reports which detail that the economy is on the cusp of that strong economic growth that I mentioned earlier. I mentioned some of the reports, but there are others. The Deloitte Access Economics *Business Outlook*, for example, puts growth at 3.6 per cent in Queensland this year and CommSec's most recent *State of the states* report charted growth in Queensland's state final demand as being up 18.6 per cent on the decade-long average—and we well remember what it was like back in March 2012 when CommSec rated Queensland amongst the bottom of the league, not amongst the top of the league, where we now are.

There is a general agreement among these reports and others that Queensland, along with Western Australia, are the standout performers when it comes to economic growth. In the construction sector, which is very important to the people of Redcliffe, dwelling approvals have been increasing every month for the last 24 months and are now almost 60 per cent higher than in December 2011. This is vital to the people of Redcliffe, as the construction industry represents nearly a quarter of all the small businesses in Redcliffe and the largest single industry in Redcliffe. So by working hard on one of the four pillars—the construction industry—we are helping just under a quarter of the registered businesses in Redcliffe, the single largest industry in Redcliffe. That is jobs for not only people who are in the construction industry but also all of their suppliers. In every milk bar and sandwich shop and clothing shop and every hotel, people who have money in their pockets are more confident to spend.

Retail turnover is also on the way up. Last financial year retail turnover was up almost four per cent—in fact, 3.7 per cent—in Queensland, more than double the rest of Australia. The outlook for business conditions is in positive territory. We on this side of the House believe in and understand small business and will continue to drive red-tape reduction. Within Redcliffe, the 3,200 new jobs that have been created since March 2012 are signs that this government is delivering not only for Queensland but for all of the areas of Queensland, including those hardworking people on the peninsula. Jobs do not come without economic growth. Economic growth does not come without discipline. We are delivering.

(Time expired)

Treasurer and Minister for Trade, Expenses

Mrs MILLER: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier advise if he has discussed with the Treasurer his attempt to charge taxpayers \$60 for a private massage at the Four Seasons in Jakarta?

Mr Rickuss: Don't mention Craig Thomson!

Mr NEWMAN: Yes, well I will mention Craig Thomson actually. The way the system works and has worked for some time as I understand it is that when ministers travel they expend money and when they come back the independent public servants at the Ministerial Services Branch scrutinise expenditures and on occasions will ask people to repay money. I regularly have to repay money. All my ministerial team regularly have to repay money. Let us, for example, take another tack in relation to the Treasurer's overseas travel. He took his government provided mobile phone. I do have to reflect for a moment—and honourable members on this side will understand this—that he does not use a BlackBerry, and he should, and so should all honourable members. They have gone to iPhones and I cannot support such a move, but I shall move on. The Treasurer has taken his iPhone—his government provided iPhone—overseas, but he has been on a private trip because he knew that he

still had to be in contact for business purposes. So what he has done at the end of the trip, as he always knew he had to, is pay money back on personal calls. That is the way it works. So in relation to a massage, I hope it was a good one—

Mr Nicholls: Recommended by the Australian industry.

Mr NEWMAN: It was recommended. The trouble is that the Labor Party seems to forget that it has been down the same path. It has forgotten that in 2008 Rob Swarten—that is right; he is still around in Rockhampton—

Mr Seeney: The ghost of Rob is still over there.

Mr NEWMAN: Yes, the ghost is still over there. He had to pay back hundreds of dollars for doing exactly the same thing. What about the shadow Treasurer's father? I quote from a *Courier-Mail* article dated 22 September 2008—

Mr Pitt yesterday insisted he knew the claim was personal and was allowing the MSB to pick up the error for him.

The bottom line is that, unlike the HSU, where we are seeing all sorts of nefarious goings-on and clearly probably in other unions and dare I say the ETU—and if I were an ETU member out there, an honest, hardworking person, I would want to know how people in the hierarchy of the ETU are spending my money. I think that is only fair and reasonable. I would want to know how the people running the unions are spending the money. How much are they using their Cabcharge cards? I remember going to the races last year for one of the big race days and I saw a whole lot of union people jumping out of a union car to go to the races. Men and women who work for unions are the ones who need to see some accountability. There is plenty of accountability over here.

Redcliffe Hospital, Waiting Lists

Ms MILLARD: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Does the minister have the latest figures on the long wait lists at the Redcliffe Hospital? Is it true that the number of patients waiting too long for urgent surgery is now zero?

Mr SPRINGBORG: I would like to thank the honourable member for her question and for her very strong advocacy on behalf of her constituents. The honourable member, in stark contrast to the opposition, is prepared to do a little research to back up the propositions that she makes in this place. Basically, in recent years we have seen the opposition members not look at the past of the shambles of the health system that they presided over. They have this revisionist view of the world. They are just hoping that, as time goes by, people are going to forget and they are going to reconstruct the circumstances to suit themselves.

Since the election of the Newman government we have had transformational change in the Queensland Health system. Every single hospital and health service now works within its budget and is able to reinvest on behalf of its patients. We have the best performing hospitals we have ever had with our emergency department performing times and, indeed, when it comes to category 1 urgent surgery, every single hospital and health service around Queensland is now performing better than it did under Labor. Indeed, we have now fewer people on the category 2 and category 3 waiting lists in Queensland than we did under Labor.

For the benefit of this place, let us look at one very interesting little case study, the situation of one hospital that I have randomly picked out, and that is the Redcliffe Hospital. Let us look at what the situation was in March 2012 when we came to office. Only 93 per cent of urgent surgery cases were having their surgery done on time. It is now 100 per cent. In the category 2 area, it was 56 per cent. It is now 86 per cent. In category 3, it was 89 per cent. It is now 93 per cent. In the area of emergency access to our emergency departments, there were 52 per cent of patients being treated in under four hours. That figure is now 73 per cent. The revisionist opposition leader says that that is a deterioration. I do not know what sort of perverse, upside down way the opposition has of reading statistics, but that is not backed up by the facts. Under the stewardship of this Premier, with new arrangements in Queensland we are seeing a significant improvement in the Redcliffe Hospital. We have established hospital boards that have unleashed the capacity and capability and innovation of our clinicians to deliver surgery on time, and it is happening. Specifically, in the case of category 1 patients, when we came into power there were 11 long waits. There are now zero. When it comes to category 2 patients, there were 219. There are now 61. In the area of category C patients, there were 16. That figure is now down to 12. We have dealt with the urgent cases and now we are going to be cleaning up the others, which was the legacy left to us by that mob opposite and the shambles which was their health system.

Law and Order

Mr JUDGE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Recognising that the Newman government's now confirmed failure to reduce overall crime through its ineffective tough-on-crime approach—and this is backed up by the national *Report on government services* revealing that overall crime has increased by two per cent under the Newman government and, further, that Queensland has the second highest rate of break and enter offences of all states—will the Premier assure all Queenslanders that future law reforms will be evidence based in order to achieve real reductions in crime and offender rehabilitation in order to protect—

Madam SPEAKER: Order! I have advised members in the past about questions having too long a preamble and that is the case with this member's question. I would ask you to put only the question, because your preamble is too long. I will give you a chance, but I remind members, fresh in the year, that we will be paying attention to whether questions are out of order. I call the member for Yeerongpilly to ask only the question.

Mr JUDGE: Again, my question is to the Premier. Recognising the Newman government's now confirmed failure to reduce overall crime through its ineffective tough-on-crime approach—

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Madam SPEAKER: Member, I now ask you to take your seat. There is also an imputation in the question. You had an opportunity. The preamble was too long. I rule the question out of order.

Water and Electricity Prices

Mr GRIMWADE: My question without notice is to the Minister for Energy and Water Supply. Can the minister advise the House how the government is working to put downward pressure on water and electricity prices for my local and neighbouring Redcliffe residents and whether there are any obstacles to this?

Mr McARDLE: I thank the member for Morayfield for the question. He is another hardworking member who is working to assist the people of Redcliffe. I will certainly be there on election day, on 22 February, as well.

The people of Redcliffe, as indeed all Queenslanders, will readily recall the disastrous water grid that was put upon the people of this state, leaving a debt of somewhere between \$9 billion to \$10 billion. That is a debt that we and the south-east corner will have to deal with on an ongoing basis. In coming to power in March 2012, the government recognised the need to put the levers down and to look at how we can reduce bulk water prices. We did that by amalgamating the bulk water entities, saving \$80 million in the process. That allowed us to reduce the bulk water price for 2013-14 to \$49 from a potential price of \$88. This government saw the waste and inequity in what the Labor government had done and put in place a mechanism to drive down the bulk water prices and we will do more as time goes by.

Of course, the other issue is electricity charges. This government understands that this is tough on the people of Redcliffe and tough on people right across the state of Queensland. We have put in place the longest, hardest regime to look at the electricity price mechanism and also to put the levers down to drive down those prices. Can I say, as I have said many times in the past, that there is one thing that can happen today in Canberra. We can remove the carbon tax and also the RET schemes. In fact, when you compare the two candidates in Redcliffe, there is only one candidate who is advocating for higher power prices, and that is the ALP candidate, Yvette D'Ath. When she was in the federal parliament, on more than 10 occasions she promoted and defended the carbon tax in the lower house. Indeed, when the vote was taken on 12 October 2011 to incorporate the carbon tax as law in this state, Yvette D'Ath voted yes. In fact, she made this comment—

I rise to speak in support of these clean energy bills, and I do so as a proud member of the Gillard Labor government, a government which had the foresight to say, 'Enough is enough,' when it comes to talking about addressing climate change and is willing to stand up and finally take action on this important matter.

The people of Petrie threw out the Labor candidate for Redcliffe and one of the reasons was the carbon tax.

Madam SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

(Time expired)

Senior Medical Officers

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister advise what provisions have been made to ensure patients at Atherton, Cairns and other regional hospitals receive proper care when senior medical officers walk off the job on 1 July due to the government's failure to negotiate acceptable work agreements?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Dalrymple, you have formed that question as a hypothetical and that is out of order. I am going to rule it out of order. I ask members to pay attention to their questions and keep them in accordance with standing orders.

Education

Mrs FRANCE: My question without notice is to the Minister for Education, Training and Employment. Can the minister please inform the House of the Queensland government's commitment to improving educational outcomes for the students and families of our Moreton region and particularly Redcliffe?

Mr LANGBROEK: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that she is committed, like all members on this side of the House, to lifting outcomes for Queensland students to get us amongst the top performing jurisdictions by 2020 in literacy and numeracy. That is exactly why at the start of the school year the Premier and I announced the Great Results Guarantee which is as a result of the Abbott government's Student First initiative. That is \$794 million over four years going to all schools throughout Queensland. It is \$794 million more than they were going to receive under the Labor Party. Under federal opposition leader Bill Shorten, it was his way or the highway and Queensland schools were not going to get anything extra. Importantly, it is in addition to another \$537 million that we have announced under the Great Teachers = Great Results initiative. I know the member for Pumicestone is very appreciative of that extra funding. It goes in hand with the maintenance funding that the Premier referred to this morning for schools in Redcliffe. I know that members on both sides of the House, especially this side, are very appreciative of that maintenance funding, given that we were left with a \$300 million backlog.

Specifically, schools in Redcliffe will receive \$900,000 in top-up funding. That is on top of the funding that they currently get. No-one will get less than they currently do. They will get their current level of funding plus a Great Results Guarantee top-up. We know that under the Labor legacy spending more money did not necessarily get better results. We want to make sure that the principals who are in charge of those schools, the teachers who own their classrooms and the parents and community who are part of making sure that their children are getting to school and forming that partnership with their teachers and principals are going to be working out how they are going to get those results and what programs they are going to use. We want to support that not only in Redcliffe but also around the state.

Well many members ask why do we favour the early years. All the research shows that it is going to mean better effects long term if we can improve literacy and numeracy figures in those early years. It will mean a better long-term result for the economy and for our society. How can it be spent? As I have already said, that is why we are devolving that power. Even the Queensland Teachers Union acknowledges that we are trusting schools. The reason we can do that is because the federal government trusts that we can run our school system, unlike Bill Shorten and Labor who said some schools would miss out, including the opposition leader's own electorate of Glenala State High where Corrine McMillan is doing a great job. There was less money under Labor. In Redcliffe and around the state there will be more money and better results from us.

Police Service, Accommodation

Mr KATTER: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister commit to a review of accommodation for police in remote Western areas with a view to upgrading assets where necessary to serve as a deterrent to the option of fly-in fly-out personnel?

Mr DEMPSEY: It is a privilege to be able to speak about the great work that we have done in relation to facilitating the Queensland Police Service. As well as our 1,100 new police officers we have also secured two new helicopters, one that will be taking to the skies in the south-east by the middle of this year.

In relation to some of the untruths that have been told by members opposite in relation to the issue of fly-in fly-out, I want to set the record straight. An officer, as part of his study that was funded by a media organisation, went overseas to Canada and did some study in relation to fly-in fly-out. That information was fed back to the Queensland Police Service who further looked into those particular reports. I commend the Commissioner of Police for looking ahead. We know that resourcing rural and remote areas is not just an issue here in Queensland but across many nations as well as other states in Australia. At times police resources may have to be sent to emergencies or to certain incidents to back up local police in particular areas. From a government stance there are no plans for fly-in fly-out police officers. I commend the QPS for having the forethought to look into other ways to assist and support their police officers.

As far as infrastructure within the Queensland Police Service, I have been in discussion with Minister Mander in relation to how we can assist our police officers with better accommodation in those particular areas, but also to make sure that they have the resources. We did that with the last budget and in the budget ahead we will continue to support our hardworking, front-line police officers to ensure that they are able to not only fight crime but also make sure that they have the support and comfort of their families when they return from their shifts. We all know that policing is a very difficult task and they are an integral part of local communities.

Redcliffe Electorate, Transport

Mr SHUTTLEWORTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister please outline how the Newman government is delivering transport outcomes for the people of Redcliffe?

Mr EMERSON: I thank the member for Ferny Grove. He is a hardworking local member who is concerned for the whole of Queensland, particularly Redcliffe. It is great to answer this question because we are delivering great public transport for the area of Redcliffe, in particular the Moreton Bay Rail Link, a \$1.1 billion project. It was great to join Kerri-Anne Dooley, the LNP candidate for Redcliffe, for the sod turning of that project. Also in attendance were Reg Gulley, Trevor Ruthenberg, Seath Holswich, the great new federal member for Petrie, Luke Howarth, and the mayor, Alan Sutherland. Everyone who was there for the sod turning would have heard Alan Sutherland say that he had no confidence that this project would proceed until the LNP government got in. The hardworking local members—Reg Gulley, Trevor Ruthenberg and Seath Holswich—continued to fight for it. It was great to sign that contract with Thiess for the project to deliver the 12-kilometre dual track and six new stations. Again I stress that Alan Sutherland was saying very clearly to the people there that it would not have happened if the LNP was not there fighting for it.

It is interesting to note that not everyone has been fighting for Redcliffe. Some people have actually been arguing against money for road projects for Redcliffe. I point to the former member for Petrie, who voted to rip money out of road projects in that area, particularly the Gateway North Upgrade Project. We know that that project is going ahead. It will occur. It should have been, as it is now, 80 per cent funded by the federal government. What did the former member for Petrie vote for in parliament? She voted to slash the funding from 80 per cent to 50 per cent from the federal government. She voted to rip money out of Queensland roads. She voted to take money away from roads in Redcliffe. That is what you get with the former member for Petrie. She will back Labor all the way rather than put Redcliffe first. Kerri-Anne Dooley, someone from Redcliffe dedicated to Redcliffe, will keep supporting and backing Redcliffe every day, just as our state members have done since they have come into their seats. They have been fighting for Redcliffe and their local areas. Kerri-Anne Dooley will do the same. The former member for Petrie will just argue to take money away from that area.

Electricity Prices

Mr BYRNE: My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Queensland Competition Authority figures showing 856 pensioner households have been disconnected by Ergon in the September quarter 2013, a 62 per cent increase on the previous quarter. Has the Premier met anyone whose power bill has dropped \$120, as promised at the last election?

Mr NEWMAN: I thank the honourable member for Rockhampton for his question. I need to point out a couple of things. Firstly, the overall commitment by this government to provide support to people who are disadvantaged and who are doing it tough is a very important thing. The

approximately \$48 billion budget allocates around \$5 billion for concessions for people in need. There are concessions for power bills, there are public transport concessions and there are concessions for pensioners. This government cares very deeply about looking after people who are doing it tough.

I would also point out that in the Ergon area basically we pay around \$600 million—that was the last figure I recall—as a CSO, a community service obligation. Money is spent to give people in the Ergon supply area the same deal in relation to electricity prices as is available to people in the populous area of South-East Queensland. It is a very significant commitment and it costs that sort of money to try to provide that deal.

In relation to people being disconnected, it is a terrible thing but I am afraid it is a reality that has happened for many years. It happened under the Australian Labor Party as well. Unfortunately, on occasions, people cannot pay their bills. I can tell honourable members one way that we could make it easier for people to pay their bills and they know what I am going to say. Straightaway, \$100 could come off the standard household power bill by getting rid of the carbon tax. It is \$177 this year. We know what the Queensland Competition Authority has said to us already—that is, in the upcoming financial year in this state the price of electricity would come down if the carbon tax went. That is right: power bills would come down.

Who supports the carbon tax staying? Those opposite! On the carbon tax the guilty Australian Labor Party has dug itself a hole so deep that it is almost through to China. Their candidate in Redcliffe seeks to serve a lot of pensioners, but Kerri-Anne Dooley would do a better job serving them. Their candidate voted for the carbon tax. Even today, she says it should remain and Bill Shorten says it should remain. We can help people such as pensioners who have been disconnected by reducing the cost of power and reducing the cost of living by getting rid of the carbon tax. The Labor Party should stop its objections federally so we can get rid of this tax.

(Time expired)

Small Business

Mr CRANDON: My question without notice is to the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please advise the House what the government is doing to support Queensland small businesses, especially those within the Redcliffe electorate?

Mrs STUCKEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. Not only is he a very strong advocate for small and medium enterprise businesses but also, of course, he is a key player in this government, which is totally and absolutely pro-small business. We recognise that small business is the backbone of our four-pillar economy in this great state. That is why we are supporting our small businesses and are committed to making sure that they are strong and prosperous into the future.

I will tell honourable members about our track record. Since March 2012 to date, this government has removed 9,400 regulatory requirements, we have abolished 429 pages of legislation and we have progressed more than 440 specific red-tape-reduction initiatives. This is welcome news to the 3,500 small businesses in Redcliffe, which make up 97 per cent of all Redcliffe businesses. They all have a very important choice ahead of them on 22 February, which is to vote for a candidate whose party really does get small business.

In May last year I launched the Queensland Small Business Strategy and Action Plan 2013-15. It is the very first coordinated small business plan in many years. The plan identifies five key priorities and 32 actions to be delivered over the next two years across government. It provides a planned approach to address the challenges and set economic conditions for business success.

Unsurprisingly, this approach has been endorsed by small business in the December Sensis business index. They said that small to medium enterprise support for the Queensland state government recorded the strongest increase and was the highest overall of any state or territory. SMEs reported feeling that the government was trying to reduce red tape and bureaucracy, was more supportive of and interested in small business and had made good policies to date, those being the main reasons for their support.

The business and industry portal is the government's one-stop shop for business-to-government services. It is continuing to see record visitation. There is no surprise at all here either, as the BIP has more than 600 business customer guides delivering a range of tools to

assist our businesses from inception and expansion, all the way on to export. For the financial year to 9 February, the BIP has had 1.3 million unique visitors, which is up 147 per cent on the same period last year.

It is very clear that the Newman government is committed to supporting our small businesses and the small businesses and good people of Redcliffe have every reason to want to continue to see that happen in their electorate.

Remembrance Drive, Surfers Paradise

Dr DOUGLAS: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. I table the department's letter in response to my question as to whether the government had accepted an offer of \$1 million for crown land in Remembrance Drive, central Surfers Paradise. I quote the reply, which states—

An application was made on 9 September 2011 by Crestden Pty Ltd. This application expired on 15 October 2013. No further application has been received.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 January 2014, to member for Gaven, Dr Douglas, from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Hon. Jeff Seeney, regarding transfer of state land adjacent to the Surfers Paradise Bowls Club [\[4456\]](#).

I also table—

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gaven, you are entering into a long preamble. I ask you to put the question or else you will be ruled out of order.

Dr DOUGLAS: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for your guidance. Has the government sold this valuable block for a quarter of its value?

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Item 3 (Continued) Material Change of Use for apartment (389 units)' [\[4455\]](#).

Mr SEENEY: The member for Gaven is quoting from a letter that I provided in response to a quite spurious claim that he made in the media. I suggest that the question that he has asked this morning, at least by implication, seeks to repeat that claim. I assure the member for Gaven that he was provided with all of the information that the department provided to both the Minister for Natural Resources and me in regard to the investigations that we undertook about the spurious claim he made in the media. There is no conspiracy here. The member for Gaven has all of the information. If he would like any further specifics, he is quite free to write to me and I will provide him with whatever specifics he requires.

Unfortunately, it is a pattern of behaviour from the member for Gaven that has developed since he has joined that other party which seems to make a political virtue out of making extraordinary claims in the media. It is really difficult for me to understand how anybody who has sat in this chamber for two years or even taken a passing interest in Queensland could make the claim that the member for Gaven and the Palmer United Party make about the Queensland economy.

To see the member for Gaven's smiling face on television suggesting that somehow or other our government has crashed the Queensland economy defies all logic and common sense and every piece of published data from everybody who has ever made any comment about the Queensland economy. And yet these are the sorts of claims that the member for Gaven makes. It is no wonder it is difficult for any of us to take the member for Gaven, or indeed the Palmer United Party, seriously given the claims that they make based on completely ludicrous information.

The people of Gaven can be assured that at the next election the LNP will provide them with a candidate who can represent them in this House, who can be part of the government, who can deal with facts instead of fantasy, who will not self-hallucinate every day in this parliament. That is what the people of Gaven need; not someone who comes in here and says, 'I want to be Premier because the Queensland economy has crashed.' The Queensland economy has not crashed. The government has boosted the Queensland economy and the people of Gaven need to be part of this government.

Get in the Game Policy

Mr WOODFORTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing. Can the minister please update the House on the government's flagship Get in the Game policy and what it means for Queenslanders living in an area like Redcliffe?

Madam SPEAKER: I call the minister. You have one minute.

Mr DICKSON: Our Get in the Game policy is landing some fantastic outcomes. I will go straight to the bones of it. In the first year our Get in the Game policy delivered 2,300 applications. Last year there were 3,000 applications. As of nine o'clock this morning, after 24 hours, there have been 8,322 applications. That is outstanding.

What we need in Redcliffe is a professional healthcare worker who wants to look after young children so that they can live a healthy and fit life through sport, not a failed Labor candidate who delivered the carbon tax and upped the cost of living. This is about delivering cost-of-living relief for people right throughout Queensland. I know that Kerri-Anne Dooley will do a fantastic job on behalf of the LNP because we need healthy, fit young Queenslanders from now into the future. Members may not realise it, but 37 per cent of those young people who took up vouchers last year had never played team sport. We are getting more Queenslanders fit and healthy.

Madam SPEAKER: The time for questions has expired.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

Madam SPEAKER: Before moving on with the order of business, I wish to acknowledge the schools visiting today: St Thomas More College in the electorate of Sunnybank; Minden State School in the electorate of Ipswich West; Woodcrest State College in the electorate of Bundamba; and St Joseph's College Toowoomba in the electorate of Toowoomba South.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Redcliffe Electorate, By-election; 1 William Street

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.02 am): Whilst we are on the topic of Redcliffe, I am more than happy today to add a brief contribution about Redcliffe. This government had every opportunity to fill the vacancy created by Scott Driscoll. There is now an empty seat in this House. The new member for Redcliffe could have been taking their spot in the House today.

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

Madam SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, take your seat. I call the Leader of Government Business.

Mr STEVENS: Madam Speaker, earlier you ruled on the need to be exceedingly careful about matters in relation to Redcliffe in terms of the questions we received this morning. Now we have—

Madam SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of Government Business. I repeat my ruling of this morning which was that there is a broad-ranging motion before the House. I also remind members to take care and not anticipate debate on the motion before the House. I will not rule out members talking about the electorate of Redcliffe. I refer to my ruling on 19 June 2012 where I made reference to broad-ranging motions and the application of the anticipation rule. I remind the Leader of the Opposition of the same ruling I gave the government—that is, to be careful not to anticipate debate on the motion before the House. I will not rule out matters where members are just talking about the electorate of Redcliffe.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. We have seen the photograph of the face of the former member for Redcliffe, Scott Driscoll, taken down from the area where members enter this House.

There is also a lot of concern in the electorate of Redcliffe about the fact that there is only going to be a period of one week where people can cast postal votes and do pre-poll votes. I have heard commentators across Queensland express concern about the fact that this is the shortest period in Queensland's history within which people have the opportunity to cast their vote. This has been reported by commentators across the state.

This House should have a voice for the people of Redcliffe. They should have a voice. This government has delayed and delayed. There was every opportunity for the new member for Redcliffe to be sworn in in this House today and to stand up and talk about the things that matter. But instead we have had an array of ministers talk about Redcliffe.

Have we heard much about Redcliffe in the past two years? Not much. I am prepared today to stand up and support the Labor candidate for Redcliffe, Yvette D'Ath—a hardworking, respected, well-known candidate who is out there doorknocking day in and day out, running mobile offices and being a voice for Redcliffe residents.

Scott Driscoll may no longer be in this House, but the ghost of Scott Driscoll remains. The ghost of Scott Driscoll remains around for the government for the rest of this term. The people of Redcliffe deserve better. They deserve better than a Premier who stood by that man for so long, a Premier who stood by and kept saying he had confidence in that former member.

In a few weeks time the people of Redcliffe will get to have their say. They will get to have their say on who can stand up in the seat of Redcliffe and represent them in this House, on who can be a strong local champion for the people of Redcliffe. It also gives the people of Redcliffe another opportunity. That opportunity, let me say, is very clear. This is an opportunity for the people of Redcliffe to send Campbell Newman and this arrogant LNP government a message—a message that they have gone too far, that they are not addressing cost-of-living issues, that they have broken promises and that they have let Queenslanders down.

Mr Johnson: You never broke any, Annastacia!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; I have not.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In 13 days time the people of Redcliffe get to have their say.

Mr Hart interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They may all laugh and interject—and please member for Burleigh keep interjecting because there is a great candidate we have in Burleigh. There is a great Labor candidate who is out there campaigning and working hard. We have 11 new candidates out there working hard—doorknocking and running mobile offices. There are going to be a lot more candidates out there doing the hard yards, earning the trust of voters and calling this arrogant government to account.

This arrogant Premier rushes laws through without proper consultation. This arrogant Premier refuses to listen to the judiciary and the lawyers in this state. This know-it-all Attorney-General refuses to send the most controversial of laws through the committee system for proper scrutiny throughout this state.

The committee system was put in place for a fundamental reason. That was so people could offer their advice so we could get the laws right. What we have found over the last few months is that the laws introduced by this government have become unworkable. So how can you fix it? I am prepared to offer a solution as to how you can fix these laws.

The fundamental way we can get these laws working is to refer them to a committee and let Queenslanders have a say. Rather than attacking the lawyers in this state, how about you ask for their advice? How about something novel? Consultation—a word that the Newman government simply does not hear.

I now want to turn my attention to the 1 William Street building, the brand-new Executive Building this arrogant government is building for itself, for the Premier and its new ministers. The Auditor-General report clearly stated that this office building fiasco—the selling of seven government buildings in the CBD and the building of this brand-new office at 1 William Street—is now costing Queensland taxpayers in the order of \$2.3 billion. That is \$2.3 billion of Queensland taxpayers' money wasted by this government. Why? To benefit themselves—not to benefit Queenslanders out there living in the regions.

While I am talking about that, where are the buildings in the regions? Where are the new buildings and infrastructure plans happening in Cairns, in Townsville, in Mackay, in Rockhampton, in Gladstone? The only thing I am hearing about when I travel is the cuts—for example, the cuts to the James Cook University. The former Labor government put \$45 million into that dental clinic—\$45 million over four years—and now this government wants to cease the funding. This dental clinic is state of the art. Hundreds of people in North Queensland utilise the services of this clinic. But what has this government done? It wants to cut the funding.

I was in Gladstone and the people of Gladstone are concerned that this government wants to sell off their port. And who did the Premier put in charge of the ports authority up there? His hand-picked friend, his hand-picked mate—Brodie. That is who he put in charge so he can flog off the ports. The people of Gladstone are saying to me they want to keep their port in public hands. That is what the people of Gladstone are telling me.

What about Hervey Bay? Where's the member for Hervey Bay? Are you making representations to your health minister about the proposed planned closure of the ICU that we are hearing about? These are the rumours that are going around.

Mr SORENSEN: Madam Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to that because even today the *Chronicle* has said it was a mistake.

Madam SPEAKER: You are asking for—

Mr SORENSEN: Withdrawal.

Madam SPEAKER:—withdrawal because you take offence. Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to withdraw.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw. But, most importantly, let's talk about this arrogant government not listening when it comes to cost-of-living pressures. Electricity bills are going through the roof. People are coming into my electorate office saying, 'How am I going to make ends meet?' As the member for Rockhampton has raised and the member for Mulgrave has raised in the media, families out there in regional areas are having their electricity disconnected because they cannot pay the bills.

This government needs to get a dose of reality—it needs to get out there and start doorknocking and listening to its constituency—because people out there are hurting. The Premier said clearly before that this is the year it all comes together. Well I say to the Premier: this is the year you need to fix up your mess, the mess created by this LNP government that is having a negative impact on Queensland. You are taking Queensland backwards. You do not have workable laws. You are spending money on yourselves. Frankly, people out there are not happy. If this government started listening to people out in the community, you might find you would have a better result. We will continue to rebuild the trust of the Queensland people and we will continue to fight every single day to keep this government, this arrogant government, accountable.

(Time expired)

Newman Government, Achievements

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (11.13 am): As we head towards a by-election in Redcliffe shortly and the second anniversary of the Newman government's election in March 2012, it is with great pride that I rise in the House to talk about our achievements. Nearly 24 months on and I am still deeply honoured and humbled by the people of Chatsworth to be representing this wonderful community in this chamber and getting on with the job of restoring Queensland's economic position.

The people of Queensland were adamantly clear that they were sick of Labor's reckless spending and inefficiency in governing. It was indeed time for a fresh new government to tackle the task of getting this great state back on track. The community would no longer accept endless spin and empty promises when the election was inching around the corner.

Upon being elected, I made the commitment to ensure that I did not stop listening to my Chatsworth community. I have hosted several community forums to give my constituents the opportunity to air their concerns and ideas on a range of topics from electricity pricing to the Queensland Plan. In addition to these forums, I have conducted many suburban listening posts and have an open-door policy in my electorate office to listen to constituents' issues.

As a candidate during the 18-month lead-up to the last election, many Chatsworth constituents approached me to convey the desperate need for a park-and-ride facility at Carindale. There had been a distinct call for action for many years with previous ALP members of parliament to get the ball rolling on this much needed public infrastructure. The ideal land was available near the Carindale interchange and we got on with the necessary construction of some simple bitumen, upgraded lighting and line marking. This meant that within a few months, and with a typical can-do approach, I was able to deliver something that would encourage people to use public transport.

By delivering a functional piece of infrastructure without the added bells and whistles, it enabled the project to be delivered for a significantly reduced price compared to other similar facilities constructed under Labor's watch. A relatively small capital investment has now resulted in a 34 per cent increase in patronage at the Carindale bus interchange. What does this mean? In 2011,

1.62 million passengers were using the interchange, and fast-forward to 2013 and an incredible 2.18 million passengers caught a bus to or from this now busy transit hub. Combined with the halved 7.5 per cent increase to passenger transport fares, it is great to oversee real results and change in the community.

Education is incredibly important to the Newman government and I am proud to represent an area that now boasts two independent public schools. We have delivered approximately \$1.2 million in additional funding for the Great Results Guarantee for schools in Chatsworth. No child should be left behind in the numeracy and literacy stakes in this digital era. For example, Chatsworth schools such as Whites Hill State College received just over \$227,000 in their share for the 2013-14 financial year of the \$300 million the Newman government has committed to clearing the severe maintenance backlogs left by Labor in Queensland schools. Important educational facilities, as all members on this side of the chamber will know, will now no longer be languishing in disrepair.

Health is another important area close to the Chatsworth community's heart, and the government has a role to provide an adequate system to take care of our most needy. That is why it is pleasing to note that in the Metro South district alone the oral health waiting list has been reduced by a massive 51 per cent, meaning that the waiting list of 19,296 patients has now been cut to 9,434. These efficiencies in the health system have meant that Queensland Health will receive \$30 million in bonus money from the Commonwealth government to further invest into our system.

This government has made tough decisions to get the finances back in order. It has not been easy but, as the Premier eloquently articulated this morning, our best days are indeed ahead of us. Already by streamlining our budget we have been able to provide Get in the Game funding worth \$47 million. In Chatsworth, groups such as the Spartans basketball club have benefited from \$90,000 to upgrade their change room facilities, ensuring that they are able to provide a venue to rival other clubs.

Since being elected the Newman government has been consistently delivering on our action items that are reviewed every six months. I know that there is still hard work ahead of me and the government. However, I urge constituents to continue to have faith in this government to get on with the proven, demonstrable way that we are delivering each and every day.

Whilst we cannot continually dwell on the past and we need to govern in the present, we still need to remind Queenslanders just how incompetent their alternative political choice is. State politics is all about the pragmatic and professional delivery of services which enhance the lives of everyday Queenslanders. It is hard to fund essential services when the debt clock is around half a million dollars in interest only per hour.

Like many of us in the House, I find it a distinct privilege to serve my community and I will continue to fight hard and work responsibly for the future of our great state and my people in Chatsworth.

Mason's Law

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (11.18 am): In April 2011 Mason John Parker died in Townsville from terrible injuries inflicted upon him by his father. Mason was just 17 months old. At the time of his death Mason had a 17-centimetre skull fracture, a ruptured bowel and his body was covered in more than 50 bruises. Mason's father, Troy William Reed, was subsequently found guilty of Mason's murder and sentenced to life in prison. Mason was in his father's care at the time of his death. Frankly, I am at a loss to understand how Troy William Reed could be capable of such an act of callous and savage violence against an infant, let alone his own son.

Today, however, I do not intend to discuss the shocking nature of Mason's passing or the barbaric actions of Troy William Reed. I rise today on behalf of my constituents John and Sue Sandeman of Balgal Beach. John and Sue are Mason's maternal grandparents and, understandably, the tragic loss of their grandson has left them devastated and distraught. Unfortunately, it has also left them asking questions because of circumstances they have become aware of leading up to Mason's death.

During the trial of Troy William Reed in relation to Mason's death, John and Sue discovered that staff at Mason's day care centre in Townsville had taken photos of severe bruising and redness from his backside down to the back of his knees but did not pass this information on to child safety authorities. In Queensland it is not mandatory for child-care workers to report suspected cases of

child abuse. This is also the case in Victoria and Western Australia, but in other jurisdictions around the country it is mandatory for child-care workers to report suspected cases of child abuse. In Queensland it is mandatory for doctors, nurses and child safety officers to report suspected cases of child abuse, and it is mandatory for state school and non-state school employees to report suspected cases of child sexual abuse. Naturally, John and Sue have come to wonder if more could have been done and if the current arrangements are satisfactory in Queensland to protect young children. John and Sue understand that mandatory reporting may not have saved Mason and do not blame the child-care workers concerned who they acknowledge did not break any laws.

On 1 July last year the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry led by Commissioner Tim Carmody presented a report to the Queensland government warning increased mandatory reporting could overload the child safety system. The concern raised by Commissioner Carmody is that mandatory reporting of suspected cases of child abuse could result in large numbers of incidents being referred to child safety authorities, potentially resulting in genuine cases being overlooked or not being attended to in a timely fashion. As someone who is not a child safety expert, whether the answer is introducing mandatory reporting, requiring additional training for people who work in the child-care sector to be able to identify genuine cases of child abuse or some other measure, the answer is not clear to me. However, what is certain is that, in view of this terrible case and other potential cases, we must do our very best to investigate the most appropriate framework to protect young children, who are among the most vulnerable people in our community. There must be a proper discussion involving child safety authorities and experts, child-care employees and the community about how to adequately protect children from abuse balanced against the practical realities of the child safety system.

This morning the Clerk of the Parliament reported to the House that 711 people had supported an e-petition calling for it to be mandatory for staff at child-care centres in Queensland to report suspected cases of child abuse. I now table a paper petition supported by 551 people pertaining to the same matter.

Tabled paper: Non-conforming petition regarding Queensland child care centres/services and their staff become lawfully mandated notifiers, 551 total petitioners [\[4457\]](#).

That brings the total to 1,262 Queenslanders who have expressed their dissatisfaction with the current arrangements and their support for change. I recognise that this is a very difficult and complex matter. On behalf of John and Sue Sandeman, I ask the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and the Minister for Education, Training and Employment to consider this matter carefully.

John and Sue know a change to the law will not bring their grandson back to them. However, they have told me that they feel compelled to ask this important question and seek a considered answer because they do not want any other grandparents to go through what they have gone through. I want to express my admiration for John and Sue Sandeman for focusing their love for their grandson on his legacy, which they refer to as Mason's law. I pray to God that Mason is safe and well in heaven and that his passing was not in vain.

Drought Assistance

 **Hon. TS MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.24 am): Last week I toured parts of our state's north-west and central west to visit many of Queensland's drought affected areas. I took the opportunity to hear about the challenges facing the region from graziers, mayors, business owners and economic development agencies in Mount Isa, Boulia, Dajarra, Duchess, Winton, Barcaldine and Longreach. At the moment 23 entire local government areas are drought declared and four are part declared. This affects over 1.2 million square kilometres, an area approximately twice the size of France. The perfect storm of a parched landscape, oppressive heat, no rain, the scourge of wild dogs and rampant kangaroo populations as well as depressed market conditions is piling the pressure onto drought affected communities. It means that many graziers are drastically destocking their farms.

In other areas graziers have already had to cut their losses, lock their gates and find work elsewhere. This is putting a huge amount of pressure on many graziers and many families. There are reports of suicide in some regions—a tragedy of epic proportions. It is not just the graziers under pressure. When the graziers are under pressure, entire local economies feel the pinch. Farmers have to lay off local staff. Families stop spending money in town. Non-farm employers also have to look at

cutting costs and jobs. It is a vicious cycle that tears at the very fabric of rural communities. What became clear to me during my time in the region is that urgent attention needs to be given to relief measures for graziers.

I welcome the Prime Minister's announcement last week that he would bring forward the previous government's financial relief measures. However, it is important we urgently see the details. Another measure the federal government could look at is extending the former government's loan scheme with even cheaper interest rates and interest-free periods. After all, with current interest rates at historically low levels, we may need to make the scheme even more competitive and attractive. At the state level, something the Newman government could immediately do is reverse its decision to cut state funding from rural financial counselling schemes. By reversing this decision, farmers would have access to the expert help they need to restructure their debt repayments and find solutions to other financial issues.

The LNP loves talking about how they are the party of the bush, but cutting state funding to this vital service was short-sighted and a real slap in the face to graziers and farmers. While we need to focus heavily on how we can assist graziers struggling under the current drought, we need to be realistic about the fact that there will be more droughts in the future and do what we can to better prepare for those challenges.

One message I received loud and clear is that graziers themselves would prefer a system that rewards drought preparation and responsible land management. This could mean incentivising drought management infrastructure like water bores, water storage facilities, pipelines and fencing. We also need to build the financial literacy of farmers and better improve the information flow between the grazing and farming communities and banks. Some people mentioned to me that many graziers and farmers may have overborrowed during the good seasons from 2008 to 2011 with the full support of banks. Servicing this debt is arguably the greatest challenge being faced. It is definitely something that could be helped, as I said earlier, by the reversal of the decision by the government to cut the rural financial counselling service.

Lastly, investment in tourist related industries can help our rural centres keep their heads above water during these down times. Whether it is the Min Min lights experience in Boulia or the Workers Heritage Centre in Barcaldine or the Stockman's Hall of Fame in Longreach, diversifying the calibre of activities available could help tourists and add further stimulation to local economies. I would implore anyone looking to holiday in Queensland this year to think about heading west or even north-west. You will have a great time. You will be helping out a region that does much for this state, and you will be meeting some interesting characters along the way.

Youth Justice

 **Mr COX** (Thuringowa—LNP) (11.29 am): I take this opportunity to talk about youth justice and its effects across the state. To kick a bad habit, one has to first admit there is a problem and the people of Queensland know we have a problem. Before now it involved only a small percentage of youth, but the figures are growing and so is the impact on our community. The situation has been going unchecked for too long. Next you need to change your behaviour and actions if you want to stop a bad habit. Today we see huge steps being made by the Newman government to curb and correct, where possible, the bad habits of this group of juvenile criminals from my city of Townsville.

For too long they were forgotten by some of those across the room when they were in government. They just gave up. They just did not care, and they let this bad habit continue until critical conditions appeared. Thankfully, that is when the LNP took over as the government of this state, and it was prepared to take steps to address the problem.

Pressure has been growing on communities in North Queensland. Criminal activity among our youth has increased exponentially, particularly in regards to property crime and unlawful use of motor vehicles. Residents sleep with their car keys under their pillows in a bid to avoid being the next victim, and even then they may not be safe. You have heard me speak before about the problem of juvenile crime in Townsville. I may seem like a stuck record, but the hard truth is that the situation is getting worse, not better—largely because of the years of inaction by the previous government and antiquated legislation that prevents magistrates from handing down sentences to deter youths from reoffending.

I have been active in my community, holding a series of round table discussions on juvenile crime. I have also worked behind the scenes, lobbying my colleagues from special police operations and for the proposed legislation changes coming before parliament this week. Last year our

Attorney-General released the Safer Streets Crime Action Plan—Youth Justice, which sought the views of Queenslanders on proposals to strengthen responses to youth crime. We had over 4,000 responses, and most of those were from victims of crime. Some of the feedback suggested we look at things like expanding naming and shaming for repeat young offenders—which is something that we will look at—and making breach of bail an offence. An offence of breach of bail will be created when a young person commits an offence while on bail for another offence.

Childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction has been recorded will be admissible in court when an offender is being sentenced as an adult. When sentencing an adult, the court will have the opportunity to fashion a sentence with the complete understanding of the defendant's offending history.

We do not want to see 19-year-olds in our juvenile prisons. The transfer of young offenders to adult correctional facilities when they turn 17 will ensure that they are treated and managed as adults, and it will enable youth detention centres to offer appropriate programs. The principle of detention or imprisonment as a last resort will be removed from the Youth Justice Act, untying the hands of the judiciary and enabling them to issue appropriate sentences to young offenders. We have also looked at behavioural changes when it comes to the removal of graffiti. The implementation and expansion of the two-year trial of youth boot camps will continue. We have seen that Townsville and Cairns have now combined into a super boot camp which, according to early reports, is going very well.

The Blueprint for the Future of Youth Justice, today's announcement, is about breaking offensive behaviours and changing habits even further. Today we will also announce that we will be recommending that the committee consider a mandatory boot camp order for repeat offenders. We know how bad it is in parts of Queensland, and getting those kids off the streets and away from bad influences could help them give that up. It would target young people who have committed two or more offences of unlawful use of a motor vehicle in 12 months. Some of these youths may have had a poor upbringing or parents who are only partly to blame because they did not have the parenting skills that they needed to parent effectively. Some of these youths need to take all of the blame, but parents need support to control their behaviour. We must help these offenders break the habit of criminal activity—not just for the youths' sake, but for the victims. It is time these youths were directed off the path of crime and back on to things like education, training or employment.

The need for intervention was recently identified in Townsville by summoning parents to the court. The program has seen significant changes in that trend and is also part of the reform process that this government is undertaking. While we are looking at tougher penalties and sentences, we are also looking at the root of the problem which for too long had been overlooked by the previous Labor government. We are looking at early intervention, boot camps and trying to support parents who may need help. For those who do not, we will ask them to leave their child in custody.

Alcohol Abuse and Violence

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (11.34 am): The abuse of alcohol, with its associated destructive and sometimes violent consequences, is a blight on our society. If there was ever a time for considered, thoughtful, adult behaviour in this House, the moment is now. Nobody in this chamber or elsewhere can refute the facts at hand.

What can be agreed on? Nobody is saying that there is no problem. Nobody is suggesting that the status quo can remain. We agree, then, that something more must be done. Action must be taken to put a line through the horrendous carnage that is infecting our society. Is it reasonable for me to suggest that we have a shared purpose? The next step, once there is an understanding of intention, is answering the question of how. How is the government of Queensland going to deliver an effect that is informed by a mature understanding of the situation?

I must say that I have not gleaned an enormous amount of confidence from the government's efforts—or, should I say, lack of them—so far. I can put this in unequivocal terms. The Queensland opposition is very keen to address the problem. It is not as though I did not flag that willingness when I spoke last year during an adjournment on this very issue. Then I wanted to put on the record my long held and increasing concerns about the societal effect of alcohol, or, more importantly and particularly, the availability and abuse of alcohol in our communities. There would be many within the government backbench, the sensible pragmatists, who would agree with me. I mentioned that I did not have time then to talk about what happened in nightclub precincts, particularly on weekends. What I did say was that we had a very serious problem. I did say that it was an important social issue which is impacting on the next generation. I did say that it was not enough for us to turn a blind eye to

it. I also said that education of itself would not deal with the issues adequately, nor would handing out disproportionate punishment regimes, and that no-one should be in any doubt of the costs to our society by allowing these societal atrocities to continue. I quoted Churchill, who said:

Virtuous motives, trammelled by inertia and timidity, are no match for armed and resolute wickedness.

I called for the government to do something in much the same way as I had been calling on the government to do something about organised crime and bikies prior to events getting out of control on the government's watch. This unfortunate pattern of behaviour we are seeing is often enabled by preloading. People are coming into the entertainment precincts with their inhibitions well and truly forgotten. What do you think happens then? It is akin to knocking the top off a 44-gallon drum of Avtur and flicking matches at it.

You can appreciate my joy in waking on Sunday, 19 January 2014, to see, on the front page of the Sunday paper, the Premier getting tough on violence with the headline 'Gloves Off'. I immediately think, after months of community and media attention, 'Finally, here we go!' But what was revealed is a preference for jails and fines. I hate to tell everyone that there is already a strong legislative framework and a raft of offences and sentencing options that are more than adequate for the purpose. This problem will never be addressed by increasing the prison population.

The gloves come off to discover no mailed fist; rather, a feather duster trumpeted via the use of deceptive language. Despite all of the evidence and despite the experts working on the ground in this area, the government has been unable to take the long needed steps to reduce the availability of alcohol in our communities. As usual, they are all talk and no action. What is the saying? Cock of the roost one day, feather duster the next. We are there now: the feather dusters are out and everyone can see them. This is a government that, when confronted with complex and difficult problems, has failed every test.

I am very proud of the measures announced by the Labor opposition. We will be taking those and additional measures to an election. Everyone knows what needs to be done. Police, doctors, nurses, social workers, paramedics, good licensees, taxidriviers, public transport operators, academics, the Australian Christian lobby—and let us not forget Ministers Stuckey, Cripps and Springborg and others in this House—know the facts and know that trading hours are at the very epicentre of any move to address this problem. This is a government that seems to stop when it should go and go when it should stop. I encourage the Premier to stop sitting on his hands pontificating and to get with the program and ignore the misinformation being propagated by irresponsible vested interests.

Drought

 **Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (11.39 am): As Minister for Agriculture, I have declared 70 per cent of Queensland as now being drought stricken. I expect over the coming weeks that, as drought continues to spread across the eastern parts of our state, I will be declaring more shires drought stricken. Over the past 12 months I have travelled from one end of the state to the other—from Georgetown in the Gulf to St George in the south. Almost a fortnight ago in St George I attended a rural crisis meeting with the federal Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, and the local member Howard Hobbs, and I have had similar meetings with Vaughan Johnson in his electorate. There have certainly been a wide range of issues discussed and suggested, including a return to Exceptional Circumstances program funding, rural reconstruction and development board concepts, agricultural development concepts and various suggestions as to how rural debt, which has increased, can be managed going forward.

Like the LNP found here in Queensland when we came to government, the federal government is finding the same challenges in terms of a high level of unsustainable debt left by the previous Labor government. I am confident that my federal colleague, Barnaby Joyce, and his cabinet colleagues are working through those challenges and I support the federal agriculture minister pushing for a greater level of understanding amongst his cabinet colleagues of the impact of drought not just in Queensland, but also in New South Wales.

Queensland farmers have been hit for a six through the loss of the live cattle export trade to Indonesia due to the mismanagement of the former federal Labor government, the severe and ongoing drought, low livestock prices and, of course, the debt crisis that I have just mentioned. It is a cash flow crisis. While the Queensland government is doing its bit with an increased and unprecedented package of \$31 million, which includes fodder subsidies, subsidies for carting water to

stock and water infrastructure rebates, the fact remains that these farmers and graziers are in financial trouble. To his credit, Minister Barnaby Joyce has increased by \$20 million the level of farm finance for Queensland to \$50 million, encompassing concessional loans at 4.5 per cent—and those are being rolled out through QRAA with a second application period for 2013-14 opening last month.

The LNP understands the severity of the situation and the obvious need for governments at all levels to work together. That is why we need to work with local farms, families and particularly the communities in which they operate, where their children go to school and where their ongoing farm operations support small businesses such as the suppliers of fuel, tyres and groceries to name just a few. The drought is hurting more than just farmers and graziers. There has been talk of a crisis of confidence in western and northern grazing areas. If it continues there is a risk of widespread devaluing of farm assets, fire sales and an exodus from agriculture in Queensland, at least in the beef industry. So we will continue to support our rural families and their communities because a bright future beyond this drought and the challenges it presents does remain. Sadly, there have been people leaving the farm because their business has been unsustainable. We will work with them, too. As I said, I support Minister Joyce very strongly in raising the issue at the highest level in Canberra. It is a discussion, a debate, we need to have.

I applaud the efforts of various community organisations such as Lifeline, Aussie Helpers, Rotary and others in this drought. I continue to implement and finetune the state government's Drought Relief Assistance Scheme and I stand ready with the Premier and the likes of Vaughan Johnson, Howard Hobbs and other members who understand regional Queensland in this House to do more if required.

At times, though, it is particularly disappointing to hear ill-informed public and political commentary when people are doing it so tough. I refer, amongst other things, to the comments made previously in this House by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in relation to farm financial counselling. Farm financial counselling is in place in the likes of Longreach, Emerald, Mackay, Roma, Charleville, St George, the gulf region and the south-west Maranoa region under existing arrangements and will be ramped up as required between the federal and state governments.

I call on all members to pull together and not play politics with this challenge. We do need to work together in relation to regional Queensland. Sensible policy debate is welcome. Cheap and base politics is not.

Crime and Misconduct Commission



Mr WELLINGTON (Nicklin—Ind) (11.44 am): Last year the Newman government trumpeted the Callinan and Aroney report as the way forward for the operation of the Crime and Misconduct Commission in Queensland under the Newman government. At the outset I note that the Attorney-General has still not taken up the invitation to speak with the Leader of the Opposition and the opposition in relation to the appointment of a permanent head to lead the Crime and Misconduct Commission. Instead, the Dr Ken Levy is still acting in this position.

I turn now to the substance of what I want to share with members today. Other Australians and I have serious reservations with aspects of the Callinan and Aroney report in relation to changes to how the Crime and Misconduct Commission can operate. Yesterday I attended the Accountability Round Table, a public forum held here at Parliament House in the Premier's room. It was interesting that, out of all the government members, the only one I saw in attendance was the Speaker, the member for Maroochydore. The Accountability Round Table is a non-partisan group of citizens with diverse backgrounds—academics, lawyers, politicians, journalists and authors—who are gravely concerned about the current erosion of honesty and integrity in our democracy. I was disgusted and appalled that no other elected representative from the government was prepared to sit in and listen to the speakers and be involved in that discussion.

One of the key speakers was the Hon. Stephen Charles QC. He spoke about aspects of the Callinan-Aroney recommendations in relation to 'Campbell Newman's way forward' for the operation of the Crime and Misconduct Commission. Critically, he identified that, if the government adopts the Callinan and Aroney recommendations, before anyone makes a complaint to the CMC they will be required to complete a statutory declaration and also to sign that they fully understand all of the technical and legal issues that I think many solicitors in Queensland would not be able to understand. Then we would see the Newman government leading the way in making it more difficult for people to make a complaint to the CMC. In actual fact, we would see a new way forward in intimidating potential complainants so that they do not even make an effort to make a complaint.

During his submission, the Hon. Stephen Charles referred to the New South Wales ICAC investigations. He stated—

Given the hidden nature of corruption, the ART—
Accountability Round Table—

contends that the seemingly insignificant allegation "which leads to the uncovering of serious corruption" would under the proposed regime usually not be made the subject of complaint because of the substantial changes proposed, including the necessity for the suspicious or inquisitive member of the public to swear a statutory declaration, with the result that serious corruption will be left undisclosed because of the unwillingness of public officials and members of the public to take the risk of swearing the necessary statutory declaration.

That is an extract from the document. I propose to table a copy of that document.

Tabled paper: Accountability Round Table document titled 'Queensland CMC—Independent Advisory Panel Review' [4458].

Government members might be interested in reading this document because, quite clearly, we see the Newman government leadership team is not interested. It falls to the backbenchers of this government in their meetings to stand up and speak for Queenslanders. We need to ensure that our Crime and Misconduct Commission is able to receive many complaints including anonymous ones. We need to encourage people to make complaints. ICAC in New South Wales started from a simple complaint.

The Hon. Stephen Charles also identified that many of the assertions made in the Callinan-Aroney report are not supported by the evidence. The Premier and Attorney come in here and talk publicly about this wonderful report, but when expert people take the time to study and analyse the report and to look at the evidence, guess what they find? They find that many of those recommendations are not substantiated by the facts.

So today I call on backbenchers of the Newman government to please read this document and take an interest in it. We need some real liberal thinkers in this government to stand up for what is right in Queensland and not allow this government to go down the road of making it more difficult for people to make complaints. We need to ensure that politicians and governments are under scrutiny.

(Time expired)

Council Amalgamation

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (11.49 am): I rise to talk about capacity building for some of our councils, which is definitely needed. The changing of legislation regarding the amalgamation of councils and the changing of government has brought about some dramatic changes over the last few years. The amalgamation of councils started in 2007-08 when councils such as Laidley and Gatton came together to form the Lockyer Valley Regional Council.

Of course, council amalgamation did create some real change. Since that time there has been some real change and councils have struggled with some of that change. I represent four councils—Lockyer, a little bit of Ipswich, a little bit of Scenic Rim and a little bit of Logan. I used to represent five councils with a little bit of Somerset, but that has since gone to the Nanango electorate. The real difficulty is that councils have to be able to manage state legislation. They have to have an understanding of how federal legislation affects them as well, but it is particularly important that they understand state legislation. This really needs to be done on an ongoing basis.

They need to be kept up to speed with state legislation and how legislation is going to change. Recently there was a change to the emergency management fire and rescue levy which was an important change brought in by this government because the emergency management fire and rescue levy needed to be funded on a sustainable level. This sustainable level has to be put in place. It is about ensuring that we have the appropriate management in place. It is about ensuring that we have the appropriate planning in place. It is about ensuring that we have the helicopters in the air. In this regard, I have some recent articles from some of the local papers that are quite amazing.

Only last week in the Gatton *Star* there was an article about a young child who fell out of a double bunk in Laidley who presented to the Laidley Hospital but who was flown by a CareFlight rescue helicopter to the Brisbane Mater. That is what this emergency management levy is about. In another article a chap working at Lowood, which is in my friend the member for Ipswich West's electorate, was injured when a car fell off some jacks he was working under. He was trapped underneath and had to be flown to the hospital. These are the sorts of things that that levy funds.

Another article from my good friend the member for Nanango's electorate details that a farmer's foot was severed in an horrific accident that took place near Esk. The man, who was aged 40, was believed to be mixing grain and feed when his foot was caught in the auger he had been using. It was an auger drilling device with a helical bit, commonly used for boring holes in the ground. The article says that the CareFlight helicopter crew called at Esk Hospital at 8.30 to airlift the man to the Princess Alexandra Hospital and that he arrived in a serious but stable condition and was undergoing hospital treatment. In the article there is a picture of two paramedics from one of the local brigades loading him into a CareFlight helicopter. That is what emergency management is about.

The Warrego Highway and Cunningham Highway are in my electorate. They are major thoroughfares, and that is what part of this emergency management levy is about. I have two letters here. The first one from the Bundaberg Regional Council, which seems to understand what this levy is actually about, states—

A good example of this is the devastating floods that occurred in the Bundaberg Region ... when the State Government provided significant assistance to support the region's recovery.

Unfortunately, a letter from the Lockyer Valley Regional Council states—

This significant State Government levy was introduced with little or no consultation ...

It says that it should not have been introduced. This highlights the difference in the capacity of these councils to understand what is going on. Unfortunately, some of the local councils have been opposed to major projects such as the Toowoomba second range crossing, which will be a boon for our area. It will be a boon. I was talking to local man Hans Nan, who has an industrial estate and a residential estate, and he said that he had had eight inquiries—and I am sure the member for Toowoomba South would be interested in this—for business operations in his industrial estate within two days of the Toowoomba second range crossing being announced. We do not need this negativity from councils when they are struggling to understand the complexities of legislation. What we need to do is build capacity and improve their ability to understand. I table those documents.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents regarding the Toowoomba Range Crossing and the Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue Levy [\[4459\]](#).

Queensland Health, Senior Medical Officers Awards

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.54 am): Recently senior medical officers in the Cairns and hinterland health service advised that they are willing to walk off the job in July due to this government's appalling approach to workplace award negotiations. The 'take it or leave it' approach taken by the minister has left senior doctors with no choice. Medical officers negotiating the SMO awards have admitted that there have been issues with some doctors not fulfilling their obligations under the right to private practice allowance and have expressed their willingness to work with the government to resolve those issues, but the minister is using the Auditor-General's findings as an excuse to completely remove hard-fought award conditions. That is an issue that needs to be resolved, but this government is using that issue as an excuse to force doctors to accept conditions which remove their right to contest unfair dismissals and gives the government the power to change wage and work conditions without notification.

Rather than work through this issue in a fair and cooperative way, the government has thrown the baby out with the bathwater again and is now threatening the stability of the entire health system. The conditions in these individual contracts for senior medical officers are simply another way that this government is giving itself draconian powers to change the work conditions of Queensland Health workers without notice or due process. This is a pattern that defines this government. The laws that have been passed in this place since 2012 have steadily transferred power to the executive in all areas. Whenever this government does not get its own way, it simply changes the rules. This is not effective governance and it demonstrates a petty approach which has dark implications for the future of Queensland. This is an ideologically driven move that is consistent with the thought that people should not have access to a free health service.

One of the great achievements of Australian history is a free education and access to free health care, and that must be cherished and protected at all costs. Senior medical officers in the Cairns and hinterland health service district have advised that they will walk off the job on 1 July if they have to work under the new contracts. The minister's refusal to re-enter negotiations shows an alarming lack of care for patients and communities that will be affected by this action. The biggest impact will be on our overstretched emergency departments. Patients from the Tablelands may end up in the Cairns emergency department if senior emergency doctors reject these contracts and go into private practice. Maternity services will also be highly impacted, as will every other area of the Queensland Health system.

Doctors are professionals. They do not have to work in Queensland Health. There is work around for them in private practice, and that is why it is very important that we enter negotiations with them. They have trained for over seven years in an area that is very important to the health and quality of life of Queenslanders. This government is treating doctors with contempt and, as I mentioned before, these doctors do not care because they are about to walk out of the health system because there are jobs available all over Australia. If the government does not do something about this and enter into arrangements and agreements with these doctors, we will possibly see a crisis.

This arrogance is not only extremely damaging in the short term but creates long-term issues as more and more senior staff go into private practice due to the instability these conditions bring into the workplace. As Queensland Health struggles to fill senior positions, the first place to lose doctors will be the bush. The hardest hit will be rural and regional Queensland. I implore those MPs in rural and regional areas to stand up and represent rural areas and stand up to protect the ability of the rural health system. It is as simple as that. I hope that the government comes to its senses and enters a reasonable negotiation, because these doctors are not asking for anything different. Rather, what they are asking for is the simple economic bargaining process that they worked under in the first place. How hard is that? I bring this issue to the attention of the House.

Indigenous Community Development

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (11.59 am): Today it is an absolute pleasure to rise to speak about government policy and legislation in terms of the real and tangible difference that good policy and good legislation can make to the lives of real people. I recently had the absolute pleasure of travelling with Minister Elmes and the member for Cook, David Kempton, to Far North Queensland to see firsthand the absolute strides that one Indigenous community has achieved. Historically, Indigenous people living in remote areas have been treated differently under law from other Australians. In most cases they cannot own their own homes and, in regions subject to land rights acts, previous governments have not allowed private title, thus restricting the ability of Indigenous communities to own their own homes and businesses. In a recent article Warren Mundine said—

The next challenge for remote indigenous communities will require us to face another idea that seems controversial and radical but should also be common sense: commercial development.

I had the pleasure to travel to Hope Vale to see one such commercial development and that was to attend the opening of the Hope Vale banana farm. I was absolutely thrilled to be there. At the opening of the Hope Vale banana farm, Minister Elmes cut the ribbon to open their new, fantastic state-of-the-art packing shed. Having had family in North Queensland who in the past were pineapple farmers, I have had a little bit to do with packing sheds and I can say that this one is as good as I have seen.

The Indigenous community in Hope Vale have partnered with a multinational company called Dole and they have achieved some supply contracts with major supermarkets down south. In 2013, the Hope Vale banana farm produced 30,000 boxes of cavendish bananas. In 2014, the Hope Vale banana farm is planning to make that figure 100,000; by 2015, 180,000 boxes of cavendish bananas; and by 2016, 200,000 boxes, which will mean that they will hit full production. Currently, this initiative is employing over 30 people full-time and by 2015-16 over 40 people will be employed in full production. This is an amazing statistic. Many of those people were on welfare earning \$340 to \$360 a week. Currently, by working there they are earning over \$600 to \$700 a week. This is just a wonderful initiative.

I have had the opportunity to travel to many different Indigenous communities and often I have been quite shocked by the Third World conditions that I have seen there, but at Hope Vale it was very different. Although a new shopping centre is being built at Hope Vale, the real highlight is the housing development there, which is called Hope Valley Estate. Hope Valley Estate is a freehold title estate. It provides 53 freehold building lots for the Indigenous community of Hope Vale. This estate is the result of a collaboration between the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council, the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and IBA.

When Cheryl Cannon turned the key in the lock of her new home in Hope Vale, she became the first Aboriginal person to buy her own house on Aboriginal land. In a recent interview in the *Courier-Mail*, Cheryl said—

It took 56 years—

to own her own place—

but I made it.

It shows your dreams can come true, no matter how long it takes.

Wow! I am the first one in Australia to buy a home on our cultural land.

Up until now, homes in Indigenous communities had been government housing—owned by all, yet owned by none. While driving through Hope Vale you would think that you were driving through any housing development in any one of our electorates—beautiful homes with manicured gardens as well as houses being constructed. In our meeting with the Hope Vale congress, we were informed that over 12 blocks of land were sold already and that many more were in the pipeline.

I would like to commend Minister Elmes, Minister Cripps and the member for Cook for their great work in Hope Vale, but most importantly I would like to commend the members of the community of Hope Vale who have taken great strides to own this development themselves and to make a real difference.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.

CRIMINAL CODE AND ANOTHER ACT (STOCK) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.04 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code in relation to the disposal of stock seized in connection with a charge and to increase penalties for particular offences, and to amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to provide for the forced muster of stray stock and for other particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill 2014 [\[4460\]](#).

Tabled paper: Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [\[4461\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill. The bill implements the recommendations of the stock working group chaired by the Hon. John Jerrard QC, a former justice of the Queensland Court of Appeal. The stock working group was made up of the Director of Public Prosecutions and officers from the Queensland Police Service Stock and Rural Crime Investigation Squad as well as representatives from the Queensland Law Society, AgForce, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and Biosecurity Queensland within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The first key recommendation of the stock working group was the overhaul of legislation dealing with how police handle stock animals which are seized in connection with an offence, for example, stock stealing. For the information of honourable members, our Criminal Code defines stock as horses, asses, mules, camels, sheep, swine, deer and goats.

This bill delivers on the reforms recommended by the stock working group by amending the Criminal Code to replace existing problematic provisions about retaining and returning or disposing of animals with a stock disposal order regime. This is a court based regime which provides the police with the authority to sell the animal at auction and pay the net proceeds into court for payment out of court as ordered by the court at the end of the criminal proceedings. Before an animal can be sold, it must be visually recorded, for example, by video and photography. That visual record then becomes the evidence of the animal and its condition and markings and can be relied upon at trial as such.

The second key recommendation was the introduction of a court sanctioned forced muster regime. This recommendation is delivered by proposed amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 which enable a stock owner to apply to the court for an order permitting the owner, accompanied and supervised by police, to enter onto another person's land to retrieve their strayed stock in circumstances where that landowner is refusing access. These provisions will address the current lack of legislative authority for a stock owner or police officer to retrieve stock that has strayed onto the property of another person. Stock owners are reliant on the goodwill of neighbours to return the stock or allow the owner to enter onto the property to locate and retrieve the stock.

The bill also contains amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to assist police in executing search warrants for offences relating to stock. It does this in two ways: by increasing the duration of the search warrants relating to stock and by legislating for the police to be able to require the use of facilities such as cut-out yards in executing a stock warrant.

At my direction, in 2013 the Department of Justice and Attorney-General reviewed current penalty levels for stock offences in the Criminal Code. As a result of the review, which included consultation with stakeholders, the bill increases the minimum mandatory fines that exist for certain relevant offences. The Criminal Code contains a unique punishment regime for stock offences. Where the court chooses to fine, then the fine per animal must be the minimum of either the value of the animal or the amount stated in the offence section, whichever is the higher. The bill also converts from dollar amounts to penalty units the fine amounts for stock offences in the Criminal Code, resulting in a slight overall increase in amounts.

Finally, the Animal Valuers Tribunal is renamed by the bill as the Animal Valuers Panel to better reflect the advisory rather than judicial nature of animal valuers' work. Animal valuers are appointed under the Criminal Code and are called upon from time to time to identify and value stock which is the subject of offences. These expert valuers play a vital role in the criminal justice system and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them for this.

My hope is that this bill brings a measure of equity and efficiency to stock offence proceedings and investigations. These cases are not common within the context of all cases proceeding through our courts each year, but their impact is undoubtedly felt by our hardworking primary producers. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.07 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.08 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Childrens Court Act 1992, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 for particular purposes, and to make minor or consequential amendments of other legislation as stated in schedule 1 for purposes related to those purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 [\[4462\]](#).

Tabled paper: Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [\[4463\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. The bill implements the results of a formal review of key elements of the Youth Justice Act 1992 completed as part of the government's comprehensive reform of the youth justice system. This includes amendments to both the Youth Justice Act and the Childrens Court Act 2000. The bill also adjusts the sentencing principles in the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to ensure courts sentencing adult offenders have the same flexibility in imposing custodial sentences as is given by the bill to courts sentencing child offenders.

The amendments introduced in this bill are critical to respond to the escalating seriousness and devastation currently being caused by young criminals. We are witnessing a changing pattern of youth offending in Queensland. There might be fewer young people offending, but those young

criminals who are offending are doing so more often and are committing more serious offences. It is this government's commitment to protect the community from crime. Crime committed by young people must be stopped, otherwise these young criminals go on to become adult criminals who know how to work the justice system and who continue to threaten the safety of our communities. This bill targets these young recidivist offenders by making them more accountable for their actions and creating real disincentives to engage in further criminal behaviour.

I recognise that young people whose behaviour is putting them at risk of entering the criminal justice system should be given a real chance at rehabilitation and supported to make positive life decisions. That is why we have established the youth boot camp program trial which includes early intervention camps on the Gold Coast, Fraser-Sunshine Coast and Rockhampton and a combined sentenced youth boot camp for the Cairns and Townsville area. Early indications from these boot camps are that they are proving effective in changing young people's behaviour. That is why I am developing a blueprint for the future of youth justice reform in Queensland.

The blueprint will guide major reform into the future on how we respond to youth offending. It will outline the strategies that will be implemented in the coming years to prevent offending, address the causes of youth offending, improve the responsiveness of the justice system and, importantly, hold young offenders and their parents accountable for their actions. The key objective is to improve the safety in our communities by reducing the number of crimes being committed and the damage these crimes are having on everyday Queenslanders.

To this end, the bill amends the Youth Justice Act to provide for the publication of identifying information about repeat offenders who are the subject of court proceedings. Too often young offenders exploit the fact that their names are not published to avoid facing the full public consequences of their actions. The court will have the discretion to prohibit publication for any period it considers appropriate where this is in the interests of justice. A maximum penalty of 100 penalty units or two years imprisonment for individuals or 1,000 penalty units for corporations will apply for breaching a non-publication order. Publication of identifying information about first-time offenders will continue to be prohibited other than where the court makes an order in relation to offenders convicted of particularly heinous violent offences.

The bill will complement the deterrent effect of this measure by amending the Childrens Court Act to open the Childrens Court for youth justice proceedings involving repeat offenders. To protect victims and innocent third parties, the court will be able to order that part or all of proceedings be conducted in closed court where it considers this in the interests of justice. The court will also continue to be required to be closed when victims of sex offences are giving evidence.

The bill creates a new offence of committing another offence while on bail. If a young offender commits another offence while on bail for an earlier offence and is found guilty of that further offence, they will also be guilty of this offence. The maximum penalty for the new offence will be 20 penalty units or one year's imprisonment. This delivers on the clear community expectation that young offenders who flout the youth justice system by continuing to offend even while in the community on bail should face real consequences for this antisocial and criminal behaviour.

In continuing to ensure offenders can be held accountable for their behaviour, the bill also makes childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded admissible in court where a person is being sentenced for an offence committed as an adult. This will ensure courts sentencing adult offenders have a more complete picture of the offender's past offending and are able to impose more appropriate sentences accordingly. As evidence of childhood offences will be admissible for the purposes of sentencing only, this amendment does not increase the risk adults face of being convicted of offences merely because of childhood offending.

In Queensland, we recognise that 17-year-olds have sufficient maturity to be held fully accountable for their actions. We also recognise that putting 17-year-olds in detention with younger offenders such as 13- and 14-year-olds is detrimental. Therefore, this bill introduces an automatic transfer from youth detention centres to adult correctional facilities when a young offender turns 17 years of age if they have at least six months left to serve in detention. By requiring that 17-year-olds and above who still have another six months to serve are transferred, we clearly target those repeat offenders and serious violent or sexual offenders whose offending has earned them lengthy custodial sentences. Further, as transfers will occur automatically and will not be discretionary, the merits of a decision to effect the transfer of a young person will not be subject to review or appeal.

Our community expects just outcomes for people who commit crime. Currently all courts must consider detention and imprisonment as a last resort when sentencing a person. This bill expressly excludes this sentencing principle, both at common law and under statute. Effectively, this removes

the need for a court to consider that a sentence of imprisonment for adults or detention for young people should only be imposed as a last resort and where no other sentence is appropriate. This will give courts the flexibility to craft sentences which better reflect the severity of the crime being punished, communicate the community's denunciation of offending, deter future offending and appropriately protect the community from offending.

In addition to these amendments that implement the results from the review of the Youth Justice Act, the bill also makes a minor adjustment to the sentenced youth boot camp program to better protect the program's efficacy and integrity. The bill provides for a warrant to be issued for the arrest of a child who has absconded from a boot camp centre and enables an absconder to be brought back before the Childrens Court for resentencing immediately without first being given a warning.

Further, the bill amends the Youth Justice Act to allow an order made by the Childrens Court Magistrate on finding a child has contravened a community based order to be appealed to the Childrens Court judge. This brings the treatment of these orders into line with the treatment of orders made by a magistrate on a finding of guilt and ensures the punishment of children is at times subject to consistent oversight by the High Court. The bill also makes a technical amendment to the Youth Justice Act to clarify that community based orders which have been breached but which expired before the offender is returned to court can only be amended or adjusted by the court.

Finally, in response to the disproportionate rates of vehicle related crime caused by young offenders in Townsville, I foreshadow to the House that it is intended to move amendments during the consideration in detail stage of the bill that will hold these young offenders accountable and redirect them from further offending. This will be achieved through an amendment to the Youth Justice Act that will ensure that recidivist motor vehicle offenders who have been found guilty of two or more motor vehicle offences in the previous 12 months will be sent to the sentenced youth boot camp on a finding of guilt for a further unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

For the next few weeks we want to engage with the Townsville community, recognising they have a serious problem of vehicular thefts, to come up with a proposal during the committee process. We will be writing to the committee about a proposal which essentially is that if there is a recidivist motor vehicle offender in the Townsville area they will have a mandatory sentence imposed and that will be a boot camp order. It is to get these young people to turn their lives around, get them an education and a job and out of a life of crime. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JP BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.16 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

COMMUNITIES LEGISLATION (FUNDING RED TAPE REDUCTION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. TE DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (12.17 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Community Services Act 2007, the Child Protection Act 1999 and the Disability Services Act 2006 for particular purposes, to repeal the Family Services Act 1987, and to make minor and consequential amendments of other legislation as stated in schedule 1. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Health and Community Services Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Communities Legislation (Funding Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2014 [\[4464\]](#).

Tabled paper: Communities Legislation (Funding Red Tape Reduction) Bill 2014, explanatory notes [\[4465\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce a bill to streamline the legislation that my department and others use to safeguard investment in services and products for the community. These vital services and products are delivered by non-government organisations, local governments and other entities to vulnerable people across Queensland. This bill will deliver reforms that slash red tape and reduce the cost of doing business for funded organisations. This will enable them to focus more of their valuable resources on services and products that make a real difference in people's lives. This is part of the Queensland government's commitment to revitalising front-line services and putting customers first, including providing Queenslanders with more choice by strengthening contestability. We are also committed to ensuring better value for taxpayers' money in line with the reports of the Commission of Audit and Child Protection Commission of Inquiry, both of which recommended maximising returns on government investment and improving procurement processes.

Importantly, this bill will reduce unnecessary administrative costs so NGOs can deliver services more efficiently. Through simpler processes like the ones set out in this bill, and building stronger partnerships with service providers, we are driving better outcomes for clients. Front-line services and products are vital to the state's wellbeing and involve a large investment of public funds. For example, in 2012-13 the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services provided approximately \$1.5 billion to not-for-profit organisations, local governments and other organisations to deliver child safety, disability and community services.

At present, my department administers its large investment under three acts inherited by our government: the Community Services Act 2007, the Disability Services Act 2006 and the Family Services Act 1987. While these acts safeguard services and the public funds used to deliver them, the laws are not as efficient as they could be. They contain duplications and different requirements that increase red tape costs for NGOs, especially those that are funded under two or more acts. For example, an organisation that receives funding under both the Disability Services Act 2006 and the Community Services Act 2007 must have one policy for dealing with complaints about its disability services and a separate policy for dealing with complaints about its community services.

The bill amends the existing laws to remove all this unnecessary red tape, yet retains essential safeguards. It does this by repealing the Family Services Act 1987, removing parts of the Disability Services Act 2006 that duplicate the Community Services Act 2007 and shortening and amending the Community Services Act 2007. Importantly, the bill will cut red tape costs for funded organisations by about \$2.6 million per year, remove more than 60 pages from the Queensland statute book, help my department to exceed its 23 per cent regulatory reduction target, and provide a common legislative base for funding across my department and the other agencies that choose to use it.

Funded organisations make an invaluable contribution to our communities. They enable people, particularly those who are vulnerable, to access a broad range of vital support services. These services are central to a better outlook in life for many, including people with a disability and their carers, children and young people and their families who are doing it tough, and people suffering domestic violence. The vast majority of funded organisations use government funding in good faith for the benefit of Queenslanders. There are, however, rare occasions when serious concerns arise. For example, an NGO might stop delivering a vital taxpayer funded service, a vulnerable client may be at risk of harm or funds may be misused. Breakdowns like those can have serious consequences, especially where the issue cannot be managed promptly and effectively through the funding contract or where an organisation can no longer comply with its contract. As I said, those situations are rare.

However, as a responsible investor, government has a responsibility to ensure that publicly funded services are delivered safely and accountably. That is why we need legislation. The current legislation gives government the power to take quick and decisive action in situations like this. For example, we could appoint an interim manager to ensure that the service continues and vulnerable clients and public funds are protected. Under the bill, these powers will continue to be available, but only if strict criteria are met. If these criteria are met, a department will continue to be able to have specific officers investigate a matter, require documents or information to be provided, issue a compliance notice requiring a funded organisation to take specific action, appoint an interim manager to manage the funding or recover funding that has been misspent. This means that if my department was notified that a funded organisation was misusing a large amount of government funding, for example, we could investigate the matter and formally request the directors or management committee provide us with its financial records. If the directors or management committee refused, they would be committing a criminal offence and could face prosecution.

To ensure that the powers are available where necessary, the bill allows ministers to declare which funding the revised Community Services Act applies to. At a minimum, these declarations will be published on a department's website so everyone is clear what rules apply. A declaration may relate to a funding program or one-off funding. In deciding whether to make a declaration, a minister may consider a range of factors including, for example, the nature of the product or service to be delivered, the importance of the product or service to the community, the vulnerability of service users and the amount government invests in the product or service. For example, in my portfolio I would be interested in safeguarding large investments in services for vulnerable children in the child safety system, so I would declare funding for those services. However, I might not declare small amounts of funding to help volunteer groups purchase equipment and materials.

To cut red tape costs and reduce the size of the statute book, the bill removes various duplications. It also removes matters that do not need to be in the legislation and that can be dealt with in another way, for example, through funding contracts. The bill removes the need for organisations to become 'approved service providers' before they can apply for funding. Instead, organisations will only need to make one application for the funding itself. During this process, departments will confirm the organisation's bona fides, governance arrangements and capability to manage the funds and deliver the required services.

The bill will not specify how ministers approve funding or require directors-general to enter into a written funding contract. This will provide more flexibility for approval processes and allow funding contracts to be tailored to suit the funding being provided. Service quality standards applied by my department will no longer be dealt with under legislation. Organisations are required to meet standards under their funding contracts, so it is not necessary to include this in legislation. The bill takes out provisions that set the process for ending an organisation's funding contract when that organisation has breached its contract. Again, this process is set out in funding contracts, so it is not necessary to duplicate it in legislation.

Importantly, the bill also removes the power to set particular requirements that all funded organisations must meet. For example, the Community Services Act requires funded organisations to have procedures in place to ensure their directors and officers know what is in the organisation's constitution and governing documents. This imposes 'upfront' obligations that all funded organisations must comply with, even those that are performing well, and adds red tape costs. Instead, the bill provides that the powers in the revised Community Services Act will only be available where a 'serious concern' exists. A serious concern is defined as harm to a person, a significant failure in service delivery, the misuse of funds or a breach of the Disability Services Act. This approach will provide a much more efficient and effective way of ensuring that government has powers to take quick and decisive action when necessary. It will significantly reduce the compliance burden on funded organisations that are doing the right thing though, while preserving current safeguards. The bill will also support and enable other government reforms to achieve a more consistent approach to investment across social services agencies. This will further reduce red tape costs for funded organisations.

Key human services peak bodies have been consulted about the proposals in the bill. These included the Queensland Council of Social Services, the Local Government Association of Queensland, National Disability Services and PeakCare. Those organisations strongly support the bill's focus on reducing red tape costs and agree that clear legal protections are important for publicly funded products and services. I take this opportunity to thank the organisations that took part in those consultations. Their input and feedback was extremely valuable in helping to shape the bill and was very much appreciated.

Previous community services funding reforms were considered by the Queensland government in 2011. The proposals from that time were examined by the former health and disabilities committee and recommended for passage. As a member of that committee, I took an interest in the proposals. As the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services I am taking a different approach. Rather than creating a whole new mandatory funding act with a compulsory funding process, I am streamlining existing laws and stripping them back to their essentials. The bill creates a new regulatory framework that reduces red tape for funded organisations and the size of the statute book, while increasing flexibility and preserving essential safeguards for the community and taxpayers' money.

The Communities Legislation (Funding Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Bill 2014 will deliver essential reforms to free funded organisations from unnecessary red tape, while preserving legal safeguards for important social services. It will help overhaul the way my department does business with funded organisations and will result in better services for Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. TE DAVIS (Aspley—LNP) (Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services) (12.28 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Health and Community Services Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Community Services Committee.

WATER SUPPLY SERVICES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MF McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (12.29 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, the Sustainable Planning Regulation 2009 and the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 for particular purposes, to repeal the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act 1909, and to make minor and consequential amendments to the acts mentioned in schedule 1. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 [4466].

Tabled paper: Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [4467].

It is my pleasure to introduce the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 which will transform and reduce the regulatory burden for Queensland's water sector and streamline water and sewerage connection approvals for the South-East Queensland distributor-retailers. In line with the goals of the working draft of the Queensland Plan, the bill moves the focus of water industry regulation from process to outcomes.

Queensland communities and businesses cannot operate and continue to grow without essential services like water and sewerage. Queensland has around 86 providers—most of which are local governments—delivering drinking water and sewerage services to communities. About another 80 providers deliver non-drinking water to customers operating mostly in the agricultural and mining sectors.

Through this bill the onus on water and sewerage service providers will shift from the preparation of detailed management plans to regular public reporting. This will promote business monitoring, drive continual improvement and increase accountability to customers. The new framework answers water industry calls over many years to simplify and improve how they are regulated.

Reduced regulatory burden will be achieved by removing the requirement for service providers to submit four prescriptive management plans. This requirement will be replaced with annual reporting by providers on their performance. Additionally, my department will publish a comparative report on industry performance so that customers can see how their services measure up and to provide incentive for providers to improve.

Increased transparency and accountability for customers is a key component of the bill. If there is evidence of risks to water security or continuity of the service supply, including sewerage services, a service provider will be required to develop and implement an improvement plan.

In line with these reforms, the bill will simplify the regulation of recycled water provision. Schemes that supply recycled water for lower exposure uses, such as irrigation of parks, will no longer need an approved recycled water management plan or exemption. However, all schemes, with the exception of schemes that supply coal seam gas water, will need to be registered so the regulators—my department and the Department of Health—have a record of recycled water use across Queensland. The changes to the regulation of recycled water provision are a move towards a better, risk based framework where the level of regulation reflects risk.

The bill streamlines the appeal provisions of the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 to direct all appealable dam safety decisions to the Planning and Environment Court.

The bill amends the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 to clarify that authorised persons can be appointed by a service provider to install water meters on the service provider's infrastructure, in addition to licensed plumbers. These authorised persons will need to have appropriate training or expertise and must be competent to undertake the work safely and mitigate risks to public health. This amendment will save time and money for service providers and developers. However, the installation of sub-meters in premises will remain work that must only be done by a licensed plumber.

The bill will result in a number of operational improvements for water businesses that have been requested by the industry. Firstly, it removes the requirement in the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 for service providers to provide residential tenants with water consumption advice.

Secondly, it amends the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 to improve operations for distributor-retailers by removing the requirement to publish draft prices outside their usual budget cycle and by allowing each council to have a councillor on a distributor-retailer's board. The bill also amends the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 to provide a streamlined water and sewerage connection approval process for South-East Queensland distributor-retailers referred to as the utility model.

It merges two current approvals under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 and the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and creates a single approval for connecting premises to water and sewerage services. Distributor-retailers will directly consider and approve water and sewerage connection applications resulting in a quicker, simplified and cost-effective approval mechanism for customers of distributor-retailers.

Water and sewerage connection approvals have been customised for all scales of development from a new house to a large scale subdivision. The bill allows for the swift approval of standard connection applications for developments such as new houses to be determined within five business days. It also allows for non-standard connections for more complicated connections and for staged water connection approvals for large staged developments. Accredited third parties can deal with aspects of the more complicated applications, such as certification of infrastructure works, resulting in a reduction in design times and holding times for developers, as well as time consuming delays. This simplified approval process aligns with the government's planning reforms and supports infrastructure and economic development within South-East Queensland.

Finally, the bill repeals the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Act 1909 which has been superseded by more contemporary legislation and is now redundant. This act established and governed the operations of the Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board until it was disestablished in 1928 and the board's powers were assigned to Brisbane City Council.

As a package, these measures address industry calls for regulatory simplification while driving improvement and flexibility. The proposals support the goals in the draft Queensland Plan to improve planning and infrastructure management and to shift the focus of governance from process to outcomes.

The bill also supports the Queensland government's commitment to cut red tape and regulation by 20 per cent and the reforms will deliver cost savings to the water industry. The Department of Energy and Water Supply is coordinating the development of a 30-year water strategy which will further address the regulatory environment and organisational challenges facing Queensland's water sector. Through addressing industry calls for regulatory simplification while driving improvement and flexibility, the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 represents a real step forward and is a basis for further reform under the 30-year strategy. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MF McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (12.36 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee.

CHICKEN MEAT INDUSTRY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (12.36 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Act 1976 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014 [[4468](#)].

Tabled paper: Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes [[4469](#)].

I am very pleased to introduce the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill 2014. The bill provides for the repeal of the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Act 1976 in order to reduce regulatory burden and red tape on the chicken meat industry. To give proper effect to the act's repeal, the act will be amended to cater for the transitional matters required for the dissolution of the Chicken Meat Industry Committee, which is established under the act. Once the transitional matters have been satisfied, the act will be repealed in its entirety.

The main objective of the act is to provide for the stabilisation of the chicken meat industry in Queensland. This is achieved through its framework for collective bargaining negotiations between chicken meat growers and chicken meat processors. The act provides specific authorisation for collective negotiations, without which such activities could be considered to be illegal under the Commonwealth's Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

The Queensland Chicken Growers Association, in conjunction with the major chicken meat processors Inghams Enterprises, Golden Cockerel and Baiada Poultry, has obtained an authorisation from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to collectively negotiate agreements. This will be done directly under the Commonwealth legislation. The authorisation effectively replaces the framework under the Queensland legislation and renders it redundant.

Under the current Queensland legislative framework, chicken meat growers and processors can choose to become part of the collective negotiations or choose to independently negotiate arrangements. Growers and processors will continue to have this choice under the new non-regulatory arrangements.

The Chicken Meat Industry Committee's primary functions are: to facilitate negotiations of agreements between chicken growers and processors; to facilitate mediation and arbitration of disputes; to represent growers and processors; and to provide information on and about issues affecting the industry. These functions have either been replaced by the ACCC authorisation or can be undertaken through other means.

I commend the chicken meat industry for deciding to step outside of the state legislative framework and take full responsibility for its own future. This is a sign of the maturity of the industry. In 1976 commercial disputes between chicken meat growers and processors were the norm and industry regularly sought government intervention. Now there are few commercial disputes and the current commercial environment is such that government intervention is no longer required.

The bill gives effect to the committee's dissolution by transferring all of its assets and liabilities to a non-statutory body as decided by the committee. The bill also provides for the appropriate referral of any dispute that arose before the transfer day to an arbitrator. On the day of transfer the committee will cease to exist and the legislation will be automatically repealed in its entirety.

Lastly, the bill will also bring Queensland in line with the national trend of moving away from the use of state based legislative collective negotiations for chicken meat growers and towards the authorisation of collective negotiation arrangements by the ACCC. In South Australia chicken meat industry stabilisation legislation has been repealed and in Western Australia it has expired. In Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia the chicken meat industry uses the ACCC authorisation process for their collective negotiations arrangements.

I wish to acknowledge the processor and grower members of the committee for their commitment to their industry and their courage to seek alternative arrangements that mean the legislation is no longer required. I wish to acknowledge long-serving committee member Mr Gary Sansom. Mr Sansom has been a member of the committee since 1986 and is well known to members on both sides of the House through his former role as President of the Queensland Farmers Federation. But it should not be forgotten that Gary and his wife are chicken farmers, and their commitment to agriculture in Queensland took root through their involvement in the chicken meat industry.

I also wish to acknowledge the chairperson of the committee, Ms Rowena McNally, for her professional and facilitative approach to the role. Ms McNally has been the chairperson since May 2003, and the success of the committee during her tenure as chair is largely due to her skills and efforts. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JJ McVEIGH (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (12.42 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

Question put—That the bill be now read a first time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 12 September 2013 (see p. 3057).

Second Reading

 **Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (12.43 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has examined the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 and tabled its report on 11 November 2013. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for its consideration of the bill and for the excellent work the committee does. In its report the committee made four recommendations. The government has considered these recommendations and the government's response to the committee report, which was tabled out of session on 28 November 2013. The government supports recommendations 1, 3 and 4 of the committee. The government does not support the remaining recommendation.

I will now address each recommendation in turn. Firstly, the committee recommended the bill be passed, and I thank the committee for their support for this important bill. Secondly, the committee recommended that consideration be given to including the further list of examples suggested by the Queensland Law Society in section 53BH(3) of the bill to improve how the 'reasonable steps' defence is intended to operate. The government considers that providing further examples will not significantly advance any understanding of how the 'reasonable steps' defence will operate. The government is satisfied that the judiciary can determine, through considering the individual merits of each case,

whether a person has taken reasonable steps to prevent an event from becoming out of control. It is the government's view that providing further examples of what are or are not 'reasonable steps' will not be of additional assistance in this regard.

The committee's third recommendation was that a review be conducted of the operation and use of the new part 7 'Out-of-control events' to report to parliament within two years of commencement. A review of the operation and use of the new part 7 will be undertaken as part of the regular review of the operation of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000.

The fourth recommendation of the committee was that clause 39 be omitted from the bill. The government supports this recommendation. Clause 39 concerned amendments to section 754 'Offence for driver of motor vehicle to fail to stop motor vehicle' of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. The amendment sought to clarify that the only alternative minimum penalty that a court can impose, instead of the 50 penalty units fine, is 50 days imprisonment to be served wholly in a corrective services facility.

Amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 included in the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) Amendment Act 2013 implemented amendments to the effect of the amendment proposed by clause 39 of the bill. As a consequence, clause 39 of the bill is no longer required.

I will indicate at this time that I will be moving amendments during the consideration in detail stage of the bill. These amendments have been circulated in my name and accompanied by explanatory notes. In addition to an amendment removing clause 39 of the bill, I will also be moving an amendment to remove clause 2 'Commencement' of the bill. This clause specified sections 4, 6 and 42(2) to (4), (6) and (7) of the bill to commence by proclamation. Omitting the commencement provision will enable the specified provisions to commence, with the remainder of the bill upon assent.

Clause 4 of the bill inserts the out-of-control event scheme which was to commence by proclamation. Already this year there have been at least five out-of-control events. The Queensland community has had enough and the Newman government will not tolerate the violence and senseless destruction caused when these events become out of control. I believe it is imperative that these new powers commence as soon as possible to provide police with effective tools to minimise the occurrence of out-of-control events and the consequent harm they have on our communities.

I will briefly take the opportunity to emphasise how beneficial the out-of-control events powers will be to the Queensland community. These laws will protect not only the broader law-abiding community but also the attendees of these events. Attendees of these out-of-control events often find themselves becoming the victims of drug and alcohol fuelled violence. Organisers of these events have little regard for the safety of attendees or nearby residents.

The organisers of events which become out of control will no longer be unaccountable for their actions. The new laws will strip away any profits that are made by these crooked people and any celebrity status they perceive that they have gained will fade to insignificance when in some circumstances they face a maximum fine of \$18,150 or up to three years in jail. In addition to any fine, the courts can also order persons who commit offences under the out-of-control event scheme to pay some or all of the costs of the policing response to the out-of-control event.

Furthermore, in circumstances where a child offender cannot pay the costs order, the court may call upon the parents to show cause why they should not have to pay all or some of the costs. This would occur where the court considers those parents contributed to the offence occurring through failing to adequately supervise their child. The method for determining the cost of the policing response will be set out in the Police Service's financial management practice manual. The out-of-control event powers also provide police with the capability to act pre-emptively by shutting down an event which is likely to become out of control before physical harm, property damage and fear has been inflicted upon the community.

The bill also extends the noise abatement period from 12 hours to 96 hours which gives the local community respite from those persons who continually want to host noisy parties and disrupt their neighbourhood while also contributing to reduced police calls for service regarding these matters. Police can also respond on a unanimous noise complaint, which protects the identity of the complainant who contacts police regarding the noisy event.

I will also be proposing amendments during the consideration in detail stage of the bill to the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995. These amendments will clarify the evidentiary provisions in relation to TruCAM speed camera devices to ensure that the legislation reflects the original intent of parliament. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (12.50 pm): This bill is an amazing piece of legislation: it represents overreach and overkill that is quite typical of this government. It is a lazy, catch-all approach. This legislation is modelled on similar Western Australia legislation which can allow a party of 12 people to be declared out of control. The government will be at pains to say that, while the legislation is a catch-all, common sense will prevail in the end. I refer the House to the first time the Western Australian legislation was challenged in court in that state. Two young men appeared in the Magistrates Court to plead not guilty. I can advise the House that the new legislation was used within a week of the legislation being available to the Western Australian police just three days before Christmas in 2012. One witness said that 13 people were at a party and another witness observed about 20 at the house. The first offending incident was a burnout performed in the street which, quite rightly, caused a major concern in the street among the neighbours. This caused a neighbour to go to the house and confront the host of the party which led to a second offending incident. In this incident one of the hosts spoke to the neighbour rudely, yelled obscenities and had a heightened aggressive manner which caused members of the party to take a Mr French inside the house to prevent further escalation of the incident. I do note that burnouts are a serious safety issue and an offence with a serious form of punishment. I also note that a person who is aggressive when confronted by a neighbour is behaving unacceptably by community standards. There are existing offences in our laws to cover those situations. Should a homeowner be criminally liable if a guest of a party leaves the premises and does a burnout outside?

This example clearly illustrates that the legislation is not really about wild parties that charge partygoers to attend, making huge profits or anything to do with Facebook parties. It captures really small parties with only three people behaving in an unacceptable way. I do worry that neighbours with ongoing neighbourhood disputes could use this legislation to attend a neighbour's party and incite people at that party into a fight to trigger this legislation to have police take action against their neighbours. I am not sure what the end result of this matter was in court, but members of the public should understand that it costs a lot of money to defend any charge at court in legal fees.

This LNP government bill has the potential to dissuade families from celebrating and enjoying family milestones and events like 18th birthday parties and engagement parties at home, or restrict families from celebrating important milestones which would be an unfortunate and probably unintended consequence of the way the legislation is currently drafted. The new Newman antiparty laws in this bill have the potential to criminalise innocent people including parents for the bad behaviour of others. For a government that is supposed to believe in people's liberties, this just tramples all over them. It is excessive and it is overkill.

It is not often the opposition sides with the Institute of Public Affairs. However, Chris Berg's analysis should shock the Newman government members sitting on less than 10 per cent margins to their very core.

Government members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: If you want to speak, get up and speak. Mr Deputy Speaker, if they want to have a go, they can get on the list.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The member does not have to take interjections and he is not taking interjections at this point.

Mr BYRNE: Chris Berg states, 'For all the absurdities of Queensland's antibikie legislation, its bill cracking down on parties is probably worse.' This LNP bill allows the offence provisions to kick in without the host of the party even being aware an offence has been committed. Deputy Commissioner Gollschewski outlined these points to the committee when he stated—

Another significant feature of the out-of-control event scheme is making those responsible for out-of-control events liable to significant penalties. The definition of 'organise' is necessarily broad and enables several persons to be prosecuted for organising a single event. It is immaterial whether or not any other organiser of the event knows of, or consents to, another person's involvement in organising the event.

Essentially, I submit this bill needed to be tight and specific in order to address the actual issue, which is large, violent, out-of-control parties. The government's intention in this bill was to prevent three people at or near a gathering of 12 people or more who are acting in a manner that could give cause to another person being fearful of violence or property damage or suffer substantial interference to their rights, freedoms, peaceful passage or enjoyment of a public place. As you can see, this has the potential to target small family gatherings as well as large ones. On the upside, I cannot fault the theoretical concept of preventing violence and allowing members of the public to

freely enjoy public spaces. In fact, the Labor Party announcement to reduce alcohol fuelled violence aims to do exactly this around licensed premises. I await the government's long-awaited response to curb alcohol fuelled violence and whether the same civil regime to recover costs will be extended to licensed premises when people leave the premises in a violent manner that interferes with free movement in the public space like this bill seeks to achieve for private parties.

Our communities accept that some restrictions are necessary to change the excessive drinking and violent culture which is causing so much damage and destruction. This includes dealing with damage like preloading and some sensible restrictions in this bill on excessive noise at wild parties and homes, but this bill goes way too far. The submissions to the committee quite rightly point out the actual offences already exist—that is right: they are already there—to allow police to arrest people for committing the very offences required before a party can be declared out of control. For example, if people are fighting, police can lock them up for assault, affray or riot. If people are gate crashing, police can lock them up for trespass. We even have an offence for being a public nuisance. That offence should be provided for in this House occasionally, one might suggest. We usually lock up the offenders, but in this bill the host could face much harsher penalties than the person who trespassed or caused the trouble in the first place. If police enforce this legislation to the letter of the law, and as suggested by the Western Australian example, the days of the backyard barbecue could well and truly be over.

Government members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: That is the reality, Mr Deputy Speaker. They craft this catch-all legislation which will upset the way normal people do business. We have seen it with the bikie legislation and the same stuff is in this bill. All of the protesting I hear in the House is typical. They introduce legislation with no idea about the implementation effects.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is too much interjecting. The member has the call.

Mr BYRNE: If police do not enforce this legislation to the letter of the law, it will leave each officer open to accusations and complaints from members of the public that they are not fully carrying out their required duties. This minister has stated that common sense will prevail, but members of the public should be able to look up the law and expect the level of service not to be an ad hoc implementation of the law. The minister has asked us to trust him; common sense will prevail. That is what the government said in relation to the bikie laws, as I just pointed out, and how is that working out? Innocent members of the community have been affected so much so that we witnessed the Attorney-General basically admitting that earlier this year, warning that police were going to back off in their implementation of those laws.

The legislation applies to all sorts of parties all over Queensland. They could apply equally to school after-formal parties arranged in good faith by well-intentioned parents or members of football clubs at end-of-year celebrations. The deputy commissioner stated that only 18 parties—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! As it is now lunchtime, I ask the member to move that the debate be now adjourned.

Debate, on motion of Mr Byrne, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

VACANCY IN SENATE OF COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Election of Senator

Resumed from 12 September 2013 (see p. 3063).



Hon. CKT NEWMAN (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (2.30 pm): Last November Mr Barry O'Sullivan was nominated to fill the vacant Senate seat for Queensland. This seat was of course vacated by former senator, now federal Minister for Agriculture, the Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP. I am now pleased to formally endorse that Barry James O'Sullivan be elected to hold the vacancy in the Senate of the parliament of the Commonwealth. I welcome Barry and his family to parliament today, as well as Mr Bruce McIver, the president of the LNP.

Section 15 of the Australian Constitution requires that when the position of a senator who was the endorsed candidate of a political party when elected to the Senate becomes vacant, the person chosen to fill the vacancy created by that person leaving the Senate before the expiration of their term or any subsequent vacancy must be a member of the same political party. In May last year at a meeting in Mackay, the state LNP council selected Mr O'Sullivan as the nominated candidate to fill the Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of Senator Barnaby Joyce.

Mr O'Sullivan has lived and worked all over Queensland and will be a passionate and vocal representative for Queensland. Barry has wide life experience with a range of practical knowledge and training. He was born in Toowoomba and is an accomplished businessman, farmer and former police detective. He is well-known for his passion for rural and regional issues and people. He was a vocal advocate of the Toowoomba Range Second Crossing. He is a loving father and grandfather. His late wife Annie passed away several years ago, and we all know that she would be so very, very proud of Barry today. Barry is also not well enough known, I would say, for his philanthropic efforts, which include support for an orphanage and water wells in Africa. Of course we also acknowledge Barry's contribution to the LNP as treasurer pretty much from when the party was formed.

Barry, on behalf of all members I wish you well for a long and distinguished parliamentary career. I confirm the willingness—indeed, the strong intent—of this government to work with you to ensure that the interests of Queensland are advanced in the Commonwealth parliament. I know that you will be a strong advocate for this state, and that is why I am very pleased today to commend Mr O'Sullivan's nomination and this motion to the House.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.33 pm): I rise to speak on the debate on the nomination of the candidate to fill the Senate vacancy caused by the resignation from the Senate of Senator Barnaby Joyce. This debate was originally scheduled for 17 October last year. The former senator resigned from the Senate on 8 August, and the Speaker was notified of this by the Governor on 15 August. In fact, Barnaby Joyce was preselected for the New South Wales seat of New England on 13 April 2013. Basically, since 13 April last year we have known of the need to choose a new senator, and it has taken until 11 February this year for the parliament to be given the opportunity to debate this issue.

Since 15 August last year, when the Speaker was advised of the senator's resignation, this will be the 27th day that the Senate has sat without a replacement senator for Senator Joyce. For 27 sitting days the Queensland parliament has allowed Queenslanders to have inadequate representation in the Senate. Queenslanders who needed someone to go to for assistance had fewer senators available to help them out. But that should not surprise anyone in this House: they have form for that. How long have they left the people of Redcliffe without representation? The member for Redcliffe resigned on 19 November—

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is completely relevant. Senator Joyce served the people of Queensland in the Senate of the Commonwealth parliament from 2004 until his recent resignation. The former Senator Joyce, who once so proudly wore a Queensland State of Origin jersey to prove his Queensland credentials, has abandoned the people of Queensland to fulfil his own political ambitions south of the border. This is the same Barnaby Joyce who, in his first speech in the Senate, said:

To the people of Queensland, I am your senator and your servant.

He then said:

For all Queenslanders who are here for the first time, you might be surprised to know that the colour scheme was once blue in this chamber but we have since had it changed to maroon and I hope you are happy with that result.

In accordance with the conventions of our federal system of government and, since the commencement of the Constitution Alteration (Senate Casual Vacancies) Act 1977, in accordance with the Constitution, the person to fill the vacancy caused by Senator Joyce's resignation should come from the same political party. The opposition respects the conventions of our Westminster system and therefore will not be opposing the nomination of Mr Barry O'Sullivan to fill the casual Senate vacancy. This is, of course, in stark contrast to the position taken in this very House by the former Premier, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, who took the unusual step in 1975—

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not want to hear it! This is in stark contrast to the position taken in this very House by the former premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, who took the unusual step in 1975 of refusing to accept the Labor Party's nominee to fill the Senate vacancy—

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The history books reveal it! As I have said, the opposition will not be opposing Mr O'Sullivan's nomination. When I ask myself what other characteristics people look for in a good politician, I come up with a number of qualities: honesty, integrity, compassion, humility and honour. Maybe we can throw in dignity and grace as well for good measure, for Mr O'Sullivan is of course an honourable man. In choosing Mr O'Sullivan as the Senate candidate, this was no doubt recognised by the LNP state council. In the infamous words of Mark Anthony in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* 'So are they all, all honourable men'. It appears that when the LNP looked amongst their ranks, the best person that they could come up with to fit the bill was Barry O'Sullivan. In fact, when choosing the likely senator the LNP had 12 nominations. I have examined the list and, politics aside, there were some very worthy candidates amongst them. However, the LNP in its wisdom have determined that their former treasurer, Barry O'Sullivan, is the best possessed of the qualities that will enable him to make a fine representative for the people of Queensland in the Senate.

Might I say that there is one significant disappointment for me in the nomination of Barry O'Sullivan for this vacancy, and that is that the LNP did not choose a woman to replace Barnaby Joyce. In the context of the retirement of Sue Boyce, who did not contest last year's election, the only woman senator from the LNP since 1984 to represent Queensland has now gone. By running women in the unwinnable fifth and sixth spots on their ticket at the election, the LNP ensured there will not be another female LNP senator before 2017. But if the LNP can honestly tell us, the people of Queensland, that the best person they have to represent us in the Senate is Barry O'Sullivan, we will not stand in their way.

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (2.39 pm): I reflect on that most ungracious speech by the Leader of the Opposition. At a time when protocol demands that this House behaves in a decorous way and that it respects a decision under the Constitution regarding someone who cannot respond, the Leader of the Opposition chooses to attack the party, the process and indeed, by implication, the man himself in a most underhanded way. Let me simply say from a party that gave us Jim Elder, Mike Kaiser, Bill D'Arcy and Keith Wright: your words also sound hollow. For a party that put in their own biggest traitor in Queensland, Mal Colston, their selection process leaves a lot to be desired. When the ALP can get out of their back rooms, brawls and factional deals, then we will listen to them in terms of how we go about selecting candidates. I join wholeheartedly with the Premier and those on this side in supporting the nomination of Mr Barry O'Sullivan to the high and honourable office of Australian senator.

It will not come as a surprise to many members that Senator-elect O'Sullivan and I come from very different backgrounds and some may well say we have some different outlooks. However, Barry and I also share some common experiences and traits, and some might be surprised by that claim. Our common experience, first and foremost, includes being treasurers of organisations. Mr O'Sullivan, who since 2008 was treasurer of the LNP, steered a course that saw our party be able to provide services and deliver representation to all of Queensland from the cape to Currumbin and west. Of course, Mr O'Sullivan, in attending party functions, receives more well informed and sensible questions than I do in this House. In that respect my position is a little easier, but on the flip side he did not have to pay down \$80 billion worth of debt.

Another shared trait is a willingness to stand up and call a thing for what it is. Anyone who knows Barry O'Sullivan knows that he will tell you straight exactly what he thinks—sometimes what he thinks of you and sometimes what he thinks of your argument. That is politics. That is the game we are in and we should value people who have the courage of their convictions to stand up and tell it to you, to them and to the people of Queensland and to take up the cudgels. When it comes to heading out into the bush and the rural regions I have no doubt—and I heard it at the preselection in Mackay—that Barry O'Sullivan will be a fierce advocate for the people of Queensland and for the policies that support small business, growth, jobs and employment. He will ensure that Queensland gets its fair share.

Barry and I do not always agree; there is no harm in that. That is the game that we are in, as I said. That is the business we are in. That is politics. However, we also ferociously defend our positions and those of our friends and colleagues. I know from speaking to people in this House that he has leapt to their defence on many occasions, that he has helped them out by more than just

talking about them; he has helped them out in innumerable ways. I know that many people in this place are very grateful for the friendship and support that Barry has given them in tough times and good. When it comes to our opponents in this business, we both know who they are and where they hide. Barry will ferociously find them, disclose them and call them for what they are.

We also show our dedication—and Barry shows a strong dedication—to service and to family. Barry's service spans two decades in the Queensland police force and in custodial services. He worked right across the state serving the communities of Moranbah, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Mackay, Longreach and Brisbane, among others, in some capacity—that rural outpost of Brisbane; I am sure he would have found it that way, anyway. Since his retirement from the police force, Mr O'Sullivan has been involved in agriculture in the Emerald region. He also started a business and employs 100 people in and around Toowoomba and makes contributions in that respect. Of course, then there is family. That particularly stands out. Members will remember the tragedy that struck the O'Sullivan family when young Patrick, Barry's grandson, was thrown from a ride in Toowoomba last year. Patrick is here today, and I say welcome to him and congratulations. Many people will remember the care with which Mr O'Sullivan represented his family, his concern for the welfare of his grandson and the thanks and graciousness with which he received the outpouring of community support.

He also ferociously believes in Queensland, as I mentioned. Mr O'Sullivan has spent years and years both working and travelling the state as a police officer, as a businessman and as a member of the LNP. He spent months travelling around the state to get to know what matters most to the people of Queensland. Put simply, he knows the state. He will be a passionate advocate for rural and regional Queensland in the Senate, just like his predecessor, the now Minister for Agriculture and federal member for New England. I join with others in wishing Mr O'Sullivan all the best for his new role. I congratulate him on this significant and proud day. I welcome his family to the Queensland parliament and trust he enjoys it as he is entitled to do and deserves.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.45 pm): I rise to speak on the LNP's nomination of Barry O'Sullivan and I note that the Premier's contribution to this particular debate was one of the shortest in the memory of this parliament. I also note the contribution of the Treasurer of this state in which he told it the way it is, and that is exactly what I am going to do. In relation to the nomination of Barry O'Sullivan to fill the casual Senate vacancy created by Barnaby Joyce's decision last year in 2013 to walk away from Queensland, obviously Barnaby's craven pursuit of power overrode any feelings of loyalty he had to this state that launched his political career. I hope he has handed in his 'Maroons' jersey as he crossed the border to become a 'Blue' in New South Wales because this is loyalty LNP-style: it does not matter what you have to do to get power.

Returning to Mr O'Sullivan's nomination, there are several points that I wish to make. Firstly, once again the dinosaurs in the LNP have decided to overlook 50 per cent of the population by nominating a male to fill this vacancy. As the opposition leader has already pointed out in the parliament, instead of taking the opportunity to elevate a woman to represent Queensland and the LNP in the Senate, those opposite continue to persist with a boys club and that is the LNP. In the current Senate, which will change in July, there are only eight female LNP senators and only one of these is a Queenslander, who is Senator Sue Boyce. Senator Boyce has announced her intention to retire from the Senate when her term expires on 30 June 2014, so from mid this year there will be no female LNP senators from Queensland. I remember Senator Sue Boyce coming to a school in my electorate. I reminded the people in my school about her comments which were, 'I'll probably buy some extra pearls to cast before the deserving poor.' That went down like a lead balloon in my electorate. In fact, one of the parents said that they hope she ate the pearls and choked on them. The LNP hierarchy is so progressive that they gave the top four spots on the Senate ticket for last year's federal election to men, relegating their two female candidates to the unwinnable fifth and sixth spots! The LNP obviously needs to take a serious look at their processes for choosing candidates. I am advised that this is a process with which the Senate designate, Barry O'Sullivan, is very familiar because he was the man responsible for screening candidates for the 2012 state election. Was it Barry O'Sullivan who gave us Scott Driscoll? As I look across the chamber I see the member for Cairns, but he knows that he was not the first choice for the seat. In fact, the person who was first judged by the LNP to stand for Cairns was a Mr Paul Freebody, and we all know how that turned out, thanks to Mr Freebody's decision to secretly record a conversation with the man who will now represent Queensland in the Senate.

In fact, the *Brisbane Times* reported on it and said, and I table this for the benefit of the House—

The Queensland president of the LNP has admitted an expletive-laden meeting between a key party official and aspiring candidate was 'inappropriate'.

Tabled paper: Article from www.brisbanetimes.com.au, dated 21 October 2011, titled 'Senior LNP figure's explicit rant was 'inappropriate'' [4470].

The key party official mentioned was, of course, none other than a certain Mr Barry O'Sullivan. According to published transcripts of the meeting, Mr O'Sullivan has a very good grasp of the vernacular. He told Mr Freebody—

You wouldn't be the first ... dead body on the floor of this party where the problem has got too big, so you need to work with us and stop frightening the children.

What a potty mouth this government has put up to be in the Senate! Mr O'Sullivan went on to say—

You think this party is going to go out and defend you on your word alone you're ... even more naive than you're presenting.

In view of the standing orders, I have been unable to relate the discussion verbatim.

Mr ELMES: I rise to a point of order. Madam Speaker, can I have a ruling on relevance? This is a nomination for a casual Senate vacancy, not some tiptoe through the tulips by the member opposite.

Madam SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. Please take your seat. I ask the member to stay relevant to the motion.

Mrs MILLER: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am informing the House as to the character of the person who has been nominated to fill the casual Senate vacancy in Canberra. I have been unable to relate this discussion verbatim as it contains several examples of disgraceful language that would be considered extremely unparliamentary. I can only hope that Mr O'Sullivan finds some new adjectives to express his views when he speaks on behalf of Queenslanders in the Senate, that is if he bothers to do so!

Mr O'Sullivan's colourful use of language was also evident in his dealings not just with candidates but also with a sitting member of this parliament and maybe other sitting members. We know that the former LNP member for Beaudesert Aidan McLindon gave us another revealing insight into Mr O'Sullivan's character when he tabled a statutory declaration in this very chamber on 18 May 2010 regarding a certain interaction with Mr O'Sullivan. This meeting was held because Mr McLindon had the temerity to speak the truth to his colleagues about their electoral prospects and to stand against the member for Southern Downs for the deputy leadership. Mr McLindon's statutory declaration makes for very interesting reading. To remind the newbies and the oncers in this parliament I now table it, because the 30 people sitting here on behalf of the LNP who will be gone at the next election just might want to have a look at it.

Basically, it says that Mr O'Sullivan 'conducted himself in a most threatening and intimidating way'. Mr McLindon then went on to relate a tirade by Mr O'Sullivan that was so profane it would make a sailor blush. For the benefit of everybody in this House, I think it is very important that we go through this. Let me just say that I will need to have my glasses on for this bit so that I do not inadvertently use unparliamentary language. Aidan Patrick McLindon's statutory declaration states—

Mr Barry O'Sullivan conducted himself in a most threatening and intimidating way shouting at the top of his voice along the lines of 'If it wasn't for Bruce's intervention I would have thrown you out of the ... party you ... I have never been so ... angry in my ... life and you're lucky you're still ... here you little ... Who the ... do you think you are. What made you think you can ... act like this—

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

Mrs MILLER:—when we're here trying to ... run this thing ... you only had four ... MP's supporting you so why the ... would you go in there and run for the Deputy Leadership ...

This is the person the LNP is putting up to fill a casual Senate vacancy.

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

Mrs MILLER: Fair dinkum! If this bloke was your child, you would wash his mouth out with Solvol and you would send him to his room for a while to calm down. At the very least you would stop letting him play with the other children. But the LNP does things differently, as all Queenslanders know. Let me assure Madam Speaker that the Labor Party will not stand in the way of the LNP's

prized decision to put this person up for the casual Senate vacancy, but we want the Queensland public to be clear about the character of its nominee. Here in the Sunshine State we love our political characters. We certainly like them to be colourful, but in this case this person's colour is blue and it is blue because of the colour of his language—the language that he continually uses.

Is this man really the best that the LNP can offer to represent a modern state in this nation? To me this person is a relic. He is a throwback to the last century and I believe he is a dinosaur of the LNP. He and his potty mouth might appeal to those in the LNP, but everyone outside the LNP's boys' club is scratching their heads about the LNP's poor judgement. So Barry O'Sullivan is someone whose behaviour has been described as inappropriate, threatening and intimidating, and they are the descriptions provided by his own LNP colleagues. Just imagine what his enemies say about him! But rather than punish this man for carrying on in these ways or even throwing him out of the LNP, what has it done? The LNP has rewarded him to a high position of public office. I have some words of advice for Mr O'Sullivan: the federal Senate is not a backdrop for the TV series *Men Behaving Badly*. Queenslanders expect and Queenslanders deserve more than a big, boorish, bad-mouthed boover boy as their representative in the Senate. Unfortunately for Queensland, the LNP is forcing this man upon us. I wish that Mr O'Sullivan will lift his standards, will stop his nasty tirades and will represent this state in a mature and enlightened manner.

 **Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory—LNP) (2.57 pm): Madam Speaker, Senator-elect Barry O'Sullivan, colleagues: when Jesus Christ was dying on the cross, he called out to his father and said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' I say that about those people over there today. Today we are here for a good reason. We are here because the Liberal National Party in Queensland endorsed Senator-elect Barry O'Sullivan as its candidate in Mackay in May last year to replace Barnaby Joyce in the Senate when Barnaby decided that he would enter into the lower house through the seat of New England in New South Wales. I congratulate and thank Barnaby Joyce for his success as a senator in Queensland and congratulate him for his elevation to the Abbott ministry in Canberra, where I know he will do an outstanding job for Queensland and Australia, as will Barry O'Sullivan as our senator-elect for Queensland. So I say to you today, sir, congratulations on your selection to be our replacement senator for Barnaby Joyce. You are an outstanding choice. You are a man of great character. You are a man of integrity, decency and understanding of the needs of everyday Queenslanders.

I do not believe that there is anybody more qualified than Barry James O'Sullivan to fill this honourable position. He has the credentials of understanding the complex range of industries that we have across this great state. I believe that, as a reward for the policies that the Newman government is championing here in Queensland today and after the difficulties that we have been subjected to as a result of all of those years of maladministration by the Labor Party, under Campbell Newman and with the assistance of people like Barry O'Sullivan in Canberra this state is going to become a great state once more. It is only going to become a great state because we have men and women who have the courage of their convictions to go forward and proselytise the great policies that the LNP stand for and those Christian values that we had pushed into us as young people all of those years ago.

When I was growing up my old man always said, 'If you can't say something good about somebody, don't say anything at all.' I say here today that Barry O'Sullivan was born into very humble beginnings in pretty ordinary country around Gogango, between Rockhampton and Dingo, of loving parents, James and Veronica O'Sullivan. I think that those humble beginnings set the foundation for the man he is today and for his achievements. As the Treasurer and the Premier rightfully said, Barry gave a lot of his life as a Queensland police officer—and I might say as an outstanding Queensland police officer, a man who has been saluted and rewarded in many different ways and who has been given many different honours as a police officer. When we read Barry's credentials and know what he has achieved, that shows us the depth of Barry O'Sullivan.

Today, the Premier also made mention of the generosity of the man—about his decency and understanding of those less fortunate in places such as Africa where he runs that orphanage. How many people do we hear say good things about people? No, they only want to go out there and tear the heart and soul out of them. The greatest curse to mankind in this country is jealousy. It is a curse. This man has been an achiever and he has been an achiever because he and his late darling wife, Annie, put it all together when they raised their four children, when they did the hard yards early, when they built their empire early. Nobody gave it to them. They did it the hard way using their arms and their brains. That is what it is all about. That is why today in this state we on this side of the House are so proud to be supporting Barry James O'Sullivan as our senator-elect. I do not care

whether it is ringers in a mustering camp at Coorabulka, whether it is fishermen on a prawn trawler out at Karumba, whether it is teachers in a school here in Brisbane, or whether it is somebody doing their business out in Roma in the gas fields or wherever, Barry O'Sullivan will represent people regardless of the colour of their skin, their creed, or their background.

I know the style of bloke this fellow is. I have to say to members here today that Barry O'Sullivan is a good mate of mine and I am proud to call him a mate. He is a man of great decency. We heard the Treasurer say here today that, yes, he has had his differences. We have all had differences with different people in our lives. I have had differences with my colleagues on this side. But you do not despise them. You do not hate them. 'Hate' is a word that I do not use. I have to say here today that Barry O'Sullivan loves Queensland. He loves his family. He is a man of compassion. He is a man of pride. We saw the hurt in Barry O'Sullivan when he lost his darling wife, Annie, six years ago. We saw the hurt in the man last year when his little grandson Patrick had that tragic accident. It is just love and prayers and the Christian values that he upholds that get him through. Thank God for Barry O'Sullivan. Thank God the Senate in Queensland is going to have a senator of the calibre of you, sir, to represent us. I am going to walk beside you, old mate, right throughout Western Queensland and any other part of Queensland to carry the flag of the LNP as we preach the gospel of Abbott and Campbell Newman and make this state great once again.



Mr BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.04 pm): Madam Speaker—

A government member: Be nice, Bill.

Mr BYRNE: That is not going to happen. Members have heard from the Leader of the Opposition that we will be accepting the convention of this motion. I certainly do not dislike or hate Barry, as was implied, but I think it is important for Queenslanders to understand that the Australian Labor Party is not sprinkling rose petals around what we are doing here today. It is important for Queenslanders to understand who the person is and the things that are on the public record about this person who has been selected by the LNP to be its Senate replacement. We are gathered here to endorse a person who was one of 12 candidates. From my reading of the candidates, 11 of them appeared to be excellent and then there was Barry. Barry has shown himself—

Government members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: Let me point this out to members. Barry has shown himself to be a scandal tainted, potty mouthed enforcer. He has been investigated by the Australian Taxation Office over his business affairs, sued for defamation by a former LNP colleague and then probed by the CMC, which was the very reason we had to delay the debate on this motion until this year instead of holding it last year.

Some might say Barry O'Sullivan is a controversial choice by the LNP, but not me. Given Mr O'Sullivan's profile, I can see that in many ways he is an entirely appropriate selection as he is so representative of his party and what it stands for. In recent years on a number of occasions his name has been splashed all over news pages not because of his incisive ideas but in connection with some of the unpalatable conduct that passes in his party for exemplary behaviour. Why should it be a surprise that Mr O'Sullivan was chosen by the Queensland Liberal National Party state council ahead of people such as Mary Carroll, who is an ex-state secretary of the conservative party, a chief executive of Capricorn Enterprise in Central Queensland in my electorate—an organisation that was complimented in this very House last year? God forbid that the LNP would select a successful, intelligent, hardworking regional woman! Today, there was a bit of a giveaway, because the Deputy Premier stood in this House and said that the blokes in the LNP at least are doing something. Their entire predisposition is towards men over women.

Barry O'Sullivan showed his kind and trustworthy nature by allegedly encouraging the member for Moggill to stand aside so that an unelected leader could parachute into parliament. Why should he not be rewarded by a grateful party? Some might say that it is a bit of an embarrassment, but not me, of course. As I have said earlier, I would not say that. But some people on Mr O'Sullivan's side of politics have been saying precisely that. A lengthy report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* of 16 June last year described the senator-elect as a 'divisive figure in Queensland politics'. Former Liberal MP and radio presenter, Gary Hardgrave, gave an insightful reaction to Mr O'Sullivan's selection. He is quoted as saying—

He's been at the centre of so much embarrassment to the party for the past year or two, they just cannot be serious.

But, of course, they are serious. That same report detailed the interest of the Australian Taxation Office in Mr O'Sullivan's ownership of a company registered in the British Virgin Islands and reminded readers of Mr O'Sullivan's extraordinarily murky appointment to a state government audit

job while he was the treasurer of the LNP—an appointment that was unconventional at best and which was openly questioned by the Premier himself. I also recall the secret tape, which revealed how Mr O’Sullivan plotted with the member for Moggill to knife the member for Surfers Paradise in the back when he was the leader. I do not see the member for Surfers Paradise’s name on the speaking list to this motion. I would have loved to hear his speech.

I think Queenslanders understand why Mr O’Sullivan was not selected by his party to fight for election to a political office. He would not have stood a chance at the ballot box, but as a powerbroker of dubious and questionable repute, he has manoeuvred himself to be the beneficiary of his own machinations. It must be uncomfortable for some of those opposite, some of them now in ministerial positions, others condemned to the fringes, to be required to show support for a man who has thwarted their ambitions in often brutal circumstances. I accept that I have had a little bit of fun with this speech, but all jokes aside—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: I think it is fun.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr BYRNE: And accepting the philosophical divide, even the clear philosophical divide that besets the chamber, I do think that some ministers of this government do possess a semblance of some intelligence, some sense of right and wrong, some principles perhaps. That is why I find the LNP decision to be so incredible. I could name any number of LNP members that I know who would have made demonstrably superior candidates and yet here we are rubber stamping perhaps the worst political choice the LNP has ever made, which is definitely saying something. If he is the best candidate the LNP can put forward to represent Queensland in the senate it says much about the party, its standards and its arrogance, and many in this chamber know it.

 **Mr HOBBS** (Warrego—LNP) (3.10 pm): I am pleased and honoured to participate in the endorsement today of Barry James O’Sullivan as an Australian senator for Queensland. Like any member who is elected to any party there are great responsibilities that go with that position. I am confident that Senator-elect O’Sullivan will fulfil those roles with great rigour. His thoroughness and exhaustiveness are legendary. I look forward to watching his progress through the Senate. I am sure there are many others who will also be watching with great interest.

There are many crashes in politics. Many of us have seen them, been in them, caused them or just missed them. I think Barry has already had a few of those experiences in some of those categories outside the Senate. However, one of his great skills that many may not be aware of is his ability in relation to examining air crashes where Australians are involved here in Australia and overseas where he is a leading expert in working out what on earth happened, what went wrong, where any fault if any may lie. The ability to subjectively analyse what has drastically gone wrong will be a great skill in our Senate. An issue that comes to mind is how a senator in our Australian parliament, who got 0.51 of one per cent of the primary vote could actually get into our Senate. That would be a good start.

Barry is a good family man with a very close network of family and friends. His grandchildren are his pride and joy. His experience in commerce, property development and civil construction will be a great asset in understanding the commercial nature of government that is often forgotten. Barry is known for his benevolent attributes. Much of his support goes unreported. I refer to his support for the disadvantaged, the orphanage and the building of water wells in Africa. Thank you, Barry, for that ongoing support for those needy people. I wish you well for your time in the Senate and to your family for being such a great support to you.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—UAP) (3.12 pm): I support the nomination of Mr Barry O’Sullivan for the replacement Senate position of Barnaby Joyce in the federal parliament for most of the reasons put forward this afternoon and many reasons that have not been stated. I agree with many of the sentiments expressed by the Labor members here today. Politics is imperfect and occasionally the result does justify the means. This is one of those exceptions. I am a former colleague of Barry O’Sullivan. We have not always agreed and clearly I am no longer in the LNP, which I know he dearly loves. I respect that. I do respect Barry. He is a person who I know does the hard yards when many others do the lesser or softer ones. On this occasion he deserves the benefit of any doubt. We in the PUP support the nomination without question. I wish him well and I know he will serve our state honourably and, in contrast to what some might have said or believe, with distinction. Go well, Barry.

 **Mr HOPPER** (Condamine—KAP) (3.14 pm): I rise to support this nomination. I have known Barry O'Sullivan for many, many years. I would like to put on the record that he has been a dear friend to me. He has been a very, very strong man in the National Party.

Mr Seeney: You repaid him well, didn't you? You repaid his friendship well!

Mr HOPPER: We hear an interjection from the Deputy Premier. This brings up another point: when the Deputy Premier was Leader of the Opposition we saw him try to undermine McIver and O'Sullivan. He wanted to get rid of them. McIver stood up at the conference and said, 'My relationship is untenable'. The people of the National Party overruled the Deputy Premier. That is exactly what happened at the preselection of Barry O'Sullivan. The good survive. We have seen the Premier and the Deputy Premier try to stop this nomination. They sit here today in this chamber and watch happening what they did not want to happen. What we have is a National Party member preselected. Ray Brown from Dalby stood for preselection. He was not good enough. The good survived and the good is Barry O'Sullivan. I totally support this nomination to the detriment of people like the Premier of Queensland and the Deputy Premier. When Barry O'Sullivan is in the Senate, in a position of power, he will not hide behind the truth. I also believe in Barnaby Joyce. When Barnaby Joyce resigned no better man could I see fulfil that position. That position was put in jeopardy. He has won, he has come through. Congratulations, Barry, I fully support you.

 **Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (3.16 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to support the motion nominating Mr Barry O'Sullivan for the casual Senate vacancy. I endorse wholeheartedly the comments from the Premier, from the Treasurer, from the member for Gregory and the member for Warrego in relation to Mr Barry O'Sullivan and his contribution to Queensland to date, to the LNP and, of course, the contribution that he will make for Queensland on our behalf as a senator for Queensland.

I note in making my pleasure known in supporting this nomination that I, along with a number of others in this chamber, both members sitting here in the chamber and those observing, am terribly disappointed with some of the commentary which I cannot ignore, particularly from the opposition. That commentary not only ignores the process that has been well regarded in this House on many occasions in history, not only ignores common decency and respect, not only ignores, if you like, the Westminster system as well, but also shows a lot of disrespect for Senator-elect O'Sullivan and his family. I note the comments that the member for Gregory made about Senator-elect O'Sullivan and in particular his words that we should thank God for Barry O'Sullivan. Ladies and gentlemen, as a member of this chamber and, like many of us, a student of politics over many, many decades, this sad commentary that we have received from the opposition here this afternoon makes me cast my mind back into other events in history that I try to reflect upon to see whether or not there has been as bad an episode as we have seen here this afternoon. I draw some of those thoughts together and my only conclusion is 'well may they say God save the Queen, because nothing will save the Queensland opposition and their disgraceful tactics here this afternoon'.

Turning to the topic at hand, when speaking of Barry O'Sullivan I speak of a man who has made a significant contribution to Queensland to date and will continue to do so. I speak of a businessman and a family man. Unlike those in the opposition, he understands clearly what it means to develop a business and to raise a family in regional Queensland. He understands development and construction, not only in the formation of his own business but also in the work that his family business carries out. He understands the challenges and the opportunities in front of regional Queensland. Certainly he understands the challenges of mapping a path forward for employees and their families.

I have the honour of knowing members of Mr O'Sullivan's family, especially his son Barry Jr, who is here in the chamber this afternoon, his wife and their sons. I know them not only through local business circles but also through my wife's role as a teacher of those beautiful young boys at Mary MacKillop Catholic Primary School at Highfields. Obviously, they are Mr O'Sullivan's grandchildren of whom we have heard so much and whom we know he holds near and dear. I say to his family, and particularly to the boys, that you have every right to be as proud as the LNP is of today's nomination of your grandfather to fill the Queensland Senate vacancy. You should take that away from today and hold onto that pride for ever more.

As a former local government councillor in Toowoomba and now the member for Toowoomba South, I have come to appreciate most definitely Mr O'Sullivan's direct and quite frank assessment of the region's challenges and opportunities. I have benefitted greatly from having robust discussions about those opportunities and challenges, and I can only hope that Mr O'Sullivan has benefitted from those conversations as well.

This afternoon, we have heard commentary on Mr O'Sullivan's very proud police career, which was developed throughout much of regional Queensland and which was focused—as the LNP remains—on community safety above all else. As Queensland Minister for Agriculture, I have become equally impressed with Mr O'Sullivan's appreciation and grasp of issues that impact on agriculture, fisheries and forestry in this great state. There is no doubt that Mr O'Sullivan has big shoes to fill in the form of the former Queensland senator and now my federal parliamentary colleague Barnaby Joyce, the federal minister for agriculture. I am sure that Mr O'Sullivan will follow the fine example set by Barnaby Joyce and, of course, Senator Ron Boswell. In that regard my faith is based on, as I said earlier, Mr O'Sullivan's appreciation of development opportunities and challenges in the Queensland economy, his appreciation of the Queensland regions in terms of our society and economy, and his appreciation of the importance of agriculture and small business and, above all, the importance of family. Again, I say to Mr O'Sullivan and to his friends and family here present, I believe that you should take from this event this afternoon enormous pride in the achievements of your friend, your father, your grandfather and our LNP brother.

I say this to Mr O'Sullivan: enjoy your day and welcome to the challenges of parliamentary debate. Sir, you are a man who will say what you will do and you are a man who will do what you say. On behalf of this side of the House, I encourage you and your family to ignore the earlier negative commentary. You have been picked by our great party through a selection process that has been robust and very comprehensive, not like that of other parties that simply operate on a captain's pick. Mr O'Sullivan's family has every right to be proud of him and his achievements. I congratulate him on his achievements to date. I for one look forward to working with him in the interests of our great state. Therefore, I am proud to support this motion in relation to his nomination for the Queensland Senate vacancy.

 **Mr JUDGE** (Yeerongpilly—UAP) (3.24 pm): Likewise, I support the nomination of Mr Barry O'Sullivan. I respect the man, even though I have parted company with the Newman government. Barry may call a spade a spade and we have heard the Labor Party talk about the 'dot, dot, dots', but politics needs less false pretenders and more honesty. Barry O'Sullivan is a man of character and integrity, and has more of that than many sitting opposite in this place. I reiterate that the Palmer United Party supports the nomination of Mr Barry O'Sullivan. I congratulate Barry and I wish him well in the Senate.

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (3.25 pm): I rise to sum up this afternoon's debate on this important nomination. I start by reflecting that I am so very glad that members of the Australian Labor Party do support the nomination, because one would be forgiven for thinking that that was not the case. I think this was a particularly bad afternoon for the opposition. I need to reflect on a few things that they have said. I need to rebut some of the things that they have said and provide context for other things that they have said this afternoon.

I start by referring to the latest results from the Griffith by-election, which was held on the weekend. There is a point I need to make. The latest results posted on the AEC website show there has been a swing on the primary vote against the Australian Labor Party of 1.72 per cent and there has been a swing on the primary vote to the LNP of plus 2.24 per cent. The LNP's primary vote is 44.5. By the way, there has even been a light swing of about 0.43 per cent against the Greens political party. That is a two-party preferred swing to the LNP and to Dr Bill Glasson of 1.32 per cent. Why do I raise this? I raise it because what we saw in Griffith is what we saw in the New South Wales state election, it is what we saw in the Queensland state election and it is what we are seeing in the Redcliffe by-election, which is an unrelenting campaign of negativity by the Australian Labor Party.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: Yes, as the Treasurer has just whispered to me, it is a campaign of smear. I do not make this point for the Labor Party, because ultimately it is not in our interests that it gets the message, which is very clear: those who trade in negativity and smear ultimately are not successful; they are not rewarded.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: Australians and Queenslanders have had enough of smear. This afternoon, what we saw from the Australian Labor Party and what we are hearing now from the interjection from the member for Mulgrave, for example, is a misunderstanding of what people think. People are sick of the negativity. People are sick of smear campaigns. They want plans, they want positive energy and they want people who will take this state and this nation forward.

Mr O'Sullivan has been through a very extensive selection process within our party. Unlike that of those opposite, it was a very hotly contested preselection. As we heard from the mouths of Labor Party members, there were 12 candidates. All candidates lobbied extremely hard to get the nomination of the party. The preselection went on for hours in Mackay, as votes had to be taken and the delegates deliberated. At the end of the day, it was a democratic process.

I must contrast that with what happens all too often in the Australian Labor Party. This is another message for them. My first message was about smear and negativity. My next message is about reforming their party. The Labor Party has to become a democracy again. We are a democracy, but they are not. A former prime minister reaches out and says, 'Captain's pick; that's my person'. This sort of thing goes on all the time in the Labor Party, as those opposite and their factional friends actually decide.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: They interject, but even their own people within the Labor Party who understand what the problem is are prepared to speak out. Leaders in the Labor Party have said that this is a problem; that they are not a democracy anymore and that factional chiefs have too much power and unions have too much say. I have to make these points because they have criticised our process.

In relation to the selection of Mr Barry O'Sullivan it was democratic, it was extensive, it was robust and it followed due process. He is the man the party selected and he is the man that we endorse with pride this afternoon. That is what we do.

There were things said about Barnaby Joyce leaving. I have to reflect upon a few Labor commitments. The former member for South Brisbane made a solemn commitment in front of the media that if the Labor Party failed to win the last election she would soldier on and continue to be the member for South Brisbane.

A government member: Where now?

Mr NEWMAN: She left. What was the expense of that by-election? We have another one. The former federal member for Griffith, Mr Kevin Rudd, said that he would continue on as well. He did not. I will try another associated example—

Mrs Miller: What about Scott Driscoll?

Mr NEWMAN: Thank you for raising Redcliffe. I will take that interjection. The current Labor Party candidate for Redcliffe—again a factional deal—Yvette D'Ath was asked publicly on the radio, I believe, down at Redcliffe prior to the federal election on 7 September last year, 'Would you have a go at the state seat if you are not elected as a federal member,' and she said, 'She would not.'

Mr Seeney: No interest.

Mr NEWMAN: No interest; not going to do it. They are some examples of what the Labor Party and their members' word is on important issues such as whether people will come or go or go for a seat. At the end of the day, it is all done in the back rooms. It is all deals. It is all about what they want not what is good for the people of the electorate.

I am saddened by the comments of the member for Bundamba and indeed even more disappointed by the comments of the member for Rockhampton. We have come to expect that from the member for Bundamba. I did not expect it from the member for Rockhampton. I think that the member for Rockhampton, in particular, should perhaps go and have a bit of a think. This was a bad day for him. The member for Bundamba is—what is that term?—a recidivist. I always have trouble with that word. She is a constant offender.

I need to reflect on the issue of a delay in the appointment somehow. I will reflect on the reason for the delay in the appointment. I will go back to the negativity. Why was there an investigation that had to be dealt with first? Why was that the case? It goes back to this place almost three years ago when the former Treasurer, Mr Andrew Fraser, stood up in here and made allegations about me, about Dr Flegg, about Mr O'Sullivan, about Bruce McIver our party president that were all over the media. They made sure of that. It was the start of the campaign of smear and innuendo.

What happened? In one CMC investigation I was cleared, Bruce McIver was cleared, Barry O'Sullivan was cleared and Bruce Flegg was cleared. Everyone was cleared. But no they continued on. We know that continued on last year. They had another go. What happened then? The candidate is here today for nomination for the Senate having been cleared.

How much money and how many resources have been wasted by an organisation that should be fighting criminal organisations in this state? How much money has the Australian Labor Party wasted through making baseless allegations? And then there are crocodile tears from the Leader of the Opposition in here that there has been a delay in representation for Queensland. Well they caused the delay in representation.

A government member: Have a look in the mirror.

Mr NEWMAN: Thank you. I will take that interjection from the minister. Go and have a look in the mirror. You caused the delay.

I turn now to trying to discern what the Labor Party's objection to Mr O'Sullivan's appointment is given that they said that they are going to support it. I have been through a number of things. They did not like the process. But the emperor has no clothes there.

I have got it! The problem with Mr O'Sullivan is that he has a colourful turn of phrase. Do you know what, I think there are a few people in this place who have a colourful turn of phrase. The difference is that some people have not been caught yet. Some people opposite have not been caught in *Hansard* yet swearing in this place, but one day they probably will. On the issue of the former member for Beaudesert, I make this reflection: clearly, Mr Barry O'Sullivan was right.

Finally, I go back to reflect on what this is really all about. I endorse the words of Minister McVeigh, particularly when it comes to Barry's family who are here and particularly his grandsons. I am sorry they had to hear some of this. But maybe they will understand—

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs Miller: True words.

Mr NEWMAN: If only the people of Bundamba could see the member for Bundamba—if only. That is what always frustrates me. If only they could see the way the member for Bundamba behaves. If only they could see the way the Leader of the Opposition cannot control these people. Then I think there would be fewer people opposite after the next election. That is what would happen. The behaviour is one of hubris and arrogance—strange in an opposition but indeed sadly it is there.

I again say to the family, particularly to Barry's grandsons, 'Be proud of him. This is his special day.' It is absolutely sensational that he has been through this exhaustive democratic process, a robust process, and has come up trumps. I know that he will serve this state proudly in the Commonwealth Senate. Particularly I know—and this is the reason I am excited—that he will fight for Queensland. The things that the Labor Party have just objected to and made much of are all the hallmarks of why he will be good. He will not get the Canberra disease. He will remember Queensland. He will be true to Queensland and true to the regions and not drink the kool aid of Canberra which so many federal politicians, regardless of their political persuasion, seem to do. He will represent Queensland. He will fight for Queensland. He will work with us to deliver the Toowoomba range second bypass. That is what Barry O'Sullivan will do.

I totally and enthusiastically support those who actually genuinely support him this afternoon. I have great pleasure again in affirming my support for his nomination for the Commonwealth Senate.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Notification of Election

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.38 pm): by leave, I move—

That Madam Speaker inform Her Excellency the Governor that Barry James O'Sullivan has been chosen to hold the place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth rendered vacant by the resignation of Senator Barnaby Joyce.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 56, on motion of Mr Dempsey—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.39 pm), continuing: As I said earlier, this is a lazy catch-all approach to legislating for this problem. Deputy Commissioner Gollschewski stated that from the start of 2013 until September when he gave evidence only 18 parties would fit the definition in this legislation, or what is intended to be captured by this legislation. I have to trust the deputy commissioner, but I think that more than 18 noisy parties would have been held in Queensland last year which would be potentially subject to this legislation.

It may come as a surprise to many here that I have been to a number of events that meet the criteria of this bill of having more than 12 people in attendance at a party where three people either gatecrash the event, swear, light fireworks, litter, make too much noise or have attendees who could have been judged as being drunk in a public place after leaving the party. In fact I cannot recall many parties in the last 30 years that I have attended that did not technically trigger this legislation at some point or other. It makes me wonder what kinds of parties LNP members attend themselves. After this bill passes I would be very reluctant to host a family celebration like an 18th birthday party for fear of a criminal record. That I could be charged and punished for the actions of other people, some of whom I might not even know, is difficult to accept and largely unjust.

Members might like to take the time to reflect on the types of parties they have attended over the years or the parties they have hosted for their children and indicate if any of them had 12 people attending and had three people misbehave. I think of events such as B&S balls or uni O-week celebrations or your child's 18th birthday party. Those sorts of things spring to mind. If any member can honestly say they have not been to one of these sorts of parties I would be very surprised, although I am sure there would be quite a few members of the LNP who did not get invited to many parties in their youth.

I table for the benefit of the House a fact sheet from the Caxton Legal Centre, the Youth Advocacy Centre, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Centre and the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'How new police party powers could affect ordinary Queenslanders' [\[4471\]](#).

The fact sheet outlines for members of the public how the LNP out-of-control party legislation could affect real families in Queensland. I ask the minister, in his response, to explain to Queenslanders whether the Queensland Police Service could declare any of these parties outlined in the tabled document as being out of control within the meaning of this legislation. I believe that both the hosts of parties need to know and the people who live near people who host parties need to know what they can expect police to do or not do about the party after they make a complaint to the police. Of course there are some parties that are clearly out of control and police should swiftly and strongly deal with them to arrest those committing offences in our neighbourhoods. Police should never be used as punching bags, and some behaviour at some parties is no doubt the catalyst for this legislation. Violence, especially against police, is clearly unacceptable and so is overreach by the government.

I wish to address those aspects of the bill that are causing me concern. The threshold number in the bill of 12 people is simply too low for the opposition to support this bill. The bill is just a demonstration of, in many ways, nanny state politics applied to groups of people who do not fit into the sedentary world view of the LNP. If the intention of the bill is to prevent parties of 200 wild youths from causing chaos, why is the number of people required to trigger this bill—that is, the attendance number—not higher than 12? Certainly some submissions to the committee make this very point and suggest the threshold number in the bill of people in attendance at a party could be set at 100 in order to capture the actual targets of the bill.

The deputy commissioner provided evidence to the committee that 'The majority of events that would fall within this scheme range in attendance from about 100 persons to 1,000 persons.' If this is the intention, why is the bill drafted in such a way that parties with 12 people in attendance are captured by the legislation and not parties of 100, which is the intent of the legislation in the first place? The QPS, who gave evidence to the committee in response to the criticism the threshold was too low, explained that the number 12 was decided simply by transferring the requirement for there to

be 12 people at a place to prove riot under the Criminal Code. I think that is a ludicrous translation. For goodness sake, it is really quite silly. However, we know that this bill only requires three of those people to be misbehaving, not 12, to deem the event out of control. How was the number of three people decided? By looking at the provisions of the Summary Offences Act, section 10A, which requires that three people must be together to prove that an unlawful assembly was taking place. That is how it was determined. Again, this is a completely inappropriate basis on which to decide the number.

Not all parties end up being out of control, but for those that do the bill has a number of built-in limited defences so that parents and children alike are not automatically subject to the harsh penalties. These defences require the host or organiser to take 'reasonable steps' to prevent a party becoming out of control. Those steps include hiring security guards, only allowing minors to consume alcohol if their parent or guardian is in attendance, not advertising the party on social media, or registering the event with police through the Party Safe program. The House should note that currently by registering a party with the police through Party Safe does not mean that the party will not be subject to the current noise abatement laws, nor will it on its own mean that the party will not be subject to the out-of-control party laws.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee was concerned about how the defences of taking reasonable steps would work in practice, following a statement to the committee by the deputy commissioner when he indicated—

It would be unlikely persons organising events where it is intended that hundreds of youths would attend and consume excessive amounts of alcohol would be able to avail themselves of this defence.

So it really is a limited defence and in many cases the police have stated you will not be able to use it anyway. Therefore, it may not prevent you from being charged and you will have to spend thousands and thousands of dollars to defend yourself for the actions of others. Ultimately the reasonableness of the steps a child or parent takes to minimise the risk would be up to the discretion of the courts, but I can see a situation where a parent and their child might be at cross-purposes with regard to their intentions when organising a party. The parent may have formed the intention that attendees will not get drunk and leave the house, but the kid whose 18th birthday party it is may in fact expect that some of his friends—and perhaps underage—will be drinking on the premises or at the location. I endorse recommendation 2 of the committee to clarify how the 'reasonable steps' defence is intended operate in practice to prevent unnecessary grief, with parents facing court only to be found guilty at great expense and stress.

The bill not only creates the offences of organising an out-of-control party, causing a party to become out of control and contravening a direction given by a police officer at an out-of-control party but also creates a system that allows the Queensland Police Service to recover the cost of policing a party that is deemed to be out of control. There is certainly unfortunately potential for profit making. I would hate to see some sort of creep in the number of out-of-control events being declared for any fiscal reasons. Eighteen parties in nine months is the number given to the committee as the benchmark. So we will monitor the rate to prevent any pressure being placed on sergeants to declare parties out of control for marginal or obscure reasons. I understand that Senior Sergeant Utz detailed how these costs were calculated and what caused some of the costs. He said—

When trying to get them—

the youths—

out of the neighbourhood, you just keep getting spot fires and spot fires you have to continually put out. Then once you get to train stations, there are more fights on trains. Five or six hours is not unusual for a response.

The committee report highlighted the risk and significant concerns that the provisions of this bill may be applied against persons for whom the bill is not the main focus and requested a report on how the legislation could have been applied over the Christmas holiday period of 2013 if it had been in place. However, this bill was bumped because of the second tranche of bkie legislation, and we have observed how the implementation of the bkie legislation has affected ordinary bike riders, so the committee's concerns and community concerns are real.

The committee also recommends that a formal review of the out-of-control party provisions of the bill be conducted after two years. That is a sensible recommendation from the committee. The opposition supports the measure to increase the length of time a noise abatement direction is in force and thinks this is a suitable step to prevent parties continuing for days on end. Allowing police to issue a notice for between 12 and 72 hours will be welcomed by neighbours who have had to endure noisy parties starting up again the following night.

The opposition can support some of the red-tape measures outlined in the bill. We note the submissions saw limited problems with the measures and general support from stakeholders—for example, the Council for Civil Liberties' measured support for the amendments relating to warrants for the installation of surveillance devices. The opposition notes its submission regarding the importance of the PIM and proper oversight of the use of surveillance devices and supports the sentiments.

The opposition will be opposing the measures to allow for the outsourcing of the analysis of DNA testing to private and non-government laboratories. Forensic and Scientific Services currently processes DNA testing for the Queensland Police Service for presentation as evidence in courts. We were told by the Minister for Health and the Minister for Police and Community Safety that the cuts at the John Tonge Centre would not affect the processing of police evidence.

Following the loss of 74 jobs at Forensic and Scientific Services in September 2012, we said this would eventually lead to delays in processing with resultant court delays. We watched with interest the growing reports of delays in court matters that were awaiting forensic testing results. The minister continued to deny that the cuts affected the court process. We then saw police prosecutors give evidence in court that they were unable to proceed with the matter because of delays in forensic testing. So the decision to cut jobs has created a need to outsource this work to non-government laboratories. This is combined with the fact that crime has risen under the LNP's watch, with the latest rise being two per cent over the 2012-13 financial year. The director of the John Tonge Centre stated that the reason for the delays was 'a spike in requests for the processing of criminal evidence' in June last year. The people of Queensland deserve an answer from the minister to the question that goes right to the performance of the LNP and its mass privatisation agenda. Do you need to outsource DNA testing because crime has gone up and because the government sacked so many people who could have done the work in the first place? If you deny delays at court due to forensic processing, it must follow that police prosecutors have misled the court when they made remarks such as: 'There are delays to the forensic results ... there is no estimate as to when the results will be back.'

The opposition is concerned that outsourcing will lead to breakdowns in the evidence chain and the suitability and ability of non-government laboratories to carry out this work to the current high standard and professionalism. If lab work is not up to the highest standard or scientists are pressured to perform the important analysis in a rushed manner to increase profits, mistakes could be made. The ramifications of this could be that persons of interest are mistakenly not being matched to their DNA profile obtained from the crime scene. The potential for organised crime to infiltrate the labs through placing their own people in labs, corruption or placing pressure on scientists is a real concern. For the benefit of the House, I would like the minister to explain both the scientific and security measures he is placing around this outsourcing and what legislation and oversight will allow him to effectively monitor these non-government labs.

I will return to the main game. The real force of this piece of legislation is the antiparty laws. This is a fairly tragic bill in that respect and once fully understood by Queenslanders they will brand the LNP as the party-killing fun police. That will be for the rest of this century, I would imagine. This bill does not deliver what it intends. It is an obtuse, overreaction catch-all that will not work any better than the existing laws unless the real goal is to prevent any person having a party on private property in Queensland. Who would have thought that the LNP is now the No. 1 cheerleader for the nanny state fun police?

The opposition is not opposed to taking appropriate, proportionate action against out-of-control parties. An opportunity has been lost with this legislation. Huge parties where members of the public are subjected to wild, illegal behaviour should be stamped out. People who organise parties for profit and then take no responsibility for the behaviour of attendees should be condemned, censured and worse. But we should not be attacking people who hold family parties in their backyard. To apply these laws to parties of 12 people of whom three misbehave is an overreach in the extreme. The government could have looked at a range of other options and conduct. It could have looked more closely at the clean-up provisions of the bill, for example. Only the Police Commissioner's reasonable costs are able to be recovered when we know there may be other people who suffer damage as a result of an out-of-control party such as the local council. It could have looked at providing a two-strike provision so that people will not be prosecuted on their first offence. Parents who organise a party for their child's 18th birthday where someone else posts the details on Facebook and it gets out of control should not face criminal prosecution. Many parents are not aware of how easily news of parties can spread in social media, leading to hordes of unknown people suddenly turning up on their doorstep. Let us look at legislation that attacks what is the real problem here. Let us leave ordinary Queenslanders who want to have a family party in their backyard alone.

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (3.56 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. Before I proceed, there are a number of things I wish to comment upon. The member for Rockhampton has tabled a document. While we have had a public hearing, this is the first time I have seen the document. It is titled 'How new police party powers could affect ordinary Queenslanders'. It seems to have been endorsed by the Youth Advocacy Centre, Caxton Legal Centre Inc., the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services and another organisation whose symbol I cannot read. The difficulty for me is that this document is divorced from the legislation.

Unfortunately for the member for Rockhampton, I do not see anything about a barbecue in here but I am sure it is implicit in all of these functions. We now have documented anecdotal examples of how this legislation will affect you, but I will go to only one: Sharon's 16th birthday party. It states—

Under section 53BB, Sharon's sixteenth party is an out-of-control event because:

- there were more than 12 people at the party;
- Macca and his mates engaged in 'out-of-control conduct' near the party (damaging property is 'out-of-control conduct' under section 53BC(d));
- the 'out-of-control conduct' caused 'a person at or near the event' to 'reasonably fear' 'damage to property' (the letterbox) (section 53BB(1)(c)(ii).

Mr Bleijie: Ian, I would much rather read about Bill's retirement party.

Mr BERRY: Thank you, Attorney-General, but I avoided that because I thought it may have introduced the barbecue, and I am quite concerned that the institution of Queenslanders having a barbecue ought to be left alone. It is a sanctuary to which people are entitled to go.

But now let us look at the legislation. Let us see what the legislation says. We have an article here that is proffered to the whole of Queensland—people who expect these legal organisations to truly represent what the law is, but this is the law.

It states—

53BB What is an out-of-control event

- (1) An event becomes an *out-of-control event* if—
- (a) 12 or more persons are gathered together at a place (an event); and
 - (b) 3 or more persons associated with the event engage in out-of-control conduct at or near the event.

It is a very small slip to say, 'It is unrelated. Somebody could do a wheelie outside; it is an out-of-control event,' when in fact there has to be an association. How disingenuous for those organisations to put forward something which is, quite frankly, wrong and completely out of context.

That comes down to why this legislation is here, because one of the arguments is that we have prevailing laws that apply. Is that so? It is anecdotally evident in our community that these sorts of events are becoming out of control. I know of an event that occurred in my electorate five years ago where young men who crashed a party were confronted by a couple of adults and sent away. It was a very tense moment because it could have erupted in a brawl, but it did not. Those young men left, but they decided to smash everyone's headlights and taillights in before they left, so up and down the street they went smashing the lights of cars. What is the difference? How have the present laws dealt with that? With great difficulty. Because in Ipswich we have local police at night, and we expect the police to be on duty doing the things that they normally do, and this is about the resources available—

Mr Judge: Wilful damage!

Mr BERRY: Sorry, I hear an echo.

Mr Judge: That is wilful damage; you know that.

Mr BERRY: I heard an echo and I was not entirely sure. The end result is that these powers require a senior police officer to involve other police. If in fact there is a cost to this exercise, it is only fair that our citizens are truly represented and fully prepared to deal with these eventualities.

Why are these things happening today? There are a lot of reasons. Antisocial behaviour seems to be on the increase, and we know anecdotally what occurs when young men and youths get together in groups and imbibe alcohol: they hunt in packs and they see parties on Facebook to which they are not invited, but they attend. We know these things happen, yet why is it that we put our heads in the sand? One can only surmise that this legislation was not thought of by anybody else, therefore it must be bad. The reality of life is that these are real occurrences and they ought to be dealt with.

I turn to the Queensland Law Society's submission that existing laws are adequate and the need to make further laws is unnecessary. These laws do target specific behaviour and there are elements which require deterrence. The courts determine the level of deterrence, bearing in mind that these are maximum penalties, not minimum. It is for a court judicial officer to decide, having regard to the severity of the conduct, what penalty ought to be imposed. So what has the legislation done? It divided the penalties into two parts. If you do not own the premises you are subject to a heavier penalty, and that takes into account the situation discussed. This legislation is about protecting communities from antisocial behaviour. Our constituents have asked us to act on this situation, and we have acted accordingly.

I think the member for Rockhampton made a comment about evidence. Of course the courts deal in evidence. Of course the police need to prove that there are 12 people congregating and that there is a relationship of three people who have out-of-control conduct, and that relationship refers to the 12 people. Of course that is evidence, but as we know, there are iPhones, cameras and videos on almost every smartphone today, and as a result evidence is something for the police and for the courts—and, for that matter, anybody accused—to proffer at the appropriate forum.

The position is that this legislation does not affect barbecues or 18th or 21st birthday parties. In fact, one of the submissions says that it is against the rights of children. I am always fascinated by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, when in fact this legislation just as equally protects the rights of children. If there are gatecrashers at a family gathering and there is the potential for people to be harmed, why should this legislation not be used to ensure that property and persons are fully protected?

The member for Rockhampton suggested that this legislation is overreaching. How can that be so? As the member for Rockhampton indicated, it is based on Western Australian out-of-control events. If it even refers to a case, I would have liked to have heard the result of the case. I do not quite know why that was mentioned. Does it support the legislation or not? It obviously must not, otherwise he would have told us about the result.

The legislation does not target youth or young people; it is about antisocial behaviour. Those people who submit themselves to the law, who conduct themselves in an orderly way and who hold functions at their houses, deserve our protection. They are not entitled to have their houses invaded by strangers simply because one person alerted them to it. It is appropriate that people who hold functions with a view to organising conduct which is out of control ought to receive a heavier penalty. If they want to make money by having reward parties, then it is a matter for them to apply for licences as other people do and for which the appropriate fees are paid.

The purpose of this legislation is to provide deterrence. Our community only has so many dollars to pay for health and police. It is not fair on the public to have these marauding youths gallivanting around their neighbourhoods and causing distress. What was important in March 2012 is that people want to restore safety and order to the suburbs. They want to be able to live peacefully and peaceably in their homes. While it seemingly involves behaviour of young men and youths around 18 years of age, of course these people could be as young as 14 or as old as 30. This legislation does not target a specific individual or group of people; it does target behaviour. The purpose of this legislation is to ensure that if people engage in antisocial behaviour, then the courts will decide upon the evidence and impose the appropriate penalty with a view to setting the community standard and with a view to ensuring that young people do not engage in conduct—or any person, for that matter—which interferes with our living in safety.

It has been in the suburban streetscape that alcohol is a willing participant in these sorts of events, because rarely does it involve people alone. Alcohol is usually the catalyst that seems to be more prevalent today—and I am not leaving aside drugs—particularly when the papers talk about the people who are killed and injured by king hits, and that is the concern for us here today.

That is the problem; people go along to parties and this conduct erupts into circumstances which nobody really foresees. Somebody pulls out a knife and the next thing somebody is stabbed. It is one of those things where the testosterone of an event simply boils over and people do things that, if they had not imbibed alcohol and if they were not being egged on by their mates, they ordinarily would not do. Something then happens which causes them to suffer for the next few years or for a longer period if, in fact, they harm somebody. It causes them to regret having been there on that night. Because we have been through life, mature adults realise that there are foreseeable consequences when we go to parties. Imbibing alcohol can cause a person to become unruly. Unfortunately, young people do not have the maturity to recognise that. These laws need to bring about a deterrent so that we can restore the safety of people in communities.

With little doubt, the general public has become concerned about the increase in the level of violence and one need only read newspapers over the past few months to see that. I can remember the many articles that have appeared about the violence in our suburbs and about how many people from other suburbs come in with a view to causing menace. This legislation is appropriate because it specifically attacks certain types of antisocial behaviour which we all abhor. It is appropriate and it is not out of balance. I can only repeat that it is not out of balance for the simple reason that the penalty imposed—this deterrent—is effectively the maximum penalty. It is always for the court to determine the appropriateness of the penalty for somebody who has been found guilty and, of course, there are a number of factors that a court may take into account which may affect the outcome of that deterrence.

Yes, there are such laws as unlawful assembly, breach of the peace, public nuisance and affray, but they do not capture the entirety of the offence we are trying to avoid. I am a little surprised that the member for Yeerongpilly has not really grasped that point, that this is specifically aimed at certain antisocial behaviour. I say that about the member for Yeerongpilly because he has introduced a private member's bill regarding certain behaviour, requiring a doubling of the penalty. I do not quite know where he is coming from. I am sure that in due course we will all hear about what he really means and what he stands for in terms of his community.

Young people today do communicate differently to how they did previously. It is the case that they are more media savvy, that information does spread around far more quickly affecting a greater number of people than it did in the past. We must act in anticipation of how this antisocial behaviour needs to be stopped. We need to prevent occurrences of people being hurt or maimed and, for that matter, people being locked up in jail for the consequences of an action that they really did not understand and, had the law been in place, they perhaps would not have committed. Not so long ago we saw the devastating effect of social media which led to the riots in Sydney. One does not need many other examples to illustrate the point that this is really a great difficulty for us in Queensland. We are all too familiar with the effects of violence in our society, particularly death and maiming by the king hit. These things happen at these parties, particularly when there is a congregation of people and people are hitting other people. It is so easy to be king hit and be killed or maimed.

It is now time for us to act in our society. Our public has asked us to act and we are doing so. Fundamentally, police resources, unfortunately, will be used in circumstances where they are overworked as it is. The major weapon for government primarily is deterrence. I think we all know that. It is the legislature that sets the maximum penalty, as has happened in this instance. It is appropriate that those maximum penalties reflect the seriousness with which we take the conduct that we are attempting to prevent in the suburbs in our cities and towns. This legislation is a game changer. It is telling those people who perhaps in the past acted unruly, who displayed antisocial behaviour, that the people of Queensland will no longer suffer the problems that are associated with out-of-control parties. Of course, there are other consequences, and I will touch briefly on the fact that there are costs consequences. In fact, this is not the first time but it certainly is a factor now for parents to perhaps take into account that if a child is involved and a child cannot pay costs, the magistrate may order costs against them. Is this a deterrent? If we take \$110 for each penalty unit for the heavier penalty, I think it is about \$18,000 and costs could be \$5,000 or \$6,000 on top of that. This is serious legislation.

I would have hoped that the organisations that the member for Rockhampton has proffered had come out with a balanced account of the sorts of instances that may be affected. It does not deal with costs as far as I can see. It is a pity that the information was not given in a balanced way but, rather, in a sense in a political way, one which really is biased. I do note that the brochure does have an ad at the bottom 'free legal advice'. So if you have a problem, 'come and see us'. It might be the way they have framed it to invite people to get that free legal advice by sensationalising or dramatising what this legislation really means, but it is not helpful. That is a matter for those organisations.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (4.16 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 introduced to the House by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the honourable member for Bundaberg, on 12 September 2013. I commend him for responding in a timely manner to antisocial activities that have been causing havoc in our neighbourhoods by bringing before the parliament this piece of legislation to send a message that this behaviour will not be tolerated and offenders will face fines and punishment. I also acknowledge the good work of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety

Committee. The objectives of this bill are numerous. However, they can be confined to three categories: firstly, reducing blue tape to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Queensland Police Service, implementing an out-of-control event scheme and amending the evade police provisions to ensure the minimum penalty of 50 penalty units, or \$5,500, or the equivalent period of 50 days imprisonment is imposed.

A modern society and the advancement of technology have contributed extensively to the widespread issue of out-of-control events that are causing grief to communities throughout our great state. This legislation introduces tough new laws necessary to address this problem by proposing to insert the out-of-control event scheme into the police powers and responsibilities legislation. Whilst there are existing laws that assist police in dealing with a riot or an unlawful assembly, out-of-control events do not often reach this threshold. However, they are a serious problem and are affecting law-abiding citizens all too frequently. Absence of specific legislation and a spate of parties that spiralled out of control and into the streets resulting in injuries to police, ambos and bystanders prompted the Newman government to introduce these detailed amendments. This bill targets the person who set about organising the event, whether it be through social media or otherwise. They will face harsh and just punishment under these changes. Further, parents who allow their child to organise such an event or, indeed, contribute to these events will face severe penalties for their complacency or encouragement of this behaviour.

The LNP is by no means the 'fun police', as others may claim. Rather, we are motivated by an overarching commitment to ensuring residents feel safe in their homes and surrounds. As the police minister has indicated, the government recognises that only a small number of parties require the use of such a scheme provided by the bill and it is for this very reason that the use of powers contained in these proposed laws require authorisation by a police officer of at least the rank of sergeant. For an event to be deemed out of control, it must satisfy three criteria: it must be a gathering of 12 or more persons; three or more persons must engage in out-of-control conduct; and that conduct must be of such a nature that it would likely cause a person to fear violence to person or property or cause a person to reasonably believe a person would suffer a substantial interference to the rights or freedoms of a person or passage through or enjoyment of a public place.

The bill details clearly what will be deemed out-of-control conduct. Examples include unlawfully entering or remaining in a place, offensive or threatening behaviour, assault or—heaven forbid—exposing genitals. Police will be provided the power to stop a vehicle or enter a place without a warrant. These changes are focused on providing the mechanism for officers to stop these events occurring or acting swiftly to disperse crowds if they do occur. If any honourable members have ever witnessed one of these fracas, they will know that they can turn ugly and violent rapidly. Listening to the honourable member for Rockhampton arguing that a gathering of 12 is too low, all I can say is that numbers can escalate in a matter of minutes. Having experienced one such situation myself, I can attest that it is indeed terrifying to be caught up in.

Contravening a direction given by an officer at such an event will attract a maximum one year's imprisonment. If that action is accompanied by assault or violent behaviour, it will increase to a maximum three years imprisonment. Out-of-control events use an enormous amount of police resources and no longer will the good people of Queensland be continually expected to foot this bill. A court may now make a cost order against any adult, child or parent of a child offender who is found guilty of any offences contained in these amendments. This is in addition to any penalty they may also be liable for. There are a number of other minor amendments in relation to blue-tape reduction which the police minister has discussed in detail.

This bill is a practical, proactive way of addressing the serious problem that faces neighbourhoods throughout Queensland. In Currumbin, thanks to excellent police work and a cooperative community, a few years ago we were able to curb the actions of some out-of-control youth in the area who were taking over our streets and trashing anything in their sights. Once again I wish to commend the actions of current Assistant Commissioner Brett Pointing and Superintendent Jim Keogh with whom I joined forces some eight years ago to halt the disturbing trend of out-of-control parties in Currumbin. Just recently I convened a cross-border police meeting in my office with Geoff Provest, the member for Tweed, and high-ranking police officials from New South Wales and Queensland, and I thank the minister for allowing this to happen. Living in a cross-border community presents a unique set of challenges, and this meeting was a clear demonstration that New South Wales and Queensland authorities are communicating and working cooperatively to keep our crime rates down in our region and to track criminals across borders.

I again congratulate the police minister for bringing this bill before the House because it will give our hardworking and dedicated police the ability to respond to this serious issue that has worsened over time, particularly with the development of social media. Residents should not feel threatened or intimidated by events in their neighbourhoods or surrounding areas. This bill, alongside recent legislation that has passed through this House, has demonstrated this Newman government's unequivocal commitment to cleaning up our streets and ensuring Queensland is the safest place to live and raise a family. We are committed to providing our police whom we value with the legislative backing they need to get on with the job and deal with this unacceptable behaviour.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.23 pm): I rise to add my contribution to debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I first thank the minister for bringing this bill to the House. There are many important elements such as the blue-tape reduction, the out-of-control events and the evade provisions in the bill. As we all know, the evade provisions have been passed in a previous bill, so I will not spend any time on those today. I am a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and I certainly thank my colleagues on the committee and the secretariat for its hard work in preparing the report. I am pleased that the minister has accepted the recommendations that we put forward because they will add some weight to the bill.

I turn first to the issue of blue-tape reduction. A promise we made to Queenslanders upon getting elected was that we would restore front-line services. There are many ways to restore front-line services. For example, you could increase the number of police on the beat in Queensland, and we have done that and are making great strides in that direction and will continue to do so to ensure that we fully meet our commitments to the people of Queensland. Something else you can do is look for where you might be able to make some legislative changes to cut down on blue tape. Let us face it: if police are sitting down filling out forms and sitting in a back room doing blue-tape functions, then they are not out on the street protecting the community and they are not out there investigating crimes. They are simply going through processes that have been foisted upon them by this place and others. A review to identify various initiatives that have the potential to reduce the regulatory burden and increase operating efficiency is the kind of review that any good minister would want in order to get that kind of information, and that is exactly what this minister has done with the Queensland Police Service. It has reviewed and identified areas where it believes it can make simple legislative changes that will not affect anything other than freeing up police time. I will now deal with a few of those.

Clause 12 relates to the destruction of registered digital photographs. This clause will basically amend section 195L so that it will only require that the commissioner take reasonable steps to destroy copies. Subsection (5) inserts a broad definition of 'destroy' to include deleting an electronic copy and removing an electronic link to the photograph. What does all of this mean? It means that if the police have a photograph that needs to be destroyed they can simply delete it off their computer and the processes that existed before that which were taking considerable time for them to meet are no longer required. Can we guarantee on all occasions every party that ever might have seen this electronic photograph? In today's world I think that that is an impossibility. The commissioner has to take reasonable steps, and that would mean that any officer who did not follow those steps would face disciplinary action. So I think reasonable steps are good. I think this is a great amendment and certainly an initiative that will allow the police more time on the front line and less time in the office. Clause 13 is that a senior police officer can give written notice to a financial institution requiring it to provide personal information about account holders, enabling police to gather necessary information to obtain a search warrant. This is also an important amendment. In a modern society, allowing the police to be able to do their job armed and equipped to follow up leads is a good thing. I am pleased with that amendment to the bill.

The one amendment that stands to make the biggest impact is clause 20, which allows the commissioner to use non-government laboratories to analyse DNA samples. This is an interesting amendment. As Assistant Commissioner Gollschewski said—

For example, the bill removes the requirement for a police officer to obtain a senior officer's approval before taking a DNA sample from a person being proceeded against for an indictable offence.

He went on, and this is the interesting statistic—

For the period 1 July 2012 to 17 June 2013 there were 14,378 DNA samples. The average length of time it takes a police officer to get a senior officer's approval is 10 minutes per sample; therefore, the removal of this requirement has a potential saving of about 2,396 police hours per year.

So members can see that a fairly simple amendment that is perfectly in line with what we would want—that is, a due process—can save 2,396 hours of police time a year. That will be time well saved that they will be able to spend in much better ways than seeking approvals from someone who is simply going to say yes.

The other clause that I wish to speak about relates to digital photographs. At the moment, there is a requirement that a photo be destroyed in the presence of a justice. With today's modern technology, can members imagine how long that would take and how much time front-line police would be using? This bill contains a good amendment relating to noise abatement. Anybody who has had anything to do with noise abatement legislation over the years would understand that one of the biggest frustrations for the police would be having to constantly go back to the same place to deal with the same complaint. One of the big fears for the complainant was that the noisy neighbour who was causing the problem may well have to be identified by the police when they arrived. So I think this amendment, which allows anonymity for the complainant and extends the period to 96 hours to stop the police having to constantly revisit, is a good amendment. In terms of blue-tape reduction, I think the amendments that are contained in this bill are sensible. I think they are measured. I believe that they will increase the police presence on the front line and reduce the blue tape that our police force has had to deal with. So I commend the minister for bringing forward those amendments and I would urge this House to support them.

That brings me to the second main thrust of this bill, which is to address out-of-control events. I have been involved in the hospitality industry and at different times I have provided a service to people who want to have a party at home but who are terrified of the consequences that might happen if information about their party gets out on social media. As someone who has helped people provide security for those events to make sure that they are properly managed, to make sure that they are properly staffed, to think through fire exits from homes and gardens and to make sure that people can come and enjoy a party in a sensible way and to make sure that only invited people are there, I can honestly say that the police have been handicapped when dealing with such events. This legislation will remove that handicap. We have to understand that social media has changed our world and that there needs to be a legislative response to what social media is capable of doing. In an electorate such as mine of Toowoomba North, someone might have 5,000 friends and they can send out one message on social media promoting a party to people who they put down as friends but who may be a little bit less of a friend and a little bit more of an acquaintance. That message goes out to potentially 5,000 people and all of a sudden the poor organiser of this party has people turning up who they do not want.

Unlike the member for Rockhampton, who thinks that this legislation will endanger family get-togethers and parties and stop people having the free use of their home, I believe that it will protect them. If unwanted people turn up to a party and the householder is trying to take reasonable steps to prevent them from coming inside, the police will have the power and the ability to deal with the people who are committing the offence. The member for Rockhampton thinks that that is a bad idea. With four teenage children who are looking to have parties at home, I would be very pleased to have the police turn up and get rid of people who are not invited, who are not welcome, who are in the wrong age bracket, who have brought alcohol to my home that I do not want and who start causing a ruckus and become a problem. I think that anybody who has a problem with this legislation really has rocks in their head and they would be very afraid to visit their mother or their grandmother, who could potentially have one of these out-of-control parties in the house next door to them. Those people would be asking them why the police do not have the power to stop that or to do anything about it. Here are the powers to be able to do it.

Then there was some talk about all of these things happening and that it would be absolutely terrible for the poor people who just wanted to have a barbecue with their friends. I ask the member to read the legislation and to look at the key definitions contained in it. An out-of-control event is defined as follows—

To reasonably fear violence to a person or damage to property.

What is wrong with a person being able to remove someone from the premises if they have a reasonable fear of violence to a person or property? Certainly, if someone like that was on my property I would want them to be able to be removed. I think it is good to have that meaning in the legislation to define what is an out-of-control event. An out-of-control event is further defined as—

To reasonably believe a person would suffer substantial interference with their rights and freedoms ...

I can see how the member for Rockhampton would be so offended by having the meaning of an out-of-control event defined as—

To reasonably believe a person would suffer substantial interference with their rights and freedoms ...

Why would it be so unreasonable to have that definition for an out-of-control event? These are the processes that will define what is an out-of-control event. If a person has some people on their premises who are committing violence or damage to a property, if they have a reasonable belief that these people will interfere with the rights and liberties of others, the police can come in and remove them. That is what I would want my police force to be able to do. So I am more than happy for that definition to be contained in this legislation.

The legislation provides the following further plank to the meaning of an 'out-of-control event'—

To reasonably believe a person would suffer substantial interference with ... peaceful passage through, or enjoyment of, a public place.

Here we go again! Is it such a terrible thing to protect the innocent from someone who might be wanting to interfere with their quiet enjoyment of a public place? Of course, we would want to give the police that kind of power and control over an unlawful event. The legislation provides the key definitions for an unlawful event to be regarded as an out-of-control event. People can have a barbecue with their family and friends. Unless their family and friends are committing violence or interfering with the rights and liberties of other people, or interfering with the peaceful passage of people through or the enjoyment of a public place, the event is not captured by this legislation. So what is it that we are worried about? Are we worried about protecting the rights of people who would commit violence and interfere with other people's rights and interfere with other people's peaceful passage through a public place? If we are, I suggest that this legislation is good and I certainly endorse it.

I refer now to the definition of 'out-of-control conduct' as contained in this legislation. Importantly, a person does not have to be committing an offence to meet this conduct criteria. This is a key point that has been missed by some on the other side. As someone who has been involved in the hospitality industry, I certainly understand that sometimes it would be really nice to pre-emptively remove someone before they cause a problem. There is nothing worse than having to stand there and wait until someone has been hit before you can act. So on private premises and in pubs that I have run, of course you would remove that person and the legislation exists to do that. This legislation, if passed, will give the police the ability to be able to do that. So the following are all classified in this legislation as out-of-control conduct—

(a) unlawfully entering, or remaining in, a place or threatening to enter a place.

That definition relates to a bunch of people who have received a message on their Facebook page turning up at your house and trying to get in and you saying no, they cannot come in. Why would people be concerned about giving the police the power to move those people on? If they are threatening to enter a place or if they are remaining in a place beyond when they are wanted to be there, I would want the police to remove them.

Out-of-control conduct is further defined in the legislation as follows—

Behaving in a disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent way—

for example—

Using offensive, obscene, indecent, abusive or threatening language—

or—

Taking part in a fight.

I do not know what kinds of parties the member for Rockhampton has with his family, but if I had family members around my place who were being abusive and offensive and using obscene or threatening language or taking part in a fight, I would be only too happy for the police to turn up and remove them.

Again I do not see why people would be concerned about this act giving the police the power to be able to do that. The next classification of out-of-control conduct is unlawfully assaulting, or threatening to assault, a person. The event can be closed down if there are people exhibiting these things. Under current legislation, if someone assaulted someone on someone's premises the police do not necessarily have the ability to close that party down. There would be a great deal of hoops to jump through and a great deal of arguments. Under this legislation, they can take control of the situation, they can remove those people and those people can be dealt with according to the law. I think it is a good piece of law.

Let us have a look at another one: unlawfully destroying or damaging, or threatening to destroy or damage, property. Why would anybody be afraid of giving the police the ability to stop people destroying or damaging or threatening to destroy our property whilst they are at a party at our home? The next out-of-control conduct is wilfully exposing a person's genitals or doing an indecent act. While I do not know what kind of parties some members might attend, if people are doing that at a party at my house I am only too happy for that to be considered out-of-control conduct and remove that individual. In relation to the next classification, causing or contributing to the emission of excessive noise, this comes back to the noise abatement that we were talking about earlier. I think if people buy homes in the suburbs and want to live in the suburbs then they should be able to have the quiet enjoyment of their home. This legislation will stop people abusing the power to have a party in the street. There are strict guidelines for pubs and clubs where they have to abide by such legislation and to extend that into people's homes if they have organised one of those parties is a good piece of legislation, particularly if this party has been organised for profit. I am aware of some of these parties that get out on social media where people are making \$10,000 and \$15,000 profit off people coming through. To be able to give the police the ability to close that down and take action against that person I think is a particularly good piece of legislation.

The classifications go on: unlawfully lighting fireworks or using fireworks; throwing, releasing or placing a thing in a way that endangers, or is likely to endanger, the life, health or safety of a person. All of these such unreasonable things the member for Rockhampton would allow people to come into my home and do without giving the police the ability to remove them. I do not think that the people of Queensland want these acts going on in their homes, particularly if these people have not been invited. The legislation to give the police the ability to control these situations, particularly before they get out of control, is a good piece of legislation. I do not understand why there would be such an offence committed to people to provide this legislation that will allow us the quiet enjoyment of living in the suburbs. If people want to party, party in the precincts where there are police and procedures in place to protect them and to provide safe environments where people have been given licences to do so.

Before I run out of time I will talk about the meaning of 'organised' because it is important. The meaning of 'organised' is 'being substantially involved in arranging, hosting, managing, advertising or promoting the event'. Some of these people are making thousands of dollars by using social media to have an illegal party in the suburbs that destroys everybody else's quiet enjoyment of their suburb, of their home, and we at the LNP are not going to tolerate this kind of behaviour in our society. I commend the minister for giving the police the pre-emptive ability to control it before someone gets hurt, before it gets out of control, before property gets damaged. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JUDGE** (Yeerongpilly—UAP) (4.43 pm): I will always maintain a no-nonsense approach to politics. There are clauses that I may support in the bill, but I will speak generally on the bill and the Newman government's law and order approach. Many aspects of the bill are available to be dealt with under existing laws. As a former police officer with 20 years experience, including as a detective and senior policy and legislation development officer, it is my professional opinion that the Newman government's approach to law and order is generally poor and mostly political grandstanding. It really is time to end the ill-informed and politically driven approach being taken to law and order by the Newman government. Smart on crime approaches, not tough on crime political grandstanding, is the only way to address and reduce crime in our community. The national report of government services has recently revealed that Queensland's overall crime rate has increased two per cent in 2012-13 under the Newman government.

Mr Dempsey interjected.

Mr JUDGE: Out-of-control Facebook parties being targeted by this proposed legislation relates to juveniles. We should be concerned by the Newman government's approach to matters involving youth justice. I acknowledge the good work being done by the police minister in certain circumstances, but overall the Newman government is leading Queenslanders down the wrong path. The president of the Queensland Children's Court has urged the Newman government to reinstate the juvenile justice offenders program it cut at the start of 2013, with the latest statistics showing an increase in juvenile offenders.

The people of Queensland have my ongoing commitment and support to pursue real solutions to crime and antisocial behaviour by adults and juveniles alike. I will always stand up for the good people in our community first and foremost, and to verify this stance and commitment I remind the House that I personally introduced three private member's bills during 2013. Frankly, I take law and order very seriously. In fact, I dedicated two decades of my life to serving as a sworn member of the

Queensland Police Service. From this perspective it disappoints me that the Newman government has demonstrated time and time again that it has no regard for evidence based responses to crime and antisocial behaviour. Frankly, that is why I have no faith in the law and order responses being put forward by the Newman government.

Further to this though, the Queensland Law Society has correctly pointed out that the existing legislation includes offences which address this type of offending and we have heard arguments from members in the House today that there are offences that already deal with the types of behaviour addressed under this bill. From this point of view, these laws are similar to the so-called bikie laws and likewise there is a strong argument there are already sufficient laws to respond to situations targeted by proposed legislation. The police minister would know that it is predominantly a resourcing issue.

Mr Dempsey interjected.

Mr JUDGE: The police minister, whom I regard as a good person, is, in my observation, wedged between reluctantly supporting the Premier and other politically motivated ministers like the Attorney-General and doing the right thing in terms of developing well researched, evidence based law and order policies for the greater good of the community and Queenslanders. I reiterate the contents of submissions made to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee which confirm proposed laws are largely unnecessary because existing police powers are adequate. Resourcing is another issue. I acknowledge the police minister is trying to address that.

Mr Dempsey: 1,100 new police.

Mr JUDGE: You have done well.

Mr Dempsey: And two helicopters.

Mr JUDGE: You have done well and I commend you for it. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are another issue. Similar concerns have been raised by Amnesty International in relation to the Premier and Attorney-General's proposed youth justice reforms. Regarding Amnesty International's concerns, I know that the member for Mundingburra stated, 'I am not going to be lectured by some latte-sipping, pointy headed people from Brisbane.'

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr JUDGE: What a repulsive remark about people working for an organisation dedicated to protecting Indigenous rights and saving people from violence, torture, terror and other humanitarian issues. It really does show the character, or lack thereof, of the member, who I would argue is more concerned with his personal interests and political career than his community.

Mr Cox: He is standing up for his community.

Mr JUDGE: Well, he is misinformed like you. You have no idea. You drive around in the back of a police car for one shift and you think you know what is going on. You know more about the hairs growing out of the Premier's ear, because you stand behind him nodding and looking at his left ear more than you do caring about your own constituents.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order!

Mr JUDGE: If members of the Newman government were genuinely interested in crime reduction and protecting Queenslanders they would take a greater interest in research and evidence based approaches to crime reduction.

Mr Cox interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order, members! The member is not taking interjections.

Mr JUDGE: I note the member for Thuringowa recently stated that I was not known for offering any solutions. I suggest to the member that he checks the *Hansard* record and I ask: how many private member's bills has he introduced on behalf of his community? As an act of goodwill, I offer the member for Thuringowa assistance with the process of undertaking research relevant to discovering contemporary solutions for law and order. The member for Thuringowa may be a good bloke and he may not be, but in any event—

Government members: Oh!

Mr JUDGE: I am sure he is. I think he is all right.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Yeerongpilly, hold for a moment. Members, I will bring the House to order. The member for Yeerongpilly has the call.

Mr JUDGE: What has he done in this place? Besides obligingly agreeing with absolutely everything put forward by the Newman government, he has done little in this place! Like his colleagues, he has lacked the courage to represent his electorate. The Newman government is not tough on crime. It consistently introduces dud policies and, quite frankly, dumb-on-crime policies.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Yeerongpilly, I remind you to stay relevant to the bill and the content of the bill.

Mr JUDGE: In my opinion, the Newman government's so-called first law officer has been accurately described as an absolute disgrace. Together with the Premier, he is primarily responsible for the bikie laws and, I suggest, for influencing laws such as the ones before the parliament this afternoon. According to today's *Courier-Mail*, community opinion is now divided on whether the laws were needed in the first place. I suggest that this will be the case with these laws as well.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Yeerongpilly, the bikie laws are not part of this bill. Please stay relevant to this bill.

Mr JUDGE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am indicating that it is inevitable that there will be an analogy between those laws and the community will realise that there were sufficient laws in place to deal with the issues being dealt with by the parliament today. I accept your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker.

As I indicated, the proposed amendments contained in the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill are similar to the bikie laws. I agree with the member for Nicklin that the Premier and the Attorney-General simply cannot be trusted, especially on matters of law and order. Accordingly, I look forward to considering the bill on a clause-by-clause basis. There may be clauses that I support, but overall I think there are sufficient laws in place already. I look forward to the clause-by-clause debate.

 **Mr CHOAT** (Ipswich West—LNP) (4.51 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. This is an extremely important debate, as aspects of this legislation have been widely discussed and debated throughout the community for some time now. This evening we have heard some very good descriptions of examples and explanations of the legislation by government members. For me personally and I know for many people in Ipswich West it will go a long way to addressing an issue that has resulted in communities being literally put under siege and torn apart.

Last year, the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 was introduced into the House by the Hon. Jack Dempsey MP, the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, of which I am a member. On 13 September 2013, the committee invited Queensland police, identified stakeholders and LACSC subscribers to lodge written submissions on the bill. A total of five submissions were received. As part of its deliberations, the committee also held a public briefing where evidence was taken on various aspects of the bill.

The bill was introduced to improve the efficiency of the delivering of policing and the efficient use of police resources by blue-tape reduction, to amend the minimum penalties that a court can impose under section 754(2) of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 dealing with the evade police offence and, of course, to introduce a scheme to address the increasing occurrences and societal impact of out-of-control events. It is this aspect that I focus my contribution on.

We have all read about the aftermath of out-of-control events and parties and we have even seen what can only be described as riots on our television screens. Suburban streets have been turned into war zones and innocent residents have been terrorised in their homes as violence and destruction rages outside and sometimes even inside their homes. I am the proud father of a beautiful 16-year-old named Charlotte. Like other young people her age, and as I did when I was young, Charlotte often attends parties and gatherings with friends. As parents, both Nicky and I know that we cannot wrap our children in cotton wool and that they need to make their own way in the world and to experience life. However, every time we drop Charlotte off at a party we worry about what might happen. Fortunately, we have been lucky that Charlotte has never been at an event that has gone out of control, but I know that there are parents who have, indeed, experienced every parent's nightmare where their children have been hurt or killed as events go bad. This is something that as a society we can never accept and it is why this government has brought forward legislation to protect our community and particularly our young people.

I take this opportunity to again place on the record my admiration for and sincere thanks to the men and women of the Ipswich police district, ably led by District Superintendent Mark Kelly and his terrific team. I will name some of the district inspectors with whom I have had a lot of dealings: Keith

McDonald, Charysse Pond and Troy Hamilton. They are fantastic. I could stand here for my remaining 17 minutes and call a roll of the men and women of the Ipswich police district because they do such a good job. They are very much engaged in the community. Those men and women are all too often called to respond to disturbances surrounding parties that have got out of hand. It is time they had laws to apply in those situations and, hopefully, laws that may prevent such occurrences in the future.

More and more modern social interaction is governed by social media. It is, indeed, a way to connect instantly and broadly, but it also brings a great potential for attracting disaster in spades. This legislation will go a long way to dealing with these serious challenges to our community. It will protect our people and their properties and it will deal with those who willingly and knowingly put public safety at risk, sometimes even just to make a quick buck as we heard during your contribution, Mr Deputy Speaker. I look forward to the day when I can drop my younger children, Benjamin and Eloise, at a party and not worry about how it might end up. This can-do government and this legislation will provide protection for our modern society and bring us closer to delivering just that.

Almost predictably, the civil libertarians have tried in vain to paint these laws as draconian in nature, conveniently trying to focus on the rights of certain persons to disrupt and put at risk the rights and, more importantly, the safety of others. I note the contribution of the member for Rockhampton, who tried to do exactly that. I can never understand that attitude. There seems to be a selective view on whose rights are important and, clearly, those people live in some crazy parallel universe.

Through the committee's examination of the bill and the evidence provided, I am satisfied that our professional Queensland police and their colleagues will be well placed to deliver improved public safety under this legislation. This bill is about making people safe. If people want to have a celebration or event for any reason, they must be mindful and take advantage of the aspects of this legislation that can protect them. If they are unsure, they should contact their local police and, very importantly, register the party or event with them. If something does go wrong despite an event organiser's efforts, they will be protected, the legal system will be well placed to deal with the matter and innocent members of the community will be protected. The nonsense that this legislation is really the fun police out to prevent private parties and events is laughable, but it is typical from those who fail so spectacularly to keep pace with our changing society and who go soft on crime, regardless of the impact on victims for the past 20 years.

I have spoken about this bill with a number of residents in Ipswich West and, indeed, many of my local police. I have been pleased to hear of their support for its measures. In particular, the officers believe this will really give them the teeth they need to get into this stuff. I truly hope that we will not see another out-of-control event and the serious consequences that result in my part of Queensland. Currently we are talking to Queenslanders about the important issue of drug and alcohol fuelled violence, which is quite prominent when these parties and events go bad.

I sincerely believe that this legislation is going to greatly assist with that issue. I look forward to seeing the positive impacts it will have with regard to this serious issue confronting our communities today. As I said earlier, I look forward to the increased public safety this legislation will bring. I commend the minister and his department for their hard work in bringing this about. I strongly support the passing of this bill.

 **Mr DILLAWAY** (Bulimba—LNP) (4.59 pm): I rise today to contribute to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I congratulate the Minister for Police and Community Safety on the introduction of this bill and our dedicated Queensland Police Service for their work. I acknowledge the excellent work of my colleagues on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and also that of the research team in undertaking the process of reporting on this bill. I thank the members of the QPS and the submitters who took the time to attend the public briefing and hearing the committee undertook whilst examining this bill.

This bill makes amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and has two key objectives: firstly, to improve the efficiency of the delivery of police services and the efficiency of the use of police resources by undertaking blue-tape reduction that improves operational activities; secondly, to introduce a scheme to address the increasing occurrences and the social impact of out-of-control events.

Earlier I heard the member for Rockhampton's contribution to the debate. I certainly noted—and I am sure many members of the Queensland Police Service noted—his lack of support for their call to have additional powers to ensure they meet the community's expectations in terms of dealing with these out-of-control events. I am sure the members of the QPS would be very concerned if the member for Rockhampton ever became the Minister for Police.

I want to firstly touch on the blue-tape reduction amendments that deliver on the Newman government's commitment to revitalise Queensland's front-line services through the reduction of blue tape. Some of the key amendments that deliver on our commitment to revitalise front-line services include the removal of the need for a senior officer to approve a DNA sample being taken from a person being charged with an indictable offence.

We heard from the QPS representatives at the public briefing that this blue-tape reduction alone could save the QPS a staggering 2,396 police hours per year. What does that mean? It means in reality that we are putting our police officers back on the beat to focus on what the community is calling for, which is safer communities across Queensland and our police officers not being tied down with unnecessary administrative work. Removing unnecessary administrative requirements such as this will maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the Queensland Police Service and, in turn, go to the heart of making Queensland the safest place in Australia to raise a family.

Another key blue-tape reduction is the changes to the way noise complaints are handled. As a member of this parliament my office receives numerous noise complaints from across the Bulimba electorate. I find it interesting when I actually drill down that it is often the same address weekend after weekend. Often it is on the same weekend. It is also interesting to note that it is not always the same person making the noise complaint. Members of the particular neighbourhood get to the point where they can no longer take it.

In talking to those people who use my office as the last point of call, they have a fear of retribution—if the person who continues to play loud music or undertake loud parties finds out it was them they will come and do something to them. It could be that they knock off their letterbox. They have this fear. I think it is wrong that people in the community lose the right to feel safe in their own house.

At the end of day, the amendments put forward in this particular bill ease the concerns of my community. I note that the changes mean that it allows the person making the complaint to remain anonymous. I think that is a very important step. In saying that, before acting on a complaint, the police officer needs to be satisfied that the noise complaint is about clearly audible noise at or near a complainant's residence or place of work. We will have the situation where people cannot make frivolous complaints if there is a neighbourhood dispute about other things. It allows a person to make a complaint and feel safe that it not go any further.

When I drilled down I found that across the Bulimba electorate the noise complaints came from the same residents time and time again. The changes, which will see the noise abatement periods extended from 12 to 96 hours, are a step in the right direction. When it comes to long weekends, that will particularly give neighbourhoods an opportunity to enjoy the weekend, as they rightly should.

During the public briefing the QPS highlighted that across Queensland 10 per cent of noise complaint calls are actually repeat calls within seven days. The amendments being proposed, which will extend the noise abatement period from 12 to 96 hours, will again result in some benefits and efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service.

I think it is also important to note that a few people have commented that 96 hours is a long time. The QPS representatives at the public briefing also highlighted that across Australia this actually puts us in the mid-range. Within Australian jurisdictions noise abatement periods range from six hours through to seven days. I think 96 hours is a very fair compromise. This measure again allows our dedicated officers of the Queensland Police Service to undertake more serious police duties to ensure that our communities remain safe while at the same time ensure a fair balance when it comes to noise complaints and it is a midpoint in terms of noise abatement measures across Australia.

The second objective of this bill is to address the out-of-control parties that sadly are becoming more prevalent and of real concern for the broader community. In 2000 when this act outlining the powers and responsibilities of the Queensland Police Service was legislated Michael Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, was only 16 years of age and Facebook was a wild idea. The escalating growth of technology and social media has certainly had its influence on the emerging trend we have seen in the past several years of these out-of-control events.

We have all seen the footage on TV. We have all been shocked at the way these parties impact on the community. We have all seen how our dedicated police officers are outnumbered and often themselves seriously injured. We have also seen the way these large party organisers have often snubbed their noses at the community and the neighbourhood. We have seen how they have

profited from such events. In some cases we have seen parents who had a party that sadly turned into an out-of-control event and their concern and often the embarrassment they feel for the damage that such an event caused their community and their neighbours.

So the question is: how did we actually get to this point? How did we get to a point where out-of-control parties are becoming more prevalent? No doubt the introduction of social media has contributed. Through social media the sharing of information or events has the capacity to grow exponentially. Of course, the adolescents of today have more friends—and I use that term lightly—than any generation before. In more cases than not adolescents have over 1,000 Facebook friends that this information is going to. That has many subsequent dangers and traps. Adolescents today do not fathom or comprehend how many people can access information about an event or an address that they mistakenly publish online. This results in huge crowds of people because so-and-so knows so-and-so, and so-and-so knows so-and-so. It continues to grow.

Of course, it is important to note that these events are at the high end of the scale of antisocial behaviour and as such the amendments in this bill clearly define what is an out-of-control party. For the gathering to be deemed an out-of-control party it must satisfy three criteria. I know some speakers have highlighted those previously, but particularly for the benefit of the member for Rockhampton I will go through them again. The report states—

Section 53BB of the bill defines an 'out-of-control event' as a gathering of 12 or more persons at a place, where three or more of the persons associated with the event, either collectively or individually, engage in out-of-control conduct where the conduct of persons, taken together, is of such a nature that it causes or would likely cause a person at or near the event:

- to reasonably fear unlawful violence to a person or property;
- to reasonably believe a person would suffer substantial interference with their rights or liberties; or
- to reasonably believe a person would suffer substantial interference with their peaceful passage through, or enjoyment of, a public place.

But remember—and I think it is important for the House to remember this—this legislation and its amendments do not prohibit anybody from holding a legitimate party or maybe planning a party. There are reasonable steps that can be undertaken by the organiser to avoid liability if, sadly, a party does become out of control. The QPS representatives during the public briefing cited a number of examples that they said would in fact be reasonable steps. That may include 'making entry to the event invite only; not advertising the event on social media; providing an adequate number of adult supervisors or security; only allowing minors to consume alcohol where a responsible adult for the child is present; preventing persons from becoming overly intoxicated; planning how to deal with unduly intoxicated or disorderly persons; mitigating noise; ensuring the event location is suitable for the number of guests' et cetera. So I think it is important to highlight again that we are not taking away the right of people to hold parties. What we are saying is that the community's expectation is that those parties are held in a very safe environment.

Also during the public hearing we heard from the QPS representatives that in the preceding nine months—we held the hearing in September—a sum total of 18 events would have fallen within the definition of an out-of-control party. The member for Ipswich and the chair of the committee highlighted the document that the member for Rockhampton tabled and used some examples from there. But when you work out that that is effectively only two events a month on average, it is important to remind ourselves of some of these events and the impact that they have had on our community; they are not just your average barbecue down the end of the street.

The QPS cited several examples of recent parties that have impacted on communities. Again, as I highlighted before, we saw some of those across the media. There is one in particular that I would like to highlight, again referencing the member for Rockhampton suggesting that the number of 12 was too low. In their evidence the QPS said that in January 2013 a party of about 17 guests ended up with five persons receiving knife wounds. So that is a little fewer than the 100 that the member for Rockhampton is recommending that the first limb of the test should apply to. They also went on to give other examples. They said—

At Acacia Ridge a party advertised on Facebook was attended by up to 250 youth, some as young as 11. When the party was broken up, about 100 youths regathered in another street and blocked the path of a council bus—

and we saw in the media what happened with that council bus—

When the bus driver refused to let persons from the group on the bus, people from within the group threw objects including bricks and bottles at the bus, resulting in the bus being severely damaged. When police attended, they were pelted with bricks. Two officers were injured and other police had to drag the injured officers onto the bus for protection.

Again, this legislation is looking at trying to protect the QPS. It is trying to protect the community. It is important to understand that, with an average of only two events per month, this legislation is not trying to target those normal backyard gatherings that we are all looking forward to having as the year goes on. Another example that the QPS highlighted was at Eagleby, where they said—

... police were called to a party organised on Facebook which was attended by about 200 youths. Upon arrival, police were confronted by a large group on the roadway. When police attempted to disperse the crowd, some of the partygoers turned on them, throwing rocks, bottles and fence palings, damaging three police vehicles.

Another example given was at Gympie, where a young person decided to hold a party while their parents were away. One hundred and fifty people turned up for the party. Under-age drinking, drugs and the arrival of about 20 gatecrashers contributed to the party getting out of control and triggered a serious brawl involving 20 to 30 people.

Therefore, it is not hard to understand that on the basis of these examples the current police powers are not adequate to effectively respond to these occurrences, whereby we have had direct attacks on police attempting to dismantle such gatherings and the extent of injuries and damage to property that impact our communities and other services such as our emergency departments at our local hospitals. I believe that the amendments in this bill and the additional powers provided to assist police in responding, such as a significant focus on preventative measures and pre-empting out-of-control parties, will go a long way to reducing the threats to our communities.

This legislation and subsequent education campaign is an important reminder that individuals are not anonymous. They can still be held responsible for their actions and their behaviours. These events are a huge cost and place undue pressure on police resources and often have required substantial backup to support the first police officers who have attended.

I know that my community of Bulimba are generally concerned about out-of-control parties and I welcomed the deputy commissioner's comments in the public briefing when he spoke about the education campaign that will be conducted. We have heard throughout the consultation on the Queensland Plan how education plays a fundamental role across our communities, and it is important for the entire community to realise that this legislation is about deterrence and the risk of potential costs associated with out-of-control events.

It therefore should ensure that the organisers of the groups of people who choose to gatecrash and turn events on their heads are reminded that there are consequences for their actions, and the community deserves to have their individual rights and freedoms protected from such damaging activities such as the examples of out-of-control events I cited earlier. As a father of three young children, I strongly support this bill which is needed to address the increasing occurrences of out-of-control events such as the commonly referred to 'Facebook' or 'open house' parties. I support the bill and commend it to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (5.17 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. There is an amendment in regard to the offence of evading police. This section of the bill introduces mandatory sentencing as an alternative to ensure that a sufficient deterrent exists following the decision of the Queensland Police Service to move towards a more restrictive police pursuit policy. I think that is very understandable. The explanatory notes state—

On 6 August 2013, the Cairns Supreme Court delivered a decision in the matter of *Commissioner of Police Service* ... The decision suggests that alternative penalties for evading police offences could include a range of sentencing options, including probation or suspended sentences. Sentencing options such as these, particularly in circumstances where such an option is not comparable with a fine of 50 penalty units ...

I do agree that there is a big concern with regard to evading police, which can result in something happening in many different circumstances that is more catastrophic, such as death. So supporting measures that strengthen those sentencing options is something that I definitely agree with. In terms of submitters' responses, the Caxton Legal Centre wrote in their submission that the bill is unnecessary due to existing police powers which appear more than adequate to deal with out-of-control events and that, moreover, the bill infringes upon an individual's freedom of association. This is also a concern of other submitters and it has been mentioned a few times. It was also raised in relation to the attack on motorbike riders which happened on a whim and was as a result of a brawl on the Gold Coast when there were already appropriate police power laws in place to deal with outlaw bikies.

When you impose legislation upon people, you have to look at its long-term effects and how it will affect the quality of life for many people. I would like to express concern over these knee-jerk reactions that are not thought out. For example, these tough bikie laws have resulted in small businesses suffering to the point of going bankrupt. Ivan, the Mingela publican, is one of those who is now suffering every weekend. He would put a pig on the spit, and over 100 motorbike riders would turn up—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Watts): Order! I remind the member for Dalrymple to stay relevant to this bill, please.

Mr KNUTH: We have another one here that says 'blue tape reduction'. The bill will grant the police powers to—

... issue a notice requiring a financial institution to provide information in relation to whether a person holds an account name and the account name or number ...

I have great concerns about that in regard to the invasion of privacy. Likewise, you do not want politicians making decisions about police being able to access these accounts, especially when it involves partygoers. I think that this is probably a little bit overdone. When we look at the policy objectives of this bill, which are to give the police more powers, we do not want to have a knee-jerk reaction. Everyone likes a party. The 'fettagate' scandal was on the front pages of the *Cairns Post* and in local papers across Queensland, and there was raging and I believe that a bill was not even paid. The Speaker of the House did ask for silence on the balcony here at Parliament House, and when there was silence in here, all we heard outside was LNP ragers. Likewise when the Attorney-General was having a birthday party and poppers were pulled out—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will remind the member for Dalrymple to speak to the bill in front of him.

Mr KNUTH: So yes, there is a point in this, but we have to ensure that there is no doubling up. At the same time we need to lead by example, as we saw three years ago when six LNP members had to be assisted to walk in here and vote because they were that blind drunk—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I will ask the member to take his seat, please. Pause the clock. I will ask the member for Dalrymple to withdraw those comments.

Mr KNUTH: I withdraw those comments. As I was saying before about introducing mandatory sentencing as an alternative to pursuits, I believe that that is a big issue and police are hindered in the very difficult work that they do. Back in the old days there was a lot of rural land and that was a bit of a cultural thing in a way, but many of these places are now more urbanised. I can understand where the government is coming from in that regard and I wanted to bring that to the attention of the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset can I please thank my colleagues on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for the hard work that they did and, of course, the secretariat, who continue to serve us well. I would also like to pay particular tribute to those who took the time and effort to make submissions on this particular bill and, of course, to members of the QPS who took time out of their busy schedules to publically brief the committee. I would also like to note the minister's response to the committee's recommendations and his acceptance of recommendations 1, 3 and 4.

There are a couple of elements of this particular bill that I would like to address, and the first one is blue-tape reduction. Ultimately, that means that we empower our police officers to better serve our community. Many members of this House have spoken about the fact that one of the key goals of this government is to make sure that Queensland is one of the safest communities and places in which to raise a family. Making sure that our police are in a position to be able to serve their communities is one of the ways that we can do that. Whilst talking about the efficiency of the Queensland Police Service, I would also like to note in particular the great work that the police on the Gold Coast have done in recent months. I note the reduction in crime rates of about 20 per cent in our community, and I would like to put on the record my thanks to those hardworking QPS officers in our community.

I would like to pay particular tribute to Senior Sergeant Murray Underwood, who is the officer in charge of Runaway Bay Police Station. Over the Christmas break I had the opportunity to go out on patrol with Senior Sergeant Underwood and see just how much great work our police officers do in our communities. He said that a lot of the measures and reforms, such as blue-tape reduction, that this government has been bringing forward are really helping the Police Service. He also paid tribute

to the police minister and acknowledged the fact that the police minister is a former police officer and they actually have confidence in him. I have no doubt that many police officers would tremble at the thought of the member for Rockhampton being the next police minister because, by golly gosh, you do not want someone who does not want to support the police as the police minister.

I think it is also rather disgraceful that the member for Yeerongpilly, a former police officer himself, would stand up in this House and not support efficiencies in the Police Service and the hardworking men and women in blue who make our community safe. Those two members should hang their heads in shame for not wanting to support hardworking police officers, unlike the 73 members of the government who, every single day, are determined to make sure that we support the hardworking QPS so that they can be more efficient in serving our community. We have seen that through increased police numbers. Ultimately, that means safer communities, as indicated by the significant drop in crime rates that we have seen on the Gold Coast.

I would also like to note that one of the key elements of this legislation is the government taking strides towards stamping out antisocial behaviour. It is becoming an ever-increasing issue in our community, and anything that we can do to make it easier for the community to respond and the police to protect our community is absolutely a great thing. One of the things that I am particularly pleased to see in this legislation is a return to the focus on personal responsibility. If you are going to make a decision, it is about time that you accept responsibility for the consequences and implications of that decision. This legislation empowers police to go in and stop antisocial behaviour, control out-of-control Facebook parties and hold the people who planned the parties responsible. That is a fantastic thing, and it really is about keeping our communities safe and about protecting people from those who wish to harm others in our community.

The only other thing I want to touch on quickly is that the changes to the evade police offence also empower and support our police, to which I know every single member of this government is fully committed. This is fantastic legislation. I commend the police minister for bringing it to the House and I look forward to supporting it.

Debate, on motion of Ms Barton, adjourned.

MOTION

Redcliffe Electorate



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.29 pm): I move—

That this House:

- notes that the constituents of the electorate of Redcliffe have been without proper representation in this House for almost two years;
- notes that the Premier was a key supporter of the disgraced former member for Redcliffe;
- notes that services in Redcliffe have declined under the Newman government, particularly in relation to health and community services;
- rejects the Newman government's belated interest in Redcliffe in the last month as 'too little, too late';
- condemns the Premier, his leadership team and the LNP for their failure to take action sooner against the former member for Redcliffe, Scott Driscoll.

This is a debate I wanted to have with the Premier in Redcliffe. I issued a challenge to the Premier very clearly to have a town hall meeting in the heart of Redcliffe. Redcliffe residents could have come along and asked the Premier and me questions about issues in Redcliffe. Did the Premier accept my challenge? Did he accept my challenge to go to Redcliffe and debate the matters of Scott Driscoll and this government's neglect of the Redcliffe electorate? No, he did not. I am prepared to hold a town hall meeting in any city or any town of Queensland any day of the week. I challenge the Premier to come along and listen to Queenslanders when I conduct my town hall meetings in future. There will be a seat next to me for him.

A town hall meeting in Redcliffe would have given families the opportunity to come and ask the Premier, 'Why, Premier, did you stand by Scott Driscoll for so long? Why has your government ignored us for so long? Premier, why have our electricity bills been increasing for so long? Premier, why have our water bills been increasing for so long?' But, most importantly, the people of Redcliffe would have asked the Premier, 'Why have you ignored us for so long?' The challenge today to the Premier is to answer the question before the announcement of this by-election, 'How many times has the Premier visited the seat of Redcliffe?' How many times has the Premier of our state been to Redcliffe? I am looking forward to this answer because this government has treated the Redcliffe families with contempt.

The clear fact is that this LNP government is failing to listen to Queenslanders. It is very disappointing that when they were first elected they promised to govern with 'humility, grace and dignity'. I have not seen any elements of that displayed by those opposite. In less than two weeks the people of Redcliffe will get to have their say not just on who will be their voice in this parliament—and I note that it would have been very easy for the government to call the election so that a member for Redcliffe could have joined us here today, a voice for the people of Redcliffe. It has been almost three months now since that member, Scott Driscoll, whom the Premier stood by time and time again, left this parliament. Earlier this afternoon I put on the public record very clearly that the people of Redcliffe are very upset about the very short period they have in which to lodge postal votes and pre-poll votes. This is what the families are telling me. I do note that last week I believe all of the LNP were up at O'Reilly's for a love-in or a bit of a caucus retreat to make everyone feel better.

Mr Pitt: *Kumbaya*.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, maybe they were singing *Kumbaya*. Did they go on the flying fox? Did they do a bit of a ropes course? While the LNP were up in the hinterland talking to each other, patting themselves on the back, telling them what a great job they were doing, the Labor caucus was out doorknocking, talking to real people. That is where we were. We were out there doorknocking and talking to the people of Redcliffe.

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I enjoyed that experience—we all did—because it brought home to me the reality of the situation. The people of Redcliffe blame this Premier for Scott Driscoll. It was very clear. This arrogant Premier, this know-it-all Premier, rushes through laws—not workable laws. He does not listen to people—a 'one-man band' I think was the term. He does not listen. The people of Redcliffe say, 'This government, Annastacia, is out of touch.'

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You can laugh. Let them laugh. The reality is that the people of Redcliffe feel let down.

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are people here who have the opportunity to speak in the debate so maybe their voices will be heard here this evening. Unfortunately, there is no voice for Redcliffe. It would have been great to have had a debate with the member for Redcliffe participating, but there is no member for Redcliffe. In less than two weeks the people of Redcliffe will have the opportunity to elect a hardworking local woman, Yvette D'Ath, to be the next member for Redcliffe. I have known Yvette for over 14 years. She has got integrity. She has got honesty. She is hard working. She has the respect of the local community.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members. There are too many interjections in the chamber. I know it is an evening debate, but I ask for fewer interjections. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yvette D'Ath will make a great member for Redcliffe. However, we know it is going to be tough because there are 74 members in this arrogant government—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are 73 members in his arrogant government. We know it is going to be tough because the swing that is required is around 10 per cent. I want to put that on the record. A 10 per cent swing is needed to ensure that the Labor candidate gets up. It is going to be tough.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order, members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are going to make sure that we get the message out for the people of Redcliffe and to the families as often as we possibly can that Labor is listening; Labor understands their concerns; Labor knows that families are hurting in Redcliffe; Labor knows that this LNP government forgot about them for nearly two years. They turned their back on the people of Redcliffe. They turned their back and now in the last couple of weeks they have come out to Redcliffe with the money bags promising things left, right and centre. Go ahead, make those promises because the people of Redcliffe know what their game is.

The people of Redcliffe will not be fooled. Whilst those opposite were enjoying the delights of O'Reilly's, perhaps they all should have been out doorknocking in their own electorates listening to Queenslanders—listening to the issues and responding to the issues that matter—because Queenslanders are not happy with this government. Queenslanders are quietly seething about what this government has been doing and what it will be doing into the future. Redcliffe deserves better than an LNP member.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. TS MULHERIN** (Mackay—ALP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.40 pm): I second the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. There have been many unfortunate consequences stemming from the LNP's disastrous decision to select Scott Driscoll as the candidate for Redcliffe. One of them was that he provided no effective representation for the electorate during his time as the member. For many months he was the invisible man and when he did emerge—fleeting from the shadows—it was mostly in an attempt to defend himself rather than fight on behalf of the community he was elected to serve. Surely a more committed and competent elected member—even one representing the LNP and the Newman government—would not have meekly rolled over while funds were cut from the Brisbane North Institute of TAFE. Under the LNP, hundreds of jobs have gone from TAFE institutions across Queensland, resulting in the downsizing of the Redcliffe campus and further denial of educational and skilling opportunities for Redcliffe residents. The TAFE is a highly prized community asset in Redcliffe, but it has not been treated well by the Newman government or by the former member, Scott Driscoll. His failure to stick up for the community while the government was implementing cut after cut was a dereliction of duty and the people of Redcliffe have been punished for it. The legacy of the LNP's decision to select Scott Driscoll is higher TAFE fees, lost jobs and reduced training options.

Redcliffe residents who want to study for qualifications to enable them to find work to further their careers are the losers. So are the local businesses that rely on TAFE to train their workforces. TAFE courses are in fact front-line services which enhance employment prospects for young people, the unemployed and those who seek to improve themselves. Last year Redcliffe TAFE offered 32 courses, but after the latest round of LNP slash-and-burn tactics it offers just 18. Of course, given the Newman government's determination to cut jobs and services and to replace TAFE with high-fee private adult education and skills training, any protests from the LNP member for Redcliffe may have fallen on deaf ears. After all, the education minister has shown on numerous occasions in the past two years that he does not listen to local concerns, no matter how valid. Just ask the communities of the six schools that were closed last year. This is a government which has presided over rising youth unemployment but has axed Skilling Queenslanders for Work, a program that successfully helped young people gain skills that make them attractive to potential employers. Since Skilling Queenslanders for Work was axed, youth unemployment has soared to crisis levels akin to those in Spain. Young job seekers are hurting across the state, including at Redcliffe, while the Newman government sits on its hands.

Last week the Premier was urging the good people of Redcliffe not to cast a protest vote in the by-election. It is a desperate plea from a desperate man who wants the Redcliffe electorate to forget all about Scott Driscoll—the man who was hand-picked, endorsed and repeatedly defended by the Premier. Scott Driscoll brought shame to this parliament and bewilderment to those who were tricked into voting for him. As the opposition and media exposed the truth about this shameless deceiver, the Premier and the LNP did their level best to obscure and confuse the truth. But the Premier is urging voters to ignore this regrettable episode in Queensland's democratic history. He says not to vote in protest at the way you were ignored. While the opposition is more than happy for this by-election to be about the future rather than the past, I think the people of Redcliffe have every justification to consider how they were treated by Scott Driscoll. They more than any electorate in Queensland have every right to register a protest at the shambles they were served by the LNP government, and that is what the Premier is so afraid of.

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (5.44 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted:

- notes that the LNP Government has been delivering on our election promises for the people of Redcliffe;
- notes that the constituents of Redcliffe have been supported by the hardworking member for Murrumba in the failed representation from the former member for Redcliffe, and, the former federal member for Petrie;

- condemns the former Labor government for neglecting the Redcliffe Hospital and allowing it to fall into such a state of disrepair;
- notes that since the LNP formed government Redcliffe Hospital has seen significant improvements in health services for patients, and is working to fix the mess Labor made;
- notes that the constituents of Redcliffe will be very well represented, with a clear and positive plan should registered nurse Kerri-Anne Dooley be elected as the local member; and
- notes the pain and suffering inflicted on the local community by the former disgraced member for Redcliffe, Mr Scott Driscoll, therefore making it appropriate, reasonable and just that Mr Driscoll's fine be used to support a community organisation in Redcliffe, and that the Premier, Treasurer and Speaker be requested to consider an appropriate use and report back to the House.

I thank the opposition for bringing forward this matter this afternoon so that we can deliberate on and debate matters associated with Redcliffe because we are very proud of our record in Redcliffe, because already we have a hospital that is performing far better than it did two years ago. Earlier today we heard the statistics, so let us quickly look at them again. In March 2012 category 1 surgery was 93 per cent KPI while in December 2013 it was 100 per cent. For those opposite, let me turn to category 2. It was 56 per cent in March 2012. That would be under the Labor Party, wouldn't it? It was 86 per cent in December 2013. What about category 3? It was 89 per cent in March 2012; 93 per cent in December 2013. What about emergency access—in other words, the stats on being seen within four hours? At Redcliffe Hospital in March 2012 it was 52 per cent, probably with a queue of ambulances outside; in December 2013 it was 73 per cent. The hospital is performing better today and I say to the Labor Party that we are going to have a great time this year talking about health improvement all year.

Those opposite were shocked when we went there initially and actually started at the hospital. The feedback we have from their campaign insiders is that they were absolutely shocked that we wanted to talk about health, but health has improved. I do not have the figures in front of me for specific patients on the peninsula in terms of dental waiting lists, but it is the same sort of story—a vast improvement.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NEWMAN: I am not going to have a lot of time this afternoon to deal with all of the things that are going on, but I think I should particularly compare and contrast: we can have a Labor candidate, a former union official—what a surprise; just like the member for South Brisbane—a party operative rejected by the local community, voted for the carbon tax, inflicted misery and pain and suffering on the disadvantaged in the community; or we can have a medical professional, a registered nurse, a palliative care expert, a volunteer, a mother of four, someone who has spent their entire life at Redcliffe and who started their career at the Redcliffe Hospital. What a clear choice—a fresh start for the people of Redcliffe. That is exactly what they get. Unlike the Labor Party, we have apologised for our mistake—and we know who he is. In terms of finding a suitable community organisation to be the recipient of the \$90,000 fine that this parliament has received, that is appropriate. That is justice. That is saying sorry. That is making things right, and that is exactly what we will do with that money if endorsed by this parliament.

So the choice is clear in the next few weeks. I hope that the people of Redcliffe choose a strong voice within government, a positive plan and a caring health professional as their local member.

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (5.49 pm): I rise to second the amendment moved by the Premier. I note the indignation and the absolute embarrassment of the opposition members with the nature of that pathetic motion that they moved in this parliament only a few minutes ago.

Over a long period I have heard some rather different and eclectic contributions in this place as members of parliament sometimes try to calibrate whether they are on this side or that, but I have heard nothing more queer and bizarre than that which came from the opposition leader's mouth a little while ago. She campaigned for Scott Driscoll to be removed from this place, but called for him to be returned to this place so that he could participate in this debate. She should make up her mind. Did she want him in here or did she want him out of here?

When it comes to dealing with Gordon Nuttall, the opposition leader's approach stands in stark contrast to the approach of Premier Newman and the LNP. A number of years ago—towards the end of 2005, I think it was—I sat over there when there were very serious issues of not only ethics but also criminal conduct relating to Gordon Nuttall. Three members of parliament who are sitting over there today were sitting over here at that time and they voted to exonerate Gordon Nuttall from

criminality. That had never happened in this place before. When it comes to ethics and moral behaviour, let us look at the issue of consistency. At that time, the member for Bundamba, the opposition leader's father, the member for Woodridge and the member for Mackay sat in here and exonerated Gordon Nuttall from criminality. Imagine what would have happened in the 1980s if a previous government had exonerated its own in those circumstances? Not only that, because they could never trust themselves to tell the truth in this place, they then made it legal to lie to parliament.

The other amazing thing that I saw today, and which I did not think was anatomically possible, was that the Leader of the Opposition has grown a set of ears. The Leader of the Opposition is now saying that she wants to listen to people. She never listened to people when she was the minister for transport and oversaw the privatisation of Queensland Rail and embarked upon the sacking of hundreds of people from Queensland Rail—the privatisation of Queensland Rail against the wishes of the people of Queensland, without referring the issue to the people of Queensland and, indeed, when her government denied that they were going to do that in the previous election campaign. So there is a whole lot of humbug. We should be judging them on what they have done, not this amazing political epiphany that they have undertaken since 24 March 2012, because it just does not add up.

Let us look at their candidate—a failed Labor member of parliament, repudiated by the people of her region, a member of parliament who sat by completely mute and impotent as Wayne Swan, her friend and blood colleague, cut \$22 million out of the Metro North Hospital and Health Service budget. Also, that same person did absolutely nothing when we saw Labor's payroll carnage unfold across Queensland, costing vital and important jobs in the Queensland Health system. She is also a member of parliament who could not deliver a superclinic. Indeed, that was consistent, because Labor could not deliver superclinics anywhere around the country. Seven years later, they put in place an arrangement that was absolutely hopeless and was never going to work, until the Metro North Hospital and Health Board came in and took it over. Now, they have that open and it is seeing patients—something which Labor was incapable of doing. That just goes to show the importance of local area management.

We have a real contrast for the people of the peninsula. For the first time since 2002—a 12-year period—under the Newman government, not under the Bligh government, not under the Beattie government, all category 1 elective surgery patients are having their surgery on time. There have been similar improvements in category 2 elective surgery and category 3 elective surgery. The national emergency target is also improving in that area quite significantly.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.54 pm): After sacking nurses and shutting a ward and closing the chronic pain clinic at Redcliffe Hospital since taking office, I am not surprised that the Newman government's big hitters have been in such a generous frame of mind recently. It is called damage control by some, or sheer desperation by others. How else would it explain them going out to Redcliffe to say that there is a sudden urge to spend \$12 million to refurbish two wards and two theatres at Redcliffe Hospital? How about explaining the fact that Treasurer Tim goes out to the peninsula to announce an urgent need to splash the cash, because he wants to be the Premier himself. Funny, is it not, how the supposed run-down and outdated facilities escaped the Newman government's attention until this by-election was in full swing. Did Scott Driscoll not mention the decaying decor at the hospital during his aborted term as the LNP's man in hiding? Did Scott Driscoll not mention that the community, which he purported to represent, was a touch peeved about the sackings of the nurses and the closure of health services right across Metro North?

It is funny how the Treasurer's surprise announcement was made in the afternoon of the same day as a morning media stunt, which backfired spectacularly for the Premier and his latest hand-picked LNP candidate for Redcliffe and former Family First candidate. How galling it must have been for the Premier that his first encounter with real people in the electorate as he jogged along the Margate foreshore for the benefit of cameras was with a local resident who asked him questions that he and his candidate could not answer—a candidate who swaps parties. Yes, she is a party swapper, just like the LNP member for Ferny Grove. He is also a party swapper. Both of them were in Family First first. They were so desperate to try to get in this House that they swapped to the LNP. That is why the LNP member for Ferny Grove has abandoned his electorate and has been spending so much time in the Redcliffe electorate. But, of course, we have to be sure that the LNP—

Mr SHUTTLEWORTH: I rise to a point of order. I take offence to those comments and ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam SPEAKER: Member for Bundamba, I ask you to withdraw under the standing orders.

Mrs MILLER: I withdraw. I am advised that at a public meeting the candidate for the LNP was not at all sure that Eventide was a public aged-care facility. This candidate was not sure that over 1,000 nurses had been sacked since the LNP came to office. She was also not at all sure that SMOs working in public hospitals were being forced onto Newman's Work Choices style contracts.

Ms Trad: She knows nothing.

Mrs MILLER: No, she knows nothing. She is not at all sure about anything. Ask her a question and the same answer comes back—'Oh, I'm not sure.' Holy hell!

Mr Pitt: She's got the ear of the Premier.

Mrs MILLER: Yes, she has the ear of the Premier. He says, 'Can do,' but no-one takes any notice of that, because he cannot do anything. So we have this candidate running around Redcliffe and where is Barry O'Sullivan? 'Dot dot dot' is the commentary there. That is what happens.

We wonder about all of these fiscal responsibilities and budget emergencies that are supposed to be there. However, we hear that everything is fine now. So we have this government going out to Redcliffe with buckets full of cash and the Treasurer with his best sickly sweet smile on his dial. The problem for the LNP is that the Redcliffe community will not be fooled anymore. They definitely will not be fooled by the abject contempt and the wilful neglect that the LNP forced them. And Driscoll! The people of Redcliffe will never forget that this Premier stands shoulder to shoulder with Scott Driscoll.

The LNP took a \$50,000 donation from Scott Driscoll. The Premier moved an amendment to our motion that says that he is going to ask the Premier, Treasurer and Speaker to consider appropriate use of the fine and report back to the House. We do not need a committee of three; this money should go to the Regional Community Association of Moreton Bay who Scott Driscoll ripped off.

 **Mr GULLEY** (Murrumba—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise to speak against and to rebut the private member's motion as raised by the member for Inala and support the amendments as raised by the Premier. After the speech by the member for Bundamba I make the comment that it is a dark act that I have to follow. It gives me great satisfaction to speak on this motion. Redcliffe is a strong and vibrant community. It is a resilient community with the largest number per capita of community groups in Queensland. Redcliffe deserves a fresh start rather than a retrospective step. I believe that Redcliffe will look back on the last two years as an unpleasant speed bump on their journey and I offer my sympathy for those who were hurt by the former member.

I wish to comment on the assertion of the Leader of the Opposition that the electorate of Redcliffe has been without state representation. I want to preface this with the fact that Murrumba and Redcliffe are overlapping communities with residents from both electorates working, schooling, shopping and joining sporting and rec clubs in the neighbouring electorate and hence it is quite appropriate that the member for Murrumba has been actively contributing and been available to resident community groups and residents.

I have been quietly working away without fanfare supporting the Murrumba and Redcliffe communities. The Queensland Plan participants for Redcliffe were organised from Murrumba. My 2013 budget speech included both Murrumba and Redcliffe. My office has organised several events in Redcliffe attended by Ministers Bleijie, Davis and Elmes, ensuring community groups have access to ministers. I have regularly attended events in Redcliffe attended by residents from both Redcliffe and Murrumba. I have conducted mobile offices in Redcliffe, making myself available to follow up constituents' inquiries including right through to government minister support. I conducted JP sign-offs for Redcliffe JPs. My office has been providing photocopying services and raffle prizes to Redcliffe based organisations serving both electorates. My office has had an open-door policy for Redcliffe constituents who felt uncomfortable approaching the former member. A large proportion of my constituent appointments were and are from Redcliffe.

No member in this chamber has quietly gone about his role ensuring that the good people from my region, including Redcliffe, have continued to have a friendly voice in this chamber. I contrast this to the opposition leader, who swanned into Redcliffe with fanfare and gusto, ran a public event, promised to support Redcliffe and then, to the best of my knowledge, disappeared. She has not been seen or heard from since and certainly has not delivered on her promise to provide a dedicated member's support. She was all promise and no delivery.

I would also like to acknowledge the comments of the member for Southern Downs in his speech in relation to Gordon Nuttall and the ALP's hypocrisy in its treatment of Gordon Nuttall versus our prompt and ethical approach to the expulsion of Scott Driscoll.

I would like to acknowledge my adjournment speech of 15 October where I wished Yvette D'Ath well in her future endeavours. I made that statement on the assumption that Yvette had finished with politics. After all, she had stated on local radio that she was only focused on Petrie and that she would not be recycled into running for Redcliffe. Yvette has gone back on her word. I have no great wish to be neighbours with somebody who goes back on her word. I wish to clarify that my best wishes remain for all endeavours except for running in Redcliffe.

I speak for Murrumba. That is an Aboriginal word for good place. Redcliffe deserves a fresh start with Kerri-Anne Dooley. Murrumba will benefit from having Kerri-Anne Dooley as the member for Redcliffe, a member who will work with her neighbours to ensure that our great region of Moreton Bay gets its fair share. I do not support the member for Inala's motion but, rather, support the amendments as raised by the Premier.

 **Mr PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (6.04 pm): Almost two years ago this government went to the election promising to lower the cost of living in Redcliffe. The Premier promised to slash household bills. He promised that families would be given a break. In his so-called 'contract with Queensland' the Premier could not have been clearer. He said he would 'lower the cost of living for families'. How that hollow, cynical pledge has come crashing down for all Queenslanders, but for none more so than the long-suffering people of Redcliffe. Not only have the 50,000-plus people who call Redcliffe home been forced to go through 18 months of non-representation courtesy of the Premier's own captain's pick, Scott Driscoll, not only have they been forced to wait three months for this Premier to allow them to vote to choose a new representative, but they have been slugged with some of the biggest cost-of-living increases of all Queenslanders. Those opposite can choose to ignore the facts, but just like their Premier's contract with Queenslanders they are there in black and white. Their leader promised Redcliffe residents an \$80-a-year rebate on their water bills. Apparently for the LNP a promise of a saving per year does not actually mean each year. In their strange world it means for only one year.

On 4 February the Queensland Competition Authority released, without fanfare, its report on water bills in South-East Queensland. For Redcliffe residents this pricing path is an ugly one. This year those who call Redcliffe home, as if they had not suffered enough under the Premier's captain picked and now disgraced MP, will face an increase on their water bills of 38.8 per cent. Let me repeat that for those opposite—38.8 per cent—the largest increase in water prices in South-East Queensland. What that will mean is an increase of \$481 on their water bills, taking the average bill for each Redcliffe household to over \$1,700 a year. According to the independent QCA the predominant reason for rising water bills in Redcliffe is the removal of the Newman government and council water rebates. Before those opposite try to pontificate and point the finger at others, they should be reminded that the structure for Unitywater was requested by the then Lord Mayor of Brisbane, Campbell Newman.

These sky-high water bills delivered by the Newman government come on top of the record-breaking increases to electricity bills, which for the average Redcliffe household will go up by 22.6 per cent, or \$268, per year on average. The figures from the QCA set out that if only the carbon tax and solar were contributing to price rises, the overall increase would be just three per cent, not 22.6 per cent.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr PITT: In just one year the Newman government has increased power prices by more than double the total cost of the carbon tax. The blame for these power price increases rests squarely at the feet of this Newman government.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Those on my right.

Mr PITT: Worse still, the fixed price of electricity is being hiked by 92 per cent this year and another 66 per cent next year or by more than \$200 over two years.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister will cease interjecting.

Mr PITT: This means that even if you turn off your lights and do the right thing, you will not escape the Newman government's power price slug. All this after the Premier, alongside Scott Driscoll, pledged in a contract with Queensland to lower their bills by \$120 per year, not to increase them by a record \$268 in just one year.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr PITT: On top of this the Newman government has increased taxes by more than \$1,000 per year for the average family of four, including hikes to the insurance levy and emergency services levy.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister for Energy and Water Supply will cease interjecting or I will warn him.

Mr PITT: The people of Redcliffe are right to be scratching their heads. Many are asking how they will make ends meet. They are right to be questioning how they were so misled by this government, by this Premier and by Scott Driscoll. No-one will forget the images of the Premier walking alongside Scott Driscoll personally endorsing him as the member for Redcliffe. No-one will forget the Premier and Scott Driscoll together promising to lower the cost of living for Redcliffe residents, before failing to deliver on that promise. No-one will forget the Premier standing in this place and defending Scott Driscoll, while at the same time Mr Driscoll was lining his own pockets and doing nothing to halt the rising cost of living that has hammered family budgets in Redcliffe.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The minister will cease interjecting.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! If the member will take his seat, I now warn the minister under standing order 253A for his interjections.

Mr PITT: On 22 February the people of Redcliffe have an opportunity to get a fresh direction, to make a fresh start with a member of parliament who will genuinely care about their wellbeing. In Yvette D'Ath the people of Redcliffe have the opportunity to elect someone who has a proven track record of delivering on what she promises, someone who will not take advantage of community groups and someone who will put her community's needs first ahead of her own political considerations. Yvette D'Ath is raising her family in Redcliffe. She and her husband, a police officer, understand how the Premier's broken promises on the cost of living are hurting local families and she will do everything she can to hold the Premier to account for those broken promises. I heard the Premier talking earlier about Yvette D'Ath being a failed union official. The only union official in recent times who has been a failed candidate is Bill Glasson.

 **Mr HOLSWICH** (Pine Rivers—LNP) (6.09 pm): I am very pleased to have this opportunity to speak against the motion put forward by the Leader of the Opposition and to support the amendments put forward by the Premier. I think a more appropriate amendment to the first section of the motion may have been, 'notes that the constituents of the electorate of Redcliffe were without proper representation in the federal parliament for six years between 2007 and 2013', because whilst no-one disputes the many failings of the former member for Redcliffe, it seems the Labor Party is trying frantically to hide the failings of their own candidate in Redcliffe. We have already heard the greatest hits reel of the D'Ath era in Redcliffe—

Madam SPEAKER: I ask the member to pause. The clock is frozen. We will take a note of the time at 6.10. Please continue, member for Pine Rivers.

Mr HOLSWICH: We have already heard the greatest hits reel of the D'Ath era in Redcliffe and here is another: the GP superclinic. From my recollection, she announced that it had been delivered when it was still an empty building with no services being delivered to the Redcliffe community. That is akin to announcing that you have new trains when they have no seats and that seems to be the Labor way. When our government recently announced the actual delivery of this service for Redcliffe, Ms D'Ath gave an insightful gem for that day's evening news when she stated that the Newman government has only delivered on what it was supposed to deliver. There is the keyword: we actually delivered for the people of Redcliffe. We have delivered for Redcliffe, we are now delivering for Redcliffe and we will continue to deliver for Redcliffe. As the Premier's amendment states, we have been delivering on our election promises for the people of Redcliffe.

If members want another of Labor's greatest hits that D'Ath was involved with there is the carbon tax that we heard about this morning in question time, which Labor's candidate voted in favour of in the federal parliament. Redcliffe residents would be between \$116 and \$240 a year better off if it

was not for D'Ath's and Labor's commitment to the carbon tax. The best thing that she could possibly do for the residents of Redcliffe is to get on the phone to her former federal colleagues and plead with them to vote to abolish the carbon tax. She should get on the phone to people such as Senator Mark Furner, another Labor representative in the Moreton Bay region who Queenslanders rejected at the last election, and ask him to vote to abolish the carbon tax. However, Senator Furner loves the carbon tax and seems hell-bent on keeping electricity prices high, just as Labor's candidate seems intent on doing. Senator Furner voted against the repeal of the carbon tax in December and, like Labor's candidate, will have a lot to answer for when residents of Redcliffe receive their electricity bills in coming months.

The people of Redcliffe rejected Yvette D'Ath once and I sincerely hope they will reject her again on 22 February. She was rejected by the people of Redcliffe because she could not deliver, yet Labor is still willing to give her another go. Let us also look at Labor's claim in the motion before us that services in Redcliffe have declined under the Newman government. Certainly some things have declined in Redcliffe, such as hospital waiting lists, ambulance ramping and dental waiting lists, just to name a few. Under the Newman government, the Redcliffe Hospital has seen significant improvements in health services delivered to Redcliffe and the entire Moreton Bay region. Ours is also the government that actually delivered a functioning GP superclinic for Redcliffe. Ours is the government that is delivering around \$1 million in literacy and numeracy funding for Redcliffe schools thanks to the Abbott federal government.

Just because an electorate does not have a credible representative in this chamber does not mean that our government will not deliver for the people in that electorate. That may be the Labor way, but we are governing for all Queenslanders. I pay credit to the member for Murrumba, who has done an outstanding job of assisting the people of Redcliffe in the absence of their own elected representative. Our government will continue to deliver for Redcliffe and, hopefully, after 22 February Redcliffe will have in this chamber a strong representative who has a clear and positive plan for Redcliffe in the form of Kerri-Anne Dooley. I support the Premier's amendments to this motion.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (6.13 pm): With such a limp and unconvincing defence of the government's track record in Redcliffe, it is no wonder that the people of Redcliffe are hungry for change. They are hungry for a voice, as they were in Griffith. They are hungry for someone who is prepared to stand up and say, 'This spin ain't cutting it! This spin is not cutting it!'

Transport and critical transport infrastructure can transform people's lives. They better shape communities and they enhance our quality of life. That is why it is only Labor that can legitimately claim to be the party that believes in public transport and transport infrastructure. Labor built the Ted Smout Memorial Bridge, an investment of over \$300 million, which has reduced peak hour travel time between Redcliffe and Brighton. We have used the Ted Smout Memorial Bridge quite often of late. Labor sealed the deal to build and fund the Moreton Bay Rail Link, which was an investment of over \$1.1 billion from the former federal and state Labor governments and the Moreton Bay Regional Council and which is duly noted in the government's *Governing for Growth* strategy that was tabled today. I am glad to see that the current government is actually using Labor projects to fuel growth in this state.

What has the LNP done for public transport in the fine electorate of Redcliffe? I can tell honourable members what it has done. It has not invested in new services or infrastructure on the peninsula. The LNP did what it does best, which is to cut services that people rely on and to cut investment. The first thing that the LNP did for transport in Redcliffe was to scrap the planned \$4 million Peninsula Fair bus station. I table an article from the *Redcliffe & Bayside Herald* dated 1 August 2012 entitled 'State axes bus interchange'.

Tabled paper: Article from *Redcliffe & Bayside Herald*, dated 1 August 2012, titled 'State axes bus interchange' [\[4472\]](#).

In that article, the then LNP member for Redcliffe, Scott Driscoll, tried to spin the government's decision to scrap the project, saying it would 'clear the way to properly plan the future integration of Redcliffe's public transport system'. He sold the people of Redcliffe a dud. He sold this cut as a dud. No-one is forgetting that he did nothing when the Minister for Transport and Main Roads started cutting bus services. He let the minister reroute the 690 bus away from Sunnyside Road, Jeays Street, Oyster Point Esplanade and Newport Drive, making it harder for residents of BallyCara aged care home at Scarborough to access bus services.

What kind of member of parliament would just roll over and not put up a fight when the Minister for Transport and Main Roads tried to cut a \$4 million new bus station in their electorate? What kind of member of parliament would just spout government lines and not fight for that money to be

delivered or, worse, spend it on other projects in the electorate? What kind of member of parliament would not fight for the bus services in their electorate, but would let the Minister for Transport and Main Roads bumble and make it harder for seniors to access public transport? I can tell honourable members exactly what kind of member of parliament would do that. The average LNP backbencher who does not have the spine to stand up for their electorates! Every LNP backbencher is as guilty as Scott Driscoll for failing to stand up for their electorates when the Premier and his ministers started cutting local services and investment across this state. They were silent, they did nothing, they did exactly what Driscoll did and they will stand condemned when the time comes for their electorates to judge their performance.

I note that earlier this evening the Premier was talking up the 1.7 per cent swing to the LNP in the seat of Griffith. I put on record that I spent a lot of time campaigning in Griffith. I can tell the House that, despite the fact—

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I will pause the clock until we have order.

Ms TRAD: Despite the fact that Dr Glasson is a very nice gentleman who spent millions of dollars lifting his profile and is someone the electorate respected, when I was talking to punters they told me, 'We like Dr Glasson, he is a nice guy, but I am not giving Campbell Newman any more power'. I can tell the House that Terri Butler—

Government members interjected.

Madam SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I will pause the clock until we have order.

Ms TRAD: Terri Butler will be a strong and progressive voice for the people of Griffith and Yvette D'Ath will be the strongest voice for Redcliffe, and you guys had better harden up your performance.

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (6.19 pm): It is great to follow the member for South Brisbane who spent a lot of time campaigning in Griffith. We would love to have her in Redcliffe next weekend if she is free. We would love for some of that success to go over the peninsula.

I support the amendment moved by the Premier. First of all, I want to start with some common ground. It is some common ground that I do not think we have spent enough time talking about. The 88 people in this place all agree that the people of Redcliffe were let down by Mr Driscoll. That is not to be debated. There is no debate about that. The debate is where we go from here. That is the issue of fundamental difference that I have heard in this debate this evening.

I acknowledge the work that people like the members for Murrumba and Pine Rivers have done in covering the Redcliffe electorate given the abysmal performance of this former member of parliament. As somebody who does not live or has never lived in Redcliffe, I am guided by local opinion. I placed great faith in the views of those elected to serve at what I think is the purest level of government—local government. I listened with great intent on Thursday, 6 February—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will not take that interjection because the member has disgraced herself all day. I will not place on record how disgraceful she has been so I will not take the interjection. Mayor Sutherland, the mayor of the Moreton Bay Regional Council, said the following—

I think my working relationship with Ms D'Ath is going to be very difficult anyway in the fact that Yvette will not be able to deliver for this community in opposition. She was struggling to deliver for the community when she was in government and we have a long list of broken promises, including money for the PCYC, including money for the sports museum, including money for this and that. So I don't know how it's going to change. If you can't deliver when you're in government, how can you deliver in opposition?

As far as Scott Driscoll goes, yes there is a community expectation. People are upset and hurt. But now is the time to rebuild. It's certainly not the time to turn around and take sides—and, you know, should we pay back? We are going to shoot ourselves in the foot as a community and that's what is going to happen. I mean Driscoll lied to the Premier. He lied to the government. He lied to me as the mayor and he lied to the community, and he's going to pay a price for his deception. But now is the time to rebuild and it's important for us as a community. If we put someone in opposition it's tantamount to, as far as I can see, shooting ourselves in the foot because we've had no voice for the past two years and we're going to have no voice into the future as far as government decisions are concerned.

Mayor Sutherland lists some interesting things. He talks about the long list of broken promises, the money for the PCYC, the money for the sports museum and money for the Redcliffe arts centre. He has clearly articulated what he feels is a big issue.

Who is the person who the opposition are putting up in what is a very important election? It is the person who ruled out running in the seat if she lost the federal election. It is the person who was the champion of the carbon tax. It is the person who was the chairman of the committee who cleared Craig Thomson. Above all, a little fact that has not been raised is that she was the only Queensland sitting member at the last election who was shown the door but ran again. The message was sent loud and clear.

What we have had in the debate has been interesting. We have had the member for Bundamba and the member for Mulgrave paint a picture of a hospital that has gone to rack and ruin in the last two years, a pricing path for things like water and electricity that all of a sudden has spiralled out of control in the last couple of years. We have had the member for South Brisbane, who was not even in this place, defending the infrastructure record of a government that sent the state's finances broke in a boom.

The LNP government has been delivering for the people of Redcliffe. They do have a clear choice. Above all, if there is only one message that the people of Redcliffe should have in their minds when they turn up to vote it is: if Yvette D'Ath will not be able to deliver for her community, if she was not capable of delivering in government, how on earth is she capable of delivering in opposition?

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

AYES, 72:

LNP, 72—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

NOES, 10:

ALP, 7—Byrne, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

UAP, 1—Judge.

INDEPENDENTS, 2—Cunningham, Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

AYES, 72:

LNP, 72—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

NOES, 10:

ALP, 7—Byrne, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

UAP, 1—Judge.

INDEPENDENTS, 2—Cunningham, Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

- notes that the LNP Government has been delivering on our election promises for the people of Redcliffe;
- notes that the constituents of Redcliffe have been supported by the hardworking member for Murrumba in the failed representation from the former member for Redcliffe, and, the former federal member for Petrie;
- condemns the former Labor government for neglecting the Redcliffe Hospital and allowing it to fall into such a state of disrepair;

- notes that since the LNP formed government Redcliffe Hospital has seen significant improvements in health services for patients, and is working to fix the mess Labor made;
- notes that the constituents of Redcliffe will be very well represented, with a clear and positive plan should registered nurse Kerri-Anne Dooley be elected as the local member; and
- notes the pain and suffering inflicted on the local community by the former disgraced member for Redcliffe, Mr Scott Driscoll, therefore making it appropriate, reasonable and just that Mr Driscoll's fine be used to support a community organisation in Redcliffe, and that the Premier, Treasurer and Speaker be requested to consider an appropriate use and report back to the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.35 pm to 7.35 pm.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Tabled Documents

 **Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 21 February 2007 Speaker Reynolds made a comprehensive ruling in this House regarding the rights of members to table documents in the House, the duties of officers at the table and the powers of the Speaker. While it is not my intention to infringe on the rights or privileges of members in the House, I will intervene if the standing orders or rulings of the chair have been transgressed.

I am concerned about the nature of documents tabled in the House particularly when they contain information or words that may not be allowed in speeches and would have to be withdrawn if made verbally in the House. The privilege that members enjoy in their speeches is effectively transferred to documents tabled by them in the House. This privilege to table documents in a relatively unfettered manner must be balanced by the right of the chair to ensure that the standing orders of the House and rulings of the chair are not transgressed or subverted by the tabling of documents or the contents of documents.

This afternoon the member for Bundamba quoted from documents making it clear that they contained unparliamentary language. The member then tabled those documents. Before ruling these documents out of order, I will give the member for Bundamba an opportunity to redact the unparliamentary language. Accordingly, I am returning the documents to the member for Bundamba, who has until the House rises tonight to return the documents appropriately redacted to the Clerk for tabling. I note that some of the documents have been tabled before in another parliament. While I make no ruling in regard to the earlier documents, I note that they are not all available on the tabled papers database.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Auditor-General's Reports, Referral to Portfolio Committees

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.37 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meetings of 19 December 2013 and today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 7 of 2013-14 titled *Results of audit: water sector entities 2012-13*, tabled on 21 November 2013, be referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee for consideration; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 8 of 2013-14 titled *Results of audit: hospital and health services entities 2012-13*, tabled on 21 November 2013, be referred to the Health and Community Services Committee for consideration; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 9 of 2013-14 titled *Results of audit: energy sector entities 2012-13*, tabled on 3 December 2013, be referred to the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee for consideration; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 10 of 2013-14 titled *Contract management: renewal and transition*, tabled on 3 December 2013, be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 11 of 2013-14 titled *Results of audit: state public sector entities 2012-13*, tabled on 10 December 2013, be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 12 of 2013-14 titled *Results of audit: Queensland state government financial statements 2012-13*, tabled on 10 December 2013, be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for consideration; and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 13 of 2013-14 titled *Right of private practice: senior medical officer conduct*, tabled on 11 February 2014, be referred to the Health and Community Services Committee for consideration.

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (7.39 pm): The Committee of the Legislative Assembly has also resolved pursuant to standing orders 135A and 136 that the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee report on the Criminal Code and Another Act (Stock) Amendment Bill by 25 March 2014; the Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee report on the Chicken Meat Industry Committee Amendment Bill by 12 March 2014; the Health and Community Services Committee report on the Communities Legislation (Funding Red Tape Reduction) Bill by 12 March 2014; the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 12 March 2014; and the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee report on the Water Supply Services Legislation Amendment Bill by 25 March 2014.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 86, on motion of Mr Dempsey—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr STEWART** (Sunnybank—LNP) (7.40 pm): I rise tonight to contribute to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. This bill goes about helping our Police Service to further reduce unnecessary and cumbersome blue tape to ensure that the great men and woman who make up our police service are able to spend more time on the front line dealing with issues in a timely manner. It also addresses the evasion provisions. I would particularly like to say a few words on the provisions relating to the out-of-control events scheme.

Since Corey Delaney issued an open invitation on MySpace to a party at his family's Gold Coast house in January 2008, there has been a proliferation of out-of-control parties. This government is committed to enhancing the effectiveness of our front-line policing service, and there have been substantial improvements in this regard. However, one way to continue to improve efficiency is to introduce penalties that are a sufficient deterrent to any person considering holding a party which may spiral out of control. This would ensure that the men and women who constitute our Queensland Police Service can be deployed where they are needed most and not have to deal with intoxicated teens at family homes. We also have the responsibility to protect our police officers. Having single units of police men and women attempt to restore order to unruly suburban parties attended by several hundred intoxicated individuals has jeopardised their safety in the past and led to serious injuries. Consequently, I fully endorse a tougher penalty regime for the organisers and gatecrashers of out-of-control events. In doing this I also note the member for Toowoomba North's detailed description of the meaning of this and the bill's intention.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House to two shocking incidents that recently occurred in my Sunnybank electorate, the first of which was an event in March last year. I refer, of course, to the out-of-control party held in a house in Marnham Street, Acacia Ridge. Up to 250 people, some of whom were as young as 11, turned up to a party after it was publicly advertised on Facebook. Given that the majority in attendance were unknown to the party's host, it is unsurprising that things quickly spiralled out of control. Several partygoers boarded a local council bus that had pulled up near a house on its routine journey and began to kick out its windows from the inside, while others were damaging it from the outside. The two constables who were called to restore order were hit in the head by bricks that were ripped off of a nearby wall and hurled at them. One of the male constables required eight stitches, while the other was given four stitches and needed plastic surgery for a fractured eye socket. Queensland police officers who arrived to assist were forced to drag their two injured colleagues onto the Brisbane City Council bus. They then directed the driver to shut the doors and drive the bus from the scene. As an indictment on the enormous resources that out-of-control parties waste, more than 15 police units were dispatched to provide containment. In addition, local government officers worked through the night to clean up the scene, disposing of the empty glass bottles and bricks that had been pelleted at police just hours earlier. Clearly it is completely unacceptable for our police officers to be treated in this manner, and I would hope that there would not be a repeat of such an occurrence in my Sunnybank electorate.

An obvious way of providing greater protection to police officers is to introduce significant penalties that are more likely to deter party organisers from issuing open invitations via social media. I support this bill being passed so that a person who organises an event which becomes an out-of-control event, or who gatecrashes an event, causing the event to become an out-of-control event, will face a term of imprisonment or a significant fine if found guilty. I also approve of the amendment that a parent may be liable if they allow their child to organise such an event by endorsing, encouraging or financing the event or simply turning a blind eye to the actions of their child. The parent or guardian makes him or herself equally as culpable, in my opinion, as the child in question.

Obviously, as Corey Delaney proved categorically in 2008, there may be some individuals who take advantage of their parents' absence in order to host a party. In these circumstances I believe the child should be made to accept full responsibility for their actions, and I am pleased that this bill makes an allowance for this situation by allowing a person to raise the defence that they took reasonable steps in the circumstances to prevent the event from becoming an out-of-control event. Of course, it is not enough that individuals may be made to feel the full force of the law in the aftermath of a party that has gotten out of hand. The police themselves for their own safety, as well as the safety of the general community, need additional powers to be able to break up such gatherings as quickly and as authoritatively as possible. It is therefore appropriate that police have the power to enter a place without a warrant; to direct any person to stop any conduct; to direct a person to immediately leave a place; or to take any other steps that the police officer considers reasonably necessary.

The second event that I wanted to mention was a wild party that was held at Pasteur Street, Sunnybank. Several of my constituents have spoken to me in relation to this party. They felt unsafe when the streets were filled with people and they spotted people running through their yards and damaging their belongings. I was also contacted by the principal of the local high school, St Thomas More College, and I mention at this time their attendance in Parliament House this morning. It is a great school and works with the community in many areas of engagement. The school borders on the public house where the wild party was held and suffered several hundred dollars damage, not to mention the clean-up that was required with smashed bottles, broken windows and other damage on the school grounds.

We have heard that there are sufficient laws in place, but I ask: please tell me why they are not being used. With the occupants of this particular house having had other wild parties in the past with similar damage to neighbouring houses and the school grounds, if the laws exist, why are they not a sufficient deterrent to stop the senseless violence and the poor behaviour? I often have many more than 12 people at my house for barbecues and family celebrations, and with two young sons, I am sure in the future we will have many more. I am not worried about this legislation. There are sufficient safeguards for our communities and for responsible adults. I thank the Minister for Police and Community Safety, the Hon. Jack Dempsey, for introducing this bill and for taking a tough stance on the organisers and facilitators of out-of-control events. I would hope that with these additional police powers, as well as the more rigorous penalties regime, there will not be a recurrence of unfortunate events such as the Marnham Street party in Acacia Ridge and the Pasteur Street party in Sunnybank. I support the bill, and I encourage all members of the House to support the bill. By doing this they will be supporting our hardworking police officers and members of our communities who have the right to feel and be safe in their homes.

 **Mr HOPPER** (Condamine—KAP) (7.49 pm): As I speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 I point out that I understand the intent of this bill. I am really concerned about the innocent young people who may be captured within the intent of this bill, and I would like to address that by making a few points.

This bill introduces a range of amendments which pre-existing laws already address, which contradicts the government's mantra of reducing red tape and blue tape. In their submissions, the Queensland Law Society, the Caxton Legal Centre, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties and the Youth Advocacy Centre also question the unnecessary duplication of pre-existing laws which already deal with out-of-control events and evading police. It appears the introduction of this bill, like many before it, infringes on the charter of human rights of freedom of association and is part of a propaganda campaign run by this government. With the skilful and sustained use of propaganda, this government can make people see even heaven as hell or extremely wretched life as paradise.

Within this bill the LNP government has publicly chosen to depict all young people who reside in Queensland as having the potential to be irresponsible and to become out of control when socialising with each other. That is the part of this bill that we are extremely concerned about. This bill has potentially placed our young people in the same category as criminal motorcycle gang members when associating in numbers greater than three. It appears that the amendment has been developed as a reaction to a very small proportion of out-of-control events which have occurred. In 2013 there were about 18 events across the state, which encompasses a community of 4.6 million people. The unique aspect of those particular events is that they were outside the norm and required an 'outside the norm' policing response, not an 'outside the norm' policy response.

The out-of-control event amendment is very broad and places criminal responsibility on people within the vicinity of an out-of-control event instead of placing direct, sole responsibility on the individual who commits the criminal act. That is the point I am very concerned about. It is difficult to comprehend the logic behind this reasoning. There is a very grey area in this legislation. However, I do understand the intent of the minister putting this legislation forward, and I want to make that point clear.

I genuinely have grave concerns. I have a son who is 22 years old. He was here today in parliament having a look at the proceedings of the House. He has a lot of good friends and they are good kids. They are law-abiding citizens. In relation to the out-of-control amendment and young people's welfare, every time my son and his friends go to a party I will be very worried about his safety and his reputation being tarnished because of the possibility that he and his mates will be arrested and charged by police just because they are deemed to be at the scene or in the vicinity of an out-of-control individual, which quite often happens at a party. If a young person becomes intoxicated or something happens, quite often one or two may become out of control and that individual or individuals could be at risk of being arrested when they have played no part in that situation. That is the grey area of this bill that I am extremely concerned about. This is a concern I believe should be shared by every parent in Queensland.

Another section of the bill really concerns me and I believe it should also concern all Queenslanders, and that is the blue-tape reduction amendment. That amendment introduces the police power to issue a notice requiring a financial institution to provide information in relation to whether a person holds an account or the account name or number. Innocent people could be captured by this amendment. I believe this is a total breach of privacy. The power to issue the notice does not circumvent the need for a police officer to obtain a search warrant or to obtain financial or transaction details. Rather, it enables police to gather the necessary information for a police officer to obtain a search warrant. I encourage members of the House to take the time to read and understand the annals of history. These amendments have a benchmark that has been set in history.

We see countries overseas winding back legislation that has breached people's privacy and given police officers these powers. I ask the minister to carefully consider what we are putting to the House tonight. Once again I say that I understand the minister's intent in putting forward this legislation. If members are extremely concerned about the breach of privacy for innocent people, they should ask themselves: do we really want to head down this path?

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (7.55 pm): I rise today in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. The achievements that our government have accomplished in empowering the Queensland Police Service to effectively serve local communities and tackle the challenges that arise in the course of their duties are ones that will ensure that our communities are a safe environment in which to live, work and raise a family. Community safety has been a priority of the community of Logan and this government. Following our mandate in the 2012 state election, revitalising front-line services has been first and foremost in the minds of the government. From new technical capabilities, equipment and ultimately boots on the ground, the Queensland Police Service continues to evolve and generate new innovative practices to work with the community to build a safe and harmonious environment.

Like many others around our great state, my electorate of Logan has directly benefited from our government's investment in the QPS. Since March 2012 a total of 134 first year constables have been assigned to the Logan district. Along with my neighbouring government colleagues I can say that this allocation has had a positive impact on our region. We are grateful that after 20 years of neglect by the Queensland Labor Party our communities are finally getting the attention they deserve.

Mr Rickuss: Do you actually see police on the beat now?

Mr PUCCI: We see them everywhere. We cannot drive anywhere or walk anywhere without seeing police on the beat. We used to drive for weeks without seeing a cop car.

Through my regular meetings with the officers in charge of the three police stations that are located in my electorate it is clear that the support that our government has placed behind the Queensland Police Service is having a positive impact and is improving the quality of life in our community. In a recent conversation with a senior sergeant, he said that he has never been so well resourced with personnel and he is able to use many more strategies in keeping the community safe as a result. Finally, after decades the minority of the greater Logan population who show contempt for the law are being held accountable for their actions. As I have stated in the past, the accomplishments achieved by our government cannot reach their full potential unless the legislative mechanisms are fashioned in such a manner as to support officers on the ground.

This amendment bill is a product of the government asking the Queensland Police Service to conduct a review and identify initiatives with a potential to reduce the regulatory burden and increase operational efficiency. As a result, a range of initiatives were highlighted based on the criteria of a focus on public benefit, removing time-consuming and non-essential rules of police administration. This amendment bill focuses on blue-tape reduction, out-of-control events and evading police—all critical areas to the effective operation of our Police Service. This amendment bill removes the need for a police officer to obtain senior officer approval to take a DNA sample from a person who has proceedings against them for an indictable offence. This will enable officers to make and enforce on-the-ground decisions and expedite objectives in real time.

As a 20-year military veteran who served in hostile areas such as in the Gulf War, I can tell honourable members that this is crucial to ensuring effective operations. One of the benefits that our allies had over our enemies in previous wars was the fact that the authority to make decisions in battle was pushed down to the lowest practical level. This enabled men in the trenches to act decisively and accomplish their missions while their defeated enemy waited for instructions from a higher authority. Simply speaking, giving officers on the front line the appropriate authority to make decisions when and where they need to be made will make our communities safer. Additionally, the Police Commissioner will be able to enter into an arrangement with an appropriately qualified non-government laboratory for the analysis of DNA samples, ultimately enhancing the ability of the QPS to investigate offences and see that justice is served.

The amendment bill also allows a commissioned officer to issue a notice requiring a financial institution to provide the account name or number of a person's account. The bill further removes the need for police to advertise the disposal of a vehicle or animal in a newspaper circulating in the locality where the vehicle or animal was seized and permits notification on the QPS website. Further regulatory reform removes the requirement for the police to leave a notice when providing relief to a distressed animal through the provision of food, water or release from entanglement. Can you imagine if your family pet was hurt or, worse, died due to an officer not being able to help because the officer had to get permission first to give some water or feed the dog or untangle it from around the laundry post?

This amendment bill will also focus on out-of-control events. These incidents impose a heavy burden on police resources and significantly impede the delivery of policing capabilities to the broader community. Whilst police have always dealt with antisocial behaviour admirably, the impact that social media has contributed to the exponential nature of these events tests the abilities of the Police Service. This amendment bill will provide additional powers available to any police officer in responding to an event. These powers include the power to enter a place without a warrant, the power to direct any person to stop any conduct, the power to direct any person to immediately leave a place, and the power to take any other steps a police officer considers reasonably necessary.

This bill also provides culpability for those organising an event which becomes an out-of-control event. The parents are to be held liable if they allow a child to organise the event. Such events will no longer be tolerated, and in line with our government's stance on addressing these social media parties and working with the community we can maintain decorum in our streets. This amendment bill does recognise that external circumstances often affect the outcome of what was originally intended to be a quiet and private function. Mitigating circumstances are taken into account if the person can prove that they took reasonable steps in the circumstances to prevent the event from becoming an out-of-control event.

This bill also amends provisions with regard to offenders evading police while operating a motor vehicle. The evade police offence was created as an alternative to police continuing pursuits of vehicles and to ensure sufficient deterrent existed as the QPS adopted a more restrictive police pursuit policy. In 2012 the government amended the evade police provision to impose a mandatory minimum penalty of 50 penalty units or \$5,500 by way of a fine and a two-year disqualification period from holding or obtaining a driver's licence. The purpose of this amendment was to ensure that the penalties remained commensurate with the risks posed by those who evade police.

This bill is a representation of the nature of our government. It is one of action, and the people of Logan understand that action has to be taken. The inactivity of the Labor government and its history of a weak approach to dealing with the antisocial issues our community faces have undoubtedly damaged Queensland communities. But now with a strong local voice representing the people of our community, the needs of Logan will always remain front and centre in the thoughts and minds of this strong LNP government. I commend the efforts of the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. I also commend the ongoing efforts of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its expeditious review of this legislation and its role in ensuring that Queensland remains a great state with great opportunities and the best place in Australia to live, work, invest and play. I support the passage of this bill through the House.

 **Mrs FRANCE** (Pumicestone—LNP) (8.02 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The proposed amendments benefit the community by improving the efficiency of the delivery of police services and the efficiency of police resources. This amendment bill supports our government's commitment to revitalise front-line services, and I am proud to be part of a government that delivers on its promises. Our government's commitment to revitalise front-line services has certainly been felt in the electorate of Pumicestone with the addition of 20 new police for our area to work alongside our hardworking policemen and women. I have had numerous comments from residents asking what is going on with policing in our area, as they are suddenly seeing police everywhere. For me as the state member it is wonderful to be able to deliver on our election promise, support my local police and see that our residents are benefiting from a safer community.

This amendment bill also addresses the issue of out-of-control events such as Facebook parties that involve large groups of people engaged in antisocial behaviour that generally instil fear into neighbours and the surrounding community. Out-of-control events place heavy burdens on policing resources from all around the area and leave other areas of our community exposed and underresourced. Many participants of these out-of-control events become subject to mob mentality to the point that bottles, bricks and even fence palings have been thrown at police officers and community members. These out-of-control events not only impact the immediate area of the party but broader areas as attendees disperse and continue to commit offences as they go.

Whilst police officers have powers to deal with breaches of the peace, public nuisance offences and affray, none of these offences are targeted at persons who organise events which become out of control and are frequently undertaken for financial gain. Parents responsible for either allowing their child to hold the event or contributing to the out-of-control event through inadequate supervision cannot be held accountable under current laws. Furthermore, existing noise abatement and move-on powers are not always applicable to instances of out-of-control events. This bill enables police officers to undertake actions reasonably necessary to prevent an event from becoming an out-of-control event where it is suspected to do so and will also act as a deterrent to organisers of such events. I commend the minister on his leadership and endeavours in making our community safer, and I am pleased to support the amendments contained in this bill.

 **Mr KAYE** (Greenslopes—LNP) (8.05 pm): It is indeed a great pleasure to rise in the House tonight to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 and show my support for this bill. I thought I would give a short contribution with just a few personal experiences. I firstly thank the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services for bringing this bill before the House. As most members in this place would be aware, I spent 23 years in the Police Service and 22 years and six months of that was spent on the front line. I am extremely passionate about anything to do with law and order and making the job for our policemen and women and their support staff easier. Of course, probably more importantly I am extremely passionate about making our communities a safer place.

I will speak on a couple of sections of the bill which caught my eye, and the first is removing the need for approval from a senior officer for a DNA sample to be taken for an indictable offence. From personal experience, depending on the time of day or night, that can be very difficult and add valuable

time to completing that task, which of course takes you away from what you should be doing. DNA sample analysis being able to be taken by other qualified non-government laboratories is certainly a step in the right direction. I note that the member for Rockhampton said that it was a bit of a furphy that there was a delay, but I can certainly assure him that there have been delays for many years in relation to DNA sample analysis which has had a big impact on the officers concerned and a big impact on the court process.

Turning quickly to other examples of removing unnecessary blue tape, I refer to the issue of postal service for notices to appear for traffic offences. Again, I give that a big tick because that will save a lot of time. In terms of removing the requirement for leaving notices when providing relief to distressed animals, having been in that circumstance myself and trying to find the nearest tree to stick the notice on was really a challenge. With regard to removing the necessity for a copy of the PPRA to be made available at a police station, I never, ever—and not to my knowledge have any of my colleagues that I worked with—had somebody walk in and ask for a copy of the PPRA. Indeed, at the time that this requirement was introduced we had access to the internet and the legislation was online. It was something that was never required.

In terms of noise complaints, I have had many occasions where with recidivist offenders you would be back six or seven times over a period of days. As soon as that 12-hour period was over, you would be back there again. The shift from 12 hours to 96 hours is certainly a step in the right direction as well. It is fantastic. In relation to noise complaints, indeed when I first started in the police you actually had to go to the place in the house where the person complaining would reasonably be expected to be at that time of the day and listen to the noise and form the opinion that the noise was excessive. Quite often I found myself standing in a couple's bedroom while the wife was in bed and I was there talking to the husband saying, 'Yes, indeed that's excessive.' It then changed and of course we did not have to go to the complainants' house. One of the most important things was that many times people would ring up and say that they wanted to complain about the noise, but when you asked them for their details they would refuse to give them because they were scared of their neighbours. Indeed, not having to have a name for an official complaint is again a step in the right direction.

Most of my service was carried out in suburban areas. Indeed, during the early years in the job and probably to about the halfway mark, if you turned up to what would be deemed now as an out-of-control event most people would scurry away at the sight of the police car or the van turning up. However, in the latter years, they would stop and come towards you. Indeed, we saw at Acacia Ridge a police officer getting hit in the head with a brick and damage et cetera. At Holland Park there was an out-of-control event where police were injured, partygoers were injured, police vehicles were damaged and neighbours' property was damaged.

As I said, I am certainly passionate about protecting our police, but I am more passionate about protecting our community. That is why I became a police officer in the first place. I found some of the comments tonight from the other side of the House quite offensive and I am sure some of my former colleagues would find them offensive as well. Police exercise common sense. It is as simple as that. We put a lot of trust and faith in our police and they are very good at the job that they do.

I sincerely congratulate and commend the minister for these common-sense and long overdue amendments. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the hardworking men and women of the Queensland Police Service along with all of their support staff for the excellent job that they do. It is often a thankless job and certainly one that is performed under very difficult circumstances. I am certainly proud to be part of a government that puts the safety of our community first and supports our police.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—UAP) (8.11 pm): There is a common theme in this type of legislation that is being presented to parliament by the LNP government. It is presenting this legislation at a time that it holds the position that unlawfulness and antisocial behaviour is worse than ever before and, by default, must be suppressed and punished. That is false and is unsupported by evidence. The LNP also holds that we must not be a nanny state nor be constrained by excessive red tape—read regulation or laws. The sum total of those arguments today is that this legislation that is being introduced is preventive and will guarantee peace and quiet in our suburbs. The LNP sees it as a deterrence and, to quote the member for Ipswich, a game changer. This is an exaggeration and the type of response that is used to justify laws such as the VLAD laws.

I thought that the arguments put forward by the member for Ipswich were almost correct. He raised the issue of hierarchical levels in what is being proposed and some level of modernity to the legislation. He proposed that parties, youth, irrational behaviour and intolerance of adults is somewhat

new. It is not. It has been consistent throughout time. It was a very elegant presentation but, unfortunately, the argument was hollow. The member for Ipswich finally said that deterrence is the justification for these types of laws, but that cannot be sustained on the basis of evidence either. But he is correct that there are patterns of recurring identical or lookalike antisocial party activity of random groups joining together for group mayhem after organising on the internet. But that does not mean that there needs to be the next legislative step of drafting new laws to control it.

There are a lot of good things to say about the internet and all the positives that come from it. It would seem that there are a few aspects that we all wish were never invented or are exacerbated by its invention. But that does not mean that the existing laws are inadequate. There is no evidence to support that they are not. Certainly, Facebook and other social media-driven parties, without proper planning, clearly fall into the category where they are more difficult to address, but to jump to bringing in new, extreme laws seems excessive. There is nowhere near the type of criminal or degrading behaviour of internet fraud, pornography or paedophile groups. Certainly, the parties organised online are causing more mayhem than a flash mob, but essentially there is a flash-mob element to it and we have laws for that. These maximal based laws are disproportionate and, therefore, they are wrong.

The problems have been multiple levels of unlawful behaviour, the disregard of police direction, the wanton destruction of property, threats to neighbours with actual violence, the overconsumption of drugs or alcohol—effectively anything—and almost a total lack of warning. But the laws of affray, assault, disobeying a police direction, public drunkenness et cetera all still apply and were detailed by a number of speakers tonight. To date, the police have not been powerless to act. Rather, they have been reluctant to act. They have had difficulty identifying gatecrashers and the reports by some people who call the police about them are not always true. A lot of times they are. There exists powers for the police to control riots and address drunks, but unreasonable parents certainly have to be held accountable. There are laws for that. Where there is a clear association between them and the events and the police on private property, there has been an ability to take action. Certainly, where there is doubt it has and will continue to be difficult to take action.

These laws will not change those things overnight, nor will they change them in the long term. There are continuing stories in almost every media publication detailing the problem and how widespread it is. Some participants have achieved infamy by organising such events. The member for Sunnybank detailed one such event tonight. The same media outlets championing the extent of the problem also champion the infamous offenders. They are even rung by the same media for their stories. The price is being paid by the wider community, but is it claiming police time and resources? The evidence is that it is not really a significant problem when compared to everything else.

The bill introduces a new offence of failing to stop a vehicle when the driver of the vehicle is directed to do so by a police officer. Essentially, the argument for that offence is being driven by a need to cover the inability of police to engage in pursuits owing to the restrictive police pursuit policies of the QPS. This is a new policy and it has been supported. Of course, it is no secret that it came in after needless deaths and harm to innocent bystanders and also to some offenders owing to high-speed and dangerous pursuits by police. Police officers now have greater tools, including online information of the residential location of identified offenders whether by description or numberplates. These tools can be used to apprehend offenders at their homes, and they are already.

The fine imposed seems disproportionately large at \$5,500, but the two-year driving disqualification seems appropriate. Again, there seems to be another comparative approach to the judiciary when the courts have decided on having a range of sentencing options. The Campbell Newman government has a head-in-the-sand attitude that the judiciary does not or will never get it right and cannot be given a range of options for sentencing. This is ridiculous. The sentence must fit the crime and the bench has a far greater capacity to understand and impose those conditions or others that suit the crime. There does not appear to be any evidence to support the government's position. Therefore, this is unjustified.

I support the changes to the law regarding impounding vehicles. This is going to be a continuously divisive issue. These offenders with vehicle problems are very cunning and they think they can do anything to fool any authority. Any law that comes in to try to deal with them is part of the game that they participate in. So really, most of the laws with regard to those offenders certainly have to be innovative. I appreciate that the legislation has to cover those. There is a range of other amendments contained in the bill, some which are reasonable enough. They include amendments for forensics to access financial account information and DNA evidence. I have heard some of the arguments about them. Personally, I think they are reasonable.

These changes will probably not change the culture of parties emanating from Facebook or chat groups or anything else that comes along. They may not even make the police task any easier. Therefore, on that basis alone one has to question them. The charges that are proposed to be laid upon offenders are excessive. They may deter parents from failing to exercise proper care and responsibility of these young adults—and some of them not so young—under their care or their friends, but the most likely scenario is that they will not. That view is based on overseas evidence. Despite a decline in the state of families, sadly, there is an increasing culture of a lack of care. There is also a denial of both responsibility and the proactive management of activities that are likely to get out of control involving children and parents. Despite that, laws that may look like a knee-jerk, excessive response will achieve nothing or will achieve a negative result for implementing them.

There are some juveniles and young adults who have no regard for the rights of others. I know a little bit about this: I did 20 years of looking after them in prisons and in custodial environments. All of these groups need to understand that there are consequences to actions. This is not new. Recorded history states that this is the norm. Our current laws address these actions satisfactorily. I accept that there is a community unhappiness with what has occurred to date, but no-one wants to stop young people enjoying themselves or gathering with friends. There must always be a considered, proportionate response to serious problems. Under that criteria, these laws do not seem to qualify. They are disproportionately excessive.

I have been the victim of one of these out-of-control events. A number of people in my electorate have been involved. The damages bill can be quite excessive. In most cases the victims tend to go and see their local members, as I did in the past, and ask what they can do. I was told to look at my insurance. That is what I have often told people who have come to see me and I have apologised for what occurred. In most cases life does move on. I am very sensitive to what is occurring and those who suffer from it, but to introduce laws which are disproportionate is not the way to solve the problem.

 **Mr YOUNG** (Keppel—LNP) (8.20 pm): I rise to support the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I cannot stress enough the need to see this bill enacted as soon as possible and applaud the minister and the cabinet for their work in bringing this bill to fruition. Yeppoon recently had a Facebook party with a 500-strong attendance which turned into a mini riot. Police were pelted with bottles, their patrol cars smashed and an ambulance officer assaulted in the line of duty. This party had 1,300 people expected to attend but 500 were enough to cause the mayhem, with partygoers under the age of 18 consuming alcohol and drugs.

This bill tackles the increasing occurrences of antisocial behaviour and out-of-control parties which prove to be problematic for law enforcers and police. This bill enables police officers with authorisation to commence measures to shut down, control and prevent a party from becoming an out-of-control event. It provides police officers the power of entry to premises without a warrant. Police need to immediately respond to control these types of events prior to the mob mentality kicking in and anarchy reigning supreme. When this happens you see houses, including neighbouring properties, damaged, vehicles damaged, public assets vandalised and even the partygoers themselves turning on each other with acts of violence. This bill strikes the balance between the rights of individuals and the safety of the community in general.

This bill will introduce new offences for those who organise a defined out-of-control party, but at the same time provides an offence for a person who can display that they have taken all reasonable steps to prevent the event from becoming out-of-control. Section 53BJ makes it an offence to disobey a direction of a police officer and further penalties will apply for those persons who damage or destroy, or threaten to destroy, any property; assault, or threaten to assault, any person; or throw items in a manner which endangers the life, health and safety of a person. New penalties will also apply for those persons deemed gatecrashers who, after being refused entry, engage in antisocial behaviour in the vicinity of the event. Another important aspect of this bill will introduce new measures to create alternative penalties for evading police whilst in the operation of a motor vehicle. The alternative penalty will now be a custodial sentence instead of 50 penalty points.

Understanding the massive growth in social media and the threat of hundreds of people arriving on your door seeking entry to a private party, and the very real possibility of personal injury and property damage, I applaud this new legislation to assist police officers in often confrontational situations such as these events. The Yeppoon event and similar events around Queensland give rise to the clear expectation of the wider community that police need to have the tools and mechanisms in place to control these events and have appropriate penalties in place to act as a deterrent so that this antisocial behaviour will not be tolerated.

This bill also introduces measures for obtaining blue-tape reduction. Part of the review carried out by the Queensland Police Service is to identify areas where regulatory burden could be reduced, along with removing time-consuming processes on non-essential rules that impact on effectiveness and operational efficiency. Senior police officer approval will not be required to obtain a DNA sample for an indictable offence, along with utilising an appropriately qualified non-government laboratory for the analysis of DNA samples. This bill allows the Commissioner of Police to enter into those arrangements. This will fast track investigations dependent on timely evidence analysis. These and other blue-tape reduction measures will deliver substantial benefits to front-line policing and enhanced service delivery to the wider Queensland community. I wish to thank the minister, departmental staff and the committee for their work in the preparation of this bill.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (8.24 pm): I rise to support the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. This bill delivers on the government's commitment to continually reduce red tape, and in this case blue tape, and bolster the effectiveness and efficiency of front-line police services. More importantly, the bill is another step towards helping the majority of Queenslanders who are law-abiding citizens to feel safe in their own communities. One of the important provisions in this bill is the introduction of laws to address the increasing occurrence of out-of-control events. Over the weekend we see reports of parties that have gotten out of control, and from the anecdotal evidence I get from talking to my constituents I know that there are many others we do not see on the news. The efficiency of social media and its ability to gather a crowd at short notice, in combination with excessive alcohol consumption and possible drug use and a mob mentality, can create highly volatile situations that sometimes do explode. Ordinary citizens should not have to put up with threats, violence and property damage in otherwise peaceful neighbourhoods. There is a clear expectation in the community that police need to be able to disperse these types of gatherings and also be able to put a stop to them as soon as there are signs of them getting out of control. What is more, our policemen and women should be able to perform these tasks without being impeded or assaulted with all manner of weapons in the process.

Some have suggested that this bill might be open to misinterpretation or abuse. However, the bill provides clear definitions of what constitutes an out-of-control event and the types of behaviours that are unacceptable. There is also a requirement for a senior police officer to authorise the use of special out-of-control event powers and I believe the measures put in place will ensure that laws resulting from this bill are not open to abuse or misinterpretation by our front-line men and women police officers.

Let me also address another expectation that comes across loud and clear from my constituents. Whenever we hear things like mobs or teenagers engaging in antisocial behaviour one of the first questions that is always asked is where are the parents. This bill at least goes some way to addressing that question. Currently there is no provision under the law for a parent or guardian to be held responsible for allowing their child to hold an event that gets out of control, nor can they be held accountable for effectively contributing to the situation through lack of supervision. The provisions in this bill challenge parents, who were in a position to prevent an out-of-control event from happening, to step up and take responsibility for their role and be liable for the consequences under the law. Having said that, I understand that there can be exceptional circumstances where parents are genuinely unable to prevent events spiralling out of control despite their best efforts and as such I note that the bill provides defences where reasonable efforts have been made and I commend the minister for including these allowances.

People are more than entitled to enjoy social gatherings, but the message from the people of Queensland is clear: gatherings that escalate to being antisocial and out-of-control will not be accepted. People want to feel safe in their own homes, neighbourhoods and communities. Another important objective of this bill is to help our police more effectively and efficiently gather evidence against offenders. This bill implements such practical measures as improving the requirement for senior officer approval for DNA samples to be taken from a person charged with an indictable offence. It also allows for implementing the resources of non-government laboratories.

The requirement for financial institutions to provide basic information in a timely manner when asked to do so will help officers in many cases more quickly compile the information necessary to obtain a search warrant. The expansion of what is authorised under a surveillance device warrant to include better planning of the installation of such devices is also a welcome development that will minimise the risk to people and equipment when such exercises are undertaken.

A concern that is regularly voiced in my community is the length of time involved in bringing offenders to justice and, conversely, the length of time that innocent people may be subjected to the judicial process. I believe that allowing police to do their job more effectively and making the process of gathering evidence more efficient is a huge step towards allaying those concerns.

Finally, I note the provisions of the bill to amend section 754 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. This is designed to ensure that sentences handed down by the courts to offenders who have intentionally evaded police meet community expectations. I refer to the report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee whose inquiry found that similar amendments were included in the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) Amendment Bill 2013 and so recommended that clause 39 of the bill be omitted. I note that the recommendations were supported in the government's response.

However, given the ongoing feeling of resentment in the wider community towards the leniency of sentencing that is often given to offenders, I fully support the objectives that the clauses seek to achieve. I thank the minister, his department and the committee for their diligence and hard work in bringing this bill before the parliament and for those efforts that seek to make our community safer and more enjoyable places.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (8.29 pm): It is with pleasure that I rise to support the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I thank the minister for bringing this bill before the House. As a government, we are revitalising front-line services, we are getting Queensland back on track and, through legislation such as this, the honourable minister is improving the efficiencies not only of our great police force but also of our government. As the House would know, I am always trumpeting on about the wonderful reforms that our ministers and our government are implementing as we constantly strive to achieve a 20 per cent reduction in red tape. The Hon. Minister Dempsey brings before this House a blue-tape reform. I am looking forward to Minister's Dempsey's blue-tape reforms adding to the government's red-tape reforms that we are working so hard towards achieving. The blue-tape reforms included in this bill reflect our ongoing commitment to reducing the regulatory burden on and increasing efficiencies within the Queensland public sector. As I have stated, the state can make many savings through efficiencies and through cutting and slashing onerous burdens. In this case that will not necessarily affect small business, which I often talk about, but it will affect the hardworking men and women who make up the great Queensland Police Service, as well as the great men and women who make up the Queensland Public Service as they continually administer the legislation.

The initiatives proposed in the bill, and tonight many members tonight have talked about this, will contribute to our efforts to remove time-consuming or nonessential rules impacting operational policing efficiencies. For example, until this legislation is enacted, notices have to be given for a police officer to untangle a distressed animal. This legislation mirrors what our government is doing to get the state back on track. We are bringing common sense into legislation and we are moving with the times. This minister, his department and our government have listened to the police, such as the wonderful police officers who reside in the Nanango electorate. Many times they have spoken to us about the onerous pieces of regulation that they are required to abide by. For example, they have to place an ad in the local paper for the proposed sale of a seized vehicle. In this day and age, how ridiculous is that? I thank the minister for the proposed amendments in that regard, which will save money for every single taxpayer as there will be no need to pay for a ridiculous ad that no-one would read. We are moving with the times; people will be able to simply and efficiently access such information from the police website. Our government is about getting the state back on track.

I am very fortunate to represent the great electorate of Nanango. Through my Facebook page I have sought comments about our proposed amendments in relation to the so-called Facebook parties. I was extremely pleased with the support that I received from local residents in relation to giving the hardworking men and women of the police force more power over those out-of-control parties. In the Nanango electorate we are extremely fortunate not to have had too many such parties. As a mother, I am quite sure that my three daughters would never involve themselves in such parties. That is the mother in me speaking. However, because out-of-control parties are completely out of the control of parents, we need to ensure that if and when such parties do take place in our good towns and cities our forces—and not only the police, but also our ambulance services and our emergency services personnel—have the ability to control the parties. For too long the good men and women of the beat have been shackled. Therefore, I am so pleased to stand here as a member of this can-do government and support this legislation.

Some of the stories we hear about Facebook parties are simply incredible. One mum wrote on my Facebook page—

It is disappointing that legislation has to be enacted to ensure basic invitation etiquette and respect. However, we are at this point and I for one would want the police to be able to assist to address out-of-control events and parties driven through social media.

I thank my constituent for saying that, because she is absolutely right. We need our hardworking men and women of the police force and our other emergency services, for example, the ambulance officers who are so often called to these parties because of the damage done by the sheer mob mentality of some of the people in attendance. That is not to say that every teenage child of Queensland acts in this way or has that mob mentality. That is not what our government is saying. Through this legislation, we are ensuring that the right people have the right ability to do the right thing.

This legislation is all about common sense. I say to young people, by all means have a party. However, the community is calling for those parties to be sensible, for the police to be able to do their job if the party gets out of hand and for the people involved to take some responsibility. Our message to the organisers of out-of-control events that turn unruly and dangerous and put other people's children, other people's mums and dads and the good people of our services in danger, is that this will no longer be tolerated. I am proud to stand here as part of a government that is concerned about reducing crime. The member for Broadwater talked about the 20 per cent reduction in crime on the Gold Coast. That is because our can-do government has made available the right resources to our wonderful Police Service.

I reiterate that we came to this election to revitalise front-line services. Minister Dempsey, his department and his hardworking police force are doing precisely that. Our can-do government is revitalising front-line services and I am proud to be part of a government that sticks by its promises. We will not stand around for 20 years doing nothing. We are a can-do government and I am proud to be a part of it. The Nanango electorate is very happy that we have taken this step towards reducing crime.

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (8.39 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 which is perhaps not as lengthy as the member for Nanango's contribution but hopefully as passionate. Law and order is a big priority for our government and something we certainly will not shy away from. The opposition has focused on one part of our determined fight for law and order, but I can assure members that it is something that will remain a priority of this government. We will deal with what are deemed very petty matters right up to the most serious.

We have seen too often suburban parties spiral out of control, with people spilling onto the streets and causing havoc. That causes neighbours to live in fear. They wake up to damaged property. Police have been hospitalised. Ambulance officers have been assaulted. Partygoers have been injured.

Times have changed and the changes to these laws ensure we are changing with them. We have seen individuals take pride in irresponsibly pulling hundreds of people together by spreading the word online. These people must be held to account. There must be some punishment for those going out and advertising these parties on social media without supervision or security.

I have seen the scenes of mayhem from across the state many times, but one of these events sticks in my mind because it is from my own patch—my own electorate of Mundingburra. In September 2011 seven police cars were forced to respond to a house party in Heatley after it was advertised on Facebook. Neighbours were forced to make the call to police about excessive noise and disorder. Initially there were just a handful of partygoers. But this is how it starts. All of a sudden, multiple car loads of revellers arrived. The situation escalated out of hand. Within moments over 100 people spilt out onto the streets.

Our community cannot afford to continuously pump police resources into these kinds of parties time and time again. They are putting themselves and the surrounding community in danger. These laws are a deterrent to anyone who thinks that they can get away scot-free with throwing a party like this. Under the new laws a person who organises a party that becomes an out-of-control event, their parents or gatecrashers face a maximum penalty of 12 months jail or \$12,100. If police face aggravated and violent circumstances when shutting down wild parties, the party organisers may face fines of up to \$18,150 or three years in prison.

Some people say we are moving with the times. Some people say we are making the community safer. What I particularly like about this is that it makes people take responsibility for their actions. We cannot have the situation where just because something is modern or just because it is difficult it should not be policed. We cannot have a situation where people are responsible for something but do not bear the consequences. That is the fundamental principle of any good society. It is the way we raise our children—every action has a consequence. Just because that action is not taken in a traditional way and just because it is done by electronic means does not mean that somebody should not take responsibility. There are no excuses. People must accept responsibility for their actions.

I say to the opposition who have attempted to defend a position which is very difficult that what the community need right across the political spectrum is leadership on issues like this. I absolutely struggle to think how anyone can mount a credible argument against holding people responsible for their actions. That is something that should unify the left and right. It does not make sense that we should live in a society where people are not held accountable.

Every Queenslanders deserves the right to feel safe. Two years ago we said we would make our community a safer place. These laws as well as a swathe of others which have been introduced by this government represent the first steps taken towards coming good on that promise.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (8.43 pm): I rise tonight to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. This bill further delivers on our commitment to strengthen front-line policing and implements an out-of-control events scheme in order for police to respond effectively to increasingly common Facebook parties or open house parties.

Like the member for Nanango, I have been enjoying a little bit of dialogue with some constituents on Facebook. Today one constituent particularly said, 'Why do we need to introduce these laws? Isn't the existing Criminal Code sufficient to deal with this?' My response was, 'There are certainly provisions within the current Criminal Code, but some laws were written before social media existed so amendments are required to keep pace with the changes and make sure that we have the powers the police need to take effective action in these changing times.'

The Newman government is committed to making Queensland the safest place in Australia to live and raise a family. Our tough stance on law and order has been unwavering. We make no apologies for introducing some of the toughest laws in Australia in respect of serious crime, sexual offenders and criminal motorcycle gangs.

It is interesting that this morning on *Today*, Peter Gleeson, the editor of the *Sunday Mail*, former editor of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* and the *Townsville Bulletin* and former chief of staff of many years experience on Gold Coast, had a little bit to say. I was really surprised and encouraged by his support because he is one of those battle hardened journalists who can tend to be a bit cynical. I would not say that he has ever done our side of politics any great favours. This was his response to the question that Lisa Wilkinson raised with him. Lisa Wilkinson said—

Queensland Premier Campbell Newman's bikie crackdown could have backfired just a little.

Here is what Peter Gleeson, the editor of the *Sunday Mail*, had to say—

No I don't Lisa. I think the Premier has shown a lot of courage in relation to cracking down on bikies. I think in 20-30 years time Queenslanders will thank the Premier for the way he's taken the lead on this. The bottom line is that the bikies themselves, their lawyers, and the judiciary have sold Queenslanders a pup on this. These guys are sophisticated criminal enterprises, the bikies. They peddle in drugs, they peddle in aggression, and they affect people's lives the wrong way. Newman and Bleijie have shown courage. They should be applauded for what they've done. The reality is that Campbell Newman will win the next election. He might cop a little bit of bark off along the way. But he's making some very tough calls at the moment and I think Queensland will be a better place as a result and I think this is a legacy issue for Campbell Newman. I do think that he will want to be known as the Premier who disassembled the bikies.

Lisa Wilkinson's response to that was, 'I think you're right there.'

Mr Bleijie: And you contrast that to the shadow police minister who does not support police officers.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am happy to take that interjection from the Attorney-General.

At one of my listening posts I set up on Saturday morning I had so many people from Keebra Park, one of the tougher suburbs in my electorate, come down just to say how pleased they were with how well the Gold Coast is tracking at the moment and what a great summer season we have had. Many of them came to me prior to the election saying that they were worried about drugs being dealt at the shops up the road. One lady came to see to me prior to the election. She was really concerned

about a few households up the street where she lived where there was regular illegal activity. She came down again on Saturday just to say, 'Please pass on my thanks to the Premier for the reforms. It is great to see the police back out on the streets. It is great to see the Gold Coast back in control.'

In order to keep Queenslanders safe, though, it is imperative that our police officers are equipped with the best resources and powers to deal with crime and antisocial behaviour. Increasing the capacity of the Queensland Police force will mean increased safety for our kids—those in our community who are most at risk. The rise of the Facebook party has presented significant problems for our front-line police officers. Hundreds of intoxicated, often underage, teenagers descend on a property for an advertised party whether the host has intentionally or unintentionally invited them.

Like the member for Nanango, as a father of four boys, not three girls, we have had a few 18ths and 21sts at our home on the Gold Coast. As a parent, it is a bit of a challenge. We undertook all the measures members would expect. We contacted parents, we letterbox dropped the neighbourhood, we had a door list and I invited about 10 of my biggest mates over to provide a bit of security. We had other parents arranged at the end of the evening to ferry kids home who perhaps should not be making their own way home. Even with all those measures in place it was a challenge to keep other kids out who had heard about the party third- or second-hand through Facebook, other social media or text messages.

These reforms are important. Additional powers available to police responding to these out-of-control events will be required to satisfy set criteria including power to enter any place without warrant, power to direct any person to stop any conduct, power to direct any person to immediately leave a place and power to take any steps a police officer considers reasonably necessary. Unfortunately, these additional powers are now required by police officers confronted by scenes of chaos at out-of-control parties. The bill also provides for increased penalties for those found responsible for organising the events, including parents of children.

I love the fact that this is a part of this legislation, because there are far too many parents who are not taking responsibility for their children and somehow expect that it is the teachers, it is the schools, it is the police and it is the community organisers and community leaders in various organisations and charitable organisations and sporting clubs who should be taking responsibility. But it is completely reasonable that parents should be liable if they allow a child to organise an out-of-control event. We need to take personal responsibility for antisocial behaviour, and parents have a huge part to play in taking that responsibility in working with their children.

Offenders, and their parents, may face hefty fines or even jail time if they are found guilty under the out-of-control events scheme. The maximum penalty will be 110 penalty units—up to \$12,100—or a year's imprisonment, and the sentence increases to 165 penalty units or three years imprisonment, if the organiser has no lawful authority to use the place for an event. Organisers of Facebook parties and out-of-control events are not just wasting police resources and encouraging senseless violence and property damage; many of these events are undertaken for profit. The community has had enough of alcohol and drug fuelled violence stemming from these suburban parties, and the people responsible need to be held accountable.

We have seen some great outcomes for Queenslanders as a result of the Newman government's law and order reforms. As I mentioned earlier, over the Christmas summer period we have seen a significant lift in tourist visitors and confidence has returned—tourism of course is one of our four pillars. The Minister for Tourism needs to be congratulated on her work and the special theme park campaign that has been run. I know that that has been a contributor but also a major contributor has been the fact that families feel safe to return to the Gold Coast. Just before Christmas the *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported that crime statistics on the Gold Coast in some areas had fallen by as much as 60 per cent across the city as a direct consequence of the government's crackdown on criminal motorcycle gangs. As I talk to people around my electorate, it is easy to see the difference this has made. The perception of crime has drastically reduced, and it is having an impact on the Gold Coast.

This government makes no apologies for its tough policy on law and order. In fact, I would like to think this government will be remembered for its tough stance on law and order. I am proud to stand in this chamber as a member of the government that will not stand by while crime and antisocial behaviour infiltrates our communities and affects our livelihood and, more importantly, impacts significantly on the health and wellbeing of our kids. I support the Minister for Police and Community Safety and his excellent initiatives in this bill.

 **Mr HOLSWICH** (Pine Rivers—LNP) (8.52 pm): I am very pleased to offer a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 and, like many other members this evening, I will confine the majority of my contribution to the sections of this bill dealing with out-of-control events. It is unfortunate that such a bill is even required. It is unfortunate that small sections of our society see it as appropriate to interfere with the rights of other Queenslanders through their disrespectful, violent and inappropriate behaviours.

However, we all too often see examples of this type of behaviour, as was the case on a Saturday night late last month on Narangba Road in Kallangur, in the electorate bordering mine, when a 38-year-old father, a 36-year-old mother and their two children both under the age of eight were driving on Narangba Road when around 150 partygoers spilled out on to the road, surrounded the car, jumped on the car and reportedly exposed themselves to the family inside the car who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. If that was not bad enough, the partygoers then proceeded to attack a police car while the hardworking QPS officers did their job and tried to disperse the crowd and detain the offenders.

I hate to think what it must have been like for that family driving on Narangba Road when people jumped onto their car. I cannot imagine the impact that had and the impact it probably still has on their children. As a parent how would you convince your children to get in the car again after dark once they have had that experience thanks to an out-of-control party that spilled out onto the street? I cannot imagine how intimidated and unsafe neighbours felt when all of this was taking place. In fact, that very night two of my own children were asleep in a house only two streets away from where this out-of-control party was taking place. It fills me with a great sense of unease to think of this happening anywhere near my children.

I find this behaviour abhorrent and I know almost without exception that every Pine Rivers resident would have been utterly appalled by this sort of behaviour on our local streets and in our community. Such blatant disrespect for neighbours, motorists, communities and our law enforcement authorities deserves harsh punishment. With that in mind I will be very comfortable in voting for this bill to pass through this parliament.

The powers contained within this bill will give police more power to respond swiftly to out-of-control events, as defined in the bill. They will allow police the power to enter any out-of-control event without warrant, the power to direct any person to stop any conduct, the power to direct any person to immediately leave a place and the power to take any other steps the police officer considers reasonably necessary to bring an end to an out-of-control event.

These additional police powers go hand in hand with tough sentences for offenders and, importantly, where offenders are minors, for the parents to be liable for out-of-control events in certain situations. As a couple of the previous contributions have mentioned this evening, this is about people taking responsibility for their actions and about parents taking responsibility for their children's actions, and I am certainly fully in favour of that.

I sincerely hope that the threat of fines of \$12,100 or \$18,150 or even one-year and three-year jail terms will act as a deterrent and will ensure party organisers and parents of party organisers take more responsibility for their own events. My intuition, though, and past history tell me that this will not stop all instances, and in those instances I look forward, without apology, to seeing these tough penalties in force.

In responses to my 2012 Pine Rivers annual survey, 82 per cent of respondents indicated that they do not believe current sentencing reflects community standards. I am sure that those 82 per cent of respondents will be pleased to see the introduction of these new laws and new penalties for out-of-control events. I also recently conducted a survey into alcohol fuelled violence. I had 841 respondents to that survey. One of those responses that I was reading earlier this evening made the comment that if people are not scared of the consequences they will not care how they behave. So I am very pleased to see these consequences being brought in. These laws are firm, these laws are fair and these laws will make our community safer.

Before I conclude my contribution I will make a few brief comments on other sections of this bill and preface those comments with this statement: anything we can do to reduce the administrative workload of police officers is a step in the right direction. We need our police officers out on the street tackling serious crime, hooning, traffic offences and break and enters. We do not need them sitting at a desk for longer than they absolutely have to. We see in this legislation practical steps such as removing the need for a police officer to obtain senior officer approval to take a DNA sample in particular circumstances; removing the need for police to advertise the disposal of a vehicle or animal

in a newspaper circulating in the locality where the vehicle or animal was seized; and extending the period of a noise abatement direction from 12 hours to 96 hours. These are sensible changes to reduce administrative burdens on police officers and to speed up their processes.

This bill is delivering on the Newman government's election commitment to revitalise front-line services. This bill empowers police, this bill lessens the burden of administrative red tape on police and this bill will make our communities safer. I commend the minister for introducing this bill and I am pleased to give it my support.

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (8.58 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. Can I say that the current Minister for Police is a person whom I have a great deal of regard for. I know that he has worked in the Police Service and I know that he has a great care for the police who have to administer our legislation. I also have great respect for the police who work in my electorate. They are a great bunch of people. They are just coming out of a cycle where they have worked under a great deal of pressure, and certainly we found it difficult to get police officers to come to the region because of the high cost of living. So I know from discussions with various police over a long period of time that there are aspects of their work that they find very frustrating. They find it frustrating when those who in the past have perpetrated quite serious crimes are apparently slapped on the wrist and let go. I know that some of the tightening of the sentences has been more than welcomed by them.

I do have concerns, however, in relation to some parts of this legislation. I am concerned that in the whole approach to the legislation we again appear to be targeting those people who in normal circumstances are doing the right thing and not targeting those who are doing the wrong thing. The definition of an out-of-control event is multiple. It has to reach these thresholds: 12 or more people are gathered; three or more people associated with the event are out of control; and when the out-of-control conduct would cause a person at or near the event to be reasonably fearful or to believe that a person would suffer substantial interference with their rights and freedoms or peaceful passage through, or enjoyment of, a public place.

Then there is a list of events that are excluded from the definition of an event. These include a licensed event, a special event, an event that is primarily for the purposes of political advocacy, protest or industrial action—I am glad to see that one included as an exempt event—an authorised public assembly, an event held at a major sports facility or an event prescribed by regulation. What I am concerned about, though, is the application of this legislation to family gatherings of 12 or more where people do get out of sorts. A previous LNP speaker said that if they had a gathering at their house and somebody in their family started to misbehave, they would happily call the police and hand them over. Can I say that I am a bit sceptical about that. We tolerate behaviour from our family members that others probably would not tolerate, and I would hope that in circumstances where there is a falling out, that some can be repaired under that family relationship.

Having seen the application of the VLAD legislation, I am more concerned that there are going to be people caught up in this who should not have to fear that they could be subject to this legislation. I am told by police that things are becoming more focused in relation to the outlaw motorcycle gang legislation, but at the outset a lot of bike enjoyers were pulled up. I am afraid that, especially in the early implementation of this legislation, there will be people caught up who should not be. I refer to the meaning of 'associated', that is, people associated with out-of-control parties. This bill states—

associated, with an event, means a person who—

- (a) is at the event; or
- (b) is near the event and is reasonably suspected by a police officer of either—
 - (i) intending to go to the event, whether or not the person was invited to attend the event; or
 - (ii) leaving the event.

So if it happens that you are leaving an event—and you have been well behaved yourself you have probably had a couple of drinks and you are feeling quite relaxed—at the same time as the police arrive, suddenly you are caught up in the application of this legislation, and you could have been leaving the event in a very positive way. I am concerned about the fact that, for all of its good intentions, this legislation again appears to be targeting the wrong people. It used to be the case, and I think it is still true today, that if that is the party that you were invited to, you go. If you are not invited to that party you do not go, you are not welcome, and that is what we need to reinforce. If you are not invited to a party, you are not allowed to go. I do not know where people have got the notion that just because an event has a photograph on Facebook, suddenly all bets are off and you can go and create havoc.

I looked at the definition of 'out-of-control conduct', and I would be interested in the minister's response as to which of those (a) to (n) conducts is currently not prohibited under legislation or is not some kind of an offence, whether summary or indictable. I thought that (a), unlawful entering, was a trespass. There is current legislation regarding (b), behaving in a disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent way. Likewise, there is current legislation against (c), unlawfully assaulting, or threatening to assault, a person. I looked through (a) to (n) and I cannot see any of those which are not covered by the current legislation, so I am a bit stumped as to why police do not have the power to apply current legislation to those people who go to parties when they are not invited. It just takes somebody to say 'No, they are not on the list.' I am worried about parents who organise parties that get out of control being caught up negatively in this legislation.

The other element of the legislation that I wish to speak to is clause 39, which introduces what appears to me to be mandatory sentencing: a minimum of 50 penalty units, or 50 days imprisonment, served wholly in a corrective services facility. So it cannot be less; it has to be 50 days. I note that the committee in its report have recommended that clause 39 be omitted. I apologise to the House if it has been omitted in the amendments that have been circulated, because I certainly agree with the committee's recommendation that clause 39 be omitted.

The other issue that I will be listening carefully to the minister's response to is in relation to the contracting out of forensic examinations. In this place over the years there has been toing and froing when Labor was in government particularly, and now with the LNP, that the John Tonge Centre needed additional resources, funding and personnel. I heard earlier today that 74 positions have been lost at the John Tonge Centre, and now we are contracting out those services. It is really important to me that the integrity of the chain of evidence is maintained, and while it was within that Police Service and John Tonge sphere, it appeared to me that the integrity of that chain of evidence was much more easily protected. So I will be listening very carefully to the minister's response to that area of the bill in relation to the forensic examination of evidence. I will be concerned if it means that the John Tonge Centre has been allowed to deteriorate to the point where they cannot carry out the work, and therefore that has been the justification for its privatisation.

It is easy to set up a department of government to fail. It was done by the previous government in my electorate with the workers compensation office. They took major contracts off the staff there and then said that that office did not have sufficient turnover to warrant its retention. They set it up to fail. I would hate to think that that is what occurred at the John Tonge Centre, because the people who work there have been excellent. I look forward to the minister's response, and I will be voting according to my concerns in relation to those clauses.

 **Mr DAVIES** (Capalaba—LNP) (9.07 pm): I rise this evening to make a short contribution in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to commend the minister and his department for the pro-active response to many of the issues that this bill seeks to address. While this bill has two main policy objectives, the first being blue-tape reduction which will improve efficiencies and ultimately service delivery of the police, I would like to highlight the second aspect of the bill, and I would like to focus on the provisions of this bill to deal with out-of-control events.

All of us in this House would at one time or another have had a neighbour or local resident who has had a noisy party—that might not be true of Vaughan, who probably lives out in the sticks—that went a little bit too long into the evening, and I can only assume that with the 80 or so of us in government, that we have also probably been the noisy neighbour from time to time. The issue that this bill is addressing is not just the noisy backyard party or barbeque, but quasi-organised events, often organised via social media and often largely attended by underage youths. The new world of interconnectivity that social media provides can mean that a simple graduation party invitation could be hijacked by gatecrashers and literally become a loud and rowdy street party.

All too often these parties are not organic, but are large social media organised events with an entrance fee, a DJ and a commercial PA and are held at vacant properties or on land in a hapless suburban street. All too often these parties become out of control after being advertised on social media sites like Facebook. Many innocent people have been injured including the hospitalisation of police officers who were simply doing their job, property has been destroyed and neighbouring families have lived in fear as drunken and drug fuelled revellers have spilt out into the streets. Scenes on our six o'clock news of shirtless youths throwing beer bottles and wielding fence palings have, unfortunately, become all too common.

Under the new laws, a person who organises a party that becomes an out-of-control event, their parents or gatecrashers face a maximum penalty of 12 months imprisonment or \$12,100. If the police face aggravated and violent circumstances when shutting down wild parties, the party organisers may face fines of up to \$18,150 or three years imprisonment. These new laws take aim at those people who think it is okay to hold parties with little supervision, security or regard for the safety of participants.

A few years back my wife and I moved into a fairly interesting area of Brisbane. I came home from work—I was working a late shift—at 10 o'clock one night and there was a party going on across the road from us. I lay down and tried to nod off to sleep but at one o'clock the party was getting louder and louder. By two o'clock it was in full swing. I looked out the window and there were about 40 or 50 young men all in the front yard of this place. I went across the road and told them in no uncertain terms that I would like them to quieten down. At that point they told me to move away.

Mr Minnikin: What did they say?

Mr DAVIES: They used those words 'dot, dot, dot'. The scene became even more fraught with danger when a little bit later the police turned up who were then harassed by these young gentlemen. I had to step in behind the police. It was actually quite frightening.

Mr Bleijie: They weren't gentlemen.

Mr DAVIES: No, they were not gentlemen. We found out the following morning that our next-door neighbour, who was a single mother, had had her door beaten on and these young men were threatening to bust through the door and have their wicked way with her, which was quite a frightening situation. I think this sort of legislation will put an absolute halt to that. With these amendments those young men, who were totally out of control, would certainly realise that there are consequences to their actions. Obviously, even back then, there were laws with which these young men could have been charged. However, the laws that the minister is bringing in certainly do contain penalties that are reasonable and are commensurate with the crime that those young men were committing, and that is still happening today.

In closing, I commend the minister and his department for this legislation that will provide the community with the protection they expect and the protection, ultimately, that the community deserves. I congratulate the minister on a great piece of legislation.

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (9.13 pm): It gives me a great deal of pleasure to rise to participate in the debate of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013. I note the report was tabled in the House in November last year. By crikey, a lot of water has gone under the bridge since November last year. This legislation is all about trust: trust of the politicians, trust of the government and trust of the Police Service. There is no doubt in my mind that, since November last year, the trust of the government and the trust of the Police Service exercising their discretion appropriately and reasonably are certainly matters that many Queenslanders will be considering and have some real concerns about.

Mr Bleijie: Not many joined you tonight out the front. It was the protest of the year!

Mr WELLINGTON: If the Attorney-General wants to have a lot to say, I would invite him to join the speaking list and contribute.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Nicklin, it might aid—

Mr WELLINGTON: I would invite him to join the speaking list and contribute. I am not taking the Attorney-General's interjections, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, I was speaking.

Mr WELLINGTON: Sorry, I did not hear you.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because you were speaking over the top of me.

Mr WELLINGTON: I thought it was the Attorney-General I was responding to.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, it might aid the House if you just continue on with your contribution to the debate.

Mr WELLINGTON: Thank you, and I have made it clear that I am not taking interjections from the Attorney-General. I invite him to participate in the debate in the appropriate forum.

As I said, a lot of water has gone under the bridge since November last year and I believe this government has lost the trust of many Queenslanders. I hope that on 22 February Queenslanders will resoundingly send a message that what I am saying is right and it resonates with them. Then the Premier and the leadership team of this extreme Liberal National government will get the message

that we want leadership to deal with the issues that are relevant to Queenslanders. We need trust and we also need the trust of our Police Service. We need real trust of our Police Service. It is amazing when I go through this bill. The amendments that deal with noise abatement are contained in proposed sections 577 to 580 and 582 to 585, which is on page 9 of the committee's report. The report states—

The Bill also makes a number of significant changes in relation to noise complaints. The changes include—

Guess what—

- allowing a person to make an anonymous complaint (section 577(1));

Was it not only last year that the Callinan-Aroney report was tabled? What were their recommendations for the CMC? 'We don't want to have anonymous complaints to the CMC. You have to give a statutory declaration. You have to be identified.' We talk about inconsistencies. Here is the Callinan-Aroney report, the people about whom the Premier and the Attorney-General said, 'They are going to set the new way in which the CMC is going to operate.' Get rid of anonymous complaints! In this report we have the government under cloak and dagger saying, 'We won't allow people to make anonymous complaints.' I do not have a problem with anonymous complaints, but I am saying let us have some consistency in parliament. Clearly, what we are seeing is the government on the one hand saying they support people making anonymous complaints—and I certainly do—but when it comes to the Callinan-Aroney report into the CMC, guess what? No-one can make an anonymous complaint; people have to make a statutory declaration and they have to be able to understand the documents. Quite frankly, I challenge many solicitors in Queensland to be able to say that they understand the documents that the Callinan-Aroney report suggest that people have to sign.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, I fail to see how the Callinan-Aroney report and what potentially may happen with the Crime and Misconduct Commission are relevant to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act.

Mr WELLINGTON: I will try to clarify for your benefit. I am trying to identify the inconsistency of the leadership of this Newman-led government. In this bill the leadership team of this government is supporting people making anonymous complaints—and I am fine with that—but there is inconsistency with the Callinan-Aroney report, about which the Premier, the Attorney-General and the leadership team have said, 'This is the way forward for the operation of the Crime and Misconduct Commission, the peak independent body that holds the government to account, holds ministers to account and holds people in important positions in government to account. That is the inconsistency I am drawing out in my contribution to this bill.

Many speakers have spoken about the need for the amendments to legislation to deal with out-of-control parties. We have heard mention of parties with over 500 people, over 100 people, over 50 people, but guess what the legislation deals with? Look at the definition. As the member for Gladstone said, the definition talks about guess what? Twelve! There could also be perhaps three people who are out of control. If the government were so concerned about the organisers of these events and if they were so concerned about the parties with attendance numbers in the hundreds and 500s, why is there a cut-off point of 12 people in attendance and then three? As I said, a lot of water has gone under the bridge since November last year—and I am a member of the committee. I think the committee has got it wrong and I think the government has got it wrong.

Recommendation 3 states—

The Committee recommends the Minister for Police and Community Safety conduct a review of the operation and use of the new Part 7 Out-of-control events and report to Parliament within two years of commencement.

Quite frankly, I think we need to have regular reporting to parliament. I am no longer prepared to support reporting within two years because quite clearly I do not trust the government and I do not trust the leadership of our Police Service, and I will explain why. When the VLAD laws came out the Premier and the Attorney-General were saying that Queenslanders have nothing to fear. They said it was only criminals that they were after and innocent people have nothing to fear. Guess what when this legislation came out? What did the police minister say? The Minister for Police used words to the effect that the majority of people who do the right thing have nothing to fear. Bike riders who are pulled over because they have tattoos or are riding a noisy bike had something to fear, and they were not criminals. They were afraid because they were intimidated. What have we seen? We have seen our Police Commissioner saying that the government has got it right. We have seen the Police Commissioner's leadership team in front of the cameras saying, 'Yes, we support the government 100 per cent.' But what they were not prepared to say is that, yes, they were not supporting mandatory imprisonment and all of those other problems with that legislation.

I trusted this government when that legislation came before this House. Quite frankly, I will not be trusting this Newman government and the leadership of this Liberal National Party government again. It has misled us and they have led us up the garden path. That is what many Queenslanders I talk to are afraid of, and that is why I believe this legislation needs to be withdrawn and amended. As the member for Gladstone said—and I share her concerns; it is always a pleasure to follow her contribution—if those big parties were so bad, why have we got the limit of 12? There is then all of this discretion being given to the police and then we say, 'But don't worry,' and I think the bill refers to those at sergeant level or over. The Police Service has just gone through a major sacking. No, no-one was sacked. Retrenched? No-one was retrenched. So effectively in terms of the leadership team in the Police Service many of those important people are on contracts. They have commitments they have to honour. Quite frankly, when you are on a contract you become a puppet to your employer. No longer are you independent; you become a puppet to the employer because you know that if you do not do what your employer wants you to do, what happens when the contract expires? You will not get an extension. So I think our Police Commissioner really has brought into question the independence of our Police Service with the way he has so adamantly and so clearly got behind this government, just like the CMC acting chairman. That is on the public record.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Nicklin, I have already indicated that I do not believe that the CMC is relevant to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. I have already asked you to stay relevant to the bill. Please do so.

Mr WELLINGTON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. To respond to you, I just want to clarify: the reason I deal with those issues is that they deal with the issue of trust of the government—trust of the government and trust of our Police Service. Many Queenslanders see this legislation in their eyes as extreme. They see it as extreme, unnecessary and they see it as provocative. The reason I have drawn those other issues into my contribution on this bill is to show that this is not a one-off. This is not a one-off. The Callinan-Aroney report was all about getting rid of anonymous complaints. We see inconsistency with this. The records show the comments that the Police Commissioner has made in the media about the need to support the anti-association laws lock, stock and barrel, or words to that effect. I think we even got some of his other leadership team members in front of the cameras saying—

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. Madam Deputy Speaker, the member has spoken for 10 minutes now. He has talked about VLAD. He has talked about the CMC. He has talked about leadership teams—all of which are not contained in the bill. I would ask his irrelevance to be struck out. Madam Deputy Speaker, you have given him plenty of warning and I ask for your ruling on the member's relevance to the debate.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Nicklin, I have asked you twice to remain relevant to the bill and I have given you a fair amount of latitude. This bill is about police powers and responsibilities regarding out-of-control parties and events. I would ask that you remain relevant to the bill. If you continue to defy my rulings, I will sit you down.

Mr WELLINGTON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I take members to page 13 of the committee report dealing with the meaning of 'associated'. Section 53BD states—

'associated', with an event, means a person who—

- (a) is at the event; or
- (b) is near the event and is reasonably suspected by a police officer of either—
 - (i) intending to go to the event, whether or not the person was invited to attend the event; or
 - (ii) leaving the event.

We are talking about the discretion of the police officer. I repeat for the benefit of members—is near the event and is reasonably suspected by a police officer of either intending to go there or leaving. That is about discretion. The reason I believe we need to bring forward the review of this legislation once it is law in Queensland is to make sure that we are able to monitor the activities of our police in Queensland. Not all police do the right thing. There are a lot of jolly good police out there who go over and above the call of duty, but by crikey there are some rotten eggs in the basket, just like there are some rotten eggs in a lot of organisations. We need to be able to monitor and make sure all police do the right thing with these extensive and new powers that this government is proposing to give to the Police Service. That is the relevance, Madam Deputy Speaker, that I am talking about.

I have touched on the issue about the authorisation and the reason why, as it is stated in the bill, authorisation of the use of the power may only occur if a senior police officer of or above the rank of sergeant reasonably believes that an event is an out-of-control event. Again, we talk about 'reasonably believes'. Many Queenslanders no longer have confidence in some of the decisions that some of our police make because, to be relevant, Madam Deputy Speaker, of the track record of the way some of the police have already exercised their discretion in relation to pulling over bike riders because of the bike they ride, the clothes they wear or the tattoos on their body. That is the relevance and the connection with the VLAD laws—that is, police not exercising their discretion reasonably. Madam Deputy Speaker, the relevance again is that we have seen police in numbers of five, six or seven surrounding a bike when I would have thought—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Nicklin, you have made this argument many, many times. It is tedious repetition. If you do not move on and stay relevant to the bill, I will sit you down.

Mr WELLINGTON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I do hear your comments. I also draw members to page 15 of the report. Under the heading 'Are the New Powers Necessary?', the Queensland Law Society expressed a view and the Caxton Legal Centre and Youth Advocacy Centre expressed a view which other members have spoken about. It is noted—

In its initial briefing to the Committee, the QPS conceded the powers contained in the Bill were not dissimilar to existing powers available to manage various incidents, but they addressed existing gaps to ensure police have effective powers to respond to out-of-control events.

The member for Gladstone certainly went through some of those issues of out-of-control events. The Queensland Police Service went on to then explain why it believed the legislation was necessary. I conclude by noting the comment on page 60 of the report where it says—

The Committee is satisfied the powers are, as described by the Minister in his introductory speech, aimed at the more serious end of the scale of antisocial behaviour, and are appropriate for inclusion in the Bill.

I just simply say that, given what happened in November, I certainly will not be supporting the bill.

Interruption.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Tabled Documents



Mrs MILLER (Bundamba—ALP) (9.29 pm): I refer to the Speaker's statement to the House tonight. I will formally ask for the document I tabled today to be withdrawn. I refer the parliament, as I do all Queenslanders, to *Hansard* from 18 May 2010, where they will be able to see for themselves the exact same document or to contact the Table Office of the Queensland parliament for assistance.

POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed.



Mr GRIMWADE (Morayfield—LNP) (9.29 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I must say that I have been absolutely amazed by some of the contributions that have been made in this debate today. We have had members to my right saying, 'We can't support these sorts of things.' We have heard people say that the government is becoming the fun police, that all of a sudden we are cracking down on out-of-control parties. We even had the last member to speak make the absolutely bizarre claim that they cannot support our police, our head of police and our commissioners of police in Queensland. To be hearing these sorts of things in this chamber when we are talking about out-of-control parties, better known as Facebook parties, just amazes me.

People in my community are sick and tired of this sort of activity. People are continually coming to my office to talk about out-of-control parties, antisocial behaviour, hooning and people doing the wrong thing in our communities. For me and my community, out-of-control parties has become a real problem. People have been talking about 12 people gathering at a sausage sizzle. In fact, one of my Facebook friends was peddling the claim that if 12 people attended a sausage sizzle, all of a sudden it is 12 people having a party and the police can come along and just take them away. That is the kind

of stuff about good legislation that gets introduced into this parliament that gets spread around in the community. It is no different from the VLAD laws relating to bikies. All of this false information gets out. For the benefit of members and for the benefit of the people who will be reading this speech, I point out that, under this legislation, if 12 or more people are gathering, three of them have to be—

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order. I cannot hear the member speaking because of the conversation going on behind me.

Mr Hopper interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Order! Member for Condamine! That is not a point of order, but if members wish to have conversations they should take them outside the chamber so that the person on his feet can be heard.

Mr GRIMWADE: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I was saying, under this legislation there has to be 12 or more people gathered and three of those have to be doing the wrong thing. They have to be involved in out-of-control conduct which, for the benefit of the House, includes things such as unlawfully entering or remaining in a place or threatening to enter a place; behaving in a disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent way; unlawfully assaulting or threatening to assault a person; or unlawfully destroying or damaging property. These are some of the things that someone has to be doing for the police to come and enact this legislation. It is outrageous for people to suggest that someone going to a sausage sizzle down at the beach can be dragged away. We are talking about out-of-control parties where, in most cases, 50, 100, 200, 300 people gather—and they are not always young people either—and go crazy and innocent people such as neighbours and other people are affected. I will give members a couple of examples. I know one of them has been spoken about in this House tonight already.

Recently, I witnessed an out-of-control teenage Facebook party at Narangba that was being held, I believe, by a 14-year-old girl. That party spilled over into the Narangba Railway Station. I happened to be down at the local fish and chip shop when all of that happened that night. That party became so out of control that it spilt over into the train station to the point at which Queensland Rail had to be contacted by the police and the trains stopped. I am not sure of the cost to the taxpayer of stopping the trains like that on any given night, but also between six and seven police officers arrived at that train station with two officers in each car. This activity went on for about half an hour to an hour at that train station, by which time the police had cleared the train tracks. The trains then resumed. People jumped on the trains and then we had the same issue at the next train station at Burpengary. Then we had the next issue at Morayfield and it went on and on. The police resources that were used on that night and the cost involved in stopping the trains by Queensland Rail was just astonishing. There were fights on the track. There were fights at the train station. There were children no older than 15 years of age walking around with booze. It was just outrageous.

Of course, one of the most recent out-of-control parties also happened at Narangba. That out-of-control party spilled over into the neighbourhood and innocent people living next door had a wheelie bin thrown through their window. Someone was assaulted and punched in the face multiple times. This is the kind of activity that our government is putting a stop to. This is the kind of stuff that my community expects me to come into this place and stand up and say, 'Enough is enough.' We all want to live in a safe community. We all want to ensure that our kids are safe, whether they are going out to a party or whether they are having a party at home. That is what we are doing.

This legislation can be coupled with the government's anti-hooping legislation, its sex offender legislation and its criminal gangs and organisations legislation, which is taking drugs that criminal gangs are peddling throughout our community off teenagers and out of schools. This government is taking a tough stance and that is why I support this legislation.

When we were elected to government on 24 March 2012, we said that we would make our communities safe, we would revitalise front-line services and we would reduce the cost of living. This government has done so much in so many of those areas. Every time I come into this place I hear people rubbishing this government. When it comes to the cost of living, we have delivered for the people in the Morayfield electorate. We have reduced the cost of living by freezing tariff 11 electricity. We have given an \$80 water rebate. We have reduced public transport fares by offering free travel after nine journeys and halving Labor's fare increase. We have frozen motor vehicle registration for three years. Families know that, when they vote for this government and they vote for me to represent them in the Morayfield electorate, we are going to deliver for families. Whether that be tackling the cost of living, whether that be service delivery, or whether that be legislation to tackle out-of-control parties and antisocial behaviour and making our communities safe, people know that, as their local member, I am going to deliver.

One of the ways in which we are making our communities safe is by putting extra police on the beat. It is good that we have these extra police so that they can come out and enforce these sorts of antisocial Facebook or out-of-control parties. My local area has received over 50 more police. Last week I was speaking to the sergeant down my way and he explained to me the difference it has made by having those additional police on the beat and by being able to have three police cars on a given night rather than having one car out in the Narangba area and the significant difference that these extra police resources are making. I could go on all night talking about the services, including at the local hospital, that are now much better because of this government. The hospital now has the best emergency wait times that we have seen in a long time. Dental waiting lists have fallen and elective surgery waiting lists have fallen for the first time in over 12 years.

I will wrap up tonight by thanking the minister for bringing this legislation into the parliament. Recently, I have spoken to many of my constituents about this legislation as well as police officers. I can tell members that, from the point of view of my community, people are very supportive of this legislation. As I said, there will be a campaign by people peddling in falsehoods about what the legislation is about. But I hope that people can understand where this government is coming from in relation to this legislation. I hope from my contribution to this debate tonight that people understand that this legislation is about cracking down on these Facebook parties that are getting out of control in our community. This legislation is about people being responsible and parents being responsible and not allowing children, teenagers and other people to hold these parties that are getting out of control. By doing that, our communities will become safer places. I support this bill.

 **Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (9.40 pm), in reply: I would like to thank all members for their contribution to debate on the bill. I would like to assure all members that the out-of-control event legislation is designed towards prevention and dispersal of events that are at the more serious end of the scale. It is aimed at events that have the real potential to escalate into a mob mentality situation where the community is fearful of personal violence and damage to property or where there is a substantial interference with the rights and freedoms of the broader community or their passage through, or enjoyment of, a public place.

I would now like to address some of the specific issues raised by members in the context of the debate. The member for Rockhampton commented that the legislation was an overreach and overkill with the trigger being a gathering of 12 or more people. This is simply not the case. The legislation is proportionate to the harm caused by these out-of-control events. I take this opportunity to be quite clear about the important elements of out-of-control events. As discussed here this evening, there are three important elements: firstly, the event must be a gathering of 12 or more persons at a place; secondly, three or more of the persons associated with the event must engage in out-of-control conduct at or near the event; thirdly, the out-of-control conduct must be of such a nature that it would cause a person at or near the event to reasonably fear violence to a person, or damage to property or reasonably believe a person would suffer substantial interference with their rights and freedoms or peaceful passage through, or enjoyment of, a public place.

The member for Rockhampton has commented that the legislation would capture really small parties and may be used unnecessarily by neighbours with ongoing disputes. An out-of-control event must have the three elements I have just outlined. It cannot be used, as the member for Rockhampton suggested, in capturing small parties. It cannot be inappropriately used, as he suggested, by warring neighbours. All of those three elements must apply before there is an out-of-control event. To further reduce the member for Rockhampton's fears, this bill provides a safeguard: not only does an event have to meet all three elements I have mentioned, but a police officer of at least the rank of sergeant must authorise the use of out-of-control event powers that have been provided under this scheme.

I can inform the member for Rockhampton that this bill will provide a general deterrence to people wanting to hold a party that will escalate into an out-of-control event. This bill will achieve greater things than just general deterrence of those who organise, permit or cause out-of-control events. It will help minimise the resultant community impact and the harm caused to persons attending these events. The bill will also enhance the ability of the police to respond to out-of-control events.

The member for Rockhampton, and also the member for Gladstone, raised that there are existing offences which cover the behaviour associated with out-of-control events. Some of these offences would apply to out-of-control events and I, like most right-thinking members of our community, do not object to these offences being preferred. However, this bill improves upon our current laws by specifically targeting those people who should be considered responsible for causing

these events. For example, this bill will create a specific offence to target an organiser of an out-of-control event which will carry a maximum penalty of 110 penalty units or one year imprisonment. Further, if the event is at a place where the organiser does not reside or does not have lawful authority to use, the maximum penalty increases to 165 penalty units or three years imprisonment. Also, this bill gives police the ability to act proactively by monitoring and controlling events before they can spiral into the chaos of an out-of-control event. This bill allows police to shut down an event that is likely to become an out-of-control event or is an out-of-control event. In contrast, existing offences only allow police to act once the damage is done and on certain individual offences, not on the whole of the out-of-control party legislation.

Another improvement made by this bill to current laws is to allow the court to order an offender to pay some or all of the Commissioner's reasonable costs in relation to the event. This also applies to parents responsible for either allowing their child to organise such events or contributing to the commission of offences through inadequate supervision. This bill will allow a court order to be made against the parent of a child who is an offender to recover the Commissioner's reasonable costs incurred in relation to an out-of-control event.

I will also address the member for Rockhampton's concerns about outsourcing DNA. I do note that the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties during its submission to the committee's review of this bill did not object to allowing non-government laboratories to perform DNA analysis providing that DNA samples were de-identified. In relation to the member for Gladstone's comments, this amendment will allow the Commissioner to enter into an arrangement with external laboratories outside of Queensland Health for the analysis of DNA samples. This supports a business continuity response for the analysis of DNA samples in the event it is required. Predominantly they would go to Queensland Health to alleviate those concerns. This will ensure there will be no significant delays in the analysis and uploading of DNA profiles, police investigations or the stalling in the apprehension of offenders. It would occur if there was a need but the first preference will always be the John Tonge Centre.

I will also address the member for Condamine's concerns about the issue of a notice to a financial institution. His concern seemed to focus on the privacy rights of individuals who hold an account with a financial institution. This government has considered a person's privacy rights and has not taken this step lightly. This step is considered appropriate to enhance the investigation of offences. To mitigate concerns, safeguards have been inserted into this provision. A police officer can only issue a notice if they are an inspector or higher rank. A notice can only be issued if that officer holds a reasonable suspicion that an offence has been committed and a reasonable belief that the information is required for investigating the offence, preventing the offence or in order to commence proceedings against a person for the offence.

This legislation shows great initiative. Importantly, it will provide our police service with the power to act pre-emptively and shut down a party where it is clear reasonable steps have not been taken to ensure the safety of attendees and the community. Disruption to the community will be prevented rather than being cleaned up the next day, as we have seen in recent times.

Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a second time.

AYES, 67:

LNP, 66—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Minnikin, Molhoek, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Ruthenberg, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Walker, Watts, Woodforth, Young.

INDEPENDENTS, 1—Cunningham.

NOES, 12:

ALP, 7—Byrne, Miller, Mulherin, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

KAP, 2—Hopper, Katter.

UAP, 2—Douglas, Judge.

INDEPENDENTS, 1—Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The minister's amendment No. 1 proposes to omit clause 2. Thus the minister opposes the clause. Thus the question is that clause 2, as read, stand part of the bill. The minister has circulated amendment No. 1 that proposes to omit clause 2. The correct procedure is to vote against the clause.

Clause 2, as read, negatived.

Clauses 3 to 38, as read, agreed to.

Clause 39—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The minister has circulated amendment No. 2, which proposes to omit clause 39. The correct procedure is to vote against the clause.

Clause 39, as read, negatived.

Mr BYRNE: I rise to a point of order. I am a bit confused. We indicated quite clearly the clauses we wished to speak to, twice. We indicated, as an opposition, we wished to speak and divide on two clauses. I have done that twice during the reading of this bill to make sure that we knew that that was the procedure.

Mr Dempsey interjected.

Mr BYRNE: It did not even get to us.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The House will stay in order. It is unfortunate that somehow that has not been understood. Each time I have looked across at both sides and seen no indication from yourself that you wanted to speak to any of those clauses. Those decisions have been taken. To make it clear, if members want to speak to a clause they need to indicate very clearly to me, as my eyes are looking at you, that you want to speak to a clause.

Clauses 40 and 41, as read, agreed to.

Clause 42—

Mr DEMPSEY (10.01 pm): I move the following amendments—

3 Clause 42 (Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary))

Page 35, lines 11 and 12—

omit, insert—

senior police officer—

(a) for chapter 2, part 7, see section 53BD; or

(b) for chapter 7, part 7, see section 197A.

4 Clause 42 (Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary))

Page 36, lines 28 to 30 and page 37, lines 1 and 2—

omit.

I table the explanatory notes to the amendments.

Tabled paper: Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013, explanatory notes to Hon. Jack Dempsey's amendments [\[4473\]](#).

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 42, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 43 to 45, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

Mr DEMPSEY (10.02 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mr DEMPSEY: I move the following amendment—

5 After clause 45

Page 38, after line 29—

insert—

Part 4 Amendment of Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995

46 Act amended

This part amends the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*.

47 Amendment of s 112 (Use of speed detection devices)

Section 112—

insert—

(2) This section does not apply to a device that is a photographic detection device.

48 Amendment of s 120 (Evidentiary provisions)

Section 120(4)—

omit, insert—

(4) If an image produced under subsection (2) has a marking or writing on the image—

- (a) the marking or writing is taken to have been properly made by the photographic detection device; and
- (b) the image is also evidence of each thing in relation to the image that the marking or writing is prescribed to mean under a regulation.

Amendment agreed to.

Third Reading

Hon. JM DEMPSEY (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (10.03 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

Hon. JM DEMPSEY (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (10.04 pm): I move the following amendment—

6 Long title

Long title, 'and the *Evidence Act 1977*—

omit, insert—

, the *Evidence Act 1977* and the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995*

Amendment agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Manager of Government Business) (10.04 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Vietnamese Community

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.04 pm): I rise this evening to speak on matters regarding the Vietnamese community in Queensland, and in particular in my electorate of Inala. I first rise to pay tribute to Mr To Do, a respected elder of the Vietnamese community who tragically passed away late last year. The community has been greatly saddened by the sudden loss of a man who devoted his time to the support of others. Mr Do was president of the thriving Vietnamese Seniors Association, as well as an integral contributor to countless Vietnamese birthday celebrations, the children's moon festivals and special ancestor events. I was lucky enough to attend many of these with him over the years. His softly spoken and humble demeanour was attributable to a man whom people always gravitated towards.

Mr To Do's life was celebrated at a mass held in St Mark's Catholic Church, a reflective event which I had the great honour to attend with not only the Vietnamese community but also his friends and family and other community leaders. It was a testament to the enormous contribution that Mr Do was able to make not just to his family and friends but to the whole Vietnamese community in the electorate of Inala. Unsurprisingly Mr Do was also a devoted family man. I would like to pay respect on behalf of this parliament to his wife, Mrs Xuan My Do, and his children Kieu Oanh Thi Do, Hieu Due Do and Kieu Hanh Thi Do.

My personal rapport with Mr Do was always an immense privilege that can never be oversold. His service and kindness to others are the qualities that all Queenslanders should strive for. He helped not for glory or acclaim, but rather out of the kindness of his heart. This speech therefore serves as a modest reminder of his achievements; an opportunity to place on record the gratitude that I and the local community owe to him.

On a more positive note, I would also like to make comment on my recent Lunar New Year celebrations with the Vietnamese community in my electorate of Inala. Mr Do will be sadly missed as he always participated in the elders' ceremony. Friday, 31 January was cause for reflection and celebration. I was able to spend time with members of the local Vietnamese community over this period, reflecting upon the rich multicultural heritage that Queensland, and in particular my local electorate of Inala, enjoys as its collective culture. Spending time with friends like Quoi Pham at the Vietnamese New Year Festival at Darra's CaoDai centre and watching incredible fireworks at the Phat Da Temple with the Venerable Thich Thien Huu provided some definite highlights of the festivities.

According to the zodiac calendar we have now entered the Year of the Horse. Those born during this lunar cycle are said to be extremely clever, kind and positive. Let us hope that these qualities serve us well in parliament over the coming months as we, like Mr Do, serve the community. On behalf of the Vietnamese community I wish all members of the House a happy Vietnamese New Year—Chuc Mung Nam Moi.

PL Travers

 **Mrs MADDERN** (Maryborough—LNP) (10.08 pm): Occasionally a discovery is made of something rare, unusual or precious. Such a rare gem was discovered in Maryborough when someone realised that the birthplace of PL Travers, the author of the magical and very popular story of Mary Poppins, was in Maryborough. Since that time, some very dedicated local residents have researched in depth the life of PL Travers and the links between Maryborough and the story of Mary Poppins. This has resulted in the recognition of Maryborough as an official Mary Poppins site and the installation of an approved Mary Poppins statue beside the original bank building where PL Travers was born.

This dedicated band of Mary Poppins fans have built on this gem of information by establishing an annual week-long Mary Poppins festival with an emphasis on umbrellas, nanny races, chalk street paintings, re-enactments of parts of the Mary Poppins story and much fun for both the young and the young at heart. In early January, Maryborough was privileged to host a pre-release screening of the Walt Disney movie *Saving Mr Banks*. This movie is an extension of the Mary Poppins story, a behind-the-scenes look at the original negotiations between PL Travers and Walt Disney productions in the making of the original *Mary Poppins* movie.

Maryborough's pride in the Mary Poppins link was very evident in the effort put into hosting the movie. The celebrations started at the original site of PL Travers' birthplace in a bank, followed by a short tour of the sites which are believed to have formed the background to the Mary Poppins story, the firing of the time cannon by 'Admiral Boom' and then on to the Brolga Theatre. Our local Mary Poppins fans again excelled themselves with the foyer themed with umbrellas, fairground carts filled with sweets and Mary Poppins characters in costume, providing pre-viewing entertainment for the over 700 people who then were privileged to view this great movie. The Maryborough Junior Choir also entertained the audience with renditions of the songs from the *Mary Poppins* movie.

The international character of the Mary Poppins story was highlighted with the visit to Maryborough by American entertainer Mat Plendl, a Mary Poppins fan. He met with our dedicated band of 'Proud Marys' who took great delight in showing him some of the places which formed the background to the story.

Maryborough has a rare and unique claim to the Mary Poppins story and, while some economic benefits have been derived from this opportunity, we need to be actively selling our unique position in the Mary Poppins story locally, interstate and internationally so that we might share with visitors the fun and games of the Mary Poppins story but also show them other parts of our wonderful community, at the same time growing a part of our tourism industry.

South Burnett Citizen of the Year Awards

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (10.11 pm): I rise in the House tonight to, as usual, boast about the wonderful electorate of Nanango. I was very honoured to be a part of the South Burnett Citizen of the Year Awards held in Wondai, in the Deputy Premier's electorate of Callide, which borders mine.

It was with great happiness that Mr John Box was named South Burnett Citizen of the Year. I felt it was important to rise and mention Mr Box's contribution to our area as Mr Box started out working for Ergon Energy. He started his working career in that company, or the precursor to that. He is retiring this year from Ergon Energy, so he has had this amazing working career. But also throughout his time he has been a former Apex president. He is currently the President of the Kingaroy Local Ambulance Committee. He and his wife do so much hands-on work for that local ambulance committee, not only fundraising but making locals aware of the need for extra services for our hardworking ambulance. He is also the chair of Crow FM and a board member at CTC. But very importantly for the local member, Mr Box has been able to help out many of my constituents with their electricity issues, be they small or large, and sort them out. Personally, whilst it is a few months off, I would like to wish Mr Box all the best in his retirement and heartily congratulate him on becoming the much loved South Burnett Citizen of the Year for 2014.

It is also prudent that I mention Ms Amy Wicks, who was the South Burnett Junior Citizen of the Year. Ms Wicks is a lady who is a mother and an amazing wife. She is the Secretary of the Nanango Show Society. She also contributed to Nanango's contribution to the Queensland Plan. This is a girl who really is the future of Queensland. She is young and enthusiastic about the regions, and she is very passionate about agriculture. I would just like to encourage Amy to continue in every endeavour that she undertakes within the agricultural industry and to continue doing what she does best, which is promoting the South Burnett.

Newman Government, Performance

 **Mr BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (10.14 pm): There were a number of interesting reports released in December that are an indictment on this government. In December the Auditor-General released his reports Nos 11 and 12 for this financial year that detailed seven CBD office buildings had been sold for \$237 million less than their value. Worse still, the government then rented these buildings back off private investors for \$1.2 billion. The Auditor-General described this transaction as a 'risk to operating sustainability' of the state's finances. It is the most appalling single act of financial incompetence I have ever witnessed in this state. It is akin to getting taxpayers' money and just handing it out to private sector mates—yes, private sector mates. As the Auditor-General states in his report, only 25 per cent of the ownership of these buildings is with public entities. This transaction is a fraud on taxpayers and was overseen by a company that launched the LNP's election economic blueprint and has been a long-time supporter of the LNP. Worse still, this company—selected by the Newman government without any proper open tender process—has now won the contract off QIC to manage these buildings.

The Auditor-General also identified another risk to operating sustainability of the state's finances. And what was it? The rental costs and land contributions of \$1.2 billion from the taxpayer for the Premier's new office tower at 1 William Street. So in total that is \$2.6 billion in dead money for the Premier's new tower of power for himself and his ministers. That is the LNP's economic strategy—to build a great big shiny new office that they can lounge around in at the taxpayers' expense.

So what else came out in December? Well, the Treasurer just prior to Christmas snuck out his Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review. Why so close to Christmas? Why would that be? Well, that is because this budget update confirmed that the fiscal deficit had blown out by \$3.4 billion this financial year compared with Labor's last budget update. This follows the largest fiscal and operating deficit in Queensland's history last financial year under the Newman government. If anyone has borrowed to keep on the lights it has been this Newman government.

The report from Treasury also states that no measurable savings have been delivered by 'contestability'—after Peter Costello declared that it would be a panacea for the budget. In fact, 12,300 full-time jobs have been lost, seasonally adjusted, since the election. That is what you have contributed to this state—you have lost 12,300 full-time jobs. The Premier has been going around crowing proudly about this result. It is little wonder that people are turning off him in droves. People know their cost of living has gone up, unemployment is up, the prison population is up, and it is all due to the Newman government.

Coomera Electorate, Australia Day Awards

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (10.17 pm): It gives me great pleasure to announce that the Coomera electorate Australia Day awards for 2014 have just been announced. Our Dedicated Commitment Award, as we call it, has been an outstanding success in the community for the last few years. Our young person award recipient is Tyson Gooda. He has worked tirelessly in the community for the last four years, helping to regenerate roadside verges which have many endangered plant species, fixing up the parks in and around the area and assisting MAD. Who are MAD you might ask? Making a Difference—an organisation that has been in Beenleigh for many, many years and making a difference right across the community. He is also working for the Salvos helping to lift heavy furniture. He is an honest young Australian who really deserves a pat on the back for being such a considerate and polite young man. Congratulations to Tyson Gooda.

The senior citizen award recipient is Mary McGrath. She has been a member of the Ormeau Lions Club since 1991. Mary has held the positions of president and secretary and has been a board member for 20 years. She has worked on the original Lions Country Fair and now the annual Ormeau Lions Fair. Mary is a terrific supporter of the local community. She was made a life member of the Lions Club Ormeau in June 2013.

Corina Profke is our citizen award recipient. She is dedicated to the Coomera Rivers State School—my newest primary school. She spent 27 years working in the Department of Education, Training and Employment. She is now the P&C President, a position she has held since the school opened in 2011. She invests around eight hours each day, 40 hours a week, in a voluntary capacity on top of her executive role. She receives no financial compensation whatsoever. She just adores the job, adores the school and adores the outcomes that the school is achieving. It is quite an amazing new school.

Jennifer Maroney is the community citizen award recipient. She runs the Soul Centre, which is a community pantry at Upper Coomera. It is a not-for-profit service providing the whole of the local community with a low-cost alternative to fresh and packaged food for domestic items. She is a fantastic lady who does a terrific job.

Mary McCallum is the citizen—'Lest We Forget' award recipient because she has spent the last 15 years ensuring that all of the locals know that Anzac Day is a special day for all of those people who have lost loved ones in the local community.

Suffice to say that all of the people that I have spoken of, and others that I would like to talk about but do not have the time, have been absolutely worthwhile recipients of the Coomera electorate dedicated commitment award.

Gaythorne RSL Volunteers Appreciation Dinner; McIntyre, Mr DJ

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (10.20 pm): I had the great pleasure last Friday night to be the guest speaker at the Gaythorne RSL volunteers appreciation dinner that is put on every year by the president, Merv Brown, to recognise the great contribution that volunteers have made in the community, especially those associated with the RSL. There was a sad note that night, because one volunteer who had been working with the RSL for many, many years was not there because he had recently passed away.

Mr Douglas James McIntyre was a man from my electorate who has made an amazing contribution to the community in a number of ways. It was great to see in the recent Australia Day awards that he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia, an OAM, something that was thoroughly deserved. Unfortunately, he passed away just a few days after receiving that award. He received the award for service to the transport industry and to the community. Let me mention just a few of his contributions to the transport industry.

He was the founder and owner of McIntyre Freight Lines; he pioneered a daily direct road service between Brisbane and Darwin; he introduced general freight road trains and built the Darwin transport terminal for freight distribution across the Top End; he established a road transport service from Brisbane to Doomadgee Mission in remote northern Queensland, changing the lives of the people who live there; and there are many other achievements in the transport industry as well. He not only contributed in that way, but he was also a very hardworking volunteer in the community. He had 35 years service with the Grange Lions Club, holding various positions. He mentored and financially assisted struggling transport companies. He had personal involvement in Anzac Day, for many years providing restored military vehicles to enable ageing veterans to participate in Anzac Day marches. Those same military vehicles were used in the Australian movie *The Sapphires*, which is just an interesting aside. He volunteered his machinery to the people of Darwin during the Cyclone Tracy clean-up. He supported charities such as the Royal Childrens Hospital Foundation, the Karuna Hospice Service, and the Ilhan Food Allergy Foundation. He had a number of other achievements that were recognised during his lifetime. He was inducted into the Queensland Transport Museum's Legends Hall of Fame in Gatton 2013, and he was inducted into the National Road Transport Hall of Fame in Alice Springs in 2003.

He was much loved by his family, and of course he will be missed by his family and the community. My condolences go to his family, and may he rest in peace.

Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (10.23 pm): I rise to speak in relation to the actions of this government at the end of last year. Based on the feedback that I have received, those actions significantly undermined community confidence in the parliamentary process and also undermined confidence in the CMC, our most powerful corruption-fighting entity. The lack of accuracy of the acting chair's response to the committee also fed that community concern.

May I take this opportunity to thank those many who rang or wrote offering their concern, support, comment and encouragement. I certainly value your kindness. I would also thank the former committee members and secretariat for your dedication to the, at times, difficult and challenging committee task.

I acknowledge that the three ALP nominees have been returned to that committee, and I certainly wish them well; however, the LNP members now dismissed were effective and contributing members of the committee and deserved better treatment. I remain concerned that, while some in the sacked PCMC were accused of bias because of their comments about Dr Levy, very similar comments were made by the Premier and Attorney-General about Mr Ross Martin during a previous PCMC investigation. That double standard is concerning.

After the PCMC was dismissed by this government there was a great deal of comment by the media, the legal fraternity and others. Overwhelmingly, those comments either opposed or expressed concerns about the government's actions. I table two such submissions.

Tabled paper: Media article from abc.net, dated 3 February 2014 titled 'Abuse of Power does nothing to protect us' [\[4474\]](#).

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 16 December 2013, from the Whistleblowers Action Group (Queensland) to the Speaker regarding the discharge of the PCMC members in November 2013 [\[4475\]](#).

The community rightly expects honesty, justice and accountability in the unprecedented action by this government on the last evening of the last sitting day. I believe the people of Queensland have been poorly served.

Beaudesert Hospital

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (10.26 pm) Madam Speaker, 2014 is the year that it all comes together for Queensland, when the key decisions and hard work of the last two years reap dividends. No better illustration of this can be seen than the return of maternity services and other procedural services to Beaudesert Hospital in early March—probably before the next sitting week of the House. The results are in, and it is certainly coming together when it comes to health services in the Beaudesert region.

When maternity services recommence, the LNP will have delivered for the Beaudesert region what Labor cruelly neglected and allowed to wither on the vine. The community fought for 10 years to have its maternity services restored, but it took a change in government—an LNP government—to put back in place what should never have been taken away from the community. We have already seen the return of some procedural services to Beaudesert Hospital in May 2013, with more than 120 people undergoing procedures since the first surgery was carried out in Beaudesert in over 10

years—that is up to January. The hospital provides general minor surgical procedures under local and general anaesthetic including hernia repair, gall bladder removal and the removal of lesions. In time the service will expand to include endoscopies, oral surgery, gynaecological surgery and other minor orthopaedic surgery.

But the major victory for our community, one delivered by the LNP government and the commitment made by health minister Lawrence Springborg, is the fact that expectant mothers in our region can now give birth in their community once again. After more than 10 years of Labor neglect in Beaudesert, times when petition after petition and countless delegations to Labor ministers were made, the sound of babies being born will once again be heard in Beaudesert Hospital. That is a wonderful and crucial outcome for the growing Scenic Rim region—a wonderful outcome that I am proud to have delivered as part of the Newman LNP government.

Congratulations and thanks must be given to all involved, particularly the dedicated community members who never stopped fighting to have these services restored in the face of the deaf ears of the former government. All of the staff and community members that have given their time and dedication to this project must also be commended for their work, and I look forward to continuing that work in the future.

On a personal note, I thank all members of the House for their good wishes upon the birth of my second son on the last sitting day of 2013. Today, the first sitting day of 2014, saw my brother and his wife welcome an addition to their family as well. Who knows what tomorrow will bring? There can be no doubt that all of us in this House are here because we are always seeking the best for our communities. At times of significant family occasions, for my part I can say that our commitment to deliver better opportunities and services for our community is reaffirmed and strengthened.

LNG Industry

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (10.29 pm): I wish to talk about energy and the role it plays as a foundation to development and industry, in particular with reference to the impact that the LNG industry has on the potential for northern development in Australia. Our Prime Minister recently declared that we can be the affordable energy capital of the world. The operative word there is 'can'. That may well be, but under the current policy settings and according to Andrew Liveris, the CEO of the US industrial giant Dow Chemicals, we are heading in exactly the opposite direction. There is a need for a change in policy. Undeniably the LNG and CSG industries are providing a large sugar hit to the economy that is filling the gap which so many other failing industries have left, but surely the long-term benefits of this short-term stimulation fail the national interest test.

A recent document quotes the National Institute of Economic and Industry Research report from October 2012. It found that—

But each petajoule of natural gas that is shifted **away** from industrial use **towards** export, whether because of tight supply or uneconomic pricing, means giving up \$255 million in lost industrial output for a \$12 million gain in export output. That is, for every dollar gained \$21 is lost.

It also states—

The dramatic shift in the domestic gas market will have wider impacts well beyond the gas intensive industries:

- increased operating costs for gas-fired electricity generators due to high gas prices. Such generators would see cost increases three times greater than those currently resulting from the carbon tax.

Perhaps that is why I am reading such articles in the paper—and I will table these documents.

Tabled paper: Media article from the *Australian*, dated 7 February 2014, titled 'Gas prices drives industry to coal' [\[4476\]](#).

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles dated 6 February 2014 regarding the gas industry [\[4477\]](#).

In a recent article in the *Australian* Manufacturing Australia Executive Director, Ben Eade, said that manufacturers are considering switching from gas to coal as an energy source to avoid paying some of the world's highest prices for gas. In another article, Stanwell took the extraordinary step of announcing that it would mothball its biggest gas fired power station and resurrect a coal facility built in the 1980s.

The AEC group of consultants reported that compared on a per unit of gas basis, the value of the economic contribution of the current operations of large industrial users is significantly higher in economic value and jobs than the combined construction and operation activities of CSG extraction. This has particular importance for Mount Isa, which has 100 per cent reliance on baseload energy from gas fired power stations. We are not connected to the national electricity grid so we do not have the option of switching to cheaper coal fired power. We are stuck with gas and this presents considerable problems if we want to develop northern Australia. Part of the answer lies in expanding

the gas network into the Northern Territory to increase supplies. It is imperative that this happens. Consideration also needs to be given to connecting us to the national electricity grid, which will provide a platform for the development of northern Australia that is so badly needed. This is a foundation principle for doing that.

(Time expired)

State Schools; Milne, Mrs I

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (10.32 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise this evening to talk about the fantastic news that schools in my community have received as part of the great funding guarantee, which has seen nearly \$800,000 go to local schools in the Broadwater electorate. I have often said in this House that I believe that a quality education is the greatest gift that we can ever give a child, and the Newman government certainly epitomises that. We believe in outcome based results which is why we have contributed billions and billions of dollars towards education in this great state.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Biggera Waters State School received \$198,730; Coombabah State High School, \$145,399; Coombabah State School, \$196,657; and Labrador State School, \$222,232. That is an investment of more than \$750,000 and it is great to see. Benjamin Franklin once said that an investment in knowledge pays the best interest. I hope that the Treasurer and the education minister bear that in mind when they think about how we can continue to invest in our future leaders. One of the cornerstones of this government has been making sure that we do provide for future generations and our future leaders with more resources for schools, making sure that we invest in maintenance backlogs and that we look after not only teachers but also particularly teacher aides.

In the remaining time I would also like to briefly pay tribute to Iris Milne, who was a constituent of mine who recently passed away. I would like to pay my respects to Colin, her widower. Iris had fought cancer bravely before but, unfortunately, this last time she was not able to beat it. Iris had served my community through Neighbourhood Watch, through the Paradise Point Progress Association and numerous other organisations in the community. Her service will be held on Friday and I know that many in my community will be paying their respects to her as well as keeping Colin and their family in their prayers. To Colin I say: I think of you. I know that Iris is no longer suffering and that she is sitting up there looking down on you waiting very patiently, I am sure, until the day that you can be reunited. May she rest in peace.

PRIVILEGE

Correction to Matters of Public Interest; Mason's Law

 **Hon. AP CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.34 pm), by leave: I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. This morning during a matter of public interest I referred to one Troy William Reed. I indicated that Mr Reed was the father of Mason John Parker. It has since been drawn to my attention that Mr Reed was not Mason's biological father but, rather, the de facto partner of Mason's mother at the time of Mason's death. I seek to correct the record for the accuracy of the parliamentary *Hansard*.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.34 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Byrne, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, Davies, C Davis, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gullely, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mulherin, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rickuss, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trad, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Woodforth, Young