



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 29 October 2014

Subject	Page
<b>PRESENTATION OF APPROPRIATION BILLS .....</b>	<b>3681</b>
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT .....</b>	<b>3681</b>
Error in Division .....	3681
<b>MOTION OF CONDOLENCE .....</b>	<b>3681</b>
Hughes, Mr CM .....	3681
<b>PETITION.....</b>	<b>3685</b>
<b>TABLED PAPERS.....</b>	<b>3685</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS.....</b>	<b>3686</b>
<b>Community Safety; Ebola Virus .....</b>	<b>3686</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, undated, from the Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, to the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Hon. Scott Morrison, regarding humanitarian visa holders and ebola virus. ....	3686
<b>Queensland Economy.....</b>	<b>3687</b>
<b>Police, Fire and Emergency Services .....</b>	<b>3687</b>
<b>Community Safety.....</b>	<b>3688</b>
<b>Ebola Virus .....</b>	<b>3689</b>
<b>Tourism Industry.....</b>	<b>3690</b>
<b>Government Wireless Network, G20.....</b>	<b>3690</b>
<b>COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.....</b>	<b>3691</b>
<b>Auditor-General's Reports, Referral to Portfolio Committee.....</b>	<b>3691</b>
<b>STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>3691</b>
<b>Reports and Submissions .....</b>	<b>3691</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 53—	
Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014. ....	3692
<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014, submissions received in relation to the inquiry. ....	3692

Table of Contents – Wednesday, 29 October 2014

<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 54— State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014.....	3692
<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, submissions received in relation to the inquiry.....	3692
<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 55— Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 June 2014 and 26 August 2014.....	3692
<i>Tabled paper:</i> State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 56— Annual Report 2013-14.....	3692
<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE .....</b>	<b>3692</b>
<b>Moggill Electorate; Member for Moggill .....</b>	<b>3692</b>
<b>Public Hospitals, Emergency Departments .....</b>	<b>3693</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Executive Council of Queensland: minute No. 63, dated 16 September 2010, regarding Department of Health expenditure.....	3693
<b>Barron River Electorate, Community Safety.....</b>	<b>3694</b>
<b>Public Hospitals, Emergency Departments .....</b>	<b>3695</b>
<b>Ferny Grove Electorate, Community Safety .....</b>	<b>3695</b>
<b>Strong Choices, Government Advertising.....</b>	<b>3696</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract of transcript of Patrick Condren 4BC radio program on 29 October 2014.....	3696
<b>Ipswich Electorate, Community Safety .....</b>	<b>3697</b>
<b>Gold Coast, Elective Surgery.....</b>	<b>3697</b>
<b>Southport Electorate, Community Safety .....</b>	<b>3698</b>
<b>Queensland Rail, The Inlander .....</b>	<b>3699</b>
<b>Mirani Electorate, Community Safety.....</b>	<b>3699</b>
<b>Jondaryan, Coal Dust.....</b>	<b>3700</b>
<b>Nanango Electorate, Community Safety .....</b>	<b>3701</b>
<b>Construction Industry, Subcontractors .....</b>	<b>3701</b>
<b>Whitsunday Electorate, Community Safety .....</b>	<b>3702</b>
<b>Lease of Public Assets.....</b>	<b>3703</b>
<b>Maryborough Electorate, Community Safety.....</b>	<b>3704</b>
<b>MOTION .....</b>	<b>3704</b>
<b>Order of Business .....</b>	<b>3704</b>
<b>MOTION .....</b>	<b>3704</b>
<b>Ratification of Queensland Plan.....</b>	<b>3704</b>
<b>PRIVILEGE.....</b>	<b>3707</b>
<b>Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member .....</b>	<b>3707</b>
<b>MOTION .....</b>	<b>3707</b>
<b>Queensland Plan .....</b>	<b>3707</b>
<b>PRIVILEGE.....</b>	<b>3709</b>
<b>Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member .....</b>	<b>3709</b>
<b>MOTION .....</b>	<b>3709</b>
<b>Queensland Plan .....</b>	<b>3709</b>
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.....	3731
Resolved in the affirmative.....	3731
<b>QUEENSLAND HERITAGE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL.....</b>	<b>3732</b>
<b>Second Reading .....</b>	<b>3732</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee: Report No. 55— Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, government response.....	3733
<b>Consideration in Detail.....</b>	<b>3745</b>
Clauses 1 to 82—.....	3745
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes to Hon. Andrew Powell's amendments.....	3748
Clauses 1 to 82, as amended, agreed to.....	3748
Schedule, as read, agreed to.....	3748
<b>Third Reading .....</b>	<b>3749</b>
<b>Long Title.....</b>	<b>3749</b>
Amendment agreed to.....	3749
<b>DEPUTY SPEAKER'S RULING.....</b>	<b>3749</b>
<b>Tabled Paper.....</b>	<b>3749</b>
<b>PRIVILEGE.....</b>	<b>3749</b>
<b>Ethics Committee Report No. 151 .....</b>	<b>3749</b>
<b>ADJOURNMENT .....</b>	<b>3750</b>
<b>Support the Duck Festival .....</b>	<b>3750</b>
<b>Waterford Electorate, Sporting Clubs .....</b>	<b>3750</b>
<b>Focal Extended Inc.....</b>	<b>3751</b>
<b>Lions Children of Courage Awards .....</b>	<b>3751</b>
<b>Bulimba Electorate, Front-line Services .....</b>	<b>3752</b>
<b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Eight Mile Plains .....</b>	<b>3753</b>
<b>Bill of Rights .....</b>	<b>3753</b>
<b>Diabetes .....</b>	<b>3754</b>
<b>Cairns Electorate, Events .....</b>	<b>3755</b>
<b>Gourley, Mr A.....</b>	<b>3755</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE .....</b>	<b>3756</b>

## WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2014

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The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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

### PRESENTATION OF APPROPRIATION BILLS

**Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that on Monday, 27 October 2014 I presented to His Excellency the Governor the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 2) and the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) for royal assent and that His Excellency was pleased, in my presence, to subscribe his assent thereto in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty.

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Error in Division

**Madam SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have been advised by the government whip that there was an error in calculating the government party votes in division 4 yesterday. The division was on clause 144 of the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The error does not affect the outcome of the vote; however, the record needs to be corrected. The result of the division was in fact ayes 55, noes 8. In accordance with standing order 106(11), I have instructed the Clerk to amend the *Record of Proceedings*.

### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

#### Hughes, Mr CM



**Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (2.02 pm): Madam Speaker, I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Clive Melwyn Hughes a former member of the parliament of Queensland.
2. That Madam Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Madam Speaker, I acknowledge the members of Mr Hughes's family who are here in the gallery with us today: his wife, Jacklyn, his children Janet, Clive and Malcolm—his fourth child Christopher could not be here today—and of course his granddaughter who is in the chamber today, the member for Broadwater, Verity Barton.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr NEWMAN:** Madam Speaker, Clive Melwyn Hughes was born in New Farm, Brisbane, on 15 May 1924 and later was educated in the state school system. After leaving school Mr Hughes worked as a clerk and also undertook woolshed and sheep industry work. Later he became heavily involved in the real estate industry and was a director of Brisbane Securities Ltd, a real estate and development firm. I also note that Mr Hughes served as a leading aircraftman in the Royal Australian Air Force for 3½ years.

In 1955 Mr Hughes was elected as the alderman for Yeronga in the Brisbane City Council, and during the six years he spent on the council through to 1961 he served on the council's works committee. As a former Lord Mayor of Brisbane, I particularly pay due regard to the work Mr Hughes performed on the Brisbane City Council during the 1950s and 1960s.

Madam Speaker, in 1960 Mr Hughes was preselected by the Liberal Party to contest the seat of Kurilpa in this parliament. Kurilpa was a seat based in the inner southern suburbs of Brisbane. At the state election on 28 May 1960, Mr Hughes was successful in his election and took his place in this House as the newly elected member for Kurilpa. Mr Hughes was successfully re-elected at the following four state elections until he decided to retire at the state election of December 1974, after having continually served for 14½ years as a member of this House.

As honourable members know, Mr Hughes still has that strong link to this parliament through his granddaughter, the member for Broadwater. I know that the member for Broadwater took great pride in following in her grandfather's footsteps in this chamber, and it must have been an equally proud moment for him when she was elected in 2012. While Mr Hughes's passing is obviously a sad time for the member for Broadwater and her family, it is fitting that she is able to be in this chamber at this time as the House respectfully marks and acknowledges her grandfather's contribution to this state.

Clive Melwyn Hughes passed away peacefully on 19 October 2014 at the age of 90, and a funeral service to celebrate his life was held in the chapel of the Mount Gravatt Cemetery, Mains Road, McGregor, on 23 October. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service that Mr Hughes gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mr Hughes's family and friends.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.06 pm): As has already been noted, the granddaughter of Clive Hughes serves in this parliament as the member for Broadwater, so I want to begin by passing on to her and her family the thoughts of the Labor opposition.

Clive Hughes was elected as the Liberal Party member for Kurilpa at the 1960 election. Unlike many who are elected to this House, he was one of those who was never defeated but chose not to recontest his seat at the 1974 election. Clive Hughes entered state parliament after representing the Yeronga ward in the Brisbane City Council from 1955. In all, he fought and won seven council and state elections.

Madam Speaker, it is notable that in his first speech here Clive Hughes spoke of his concern for the disabled and elderly who were not able to fully participate in the community. He spoke of how such people could be cut off from society and experience loneliness, frustration and economic insecurity and added that there was a real need to tap into their time and skills. In a comment somewhat ahead of his time he said, 'Economically and psychologically, the present system of early and compulsory retirement is wasteful and unsettling.' He said that he did not believe in relegating such members of our community to the 'human scrap heap'. He wanted them to continue contributing to their community. In his inaugural speech Clive Hughes also outlined his concerns about alcohol abuse and the dangers of drink driving.

Clive Hughes did not recontest Kurilpa at the 1974 election. He said that after 20 years in political life at local and state levels he felt it was time to make way for younger people. He also noted he had suffered some ill health and was even knocked down by a car while crossing the street outside Parliament House. In his final speech in this House he expressed the feelings and frustrations that all of us have felt at some stage, especially in our time here. He said, 'As a backbencher I have met many challenges and frustrations.' He added—

I think we all need a degree of tenacity and purpose. We have to keep plugging away to achieve what we want to do and what we feel we have to do to right the wrongs to help people we represent.

He also noted that in the Queensland parliament politics was played very hard—nothing has changed over the years—yet he made special mention of the friendships he had made with honourable members on both sides of the chamber. As he put it, 'We have kept our politics in the House, and that has made life both inside and outside that much easier.' In his final speech Clive Hughes also expressed the feelings that all of us share when he said, 'It has been a privilege and honour to be the member for Kurilpa.'

Madam Speaker, it is certainly a privilege and an honour to serve in this House, and today I express the appreciation of the parliamentary Labor Party for the service of Clive Hughes and extend to his family our deepest condolences.

 **Hon. IB WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts) (2.09 pm): I rise to contribute to this condolence motion, mainly in respect of Clive's family. I was fortunate enough to be coming into the Liberal Party as Clive was going out of the Liberal Party. He finished his time here in 1974 and at about that time I joined the Liberal Party. Like many local members of the time, Clive hosted the party meetings in his house, so I do remember him, particularly after the accident that the Leader of the Opposition spoke about, when he was hit by a car just outside this place. I remember him being on crutches, getting around his living room while the Greenslopes Young Liberals debated motions generally critical of the party which were then duly sent in to headquarters.

**A government member:** Nothing's changed!

**Mr WALKER:** Nothing has changed. Clive was a great and gracious host in that regard. It was through those meetings that, again, in typical style for many politicians, the DNA being strong, two of Clive's children joined the branch and were significant players in the Greenslopes Young Liberals. Janet and Clive Jr are in the gallery today. I pay tribute to them and to the times we had at Avoca Street, Yeronga, where we used to meet for those evening meetings. I pay due credit to Clive and particularly give my sympathy to Janet, Clive Jr and the rest of the family on the loss of a loved father and to Verity on the loss of a beloved grandfather.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.10 pm): It is with mixed emotions that I rise this afternoon to speak to this condolence motion. It is with sadness, because the world has lost a true hero and a gentleman, but it is also with great pride that I am able to stand here today and pay tribute to a man that I and so many others loved very dearly.

When reflecting on a life well lived, it is quite hard to know where to start. Gramps achieved many great things in his 90 years and he had much to be proud of, but his greatest achievement in life was his family. He was a loving and devoted husband to Mary and Jacklyn. He was a loving and proud father to Janet, Clive, Malcolm and Christopher, and he was a loving and adoring grandfather of Conor, Jordi, Cormac, Miranda, Ronan, Zoe and myself.

As patriarch of the Hughes family he taught all the importance of faith and the difference between right and wrong. He was a man who felt a calling to serve his community, and he devoted much of his life to public service in various forms. It was his love of public service that has inspired me to follow in his footsteps. My mother, a true-blue ginger, has often joked that in our family politics, like red hair, skips a generation. I often wonder if that means I should be more worried for my future children or my grandchildren!

As a young girl I spent many hours at my grandfather's side while he mowed the lawn, and I have no doubt that the patience he had learned in public office and in this House was put to good use as I would talk and talk and talk. Last week a family friend of my grandparents made the observation that Gramps could talk with a mouth full of marbles under wet cement, and I have a funny feeling that my family, friends and colleagues on the government benches would agree that this, too, has run in the family.

Fishing was a pastime that we would often enjoy together. Many hours of my youth were spent on the Broadwater, patiently waiting for a bite. There were many times that we would stop on the sandbanks to pump for yabbies, though as I have gotten older I have a sneaking suspicion that half the time we had just run aground. Maritime navigation never was one of his strong suits, though he did love being out on the water. And if there was ever any doubt about his patience, after the mowing of the lawn escapades of my tender youth, his patience was affirmed as he used to indulge my juvenile delusions that I might one day catch a six-foot barramundi in the Broadwater and take it home for dinner in the little tinnie that we were invariably in.

As I got older he would tell me so many stories of his life. Like many born in the 1920s, his view of the world was one that was shaped by the Great Depression and the Second World War. He left school at 12 or 13 and as a teenager he worked many jobs. One that he often spoke about was when he worked in a shearers shed in Western Queensland. He was always a hard worker, but he did this not for himself but so that he could send money home to his mother, Myra. In 1942 he enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force, where he served in 3 Aircraft Depot until his discharge in 1946. His entrepreneurial streak was sparked after the war. This served him well through life. He used to run a sawmill and he later developed property.

He and Mary married in 1947 and finally settled in Yeronga. She passed away in 1966, leaving Gramps with three young children, aged 13, 11 and nearly five. But he was blessed to find love and happiness again and marry Jackie and later became a father again.

Elected as an alderman to the Brisbane City Council in 1955, he served as the alderman for Yeronga and on the works committee until 1961 before entering parliament at the 1960 election, representing the seat of Kurilpa until his retirement in 1974. Kurilpa covered parts of West End, Highgate Hill, Dutton Park and parts of Yeronga and Annerley. He served in council and entered parliament because he believed that the local community needed someone to be its voice and to be an advocate for people in his local community. It was immaterial to him whether he lent his voice to big issues such as the emissions from the Tennyson Power Station or the percentage of pork in pork

sausages or those of the people he met in the street. I think a testament to the level of personal support he garnered is the swing against the Labor Party in his seat at the 1974 election, one at which the Liberal Party gained a state-wide swing of more than eight per cent. Even to this day I get to meet people, like Nick Xynias from the Ethnic Communities Council, who remember my grandfather very well and speak very highly of him.

One piece of advice that he gave me was to remember that, whenever someone came and asked for my help, it did not matter how trivial the matter might seem to me because for that person it mattered and that I should treat it as the most significant issue ever faced. To that end, he used to remind me of the importance of listening and trying to understand and empathise—or, as he would put it, ‘God gave us two ears and one mouth. Try and use them in that proportion.’

Mum and her brothers have fond memories of Parliament House in the late 1960s. After school was done for the day they would come here so that Gramps could eventually take them home when he was finished with his parliamentary business. I have heard many a story of them sliding down staircase bannisters and running up and down long, shiny parquet corridors in their socks while waiting for Gramps to finish his work. I have a funny feeling that Neil is quite glad that does not happen today.

Gramps did not like the machiavellianism of politics. For him, it was all about serving the people. For that he earned the respect and friendship of those on both sides of politics. He enjoyed a great camaraderie with his electoral neighbour, Col Bennett, who was the Labor member for South Brisbane. He might not have agreed with what people in the Labor Party believed, nor I am sure many times what people in the Country Party believed—Gramps himself was a member of the original ginger group alongside Bill Lickiss, Charles Porter and Bill Hewitt which suggests that he also had a rather healthy cynicism of some things within the Liberal Party, even on occasion crossing the floor—but above all he respected members’ desires to make their communities and their state a better place.

I never heard him speak an ill word against a member from the other side, and his respect for all members was further confirmed in a story I heard last week. Gramps and my grandmother had gone to a family friend’s home for a dinner party where he encountered a staunch Labor woman. Without knowing who he was, she spoke in glowing terms of her local Labor member as Gramps sat patiently, not saying a thing. Ordinarily, most would consider this a simple courtesy of a true gentleman, but, given that this Labor MP was the same member who a few weeks before had accidentally run him down on Alice Street, leaving him with a broken leg in plaster, I think it speaks a great deal about his character.

After nearly 20 years of public service to his community he retired at the 1974 election, but he remained truly committed to helping those in his community. He had a long association with the St Vincent de Paul Society, and Mum and I were both very proud to follow in his footsteps. His association began when he was a member of this House, when he would go downtown to help feed the homeless men of Brisbane. He was seen by many of those men as a friend. One day he stopped to talk to one of the men in the line, and the guy behind him, not having any idea who he was, aggressively accused him of trying to cut the queue. The man that Gramps was talking to stepped in and said something along the lines of, ‘Back off, mate. This is Clive. He’s one of us.’ I have always found this a really heart-warming story, because it proves and says to me that he was the kind of man who did not judge you on your background or your circumstance but respected you as a fellow man. In addition to supporting Vinnies, he had a long association with the RSL. He served on the board of the Queensland fire brigade and on the board of the Queensland Ambulance for more than 20 years and even had an ambulance named after him.

It was during his council days that he struck up a long association supporting the blind society and he was particularly supportive of blind cricket. He was taking me on a tour of the House one day when he recounted the time he brought the blind cricket team to parliament for a tour and he was describing to them the Speaker’s and President’s desks in their respective chambers and had told them that the two desks were identical. Gramps, somewhat like myself, was not an easily dissuaded man, so I do think that it is somewhat of a delicious irony that members of the blind cricket team pointed out the differences with the ‘P’ in the filigree work of the President’s desk and the ‘S’ in the filigree work of the Speaker’s desk. He gave much of his time to help the Paradise Point Meals on Wheels. One particular afternoon he was visiting an elderly widower who had a new batch of home-brew. Ever a polite man, my grandfather did not dare refuse the offer of a tippie. After a few hours Meals on Wheels became worried and a search party was sent out, checking in at all of the

houses on his route. Eventually he was found and, based on his not being in a condition fit enough to drive, evidently the home-brew was either more potent, delicious or both than had been expected. I have a funny feeling it was not the first time that a search party was sent out and nor was it, I am sure, the last. As I said earlier, maritime navigation was not one of his strong points and I am sure that the volunteer Coast Guard and marine rescue got their fair share of calls when the tide was misread.

He was a man with a deep sense of faith and he was well known in his local parish at Holy Family and he taught catechism in local state primary schools. He loved his garden. There were always flowers and cuttings to take home to mum, strawberries and snow peas to eat straight from the garden and one year, as I am sure my family will remember, there were a lot of chokos. I can still see him now sitting at the kitchen table with either a plate of Mum's rum balls or chocolate ginger being consumed at almost the speed of light reading the paper and checking his shares. He was a loving man who would pick a flower in the morning and put it in a vase on my grandmother's breakfast tray before taking her breakfast in bed. I will not be able to play euchre without thinking of him, though he never could quite get me to understand bridge. Anyone who met my grandfather would have described him as a gentleman, a man with a kind heart and soul. One of the last things that I said to him was that he was my hero and that he left an indelible mark in the hearts and minds of not only his family and his friends but also the communities in which he lived and which he was so proud to have served.

As we celebrated his life last Thursday, I read from St Paul's second letter to Timothy which I thought rather fitting because he fought the good fight, he finished the race and he kept the faith. Finally, with the indulgence of the House, I would like to share just one last piece of advice I was given. I asked him once what the secret to a long and happy marriage was and Gramps said, 'I always have the last word in any argument.' I must have looked curious and perplexed because he grinned at me with a twinkle in his eye and said, 'It's yes, dear.' We lost a true hero and gentleman, but this world's loss is the next world's gain. Heaven now has a new angel to watch over us all. As proud as he was of his family and all that he achieved, I was just as proud to have loved him and to have called him Gramps. Rest in peace, Grandpa.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

## PETITION

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

### **Mudgeeraba, Bus Service**

**Ms Bates**, from 1,023 petitioners, requesting the House to restore bus route number 750 so it terminates in Mudgeeraba and to increase bus route number 748 to a half hourly service during peak times [\[6384\]](#).

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### MINISTERIAL PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Health (Mr Springborg)—

[6385](#) Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2013-14

Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Mr Cripps)—

[6386](#) Response from the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Mr Cripps) to a paper petition (2321-14) presented by Mr Walker, from 370 petitioners, requesting the House to take action for the locality around Holmead Road, north to Bulimba Creek, south to the Pacific Motorway and east to the Gateway Motorway become formally known as Wishart Outlook with no change to its postcode of 4113

Minister for Housing and Public Works (Mr Mander)—

[6387](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Housing and Public Works (Mr Mander) pursuant to section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Architects Regulation 2003, Professional Engineers Regulation 2003, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2003 and the Residential Services (Accreditation) Regulation 2002

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Community Safety; Ebola Virus



**Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (2.24 pm): With security issues a major concern for many Queenslanders at this time, the government remains committed to helping our police and fire services do their jobs and keep families safe. Where Labor was soft on law and order, drugs and organised crime and failed to properly resource police, this government is making Queensland the safest place to live and raise a family. The budget of the Queensland Police Service today is \$180 million a year more than in Labor's last budget. We have put extra police on the ground and eyes in the sky. We have boosted assault protections for police and their capacity to deal with criminal motorcycle gangs and we are working with police to stamp out drug and alcohol fuelled violence. We are also well and truly on the way to delivering our election promise of 1,100 additional police officers over four years. We have now got well over 800 extra police on the beat across this state.

Queensland's reported crime rate dropped 11 per cent in the last financial year, with some of the biggest falls involving serious crimes like assault and robbery. Some 1,490 gang participants have been arrested on 4,028 charges through our tough measures against criminal gangs. We have introduced police hubs to the Gold Coast and Townsville—highly mobile and proactive task forces that spend more time on the beat cracking down on crime. On the beat, officers have around 2,500 iPads and iPhones. These devices are saving them up to 30 minutes per shift. They are also supported by two fully funded police helicopters in the south-east, helping further in the battle against crime.

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services also plays a vital role in keeping Queenslanders safe. This is the first government in Queensland history to deliver a half-billion dollar budget for fire services. We have also supported rural fire brigades by fully funding their vehicles and training. Most of the Malone review recommendations have now been implemented and we have relaunched the Emergency Services Cadets in a new partnership with the PCYC, with a cadet group recently established on Palm Island. In addition to this, we have opened fire stations in the Ipswich region at Brassall and Ripley. All of these measures are enabling Queensland families to feel safer and more secure. Our work to improve front-line services is making sure that Queensland is the safest place to live and raise a family.

While I am on the subject of safety, I want to update the House on an initiative I took today in relation to the ebola virus. Today I have written to the federal Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon. Scott Morrison MHR, to talk about our position in relation to ebola and particularly healthcare workers returning to Australia and also people who are coming in from countries in the West African region. I want to read a paragraph or two, if I may, and then I will table this document. The third paragraph of the letter to the minister states—

As you may know, the Queensland Government is implementing a policy that all health care workers returning from countries affected by EVD (regardless of exposure) be asked to go into voluntary home isolation in Brisbane for 21 days from their last exposure to a person with EVD or an EVD affected area. They will be requested to take their temperature twice daily and will be monitored on a daily basis by health professionals.

I then go on to say in the next paragraph—

To support these additional measures, I am seeking assistance from your department to facilitate some additional procedures. Specifically, the Queensland Government requests that Border Protection Officers be directed to:

- take and record the temperature of travellers whose flight originated in an EVD affected country, regardless of any reported symptoms
- obtain contact details for these travellers, and provide these details to the human quarantine officer, along with advice on the temperature recordings
- advise these travellers they will be contacted within 24 hours by a public health officer who will undertake a comprehensive EVD assessment and
- provide travellers with information on the symptoms of EVD and health service contact details and a thermometer so they can monitor their temperature (to be supplied by Queensland Health).

I table this letter for the information of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, undated, from the Premier, Hon. Campbell Newman, to the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, Hon. Scott Morrison, regarding humanitarian visa holders and ebola virus [6388].

Once again, I say that this government is totally and utterly committed to protecting Queenslanders and making Queensland the safest place in Australia to raise your family.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Before I call the Treasurer I wish to advise the House that, in accordance with sessional order 4, question time will commence at 2.54 pm.

### Queensland Economy

 **Hon. TJ NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade) (2.30 pm): The government is completely committed to making the Queensland community safer. We are doing this by reinvesting in front-line services, by spending more on our hospitals and putting more police on the beat. But we are also giving Queenslanders confidence that this government has control of the state finances and that we have a plan for growing the Queensland economy. We are making strong progress in both of these areas. We have stabilised the growth in debt—which is still too high at around \$80 billion—we have reduced Labor's projected debt by approximately \$5 billion this year and next year the budget is forecast to be back in fiscal surplus for the first time in a decade.

The government's fiscal strategy was endorsed in the latest Standard & Poor's rating assessment, with Queensland's credit rating being assessed at AA+ with the outlook being stable. The independent experts are independently rating our activities. The report states—

The stable outlook reflects our expectation that the state's financial management will remain strong, in particular its expense management, which we expect to lead to operating surpluses in its forecast years.

Our commitment to fiscal responsibility is important, because when a government is in control of its finances it can invest more in the services that Queenslanders expect and deserve—the services needed to make our communities safer.

The government's economic strategy is also starting to bear fruit. By next year we are forecast to once again become the fastest growing state in the nation. This is not only shown in the Queensland budget papers but also in the Deloitte Access Economics September *Business outlook*, which was released on Monday. That report states—

Queensland will account for a rising share of the national economy. Indeed, by 2016 we see it topping the State growth leaderboard, something that it hasn't managed to achieve in over a decade.

We know that there is much more hard work ahead and that not everyone is experiencing the benefits of this growth, but the people of Queensland can be confident that we have a plan for taking this state forward. Unlike those opposite, we are being upfront and open about our plans. We are giving Queenslanders every chance—every chance—to look at our policies and the benefits that they deliver.

The Queensland community can be certain that this government is being open and upfront, that we are providing a stable economic environment. We are balancing the books, we are growing the economy and we have a plan for paying down the debt. With a secure financial future, the government will be able to achieve even more in improving the front-line services that Queenslanders expect and deserve.

### Police, Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. JM DEMPSEY** (Bundaberg—LNP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) (2.32 pm): This government is committed to providing the best equipment, resources and facilities to our front-line police, fire and emergency services workers and volunteers. This can-do LNP government is determined to make Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family. Over the past 2½ years we have been working very hard to get Queensland back on track and increase the confidence of the community in our police, fire and emergency services personnel. This is visible in the hard work that this government has invested to ensure that our police, fire and emergency services and hardworking volunteers have the resources, technology, training and opportunities to get the job done.

We are ensuring that police, fire and emergency services are well equipped with the latest cutting-edge technology and the state-of-the-art operational command centres. We are ensuring that our police and fire officers have access to the latest technology, with mobile devices saving police up to 30 minutes per shift and the latest bushfire mapping technology to help firefighters respond to incidents more quickly.

We have achieved our commitment to deliver South-East Queensland's second police helicopter, which can only further assist our officers on the ground to be better equipped and resourced in their areas and also keep our communities safe. Today, I had the pleasure to attend the

commissioning of the second police catamaran, one of three vessels, as part of the government's \$12.7 million commitment to keep Queensland families safe. This vessel, named in memory of Constable Brett Irwin, will operate in Brisbane during G20 next month before heading to Townsville.

Not only are we revitalising front-line services; we are ensuring that Queensland is the safest place to live and visit. Queenslanders can enjoy a peaceful night out because of our Safe Night Out Strategy, which aims to restore responsible behaviour and respect and stamp out alcohol and drug related violence to ensure that Queensland's nightlife is safe for all. We are revitalising Neighbourhood Watch and Crime Stoppers with another \$1 million allocated towards improving links within our community. We are rolling out myPolice blogs to provide direct access to the latest news to communities from Cape York to Coolangatta. To date, the current myPolice blogs have received well over 40 million views.

This government certainly is revitalising front-line services for our hardworking firefighters and paramedics. They are now getting a clearer run to jobs, thanks to new technology being rolled out to over 500 intersections by mid-2015. Just yesterday, the Premier announced the rollout of the emergency vehicle priority—or EVP—which triggers traffic lights to change to green, saving between 10 per cent to 20 per cent in emergency response times. We all know how seconds can mean lives. We promised to revitalise front-line services and we are certainly achieving that promise, with emergency vehicles now given priority treatment when approaching an intersection.

This government has also been working hard to revitalise our fire and emergency services, being the first government to provide a budget, as the Premier mentioned previously, of more than half a billion dollars. With another budget of over half a billion dollars to our hardworking fire and emergency services, we will be seeing a 20 per cent increase in the number of new fire vehicles on the road on top of the 69 that joined the fleet in 2013-14.

We have achieved stronger support for Rural Fire Service Queensland brigades by fully funding brigade vehicles and fully funding training. We are delivering the government wireless network project, which includes nearly \$500 million in funding to secure police, fire and emergency services communications so that they can communicate with each other. We have also launched—very successfully—the PCYC Emergency Services Cadets program in partnership with that great organisation, the PCYC, with groups starting to open up right throughout the state, including one on Palm Island and another five groups under development.

This government has opened numerous new fire stations and completed much needed upgrades of the crumbling stations that we inherited. We opened the North Queensland Surf Life Saving Queensland headquarters. We have also implemented congestion-busting robotic base stations to clear crash sites an hour quicker, with 12 of these devices now operating state-wide, allowing mums and dads to get back on the road and home to their family sooner instead of being stuck in traffic.

Only the LNP has a strong plan for a brighter future. It is about revitalising front-line services to ensure that emergency services have the resources they need to keep our streets safe not just now but for generations to come.

### Community Safety

 **Hon. JP BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.38 pm): A strong part of the government's plan to revitalise front-line services and make Queensland the safest place to raise a family is, of course, to ensure that Queenslanders have access to justice through the expansion of our courts and coronial services and the provision of funding to legal services to reach those most in need. Queensland also expect strong laws to deter criminals.

On that note, I look up to the gallery and I welcome to the gallery a group that keep communities safe on the Sunshine Coast. I see members of the Residents Association South Sunshine Coast, who for years have campaigned to keep communities safe with CCTV cameras. So I welcome them to the House.

Just last week, after honouring the Chief Judge for 15 years of service as head of the District Court, I announced five new appointments to the District Court. Among those appointments I announced the appointment of an additional District Court judge for the Cairns region. His Honour Judge Dean Morzone QC will be appointed as a judge of the District Court from 27 October and will commence serving on the bench in Cairns very shortly.

To accommodate the continued increase in demand for coronial services, an additional full-time coroner covering the Central Queensland region was appointed in August 2012. The reporting of new deaths to this position commenced on 1 October 2012. Prior to the appointment of this full-time central coroner, 70 per cent of reportable deaths were reported to six full-time coroners situated in Brisbane, Southport and Cairns. The remaining 30 per cent of deaths were reported to local magistrate coroners in 16 Magistrates Courts across the state. The appointment of the central coroner enabled the full-time coroner model to be extended state-wide from 1 October 2012.

We appointed an additional three magistrates to the magistracy. These appointments have resulted in the Magistrates Court more adequately managing the workloads. The clearance rates for the courts in the 2013-14 financial year was 95.4 per cent for criminal matters and 97.9 per cent for civil matters. To ensure that vulnerable Queenslanders are able to have their legal needs met, the government made a \$100 million investment into the legal service sector to ensure the delivery of legal advice, legal profession regulation and law library services. Over the next 12 months Legal Aid will receive \$64.4 million to continue its valuable work in assisting economically and socially disadvantaged people across the state. Another \$30 million will be invested in a range of other community organisations over the next three years to provide free or low-cost legal assistance services.

As a result of our review of the LPITAF process, community organisations, including community legal centres, predict an additional 6,000 front-line services can be delivered to vulnerable people in 2014-17. Recently the Premier commissioned a special task force to review how to best prevent and respond to domestic violence in Queensland. At the same time, the government committed to investing an additional \$250,000 per annum in 2015-17 in the services delivered by the Women's Legal Service. The additional investment will enable the Women's Legal Service to continue to deliver vital front-line services including the dedicated rural, remote and regional telephone advice service one day a week, the domestic violence duty lawyer clinic at the Holland Park Magistrates Court one day a week and evening legal advice at the Women's Legal Service head office two days per week. Again, it was completely underfunded in the 15 years the Labor government was in power.

In relation to our justice of the peace trial program where we have JPs hearing minor civil disputes in QCAT, I can report to honourable members today that we have now had over 4,000 matters heard by JPs—community champions in this state. Over 4,000 matters have been heard by JPs in five trial sites in Queensland. That has meant that the time vulnerable Queenslanders have had to wait for minor civil disputes to be dealt with has been reduced from six weeks 12 months ago to now just under three weeks. This is a revitalisation of front-line services, a revitalisation of the JP branch, which was completely neglected by the member for Bundamba when she was head of the JP branch some years ago.

Whether it be in our courts, our JPs in our community, our boot camps sorting young lives out, reducing crime in the state or whether it be the strongest laws in the country dealing with criminal gangs, this government has a strong plan for all Queenslanders. We want to ensure that all Queenslanders have a bright future that will make Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family.

### **Ebola Virus**

 **Hon. LJ SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Minister for Health) (2.42 pm): Protecting the health and safety of Queenslanders is a key responsibility of our government. Precision in planning and managing the hospital network, supporting front-line clinicians and coordinating providers is necessary to deliver the quality health services all Queenslanders desire. The government takes this responsibility very seriously. Worldwide concerns about ebola virus disease shared across Australia are a case in point. In Queensland the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre has been in place since 17 October. Skilled and experienced clinicians control the response with full support from the government. Clinicians plan and prescribe the steps, they plan and deliver necessary warnings, statements and advice to the community. Open, accurate, timely and authoritative communication with the community promotes awareness. Queenslanders are right to be confident about our response. This is the way that it should be.

Today the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeanette Young, is conducting a symposium for industry groups and NGOs on ebola. This includes briefings to medical groups, clinicians and the State Disaster Coordination Centre. Queenslanders know and respect Dr Young. It is reassuring to hear her say that Queensland is well prepared to identify and respond to any suspected case and to present accurate information about transmission should a case occur.

At the symposium this morning Dr Young announced plans to stage an exercise to test and refine our EVD response. Exercise Uplift will involve more than 100 people as participants and observers and will take place next Wednesday, 5 November. It will involve public health officers, 000 operators, the Queensland Ambulance Service, Roma Hospital, retrieval services, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, the State Health Emergency Coordination Centre and Dr Young herself. Observers will attend from the Northern Territory, the Defence Force and the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre.

The exercise will involve a patient in Roma being identified as a potential ebola case and being airlifted to Brisbane with treatment right throughout the process. Exercise Uplift will test the full response of authorities, from the notification of the patient's condition through to their treatment at the designated ebola treatment facility at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. The exercise will be recorded on videotape and an extensive debriefing process conducted to help inform our planning.

I thank and congratulate the front-line government officers, including those in Queensland Health and the QAS, whose good work is helping to protect the health and safety of Queenslanders at this time. As the Premier said, Queenslanders can be very, very confident in the response of this government in protecting their health and welfare now and in the future.

### Tourism Industry

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.45 pm): Tourism is one of the four pillars of our state's economy. It creates thousands of jobs and contributes some \$23 billion to the state's bottom line. Queensland has an unparalleled suite of destinations and spectacular natural attributes. As we all know, events play a significant role in attracting intrastate, interstate and overseas visitors into Queensland's regions. Where else in the world can you watch a global motor racing event one minute and stroll down a pristine stretch of surf beach the next, snorkel with tropical fish in the morning and attend a breathtaking ballet performance at night, or witness a chamber music ensemble play on the shore of a palm fringed island? Where indeed! Only in Queensland, as showcased when I launched the new Its Live calendar of events last week.

Many elements go into creating a successful event and some of the most critical are providing a safe and secure environment. As Queenslanders we are proud of the dedication and commitment our brave men and women in blue show on a daily basis. They are literally the front line in providing a safe and secure environment for our families and visitors alike. Recent research by Tourism Australia shows the importance of safety and security in holiday decision making with our key source markets ranking it the number one decision-making factor.

By adopting a whole-of-government approach, rather than the silos that we saw under Labor, the Newman government is making great strides. The passage last night of the Major Events Bill is another example of this. We now have a streamlined legislative framework that may be used for major events held in Australia. This will help us deliver the best experience for our visitors coming to our state for the 2015 AFC Asian Cup and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games, helping us live up to our solid reputation for hosting world-class events.

Last weekend our Gold Coast was revving with the 2014 Castrol Edge Gold Coast 600. Over 184,000 people went through the gates across the three days, almost 10,000 more than last year. Despite this bumper crowd, event organisers reported no major incidents. I would like to place on record my sincere gratitude to the thousands of police and emergency services personnel, the volunteers and officials who helped deliver another safe and secure event. The Newman government has a strong plan for a bright future. The welcome mat is out as we embrace tourists and visitors to what is one of the world's most safe and secure tourism destinations.

### Government Wireless Network, G20

 **Hon. IB WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts) (2.48 pm): The government wireless network is ready for the G20 Leaders Summit. The new digital radio communications network will play a vital role for our front-line officers during this important event. More importantly, the G20 has provided the springboard to allow us to give Queensland's emergency services the technology they need to provide the best and quickest help through secure communications. Long after the G20 is over Queenslanders will get the best and quickest help when they need it most.

That is part of our covenant with Queenslanders to make them safe and secure in the knowledge this government has done what was needed to look after not just the public's personal safety but the security of their communities too. The need for a government wireless network arose because current networks are based on analogue technologies and have been developed independently, resulting in a number of separate and disjointed radio networks in Queensland. These networks do not allow for cross-agency communication.

Further, due to the insecure nature of analogue technology, anyone can listen into our front-line officers' radio communications. For example, the ordinary looking fellow in a brown suit next to you could be listening in at the moment to our police communications. That is a tip-off that we do not want such a person to have.

The new digital radio communications network, infrastructure and equipment provided a more secure service during the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in Cairns last month. The network successfully delivered secure and interoperable radio communications for police, emergency services and Commonwealth security agencies during the event.

With the clock ticking down to the Brisbane G20 summit next month, final GWN readiness preparations are well underway. My department, Telstra and the public safety agencies are completing a series of operational checklists designed to ensure full readiness and the delivery of a secure, interoperable radio communications network. All users of the GWN during the G20 have been trained and are confident in using the new equipment. All network and user acceptance tests have been successfully completed.

Over 6,000 GWN portable radios have been deployed for front-line staff during the G20. Some 768 police, fire and ambulance service vehicles, aircraft and watercraft have been fitted with the new equipment, and a further 97 mobile radio kits have been issued. As members can appreciate, this has been a considerable technical and logistical exercise. I would like to acknowledge the work of my department, the public safety agencies and Telstra in achieving all design and delivery milestones during the past 12 months.

Following the G20 in Brisbane, the GWN will be implemented in South-East Queensland, with completion expected by mid-2016. The design and build work for the staged South-East Queensland rollout is already well underway. Stage 1 encompasses the Gold Coast, Logan and Ipswich regions, with the infrastructure due for completion in mid-2015. Following this, north and South Brisbane will be digital radio capable, with Moreton, Sunshine Coast, Gympie and Toowoomba to come online next year.

Standing still will take us backwards when it comes to technology, and this government has a strategy opposite to that—that is, to provide the services Queenslanders need. We are riding the wave to provide our front-line services with the technology they need to keep Queenslanders and its emergency workers safe, and to secure Queensland from her enemies.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Auditor-General's Reports, Referral to Portfolio Committee

**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.52 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting yesterday. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General report titled *Report to Parliament No. 2: 2014-15 Hospital infrastructure projects*, be referred to the Health and Community Services Committee for consideration; and the Auditor-General report titled *Report to Parliament No. 3: 2014-15 Emergency department performance reporting*, be referred to the Health and Community Services Committee for consideration.

## STATE DEVELOPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

### Reports and Submissions

 **Mr GIBSON** (Gympie—LNP) (2.52 pm): I lay upon the table of the House the following reports of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: report No. 53 titled *Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014*, and submissions received; report No. 54 titled *State*

*Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014*, and submissions received; report No. 55 titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 June 2014 and 26 August 2014*; and report No. 56 titled *Annual Report 2013-14*.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 53—Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014 [6389].

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014, submissions received in relation to the inquiry [6390].

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 54—State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014 [6391].

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: State Development and Public Works Organisation (State Development Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, submissions received in relation to the inquiry [6392].

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 55—Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 June 2014 and 26 August 2014 [6393].

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 56—Annual Report 2013-14 [6394].

With regard to the annual report, I wish to place on the record my thanks to the members of the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee and the secretariat for the work they have all put in over the past year. I commend these reports to the House.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Madam SPEAKER:** Question time will finish at 3.53 pm. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

### Moggill Electorate; Member for Moggill

 **Ms PALASZCZUK** (2.53 pm): My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline to the House his government's capital expenditure in the seat of Moggill? Furthermore, has the current member for Moggill made any representations to the Premier about any matter over the last couple of weeks?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the Premier, I remind members that we will hear questions in silence. I did not see who it was who was interjecting, but I remind you to be silent. I call the Premier.

**Mr NEWMAN:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I have to say that offhand I really would not know what level of capital expenditure is being undertaken in the electorate of Moggill this financial year. If the Leader of the Opposition would like to put a question on notice I am sure we would be delighted to provide an answer to it. The other way they could find this out is to perhaps look at some of the budget documents. Mind you, that has never helped them in the past. They have never found any use for the budget documents because it is far easier to make things up.

While I am talking about what is going on in electorates around the state, what I confidently but sadly predict will occur in Moggill, Ashgrove, Mount Coot-tha and, should I even say, in your electorate, Deputy Premier, is that they will be telling porkies—big pork, huge porkies, breathtaking, ocean-going, intergalactic porkies—to confuse Queenslanders. They will be telling porkies like, 'There are fewer teachers in Queensland,' which is not true. They will be saying that the Health budget has been cut, which is not true. It is \$2 billion more. In fact, it is 18.6 per cent higher.

They will not be talking about how they would fund capital expenditure if they were re-elected. We have a strong plan.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Speaker. My question was clearly about the seat of Moggill.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Please take your seat. I listened to the Premier when he initially rose and he addressed the question. It may not be in the way that you wished it to be addressed, but he did address the issue of Moggill. I call the Premier. He still has time on the clock to answer the question.

**Mr NEWMAN:** The question I clearly heard related to capital expenditure. I refer to the Strong Choices Investment Program. I refer those opposite to this marvellous document which says very clearly on the front, to avoid any confusion amongst the opposition and Labor affiliated unions, 'No asset sales'.

On page 41 the Strong Choices Investment Program totalling \$8.6 billion and creating up to 25,000 new jobs across Queensland is outlined. Yes, there is funding for South-East Queensland roads. That could be a positive thing for the electorate of Moggill. There is a certain bypass road that the honourable member for Moggill has spoken about in this place over the years. Perhaps that would be a good way to fund that one.

There is the Public Transport Rail Infrastructure Fund. There is the Bus and Train Tunnel project funding of \$1 billion. There is the Future Schools Fund of \$1 billion. There is the Local Government Co-Investment Fund of \$500 million. Perhaps there are great prospects for the member for Moggill to work with that fine, hardworking councillor and great friend of the Treasurer Councillor Margaret de Wit and bid on a project in the Pullenvale Ward, again using some of that money. There is lots of great information. We have a plan and those opposite do not.

### Public Hospitals, Emergency Departments

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to serious concerns identified by the Auditor-General about the reliability of data on the performance of hospital emergency departments, and I ask: how can Queenslanders believe anything the government says if health data can be manipulated so easily? Will the Premier explain why the health minister has overseen a culture of cover-up in his department?

**Madam SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, I would ask you to withdraw the imputation. Your question contained an imputation.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I withdraw the last part of the question.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Thank you. I call the Premier.

**Mr NEWMAN:** Oh, Madam Speaker, may I please answer this one! There is an old saying about glass houses and throwing stones and the like. Where do I start about cover-up? I might go back to yesterday when I talked about the IT intensive care unit system. I did a quick inquiry and I found this wonderful paper from 2010 that went to the Executive Council of Queensland. It talked about this wonderful system called MetaVision and it said that it was going to increase patient safety 'due to reduced risk, incidence, and severity of adverse patient events'—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** What about the October one?

**Mr NEWMAN:** No, no. Madam Speaker, they have to hear this, please—

**Mr Nicholls:** Openness and transparency.

**Mr NEWMAN:** This is about openness and accountability, please—through the 'provision of intensive care services'. It gets better—

The proposed contract has followed the undertaking of a rigorous procurement process ...

It is of course the IT ICU project. The Governor in Council meeting sought approval of expenditure up to \$16.7 million, and it is signed by—oh, wait!—Paul Lucas, the then Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, on 31 August 2010. I table the document in the interests of openness and transparency.

*Tabled paper:* Executive Council of Queensland: minute No. 63, dated 16 September 2010, regarding Department of Health expenditure [6395].

In terms of health statistics, let us just strip past all the opposition's nonsense—in fact, the quite inappropriate maligning of the hardworking men and women in Queensland Health, because that is what they are doing. The imputation that was in that question—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Premier, I am sorry to interrupt you. There are too many interjections on my left. The Premier is answering the question. Your interjections are not being taken. I warn members on my left. I call the Premier.

**Mr NEWMAN:** The clear imputation in the question was a slur—it is the only way it can be taken—on nurses and doctors and front-line clinical administrators. That is what the question is about.

But I go to more cheerful commentary, and that is the radio interview with Dr Shaun Rudd, the President of AMA Queensland, on ABC Radio yesterday morning. He is talking about waiting lists. He is asked a question and Dr Shaun Rudd says—

I don't think he has called the bluff. I think there is no question the waiting lists to have surgery he wants to be seen. At outpatients it's certainly coming down and people are being seen in clinically appropriate times. So I think he is being confident that it's a good time to go ahead and open up the books—

this minister—

and let people see what is going on because things are going well at the present time.

Steve Austin said—

So this is a good story really in health. This is where things are getting better in the health department in Queensland at the moment?

Dr Shaun Rudd replied—

Yes, that's correct.

So, yes, the AMA Queensland is saying emergency departments are performing better, the clinical waiting times have improved, the response—

**Mr Pitt:** Why don't Queenslanders believe him?

**Mr NEWMAN:** I take that interjection—because Queenslanders are continuing to be misled by those opposite, but in this campaign we will make sure they know the truth.

*(Time expired)*

### **Barron River Electorate, Community Safety**

**Mr TROUT:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier outline to the House the front-line measures this can-do government has taken to bolster front-line resources in my electorate and keep residents safe?

**Mr NEWMAN:** Here is a member who has a question that is meaningful to the people he serves and I thank him for that. He is a passionate advocate for law and order in his community. He knows that people want to feel safe and secure wherever they live and they quite rightfully expect that government will listen to their concerns and then act.

He has been working for his constituents. I note that since the 2012 election the honourable member has assisted in the establishment of Neighbourhood Watch branches at Palm Cove, Clifton Beach, Yorkeys Knob, Kuranda, Kewarra Beach, Redlynch and Brinsmead. Mark Elwood, who set up the Palm Cove and Clifton Beach branches, recently became the Queensland Neighbourhood Watch Member of the Year, and I commend him on that. This week the honourable member will attend a barbecue with the Queensland Police Service and the Cairns Regional Council with the support of Brinsmead Neighbourhood Watch to raise funds to repair the Brinsmead Community Hall after it was damaged recently by fire.

The member also recently arranged a teleconference between rural fire brigade members covering the Speewah, Koah, Kuranda and Mareeba areas and the Assistant Minister for Emergency Volunteers, Ted Malone. There has been a lot of mistrust between the rural fire brigades out there because the former ALP government refused to listen to them, refused to communicate with them, refused to consult with them. The fire brigades felt they did not have a voice. They were extremely frustrated. They had grave concerns about funding and equipment and most other issues. I understand they were most grateful to the member for Barron River for facilitating the meeting which quelled a lot of their fears. Many of the issues raised by the rural fire brigades in North Queensland have now been rectified as part of the implementation of the Malone report.

The Barron River electorate is serviced by the Cairns, Kuranda, Mareeba and Smithfield police divisions. Across these divisions the government has provided an additional 31 police officers on the front line as part of our commitment to put an additional 1,100 officers on the beat throughout Queensland.

Just to sum up, we have a passionate local member protecting his community, working with his community faithfully ensuring that they are safe and drawing on the resources of this strong government to protect them. The clear contrast is there for all to see between the former Labor

members who would not work hard enough and a member who is every day a strong community champion working with this government to make sure that the community gets a better deal. There is more to be done, but I say this: if the member for Barron River is re-elected in the 2015 election, those communities out there will get a better deal from strong representation. You can guarantee that because he is part of a strong team with a strong plan to protect Queenslanders for the future.

### **Public Hospitals, Emergency Departments**

**Mr BYRNE:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to page 43 of the Auditor-General's report into emergency department performance which explains how one patient's data at Rockhampton Hospital was amended from a four-hour-19-minute stay to a three-hour-59-minute stay, and I ask: will the Premier explain what actions he has taken to determine how widespread the practice of amending data is across emergency departments in Queensland's public hospitals?

**Mr NEWMAN:** Let us first look at what the Auditor-General actually said. The Auditor-General said that Queensland's emergency departments are performing better today than they did several years ago. He also showed quite clearly that the EDs in Queensland are performing better than a number of other jurisdictions around the nation. In fact, they are right up there. In relation to the specific question that the member is asking, again, it comes as quite frankly a slur against the staff in that hospital. The Minister for Health—

**Mrs Miller:** No, it doesn't. Read the report.

**Mr NEWMAN:** Frankly, what they are doing is what they always do. They use smear and innuendo. Let us just dissect the issue. The Auditor-General has made a comment about something that happened on the front line. In the way that it was raised here today it was clearly that this was some sort of malfeasance. If there were malfeasance or some inappropriateness about it, I imagine the Auditor-General would have said so. But the Auditor-General, as a statutory independent officer, is duty bound to simply report dispassionately and make comments. That is what they have done here.

This is not an action of this government. This is an action of someone on the front line and, frankly, I think the member—and there is a good chance they represent that person—probably should have a long hard think about themselves. I cannot find it personally offensive like those opposite always do—those with the glass jaws opposite who have made a practice, in my humble view, of misusing the standing orders because they cannot stand the heat in the kitchen—but what I say to them today through you, Madam Speaker, is: do not come in here and slur your own constituents or those of the member for Keppel. Acknowledge what the Auditor-General has said, that overall the hardworking men and women in Queensland Health—the nurses and doctors and administrators—are doing a fantastic job, a better job, a job that is making them the envy of other health services around the nation.

Why is that the case? Because we have given them more money—\$2 billion a year more, an 18.6 per cent increase in the budget—and we have given them empowerment with local hospital and health services, which means that the local health services are run by a board of local people, clinical people and laypeople who have the best interests of the local community at heart. How far has Health moved in the last 2½ years? It has moved a long, long way. We have crossed the Rubicon to a better health system in Queensland. Is there more to be done? Yes. Will we continue to work hard and do more? You betcha, because we are a strong team with a strong plan to protect the people of this state and provide the best free public hospital system in the nation.

### **Ferny Grove Electorate, Community Safety**

**Mr SHUTTLEWORTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister outline how this government's commitment to revitalising front-line services is achieving results and keeping families in the electorate of Ferny Grove safe?

**Mr DEMPSEY:** I thank the member for an important question in relation to the safety of his community and for the caring attitude that he has displayed over the last 2½ years and which will continue for a long time to come. I thank the member particularly for his ongoing dedication to revitalising our front-line services to ensure Queensland, including his electorate, is a safe place to live, work and raise a family.

This can-do LNP government is committed to providing the best equipment, resources and facilities to our front-line police, fire and emergency services workers and our hardworking volunteers. I particularly thank the member for being a committed local champion for his police officers, firefighters and emergency services volunteers. This government has been working hard to revitalise our fire and emergency services, being the first government to provide a budget of more than half a billion dollars—about \$620 million.

In the member's electorate of Ferny Grove we have delivered over \$750,000 worth of new fire appliances and trucks to brigades. These include a new heavy appliance for the team at Samford Rural Fire Brigade, a medium appliance for Mount Nebo and a replacement vehicle for Clear Mountain Rural Fire Brigade. The Closeburn and Clear Mountain brigades have also benefited from grants to help improve these facilities.

I want to pay a special thanks to those brigade members from the Ferny Grove electorate who served the wider community during the particularly harsh North Stradbroke Island fires. The dedication shown by the volunteers of our rural fire brigades is something that we all recognise in the LNP government. That is why for the first time we are fully funding rural fire brigade trucks which previously cost brigades up to \$20,000 each. This is on top of the record level of support for communications, training and equipment we provide each year. I note that the member is himself a dedicated member of the Closeburn Rural Fire Brigade, which this weekend will open a new station—a station which I know the member is very happy to see completed and service the local community as we enter the fire season.

It is not only the rural areas of Ferny Grove who have benefited under this government. Ferny Grove and Arana Hills have also had emergency vehicle priority technology implemented. That means people within those areas will receive emergency services a lot quicker and also safely. We will continue to provide for our front-line services with the infrastructure they need as part of a strong plan for a brighter future for the whole of Queensland not just now but into the future.

### **Strong Choices, Government Advertising**

**Mr PITT:** My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Given that the transport minister undertook on 4BC Radio today to seek the full cost to Queensland taxpayers of the Strong Choices advertising campaign—and I table the transcript—will the Treasurer finally inform the House of the full cost of the Strong Choices advertising campaign including consultancy fees to date? How much more is Strong Choices advertising going to cost the Queensland taxpayer?

*Tabled paper:* Extract of transcript of Patrick Condren 4BC radio program on 29 October 2014 [\[6396\]](#).

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the honourable member for the question because it gives me an opportunity to again refresh the memory of the House and Queenslanders with the details of why we are going down the path of restoring the state of Queensland's finances. As many of my colleagues have heard before, when we were elected to government we received the incoming government brief. The incoming government brief prepared by the independent officers of Treasury said in the first paragraph, 'Congratulations. Well done. We are happy to see you as Treasurer, a responsible Treasurer at last.' No, I made that last bit up. They were indeed much more discreet because they are the independent officers of Treasury.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** They say it now but they did not then. I think in the second paragraph they said that the state of Queensland's finances is unsustainable and repair must be a priority for this term of government—not this term, not the term after; this term of government. What did the independent officers of Queensland Treasury corporation say? They said that, together with the amount of debt on issue, the amount of debt to be issued and the interest payments, Queensland was heading into uncharted waters. What did the ratings agency say? In 2009 they said to the former Labor government, 'You are mismanaging the economy. We are going to take away your AAA credit rating.' What did they do? For the first time in Queensland's history it took the Labor Party to get a downgrade to Queensland's credit rating.

Then we had the independent Commission of Audit. What did it find? It found that the state of Queensland's finances had deteriorated rapidly, particularly over the period 2005 to 2006, and it would require a substantial amount of debt repayment in order to get the AAA credit rating—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting. The Treasurer has not taken your interjections. The Treasurer has the call.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** What did we find out? We went to the Australian Mint and we asked them how high a hundred billion dollars would look as we headed towards a hundred billion dollars—

**Mr PITT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With only 26 seconds left on the clock, I ask: when will the Treasurer answer the question? It was a specific question about advertising costs as referred to by the transport minister on radio this morning.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The Treasurer has the call and there is still time on the clock.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Six hours of estimates was not enough for the shadow Treasurer to ask his questions and/or to decipher an answer. I answered six hours of questions. I went hoarse answering the member's questions and he can still not discern an answer. If he cannot get an answer out of six hours of questioning in the parliament, I am not going to give him any more assistance.

*(Time expired)*

### **Ipswich Electorate, Community Safety**

**Mr BERRY:** My question without notice is to the Premier. What front-line initiatives has this government undertaken to make my electorate a safer place for residents and their families?

**Mr NEWMAN:** I thank the honourable member for the question. The safety and security of people in Ipswich is a vital issue for the member. As an overall measure, what have we done? We have made emergency departments in Queensland work better. Honourable members in the opposition were asking questions and hurling insults earlier about the hardworking men and women in Queensland Health, but what the Auditor-General has said—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** That is not true.

**Mr NEWMAN:** I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. What is true is that the Auditor-General states that in 2013 Queensland received the second best result nationwide behind WA for patients leaving emergency departments within four hours. That is what the Auditor-General said, not the slurs, innuendo and nonsense from those opposite—not at all. The hardworking men and women of Queensland Health are serving the people of Ipswich as they are serving the people around the state. I know that the honourable member has worked very hard to make sure that people understand that, but he is also working hard in other areas. For example, he has been working with the member for Lockyer to organise a local grassroots radio campaign—an initiative to encourage Ipswich residents to get ready and be prepared for the disaster season. I thank him for that. He has been distributing the Get Ready waterproof, yellow USB armbands from his recent mobile offices in the Ipswich CBD. Following a huge response to his electorate survey, the member has been doorknocking throughout Ipswich visiting constituents and following up on their concerns.

I know he has worked hard to address constituent and rail commuter safety concerns in and around Ipswich station. He has overseen the construction of the Ipswich police outpost, a \$500,000 project. The visible police presence at Ipswich station has helped the local community feel secure when travelling and has allowed the railway police squad to respond much more quickly and efficiently to crime and antisocial behaviour.

This government has worked hard to beef up front-line resources in Ipswich. Ipswich is one of the areas being serviced by our second police helicopter. We have put an extra 30 police into the area as part of our commitment to deliver an additional 1,100 officers across the state. What have we achieved? Significant reductions in serious reported offences, including a 34 per cent fall in robberies, a nine per cent fall in unlawful entries and a 27 per cent drop in unlawful use of a motor vehicle. Let us see what the Labor Party do during the election campaign. Let us see how they spin this one, with the same sorts of tactics we saw of smear, innuendo, deception and deceit in 2011-12. That is what the Labor Party campaign will be about in Ipswich, as it is around the state, because they have no plans, they have no policy, they do not have a strong team and they have no vision for Queensland.

### **Gold Coast, Elective Surgery**

**Dr DOUGLAS:** My question is to the Minister for Health. What is the minister proposing to do to fund the expenditure required to maintain the surgical lists at the Gold Coast once the current National Partnership Agreement on the Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan funding runs out?

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** I acknowledge the question from the honourable member for Gaven. The honourable member for Gaven and the other members who represent the electorates on the Gold Coast have been the beneficiary of the single biggest investment from this government in healthcare services in Queensland since its election—an increase of some \$304 million, or around 40.1 per cent. This increase has been significant to the people of the Gold Coast and we will continue to invest as appropriate. As also has been indicated by the Premier, we are continuing to make sure that we have a better funding arrangement for health care that goes forward—not the monopoly money process that we saw a little while ago.

One of the biggest threats to healthcare funding on the Gold Coast or anywhere else is the damning report that we saw from the Auditor-General the other day with regard to the previous Labor government's maladministration around planning and costing for three major public hospitals in Queensland—the Gold Coast University Hospital, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. Instead of standing up, the honourable member for Gaven actually praised the Labor Party of the past for losing \$2.2 billion.

**Dr Douglas** interjected.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** One can only imagine what that \$2.2 billion would have done, on top of the \$800 million which was lost with regards to the private practice arrangement overseen by the previous Labor government and the \$1.253 billion immolated in the now infamous payroll debacle in Queensland.

**Dr Douglas** interjected.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** That \$4 billion would have more than funded its needs and the needs everywhere else in Queensland into the future. Instead of standing up for his electorate, he did what he does.

**Dr Douglas** interjected.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** He stood up and said it was a brave decision of the Labor Party to lose that money—

**Madam SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I know there is a vigorous exchange across the chamber but this is question time. I wish to hear the answer. If members have a disagreement with the answer, the way they are interjecting is not helping the process. Those interjections are not being taken. I call the Minister for Health.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The honourable member said it was a brave decision of the Labor Party to lose that money. You can only imagine the benefit to the people of the Gold Coast that would have come from that \$2.2 billion. If you can allow me a wafer-thin segue for one moment, Madam Speaker, I will just go to the Auditor-General's report that was referred to this morning. Let me go to section 3.3.3, which indicates that one of the big challenges we currently have in Queensland Health is due to the disabling of the Emergency Department Information System 10 years ago when the honourable member for Bundamba was the assistant minister for health in Queensland. Whilst the Auditor-General could not find any evidence whatsoever of any manipulation of the data, he indicated that if that had not been turned off 10 years ago under the tenure of that government it would have made it a lot easier to be able to audit those figures today.

### **Southport Electorate, Community Safety**

**Mr MOLHOEK:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Can the minister detail the achievements this government has made in regard to revitalising front-line police, fire and emergency services for Southport families?

**Mr DEMPSEY:** It is a great pleasure to receive that question from the member for Southport. I thank him for his ongoing dedication to revitalising our front-line services to ensure that all people of Queensland, and particularly the members of the public in the Southport electorate, feel that Queensland is a safe place to live, work and raise a family. This can-do government has a strong plan for a brighter future. It is important that all members of parliament, including the member for Southport, know that we have a strong plan for the people of Southport.

Whether it be 16 more front-line police officers for the Southport electorate, the delivery of two police helicopters for the south-east, the rapid action and patrols hub or the rollout of the emergency vehicle priority scheme, this government is committed to revitalising front-line services right across the south-east. I acknowledge the member for Southport's support of this government's commitment to make Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family. The member has a strong

relationship with local police and he recently visited the rapid action and patrols headquarters to learn more about the excellent progress they are making in tackling serious crime on the Gold Coast. In fact, the rapid action and patrols hub has already achieved great results on the Gold Coast, with over 3,800 arrests and more than 5,600 charges since January 2014—a great effort. One only has to visit that centre to see the enthusiasm of those particular officers.

Residents in the Southport electorate are the safest they have been in years because of revitalised front-line services, borderless technology and stronger laws. I am pleased to hear that the member for Southport regularly attends Neighbourhood Watch meetings at Crestwood, Southport and Parkwood in his electorate. He has also engaged with the local SES branch and delivered a new flood boat only last year, ensuring the SES volunteers are equipped and able to respond if the need arises. That is an indicative part of this government—engaging and listening to the communities they serve.

I thank the member for Southport for his hard work in the community and for his strong support for all of the officers. This government will continue to achieve our revitalisation of front-line services by equipping police and fire officers with the latest technology, by providing police with mobile devices which save up to 30 minutes per shift and by giving fire officers access to the latest bushfire mapping technology, keeping them and their community safe. By working together, the Queensland government can continue to deliver on our strong plan for a bright future.

### **Queensland Rail, The Inlander**

**Mr KATTER:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Senior citizens and lower income members in remote western and north-western communities critically rely upon the Inlander rail passenger service, with limited other modes of transport available. Will the minister commit to improving this service, as has been done in Brisbane, and in doing so ensure that the Inlander is not taken away from us?

**Mr EMERSON:** I thank the member for Mount Isa for the question. In terms of the Inlander and the Westlander, they are continuing. I understand the importance of rail travel across Queensland, and they are continuing as services. We have made no decision in terms of changing that at all. What I would say to the member for Mount Isa is that across public transport we are delivering for Queensland and we will continue to deliver for Queensland. Since we have come into office, we now have the most reliable metropolitan public transport rail system in Australia and the most reliable in Queensland Rail's proud 150-year history.

Next week we will see a historic day for public transport in Queensland, because we will see for the first time in Queensland's history a state-wide cut in public transport fares—the first time this has ever occurred. As you know, Madam Speaker, we went out to the community and asked them how they would like to see us spend the savings from the axed carbon tax. Overwhelmingly, the feedback from the more than 22,000 people who got involved in that survey was that they wanted to see us cut fares. That is understandable, given their experience under Labor and under the now Leader of the Opposition when she was transport minister. There were 15 per cent fare increases every year—year after year after year—and they planned to keep on going that way year after year.

In fact, under Labor, in their last three years in office we saw fares go up by 52 per cent—in just three years. Since we came to office we have kept our very clear election promise to halve Labor's planned fare increases. We have brought in the incredibly successful free trips after nine journeys. Every week about 80,000 people benefit from that policy. As I said, on 3 November we will see, for the first time in Queensland history, a state-wide cut to public transport fares. Let us be very clear about that: this is not just in Brisbane or in the south-east corner; this is across the state. Wherever we run public transport we will see this five per cent cut. We are delivering, unlike Labor, unlike the then transport minister and now Leader of the Opposition, unlike members opposite such as the member for Mulgrave who voted to support increasing fares by 15 per cent year after year after year after year after year. That was Labor's sole policy on public transport: to keep putting fares up. We know that if they get back into power what will they do? They will put it up again by 15 per cent every year—year after year after year because that was the Leader of the Opposition's policy.

### **Mirani Electorate, Community Safety**

**Mr MALONE:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier outline how the new focus on front-line services is helping my constituents and Queenslanders feel safe in their communities?

**Mr NEWMAN:** I thank the member for Mirani for his question. Before I answer I would like to note that he has announced that he will be retiring after more than 20 years of service. At another time and place we will mark Ted's career a bit more fulsomely. He has been about service and he has been a tireless worker for the people of the Mirani electorate. Their safety, security and wellbeing have been his top priorities—always have been and always would have been if he had continued in this place.

It was the member for Mirani in his role as Assistant Minister for Emergency Volunteers who was responsible for a comprehensive and important review of our rural fire brigades. Just this Saturday the member officially opened the new Rural Fire Brigade shed at Eton, a terrific example of the state government and the community working together to improve fire safety. The member worked long and hard with local brigade members, particularly John Muscat, to bring this project to fruition. I know that he is currently working closely with the community at Koumala on funding applications for their Rural Fire Brigade shed, and I am sure he will deliver that new facility before he leaves this place.

The member for Mirani has also successfully negotiated with Ergon Energy to hand over its surplus building at Mount Morgan to the SES. He recently opened The Caves rural fire station near Rockhampton and has handed over appliances to three rural fire brigades from the surrounding areas: Bondoola, Cawarral, and Captain Creek. The member also tells me that his constituents are delighted with the new police officers assigned to the electorate as part of our four-year commitment to have 1,100 additional officers on the beat across Queensland.

There is always more to be done but, unlike those opposite, the Australian Labor Party members, this government is serious about protecting the community, providing a stronger sense of security and making sure the laws of this state and this nation are obeyed. The member for Mirani also knows better than most how important it is not to be bogged down in red tape at the expense of people who actually put their lives on the line for the community. In particular, he has been very forthright and outspoken about ensuring that the rural fire people can get on and do their job in the way they know best, in the way that they have done for generations as they have generations of experience in dealing with fires in rural and regional Queensland. In contrast, those opposite, people who should have known better in some cases—

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Mr NEWMAN:** I speak of people like the member who is interjecting right now, people who should have known better, people from regional Queensland who should have known that regional people and rural people know how to fight fires and know how to fight fires in their own fire service. We have backed them so that the community is safe and secure, and the member for Mirani is key to that.

### **Jondaryan, Coal Dust**

**Mr HOPPER:** My question is to the Minister for Environment. The town of Jondaryan in the electorate of Condamine is the most air polluted town in Queensland due to coal dust, and I ask: when will the minister take action to protect the children and people of this town?

**Mr POWELL:** I thank the member for his question. I think it is fair to say that, again, this government has taken the concerns of constituents not only in the member's electorate but right across the state, through to the Port of Brisbane very seriously. Through the work done by the honourable Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts funded by the Queensland Resources Council and a number of other partners, we have undertaken a lengthy study into the monitoring of coal dust along that entire stretch of rail corridor including at the Jondaryan loading facility. That has shown that the coal dust comes within those standards set by the World Health Organisation and by the environmental authorities of the relevant approvals. However, that also shows that the efforts of a number of operators, particularly in veneering the coal that is being shipped to the port of Brisbane, are having the desired effect. It is proving that it is limiting even further any aspect of coal dust being found in the surrounding environment and giving reassurances to the communities all along that stretch, including at Jondaryan, that we take very seriously our responsibility, particularly around air quality but also around water quality.

This gives me an opportunity again to talk about the great work that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has been able to do because of our investment as a state, as a government, in front-line services. By doing things like we did last night—by removing further green tape, by freeing up our officers in terms of not stressing the low environmental impact assessments

and instead focusing our attention on the high-risk activities, by encouraging our officers to be out from behind their desk visiting facilities like the Jondaryan load-out facility, ensuring they are getting out on the ground like no environmental regulator in this state before them—we are ensuring that there is a proactive monitoring, compliance and enforcement effort on the part of all industry across this state. That is something that is unseen by former Labor governments and unseen by former Labor ministers for the environment.

It means that we take very seriously our responsibility of getting out of the way of businesses who want to do the right thing, who want to create jobs for the state, who want to create economic growth, who want to feed in to the revenues of the state. It also means we take very seriously their responsibilities to meet the environmental expectations that we set for them. That means we get our officers out on the ground checking that they are indeed doing that. I can reassure the member that any time that one of his constituents wants to bring a concern to the department, it will be investigated.

*(Time expired)*

### **Nanango Electorate, Community Safety**

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Can the minister highlight how revitalising front-line services is protecting my communities and making families feel even safer?

**Mr DEMPSEY:** What a great question that was. I thank the member for the question. This government has a strong plan for a brighter future and a safer future for families in Nanango. I thank the member for her commitment to her community in making the safety of Nanango families and visitors a priority. This government is committed to providing the best equipment, resources and facilities to our front-line police, fire and emergency service workers and volunteers so that they can better service Nanango families. That is why we are delivering on our commitment of an additional 1,100 officers over four years, with well over 800 extra officers now stationed throughout Queensland. There are 32 more police helping to drive crime down and keep the streets of Nanango safe.

After years of neglect by the previous government, this can-do LNP government has successfully delivered \$8.3 million for a brand-new police station in Kingaroy and a further \$1 million to upgrade the existing Nanango Police Station. The hardworking dedicated police officers from South Burnett now have the facilities they require to do their job of keeping the Nanango residents safe. As I said earlier, the government has also been working hard to revitalise our fire and emergency services with an increase to their budget for the first time of over a half billion dollars. In the past two years the Nanango electorate has received a brand-new SES flood boat worth \$83,000, a brand-new SES shed worth over \$50,000, a new truck for Toogoolawah and a new appliance for Sandy Ridges Rural Fire Brigade.

Recently the member for Nanango had the opportunity to congratulate the local SES Week winners and recognise the great achievements of Nanango's hardworking local groups and volunteers. Among the winners—and this is very important—they have contributed to an amazing collective 100 years of service to their community, a century of service. What a remarkable effort by those individual members of the community! Mums, dads and their families in the Nanango electorate are the safest they have been in years because of revitalised front-line services, state-of-the-art technology and strong laws. It is only the LNP, which is achieving and delivering on our strong plan for a brighter future and a safer future, that is delivering revitalised front-line services, ensuring all our police and emergency services have the resources they need to make our streets and the streets of Nanango and the surrounding areas safe not just now but also into the future. It did not just happen by accident. It was due to the legislative changes, the fortitude in this parliament, the resources and the extra police, and now we are seeing the result: crime going down, record double-digit figures and reported crime going down. There is no mistake.

### **Construction Industry, Subcontractors**

**Mr JUDGE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. Legislation passed by the Newman government to date has failed to introduce security-of-payment laws to protect Queensland's subcontractors working in the construction industry, and I ask: why is the Newman government so reluctant to protect our hardworking subcontractors from avoidable exposure to financial hardship and bankruptcy by unprincipled major developers?

**Mr MANDER:** I do thank the member for his question. The building and construction industry is one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy. It generates billions of dollars each year and employs tens of thousands of people. We are very interested in the welfare of those who are involved in the industry and particularly subcontractors. As the member well knows, in recent times there have been a couple of very high-profile companies that unfortunately have gone bust: Walton Construction on the Sunshine Coast and up in Townsville, and just recently Glenzeil down on the Gold Coast. This is an issue that does cause me some concern. I have engaged with subcontractors and I have heard their stories. They believe that they deserve the right to do their work and be paid for those services, whether it is at the end of the week or at the end of the month. I share that view as well.

The question from the member is very relevant, because just today I have launched a discussion paper about this particular point to send out to the industry about security of payment. We are going to the sector at the moment and we have put out a couple of different options for the sector to comment on. One of those options is a project bank where we can have the money paid by the principal going to a central account, and from that account the head contractors and the subcontractors will be paid simultaneously. One of the other issues that we are asking the sector to comment about is the cash retention scheme that is currently in place where in fact the contractor holds the cash retentions from subcontractors, but of course if they fall over that money gets lost. We are looking at a system where the QBCC might be a neutral body which can take those cash retentions so that there will be some sort of security of payment.

Of course we want to make sure that there are no unintended consequences and we hear from all sections of the industry ranging from head contractors right down to subbies. I do share the concern that subbies have. It is not fair that they put in a hard day's work and in some cases lose tens of thousands of dollars, as with some of the higher profile cases at the moment. I can assure all members of the House that we are treating this very seriously. We do want to engage with the sector. Over the next few months people will be able to put in submissions and I will be engaging with the sector, and I hope in the ensuing months we will have something that will give far more security to subcontractors than they have at the moment.

### **Whitsunday Electorate, Community Safety**

**Mr COSTIGAN:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier please outline how the government's focus on delivering front-line services is helping to keep residents safe in my electorate of Whitsunday?

**Mr NEWMAN:** I thank the member for the question. The member is another one of the strong supporters of the men and women on the front line who help keep the community safe and secure.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr NEWMAN:** I hear the mocking laughter of those opposite. I do not think it is appropriate. I think it shows contempt for volunteers across Queensland. The interjections show the contempt that they hold for volunteers in Queensland. They did their best to destroy the Rural Fire Service, for example, but I shall move on.

The member for Whitsunday takes the time to listen to constituents and enjoys engaging with them on the issues that matter. For example, in terms of Neighbourhood Watch he has been very active with some of the locals in putting together a stronger presence on the northern beaches of Mackay. I particularly acknowledge the community work of volunteer Ken Rehbein and local police officer Nigel Dalton who he has been working with. I am also aware that the honourable member has been working with emergency services workers in the field providing a very 'personal touch', if I can put that the way. He stocks the car with pies and lamingtons—he has not done that when I have turned up, by the way—for emergency crews. It is very much appreciated and, of course, they deserve it. The member is proud of his family's links with the Police Service and I believe it gives him a strong sense of empathy with the men and women on the front line, which is clearly something that the member for Mulgrave has never had because he would not understand such things.

**Mr PITT:** I rise to a point of order.

**Madam SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr PITT:** I take offence to the Premier's comments and ask that they be withdrawn.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Premier, I ask that under the standing orders you withdraw.

**Mr NEWMAN:** Madam Speaker, I withdraw. While unveiling Mackay's new police memorial as part of National Police Remembrance Day commemorations, the member caught up with Senior Constable Geoff Price and his family. Geoff is a young policeman at Cannonvale whose great-great-grandfather served with the police in Mackay alongside the great-great-grandfather of the member for Whitsunday, so it was pretty special. Sadly, Geoff Price's relative was one of those men who are remembered on the memorial, having died in the line of duty. I know that the honourable member was also honoured to hand over a new four-wheel drive ambulance at Calen, which is vital for getting into those difficult places in the foothills of the Clark Range. The member also has a family history there. His grandfather, Kelly Costigan, served as the honourable ambulance officer at Nebo for 20 years.

I also reflect that the member for Whitsunday has fought successfully for a new police catamaran based at Airlie Beach, and he caught up recently with the firies at Beaconsfield to check out their new fire gear. The Whitsunday electorate has also received an extra 27 police officers on the front line as part of our commitment for an extra 1,100 additional police on the beat in Queensland. The member for Whitsunday embodies this government's passionate commitment to reducing red tape, providing new resources and bolstering the men and women on the front line.

### Lease of Public Assets

**Mrs CUNNINGHAM:** My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Treasurer, in relation to the proposed long-term lease of the people's assets, is the proposal to require a one-off payment from the asset purchaser or lessor, or will the government receive income each year for the 50-plus-49-year leases?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I thank the member for Gladstone for her question. For full information about the government's strongest and smartest choice, our plan for no asset sales but for asset leases, I refer her to page 33 of the booklet that we have made available which explains the entire leasing process that we are proposing. What we are saying is that it is possible to bring forward those lease payments into a lump sum at the beginning of the term of the lease.

I ask members to recall that we have been speaking to people about how we pay down Labor's \$80 billion worth of debt. The recommendation is that we need to reduce that \$80 billion worth of Labor debt by \$25 billion. In order to do that, we are proposing the long-term lease—that is, the 50-year lease of those businesses with a 49-year option. And we are able to bring those lease payments to the front of the transaction, if you like, and also to use those funds to pay down the debt.

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I hear the member for Mulgrave interjecting. I hear drifting across the chamber the dulcet tones of the financial genius the member for Mulgrave. He proceeds to say that a 50-year lease is a sale. I reiterate for the member for Mulgrave what his colleague Daniel Andrews said. On 19 November Victorian Labor leader Daniel Andrews was interviewed by Jon Faine. The interview reads—

Jon Faine: A sale of a long-term lease. What does that actually mean? Are you selling the port?

Daniel Andrews: No. At the end of that lease the port reverts back to every single Victorian.

Let me paraphrase Daniel Andrews: at the end of the lease—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Madam SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I have warned members on my left for ongoing interjections. When they are not being taken, it is just a wall of noise. I warn the member for South Brisbane under standing order 253A. I call the Treasurer.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** At the end of the lease, the business—the Port of Gladstone, the Port of Townsville, the electricity companies, the transmission and distribution networks—will revert to the people of Queensland.

I know that the member for Mulgrave does not have a law degree. I know that the Leader of the Opposition does have one. She might take the time in one of their party room meetings—perhaps in a tactics meeting before he gets set to ask the same question time and time again—to explain what a lease means. A 50-year lease means that you get it back at the end, just like we will get those businesses back under our proposal. A 50-year lease with a 49-year option means that we can pay down the debt, invest in infrastructure and provide \$3.4 billion of price relief.

*(Time expired)*

### Maryborough Electorate, Community Safety

**Mrs MADDERN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister please detail how this government is achieving for front-line police, fire and emergency services to ensure that families in the Maryborough electorate feel even safer?

**Madam SPEAKER:** Two minutes.

**Mr DEMPSEY:** I thank the member for her question and for her ongoing dedication to revitalising front-line services and ensuring her electorate, and all of Queensland, is a safe place to live, work and raise a family. As we know, this member certainly has a great understanding of the strong plan for a brighter and safer future for the Maryborough electorate. The member is a great example of hard work and dedication, which she exhibits every day in keeping her community safe.

The LNP government is committed to making sure that revitalised front-line services have the equipment and resources they need. In the member's own electorate there has been an increase of 42 officers—part of our 1,100 new officers for the state—who are driving down crime and keeping the streets of the Maryborough region safe. Residents of the Maryborough electorate are the safest they have been in years because of this revitalisation and the hard work of our police, fire and emergency services. As I have said a number of times, for the first time the budget is now over half a billion dollars.

Recently the member officially opened the rural fire shed at Bauple and a new training centre at Takura and handed over the keys to a new appliance. That is not all. Maryborough families most at risk of being impacted by bushfires will directly benefit from the government's campaign to ensure safer communities during bushfire season. The campaign identifies the top 100,000 properties at very high risk from bushfire and provides them with targeted information about how they can prepare for bushfires.

On behalf of all of the volunteers, I thank the member. People in her electorate should be proud of the constant community volunteerism—

*(Time expired)*

**Madam SPEAKER:** The time for questions has finished.

## MOTION

### Order of Business

**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (3.54 pm): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 1 and 2 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Ratification of Queensland Plan

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (3.55 pm): I move—

That this House:

- (1) notes the Queensland Plan that was tabled in the Legislative Assembly by the Premier on 26 August 2014; and
- (2) ratifies the Queensland Plan as required under section 6 of the Queensland Plan Act 2014.

I would like to emphasise the title: *The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders' 30-year vision*. That plan was created by Queenslanders from all over this fantastic state of Queensland—from Weipa to Cairns, Doomadgee, Mackay, Longreach, Maleny, Burpengary, Windsor, Wynnum, Jindalee and Palm Beach.

**Ms Davis:** And Aspley.

**Mr POWELL:** From Aspley, too. People came together in workshops, at local events, at summits, in meeting rooms and in their homes to share their ideas about our future. In the electorate of Glass House, which I have the honour to represent, we held a number of different activities. I take a moment to thank Miss Ruby Scott, Mr Riley Williamson, Ms Ursula Starkovsky and Mr Howard Walters for their hard work and dedication in representing what is the best part of the state of Queensland.

Queenslanders were involved in every step of developing the Queensland Plan, and I would like to take a few moments to remind fellow members about those efforts. A key partners workshop was held in April 2013 to help identify the key elements to be discussed at the Mackay summit in May last year. Community delegates from every electorate, together with school students and mayors, attended the Mackay summit to develop the engagement questions. Delegates also workshopped how to engage their local communities. A four-month engagement period followed, from May to August 2013, when every Queenslander was encouraged to have their say. The Brisbane summit, on 9 and 10 October last year, saw community delegates, together with business and industry representatives, school students, mayors and Queensland government directors-general, review Queenslanders' feedback and helped create the Queensland Plan.

The Queensland Plan working draft was released for public consultation from 8 December 2013 to 7 March 2014. Hundreds of Queenslanders reviewed the draft, with 71 per cent of submissions noting that it was a true reflection of Queenslanders' feedback while several others asked for further emphasis or detail. An independent review group, drawn together through an expression-of-interest process from Brisbane summit delegates, then assessed the process to action the community's feedback into the final plan. The Queensland Plan was released on 31 July 2014 and tabled in this House by the Premier on 26 August 2014.

I believe that this extensive engagement process is an excellent example of our democracy in action, where the community was integrally involved in co-defining the issues, co-designing the process and co-creating the plan. That is why it was with incredible disappointment that at the eleventh hour what was a bipartisan approach fell to pieces when the opposition voted against the Queensland Plan Bill. I am disappointed for the thousands of Queenslanders from all walks of life and political persuasions who contributed to the plan. You see, it is not my plan or the government's plan; it is Queensland's plan.

Let me just share a couple of the comments from Queenslanders about the process, should anyone in this House be under any misconception. One Queenslander said—

I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this Queensland Plan, which is a great start to being able to have more connectedness to government ideology and planning.

Another said—

This is positive, gives hope. Keep up the process.

I also have great pleasure in announcing to the House today that the engagement process has been recognised by the International Association for Public Participation, otherwise known as IAP2. IAP2 is the leading public participation association in Australasia and indeed the world and its core value awards recognise projects that are at the forefront of public participation. The Queensland Plan is the proud winner of the IAP2 planning award and recipient of a highly commended for Australasian Project of the Year 2014. I think it is fitting that we recognise those staff, particularly in the Queensland Plan secretariat in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, who contributed so much and are very fitting and worthy recipients of those awards.

As I have just outlined, the Queensland Plan was created by Queenslanders. It is not the government's plan. In fact, it was deliberately designed not to be the government's plan. The Queensland Plan paints Queenslanders' picture of the future for our state in 2044. There are 35 goals and 20 targets across nine foundation areas, including one that is very important to me—that of the environment. Queenslanders are passionate about our diverse landscapes and unique ecosystems. We are guardians of some of the planet's pristine natural and cultural areas and their preservation and protection is essential. Queenslanders also recognise the need to ensure our natural resources are managed effectively, that we look for sustainable and renewable solutions and that we are responsible about growth. Some of these goals will be challenges to achieve and there will be many different views on how we get the balance between environmental protection and economic development right. But this is a conversation worth having and, I believe, will help drive greater Queensland innovation.

Just as Queenslanders were engaged in creating the plan, they will also be involved in achieving its goals and targets. At this juncture I acknowledge the efforts already and thank the members of the Queensland Plan Ambassadors Council for their assistance. They will be assisting not only the state government but other jurisdictions, local and federal, as well as community and business sectors, the not-for-profit sector, individual mums and dads and school students who will all have a role to play in ensuring that the Queensland Plan comes to fruition. Many different groups of Queenslanders are now looking at the plan. Some have already aligned their planning while others are identifying what it means for their local communities, and I thank each and every one of them for their attention to the plan and for their efforts in rolling it out. I acknowledge the contributions from Queenslanders across our great state and their expectations that we, as elected representatives, now take it forward in partnership with them. I move—

That this House ratifies the Queensland Plan.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.02 pm): The opposition will be opposing this ratification motion. As I outlined very clearly when we debated this during the last sittings of parliament, Queenslanders feel somewhat let down by this government in relation to the Queensland Plan. A lot of people attended the first summit in Mackay, including the opposition. We went there in a truly bipartisan manner to participate in what we believed was going to produce some tangible outcomes for the people of Queensland. However, it was not until the ninth hour that the real strategy behind the Queensland Plan came to fruition, and that clear strategy behind the Queensland Plan was contained in the government's response. Very clearly in the government's response there were references to Strong Choices and the asset sales plan of this government. It is disappointing that Queenslanders have been deceived by this government when time and time again Strong Choices is written in the government's response. What we saw from question time earlier today is once again a culture of cover-up by this government—a government that will not even be upfront and open with Queenslanders about how much taxpayers' money is being spent on the Strong Choices campaign. We have heard that the first stage is around \$20 million, but we want to know how much more is being spent.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They do not like it. It is a culture of cover-up.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Leader of the Opposition, take your seat please. Minister, what is your point of order?

**Mr POWELL:** It is a point of order on relevance. It was during the last sittings that we discussed the Queensland Plan Bill and there was a bit of latitude given to members. I would suggest, Mr Deputy Speaker, that today we are ratifying the Queensland Plan and I would ask the Leader of the Opposition to point out where in the Queensland Plan it refers to the Strong Choices campaign and draw her attention back to the relevance of the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Leader of the Opposition, I have been listening to what you are saying. The motion is the adoption of the Queensland Plan by the parliament. I ask you to come back to the motion please.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker. As I look through the glossy document of the Queensland Plan, on behalf of Queenslanders right across the state I want to know how much the Queensland Plan is costing. I have here a copy of the glossy document. There are more documents and snapshots. There is advertising happening. This is a culture of cover-up by this LNP government which will not be upfront and which will not tell the truth to Queensland taxpayers. Queenslanders have a right to know for goodness' sake: how much is the advertising costing us? It is a very basic tenet of democracy for the opposition to ask questions and for the government to provide answers. However, for some reason this Premier is presiding over a culture of cover-up in this state by not revealing the amount of taxpayers' dollars spent in relation to the Queensland Plan and backed up by the government's response of the Queensland Plan containing numerous references to Strong Choices which is its plan for asset sales.

**Mr POWELL:** I rise to a point of order again on relevance.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am talking about the Queensland Plan.

**Mr POWELL:** We are not debating the government's response to the Queensland Plan. This is a motion on the Queensland Plan itself, not the government's response.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Again, Leader of the Opposition, I would ask you to come back to the motion, which is the adoption of the Queensland Plan by this parliament.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am referring to the document. I have a copy of the document here. I want to know how much the document is costing. This is the document I am referring to.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I am advising you to please remain relevant to the motion.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I have a copy of the motion. I cannot see how it can be more relevant. I have a copy of the Queensland Plan. How much is this document costing Queensland taxpayers?

I now turn to the chapter on Queensland's vision, because, sadly, this government does not have a vision for Queensland. Let us go through the goals in order, shall we? I am more than happy to enlighten government members today. Goal 8: our regions are strong and prosperous. One of the major infrastructure projects that we see is not in the regions; it is down here in Brisbane, and what is it? It is the building of the brand-new Executive Building for the Premier and his ministers—no business plan and over \$2 billion of wasted taxpayers' money. When talking about regions being strong and prosperous, the government announced a Royalties for the Regions program and I understand that in the first year Gladstone and Mount Isa completely missed out on any funding. When I visit Mount Isa and Gladstone, people tell me quite clearly that this government is neglecting the regions. What is the next goal? Let us look at the next goal. Goal 9: we capitalise on unique regional opportunities and assets. We know the vision of this Queensland government, and that is to sell our assets. There is the reference—assets. That is what this government wants to do—sell our assets. When assets like Ergon and Energex are sold off by this government, power prices will go up and cost of living will be a burden on Queensland taxpayers.

Interruption.

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (4.09 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, hold on for a minute please. Minister, what is your point of order?

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, the Leader of the Opposition is deliberately misleading the House and I will be—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, I am not.

**A government member:** Yes, you are.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, the reference to selling of assets is deliberately misleading.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is this a matter of privilege suddenly arising, Minister?

**Mr POWELL:** That is correct, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I will be writing to you on the basis that it is my belief that the Leader of the Opposition is deliberately misleading the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. Leader of the Opposition, you have the call.

## MOTION

### Queensland Plan

Resumed.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you. Let me quote goal 9. It states—

We capitalise on unique regional opportunities and assets.

I am merely talking about Queensland's assets. At the moment we have assets. Ergon and Energex and the ports are our assets. It is obvious that the minister is a little bit upset today. Maybe he did not get a good night's sleep. He is a little bit touchy. He does not like to hear the truth.

Let us move to goal 10. I agree that Queenslanders want this goal—

Working together we will achieve more.

Over the past 2½ years, has the government worked with Queenslanders? Not at all! We have seen a culture of fights, fights and fights. We have had fights with the doctors. Let us go back to the doctors crisis. Under the watch of the incompetent, bungling health minister, that went on for six months. Then we had fights with nurses.

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order. The ramblings we are now hearing have absolutely no relevance to the Queensland Plan whatsoever. Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask you to put the speaker back to the motion.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Thank you, Leader of the House. Leader of the Opposition, I urge you to remain relevant to the motion.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. I am talking about—

Working together we will achieve more.

Imagine what this government could have achieved if it had worked with the doctors, if had worked with the judges, if it had worked with the lawyers, if it had worked with the firefighters, if it had worked with the ambulance officers! Unfortunately, Queenslanders have been let down. I am quite sure that within five months they will have the opportunity to cast their vote at the next election about whether they believe that this—

**Mr Newman:** June 20.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** G20? Do you want to call an election after G20? Was that what I heard?

**A government member:** June.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am sorry, we do not want you there for that long.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Are they going to go over the three years?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let it be known that the Premier—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, I ask that you please refrain from referring to members in the first person. Refer all of your comments through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Apparently the Premier was interjecting talking about a 20 June date. Was that correct?

**Mrs Scott** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you have the call.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Over the past 2½ years what we have seen is not working together with Queenslanders; it has been picking fights. It has been absolutely disastrous for this government. It has been absolutely disastrous for the Premier. Queenslanders deserve so much more from a government that could have achieved so much.

What we have seen is a government that does not want to be held accountable. If it does not like what it hears, it wants to shut down debate in this House. I say to the minister that, on behalf of the Queensland community, people went into this Queensland Plan process in absolute good faith and they were conned. They were taken down a merry little road and when they reached the end they realised the government's cunning plan. That cunning, secret plan was to link the Queensland Plan directly with asset sales. The government's response backs that up. I want to move on.

**Mr Berry** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Member for Ipswich, I think we have four sitting days left. I think he should make the most of them. Goal 11 states—

We value and invest in local businesses and workers.

How can this government value and invest in local businesses and workers when it sacked up to 20,000 public servants? How can this government clearly achieve that goal of what Queenslanders want when they sacked—

Interruption.

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

**Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (4.14 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The Leader of the Opposition is again deliberately misleading the House. I will add this to the letter that I am writing to you already.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order! Thank you, Minister. Leader of the Opposition, you have the call.

## MOTION

### Queensland Plan

Resumed.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Obviously, the minister is still very touchy. I am just wondering if the minister has been able to find out how much the Queensland Plan advertising campaign is costing, considering he failed to be across any detail at all of the Queensland Plan when we were in consideration in detail. When we were in consideration in detail, he could not even answer a simple, basic 101 question that any minister sitting in that seat should have been able to answer. If he were in a Labor ministry, the Premier would have hauled him in and dressed him down for being incompetent, for not answering questions during consideration in detail. But this is the arrogance of the government. This is the arrogance of all of them.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Here they go. Their arrogance knows no bounds. There is five months to go until the next election and Queenslanders are waiting. This is an arrogant government that does not listen, that is out of touch.

**Mr BERRY:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, that has nothing to do with this motion. Relevance is an important issue in this House. Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask that you bring this member back to relevance. I would appreciate that assistance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Ipswich. Leader of the Opposition, it is a broad-ranging plan. I would ask that you continue to address your comments towards the plan.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you very much. Goal 11 states—

We value and invest in local businesses and workers.

In the column titled 'What does success look like?' it states—

We have a range of employment choices.

Just last week I was out at Moranbah. Did the people of Moranbah have a choice about whether they could work at the mine down the road from them? No, they did not. That is why we announced another policy that perhaps government members would like to look up on the website—a policy that would give workers a choice about whether or not they worked down the road from where they lived. Yesterday, during the debate we covered that topic in quite some detail, because the people in regional communities feel that the government is not listening to them. They are not being given employment choice. The Queensland Plan then goes on to say—

No matter where we live, we have access to a range of job opportunities.

Unfortunately, under this government unemployment in Queensland is skyrocketing. The September figures show 9,200 Queenslanders searching for jobs in Townsville, 4,900 Queenslanders searching for jobs in Mackay, 9,200 Queenslanders searching for jobs in Cairns, 10,200 Queenslanders searching for jobs in Wide Bay. Under this LNP government, regional Queensland is suffering. The economy is going backwards.

**Mrs Scott** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. All of the communities out there are suffering. This government axed Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This program allowed young people and long-term unemployed people access to employment opportunities. Deloitte released a report talking about how successful that program was and this government took an axe to it.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Nanango. Leader of the Opposition—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You have the call and—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I am speaking directly to the Queensland Plan. I am going—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. I was actually talking to you then and I would ask that you continue your comments being relevant to the plan. When the chair is addressing you, please do not talk.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you. Here we go again. The Queensland Plan states further—

Our young people are offered future career paths that mean they don't need to relocate.

At the moment, young people do not have hope. They do not have opportunity in this state because this government has let them down. Where are the new jobs coming from? Where are the new opportunities? What are the futures for these young people and their families? It is very disappointing that so much negativity has happened in just 2½ years that Queensland has been taken backwards.

I move on to the next part of the Queensland Plan in relation to housing stress. If a person does not have a job how can they pay the rent? Over the last 2½ years under this government and under this minister I know that our social housing tenants have felt the stress. Let us go back to a couple of those early decisions. The first decision was to make people reside together—to have strangers in their house. I can remember the petitions. People came to my electorate office: elderly people who had raised their families and lived in their houses for many years. All of a sudden this government was going to tell them they were going to share their house with complete and utter strangers. Thankfully that issue was reversed.

Then we had the most recent stress for housing tenants which was having to report to their local housing officer and apply to take leave if they go on a holiday. I have never heard of a more discriminatory policy. You do not treat people in rental accommodation like that; how dare you treat social housing tenants like that. These people deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. What we have seen from this government is a complete lack of understanding that people go through housing stress in their lives. These tenants are doing the right thing.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This minister grandstands on one or two cases and does not show an inch of compassion or understanding.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Order, members!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is great to see that 'Operation Boring' is over. They are all alive and well today. Four sitting days to go until Christmas and they cannot wait. In conclusion, this Queensland Plan is a disaster. Everybody had high expectations of this Premier. They had high expectations of this minister. It has been a complete waste of money. We know now the ads will start coming thick and fast to back up the Strong Choices. We have the G20 cultural celebration ads running as well. This is all against the government's own code of conduct about not advertising prior to the state election. We are six months out but those opposite are not looking at their own guidelines. They do whatever they want in this state because they have 73 members. The arrogance of this government has let people down when it comes to this Queensland Plan.

The opposition will not be supporting this Queensland Plan. The government has taken Queenslanders along a road that has not informed them fully about its true intentions. The Queensland Plan is not a plan for Queenslanders, it is a plan for asset sales pure and simple. That is

what this government is on about. Unfortunately the Premier has let them down. There is no vision for Queensland in this arrogant government. There is no vision for employment. There is no vision for young people in our state. There is no vision for regional communities in this state. Unfortunately this government is out of ideas and this Queensland Plan will not be followed up in years to come.

 **Hon. CKT NEWMAN** (Ashgrove—LNP) (Premier) (4.23 pm): I stand today in support of the ratification of *The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders' 30-year vision*. I would like to start by acknowledging the passion and the insight of every Queenslanders who helped create the plan—every mum and dad, every school student, every small business owner, every industry representative, every scientist, every artist, every community organisation and elected representative. I thank them for their participation. I thank them for their passion and commitment. The Queensland Plan is the culmination of their ideas and ambitions for where our great state should be in 30 years' time.

Before I talk more deeply about the plan I need to comment on the diatribe that we have just heard. Let us be very clear: today we are being asked to ratify the actual document that Queenslanders created. If the Leader of the Opposition does not like this government she is free to say so—and she did—but for God's sake, if I may say so in this place, get behind the people's plan. The people's plan is our response. There is even commentary on our performance about how we deliver on the plan. But the plan is of the people, it is not of this government. Today, as a parliament we are meant to be analysing, discussing and commenting on this plan and ultimately, hopefully, ratifying it.

I am really shocked—in fact, very disappointed—with the Leader of the Opposition, who would be the alternative Premier. We heard a lot about an election in five months' time. We heard a lot about that. I was so disappointed at the lack of intellectual rigour in what we just heard. We heard repetition, we heard constant sloganeering, but we did not hear any argument about the content of this document. We heard no vision. We heard no acceptance that the Australian Labor Party got that the people had spoken by creating this document. I also reflect on the speaking order this afternoon. I hope it changes. On what I have in front of me at this stage, it looks like the only person in the Australian Labor Party who will speak in this House this afternoon is indeed the Leader of the Opposition. And what an unworthy contribution we just heard. They cannot even be bothered to turn up to talk about this important plan. Queenslanders will not cop that sort of diatribe. We heard a lot about election ads. You know what I would like? I would love to have vision of that 17 or 18 minutes that we will never get back. It would be great if Queenslanders were made to sit down and watch it. They would not vote for the Australian Labor Party for the next two decades.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr NEWMAN:** I have got a rise out of them! Now they are starting to get it. That lack of vision, that lack of intellectual capacity, that lack of reasoned argument is why Queenslanders will not vote for them in 2015. They talk about arrogance and hubris. I am afraid I just listen to the tone: carping, harping, negative.

**Mrs D'Ath** interjected.

**Mr NEWMAN:** I am hearing interjections from the member for Redcliffe. That pains me. Doesn't the member for Redcliffe understand that this is the people's plan? Is again the arrogance and hubris so strong on the opposition benches that they will not listen to Queenslanders? Will they mock Queenslanders? That is what we saw from the Leader of the Opposition before: a repudiation of the hopes, dreams and aspirations of Queenslanders. Enough said about Labor's negativity, lack of intellectual rigour and lack of understanding about the difference between this plan and, indeed, any response by the government or, indeed, the government's ability to respond to the plan—our performance. I will now move on, because Queenslanders' collective vision is something worth aspiring to. It is ambitious, it will rightly stretch us to create a state that is more resilient and innovative than the one that we enjoy today. I am a firm believer in the collective wisdom of Queenslanders to meet any opportunity or challenge so I am sure that the people's plan will help Queensland become an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

When I first announced the development of a state-wide vision in January 2013 I said the engagement process would arguably be more important than the outcome itself. I know my fellow members are familiar with this process and the tremendous response that we received from every electorate across the state. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the Ashgrove electorate working group and particularly the Ashgrove representatives: Karen Dare, Amanda Scott and Michael Knight. In fact, just last weekend Karen, Amanda, Michael and I met with an extended group of active community members to talk about how we are going to bring the

Queensland Plan to life in the Ashgrove electorate. So many great ideas were discussed—from global cafes at The Gap Farmers Markets to establishing a family business community to support local charities. Within 48 hours of our meeting the Ashgrove electorate chamber of community Facebook page was launched, a noticeboard for our local Ashgrove electorate community, including The Gap, Gaythorne, Enoggera, Ashgrove and parts of Mitchelton and Alderley.

The Ashgrove electorate chamber of community Facebook site exists to encourage the constituents of the Ashgrove electorate to participate in a positive way in our local community, and by flow-on effect to our state and nation. It is an online community noticeboard to connect, to communicate and to share ideas as we embark on bringing the Queensland Plan to life locally.

It is Queenslanders like the ones I have been working with in my electorate who embraced the process and helped make the Queensland Plan such an inspirational and now award-winning vision for the future. The Queensland Plan and the people involved in putting that plan together have been acknowledged with some very significant planning awards. But how sad it is that the Leader of the Opposition comes in here and demonstrates a lack of intellectual rigour, a lack of reasoned argument and uses the constant, mindless repetition and rhetoric that we see from the Labor Party.

The outcomes must now take priority. Queenslanders' vision focused on nine foundation areas to help shape future success: education, community, regions, economy, health and wellbeing, environment, people, infrastructure and governance. Education emerged as the key theme of the Queensland Plan. Queenslanders recognise the importance of a quality education as a launch pad for life. They seek to increase the professional status of teachers and embrace learning as a lifelong endeavour.

While Queensland is now moving in the right direction, more can be and is being done to help us keep pace with global developments and ensure every Queenslander can reach their full potential. It will not surprise members that Queenslanders also remain focused on our regions. They want to capitalise on each region's unique assets and opportunities, drive prosperous communities and create quality jobs and work more collaboratively together.

While I recognise that our regions will face some real challenges in the future, there are also reasons to be optimistic. We are well positioned in the Asia-Pacific, we have a competitive business environment, our people have a wealth of expertise and we are building productive and resilient supply chains.

These education and region examples highlight Queenslanders' astute understanding of how we need to grow and develop over the next three decades. I would like to again remind members that the Queensland Plan is not a government plan. I am so disappointed and so distressed that the Leader of the Opposition misunderstands this fundamentally. This is the alternative Premier we just heard speak. Clearly the alternative Premier does not have the goods, does not have a plan, does not have a team and does not have the financial management credentials to run this state.

Unlike those opposite, we have all the ingredients plus we are wholeheartedly and enthusiastically adopting a plan created by everyday Queenslanders for Queenslanders. I firmly believe it is fitting that the people's plan be ratified by the people's house and support the motion to ratify the Queensland Plan—a plan for the next 30 years for this great state.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.32 pm): I rise today to support the ratification of the Queensland Plan. The Queensland Plan, as the Premier so ably said, is a vibrant, living document which reflects our shared vision for Queensland for the next 30 years. Like speakers before me have said, this plan was developed by 80,000 Queenslanders—mums and dads, boys and girls, grandmas and granddads; everyday people from electorates all over the state, electorates such as the great electorate of Nanango.

I want to touch on a couple of things. I am really very distressed to hear that the Leader of the Opposition has no vision. What concerns me about this is that in Queensland we live in a democracy. We teach our children who were heavily involved in the creation of the Queensland Plan about democracy in this great state. Basically, if I were to sum up simply for a child what democracy means it is having an opposition that is there to hold the government to account. What a shame our opposition has decided not to listen to 80,000 people—people whom they claim to represent. I am absolutely embarrassed for the next generation that they have that type of democracy in Queensland. This is an opposition that does not care about Queensland's future. This is an opposition that does not have a vision for Queensland's future.

I wish for my three daughters to grow up in a state that does have a vision and does have a plan. If they choose to live in the regions then they should be supported to do so. Should one of them decide to be a teacher then they should be valued. If there was one area that was identified most by the 80,000 who had input into the Queensland Plan it was that education is a serious issue and we need to look at increasing the status of teachers, for example.

Our government, unlike those opposite, did not sit around and just think about it and think about it. We actually went ahead and did something. We have already started on this. I mention the education summit held in the Ashgrove electorate which will aid in the development of the education accord. What a fantastic opportunity that was for people from every electorate in this great state to come together and discuss a vision for education. That is vision. We have a government that looks to the future. It does not just look to today. We are looking 30 years in advance. That is the type of Queensland that I want my daughters to grow up in.

One thing I briefly want to touch on is the regions. As we all know—and this came out clearly in the Queensland Plan—‘Regions are the engine room of our state’. I could not have put that better. I really like the comment: ‘Regions are the engine room of our state.’ It is unfortunate that we have an opposition that does not care about the regions. They have never cared about the regions.

Our vision in the Queensland Plan—and I say ‘our vision’ because it is the vision of the 80,000 people who contributed; I thank those people who contributed; a lot of them came from the electorates of opposition members—is to double the regional population outside South-East Queensland. I say thank you to those 80,000 people for having that vision for the regions. If my daughters wish to reside in the regions there will be a vision.

I conclude by stating how wonderful it is that the Queensland Plan lists a 15-member community ambassadors council. That is to ensure that community led vision remains part of the people’s plan. That 15-member community led ambassadors council is there to foster community participation. I think it extends the vision that this Queensland Plan gives to all Queenslanders.

It is not just for our government. This is a plan for the next 30 years. I am extremely proud to be a member of a government in this House that actually has a vision and has a plan for my daughters’ future. I am proud to stand here and support the ratification of the plan.

 **Hon. TL MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (4.38 pm): I rise today to speak on the ratification of the Queensland Plan. I want to say how refreshing it is to be part of a government that does have a long-term vision, that is thinking beyond election cycles, that is thinking beyond political parties. It has been an absolute pleasure to be involved in this process and to serve under a leader that actually has this type of vision. But of course this is not the vision of the Queensland government; this is the vision of the Queensland people.

It was a great privilege to be involved in that very first gathering where we took a number of representatives from each electorate—I took three from my electorate—to be involved in formulating the questions that needed to be asked at the upcoming summit where we were going to bring a lot more people to discuss these things. I was delighted to be involved in that process and I was particularly delighted with the outcome when we looked at those six questions. One of the questions that really encouraged me, coming from a history in the not-for-profit area, was that very first question of how do we turn society’s focus away from ‘me’ to ‘we’. I was incredibly encouraged that the people felt that that was an important question to address—that we need to become a far more caring society, that we need to look out for those who need help. Those of us who are very privileged need to be able to fulfil our responsibilities to those who are less privileged. I am looking forward to seeing how that may manifest itself over the coming years. Then of course we had the larger gathering where we had over 600 people looking at ways of bringing this plan together. Again, what a great example of democracy in action.

I think one of the great things about the Queensland Plan is that it has caused a range of other departments to look beyond three or four or five years. I know in my own department we had ConstructionQ with the building and construction industry. I say unashamedly that that was motivated by the Queensland Plan process. We have had ResourcesQ; we have had InfrastructureQ; we have had DestinationQ; and, as the member for Nanango just mentioned, we have had the education summit as we look at a 30-year plan for educating our society into the future.

I do not plan to speak for a long time this afternoon about this. I just want to give my wholehearted support to the Queensland Plan, a plan that has seen 80,000 people make a submission—that has to be something that has never been done before in any government in the

world—where so many everyday Queenslanders have felt that this was a great process to be involved in and they felt that it deserved their time and attention. The document that has been produced is a fantastic document. It is inspiring as you read it. Of course, it means nothing if it is simply a document. To have the Queensland Plan ambassadors keep us accountable to that I think is also a fantastic initiative. I congratulate the Premier. I congratulate Minister Powell for his role in this as well. I look forward to seeing some of the outcomes that will take place over the next 30 years because of this process and because of this plan. I strongly recommend to the House that we ratify the Queensland Plan.

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—Ind) (4.42 pm): How predictable is this dreadful legislation that seeks the official parliamentary stamp of approval of the LNP assets sales plan which they contemptibly link to a so-called bipartisan Queensland Plan! I agree that there was an enormous amount of consultation that went into it. But to do so in such a cynical way, trying to lock it in, is to treat Queenslanders and the parliament as a rubber stamp. To call 99-year leases not asset sales is no different to saying tax is not brown, borrowings are not debt and that the Queensland Plan as sold is not a direct and an inextricable link to asset sales.

The state is embarking on a massive taxpayer funded advertising campaign that no-one can avoid currently. Whether it is through the internet, Facebook, Twitter, all means of lesser and greater newspapers, radio, major television campaigns—it does not matter what time of the day—you are getting this stuff shoved at you. I do not think there is any precedent to what is being stated by a variety of people and this government trying to convince the Queensland public that they are not selling assets—that they are selling the Queensland Plan but they are ‘leasing’ assets. There is no difference between leases and assets sales in what they are saying. The LNP definition of a lease is very interesting. They try to say that leases are not operating leases; they are financial leases.

**Mr Shuttleworth:** Where is this in the Queensland Plan?

**Dr DOUGLAS:** It is on page 10. The Treasurer refuses to acknowledge key questions or reasonable questions as to the types of leases. This is what is known as the return on a lease. He tells the public that they cannot know this until the assets have been transferred because of commercial reasons. He has stated this on multiple occasions. What the Treasurer and, by default, the minister here today are not saying is that, when those assets are transferred to whomever the purchasers are, the debt on the asset—

**Mr KING:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule on relevance. We are debating the Queensland Plan, not the government's response.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Member for Cairns, I have taken advice on this and I am going to give a fair bit of latitude here given the background and the build-up to this, the discussions that were had and the plan itself. Member, I ask you please to be very cognisant of the motion, which is the ratification of a plan.

**Dr DOUGLAS:** Thank you. The critical point is that the debt of the asset remains on the balance sheet at full value. Certainly there may be a repayment of some immediate borrowings on the balance sheet, but the leasing in the manner proposed by the government leaves the full capital debt on the state balance sheet as a liability. It is compounded by the commercial practice of this government—it is not every government—of being a self-insurer. By default, in that circumstance we do not pick up annual depreciation but we have to have a book entry every year in addition to that capital liability to ensure replacement value capacity of those assets in the case of catastrophic loss. This is covered in the Queensland Plan in terms of the asset situation. Strangely it was the Premier today who predicted the certainty of further disasters. That decision to use the lease in the model proposed leaves Queenslanders with a massive unfunded liability if the Treasurer attempts to extinguish the debt from our balance sheet or, more likely, will leave us with a zero sum result if he leaves the liability on the balance sheet which he is going to have to do.

Members need to be clear about what they are pushing through here by ratifying this plan, with the addition of these strategies in the Strong Choices plan which are inextricably linked to these assets sales, sold as leases. What sort of legacy are all members really leaving for Queenslanders when you falsely believe what any funds gained—some disbursed on immediate debt, some on long-term debt and considerable sums on questionable infrastructure including building more tunnels—will leave us with? It will leave us in a worse situation than what we are in now because we carry the unfunded liability.

That was the whole idea, for those who do not realise, when we set up the QIC—and there were some members here who were involved in the parties at the time. The whole idea was that a proportion of that was to cover our unfunded liability. The Future Fund, which was the federal fund, was to cover the unfunded liability of the superannuation entitlements of people who work for the government. That is what those funds were for. We are putting an unfunded liability on our balance sheet and we cannot do that. You are leaving a legacy for people who follow after. If the plan is to leave them with a dreadful legacy that they cannot cover, then you have done more harm than you have done any good out of what you spend in the next couple of years.

The problem here is not so much the plan itself but what the government intends to do with the plan within its strategy and, as I say, leaving the compounding problem of the unfunded liability. That is what members are not being told. This is a false plan by virtue of its linkages to the Strong Choices campaign, with the government being advised by people who either do not know or, if they do know, are being silent on it, and they are driving it forward by advertising and thinking that will work. People are awake to it. They know what is going on. They will not carry this liability and families will not allow their children to do so. If you think young people do not realise that they have legacies, think again. They live in an environment where they are basically paying HECS debt or they are paying massive amounts in mortgage costs which people 25 years ago had a higher wage to cover.

I will not support a sham campaign dressed up as a genuine community consultation process. If this is the best the LNP government has to offer, then I share the views of non-government and crossbench members: if this is your best, it is not good enough.

**Government members** interjected.

**Dr DOUGLAS:** No, it is not because you have linked your sales campaign directly into this campaign. That is your advertising campaign. You need to look at the advertising campaign. This government has no vision for the future. These are slow minds and fast bucks, and those two ingredients will always lead to tragic outcomes and so reads the story of the LNP in government. It will be RIP next year for most of you as a result of this.

 **Mrs OSTAPOVITCH** (Stretton—LNP) (4.50 pm): I rise in support of the motion to ratify the Queensland Plan. In supporting the motion, I would like to talk about the Queensland Plan and how it reflects the aspirations of Queenslanders. Firstly, I want to thank the 50 members from the community of Stretton who attended those first few meetings in my office and my team of three: Mario Penisi, a scientist; Leanne Nixon, a state college principal; and Anna Robbie, a technology park developer.

It was developed through a grassroots engagement process involving every electorate. It was a simple idea that grew: for Queenslanders to have a say in the future of our great state. It was developed through a grassroots engagement process involving every electorate. I would like to emphasise that point because over a year ago, at a time of often adversarial political debate, all members came together to discuss how to take Queensland forward. I acknowledge their involvement and contribution back then. It is indeed unfortunate that the opposition leader has decided to go against the people of Queensland because it is, after all, the people's plan not the government's. Yes, it was this government's vision that resulted in the largest community engagement activity of its kind ever undertaken in our state with more than 80,000 people contributing to the process, but it is now most appropriately the Queensland Plan—a plan that has been created by 80,000 Queenslanders for Queensland.

Not only did Queenslanders help create the plan; they determined the engagement questions and the types of activities that would be held in our communities. There were electorate working groups, boardroom workshops, community think tanks, arts forums, a scientists workshop, a variety of community events and robust family discussions. Everyone was encouraged to have their say. From their feedback, nine foundation areas emerged and Queenslanders set ambitious goals and targets for education, to build life skills and inspire bright minds; community, to make connections; regions, to build thriving communities; economy, to forge diversity and prosperity; health and wellbeing, to be healthy and active; environment, to achieve balance; people, to create opportunities for everyone; infrastructure, to be connected; and governance, to balance all our interests.

Achieving everything Queenslanders aspire to will not be easy. However, I am confident that ongoing collaboration is key. I would like to remind members of how Queenslanders responded to the Queensland Plan. The Australian Medical Association Queensland identified that improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy will be very difficult, but with small but sure steps perseverance will pay off. The Queensland Resources Council noted strong emphasis on regional

Queensland and the role of the resources sector in achieving our aspirations. The Regional Australia Institute also focused on regional growth and observed that councils would need to innovate and capitalise on strengths they share with neighbouring regions to be most effective. The Cairns Chamber of Commerce applauded Queenslanders' vision for boosting agricultural production and export opportunities in Asia, attracting investment and creating centres of excellence but noted a strong implementation plan would be crucial. The Whitsunday Regional Council's Whitsunday 2020 corporate plan has aligned its strategies with Queenslanders' vision. I encourage everyone to read and reflect on the Queensland Plan in detail. Let's make sure we seize every opportunity to make the Queensland of 2044 the best place to live, work and raise a family.

 **Mr KING** (Cairns—LNP) (4.54 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to this motion. The first thing I want to do is read out a text I received from one of my delegates, Nicky Jurd. She is a small business operator who has never been a member of any political party and is a fantastic community advocate. Her text reads—

The Queensland Plan was the most comprehensive community engagement process I've ever participated in. It leaves me feeling inspired for our state's future. The input from every corner of the community was most impressive.

I wanted to start on that note because it is very important to remind the House that we are talking specifically about the Queensland Plan. This motion is about the Queensland Plan, the people's plan. As has been spoken about many times, it is the most comprehensive engagement process in Australia's history. It has recently won a couple of awards based on that fact. It is safe to say that my delegates—Nicky, Jan Crase and Rick Finnessy—went into this process a little unsure about what it would be about and perhaps even a little cynical, but I can say with hand on heart that once they attended the Mackay summit, the very first gathering, they were blown away. They were incredibly enthusiastic and amazed by the process. It was not about the government or politicians directing the show. It was not about MPs running things. It was really about the people. Certainly my three delegates were engaged right throughout the process. We are looking at doing something similar to the Premier in terms of trying to roll that out on a more local level in my electorate.

I also wanted to touch very briefly on the Leader of the Opposition's comments. As others have since said, it is incredibly disappointing to see that response. Talk about this government's response to the plan by all means, but this is not the place. We are debating the ratification of the Queensland Plan. This is about the people's plan. Pick that apart or debate the elements of the plan by all means, but to go off on these tangents is incredibly disappointing.

The other point I want to pick up is the opposition leader made some bizarre comments about regional Queensland and regional economies. I think my electorate of Cairns got a mention with regard to jobs. For the Leader of the Opposition's information, I have some unemployment statistics here from the ABS, which of course is independent. The unemployment rate in February 2012 in Cairns was 10.3 per cent, which was very high. That was the last month of the former Labor government. Fast-forward to the most recent unemployment statistic in Cairns of August 2014, the rate was 6.9 per cent.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr KING:** I take the interjection from the Minister for Housing. It is a fantastic drop in the local unemployment rate. Tourism numbers are up since we were elected. Building approvals are running at three-year highs since we were elected. New investment is at record highs compared with recent years. I am not sure what Cairns the opposition leader is talking about, but the Cairns that I live in and that I represent—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr KING:** I take that interjection from the Minister for Housing. Perhaps he is referring to the Cannes in France, because the Cairns that I represent has a vastly stronger and vastly improved local economy compared with when Labor was in power.

I will touch very quickly on some of my highlights from the Queensland Plan. Education was the No. 1 focus and response. I completely agree with that element of the Queensland Plan. I completely agree with that focus. It is absolutely vital. We know that the more we spend, particularly on early years education, has massive results later in life. One of our early responses to the Queensland Plan was the Best Start policy in terms of getting parents engaged in reading to their kids. That is absolutely so important. The second element that I will finish on is the focus and the push to grow regional Queensland.

**Mr Costigan:** Bring it on.

**Mr KING:** I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday—bring it on. I think regional Queensland had been neglected for so long, but it is now that we have such fantastic representation on this side of the House right across the length and breadth of this great state that regional Queensland finally has a focus. It is absolutely fantastic to see that aspirational goal of that fifty-fifty split between the south-east and regional Queensland.

With that brief contribution, I commend the environment minister, Minister Powell, for his stewardship of this whole process. It has been a massive undertaking. It has remained focused and on track and, importantly, it has also remained relevant to so many thousands of Queenslanders. I thank and congratulate the minister; in fact, that goes to all members of the House who participated in this process. I thank again my three delegates. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.01 pm): I too am quite pleased to make a small contribution to this debate here this afternoon because it was actually in Mackay, the city that I proudly represent in this place, where the Queensland Plan was effectively launched many moons ago.

**Mr Berry:** All because of you.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Not quite, member for Ipswich, but I was pleased to be there as one of the host MPs so to speak. That is something that the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience touched on this morning while addressing a who's who of local government right across Queensland in Mackay, where I joined him for the LGAQ's 118th annual conference. Although we were only on the ground for a short time, it looks like it was a productive conference. It was great to catch up with many familiar faces from around regional Queensland—people like Peter Maguire from Central Highlands, Bill Lewis from Burdekin, Tony McGrady from Mount Isa, Joe Cooper from Charters Towers, Jenny Hill from Townsville and the list goes on. I also saw plenty of other familiar faces there. I did not have the chance to catch up with them, but my old mate from the Diamantina country, the home of Waltzing Matilda, the mayor of Winton Shire Council, Butch Lenton, was there with bells on, along with plenty of other civic leaders from far and wide. Our host mayor was Deirdre Comerford, and it was great to catch up with her. It was also great to see in the crowd Councillor Jenny Whitney, the Mayor of the Whitsunday Regional Council, alongside her good friend and colleague Councillor Jan Clifford, who, as the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection knows, is very engaged in her community and who was alongside us at the ReefBlitz launch in Cannonvale last Saturday.

These people that I am referring to—and there are many others whom I could go on about but I am conscious of the time—were there in Mackay last year when MPs brought their own delegates to town. In my case, my delegates were tourism operator Mark Bell, schoolteacher Nicola Byrne and community volunteer Charles Linsley. I thank them and everyone else who came along to map out those all important questions which have since laid the foundations for the development of the Queensland Plan.

Also there, as I recall, were many schoolchildren from around the Mackay-Whitsunday region. Jimmy Barnes is a name that will resonate with many honourable members in this House, but he does have a namesake in my electorate, a young gentleman with a big future who is very passionate about the air cadets and his community. He was there and I commend him and all the other students who came along as well as their schoolteachers and educators—people like Brian O'Neill from Calen District State College. It was a great turnout and I think that underlines the sense of engagement that the Queensland Plan has been all about.

We have heard from other speakers here this afternoon about the 80,000 people from far and wide, from the length and breadth of the great state of Queensland. It has been a tremendous engagement process; it was groundbreaking stuff. It was unprecedented in the history of Queensland; in fact, it had never been done before in any jurisdiction that I know of. I think the presence of those schoolchildren was fundamental to the success of that whole process.

**Mr Berry:** Historic.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** It certainly was historic, and I take the interjection from my good friend, the member for Ipswich. It was certainly a first. I have followed the member for Cairns in this debate this afternoon, and something that he touched on was that one of the greatest things to come out of the

whole process of the Queensland Plan was this real vision and commitment to see our regions grow. Whether it is the Wide Bay-Burnett, Central Queensland, North Queensland, Far North Queensland, the Cape—

**Mr Elmes** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** The Sunshine Coast—perhaps we might have to discuss that with the member for Noosa later. As far as I am concerned, regional Queensland is outside the south-east corner and I make no apologies for that, and I see the member for Cairns nodding. I am always a man to stand up for regional communities, putting my electorate first and foremost. That is the great thing, and that gets the juices flowing for me and for many other regional MPS in this place—that wonderful vision to see the growth of regional Queensland on the back of the Queensland Plan, to populate our outback communities, our northern communities and our more remote communities where there is potential, particularly if we tap into water supplies and stuff like that, and I touched on that in the House yesterday.

I want to acknowledge the member for Nanango and the words she used before I go any further. She used a great phrase when she referred to our regions; she said that they were the engine room of our great state. I think that has been eloquently put here this afternoon, and I commend her for that phrase and for her passion for regional Queensland because she is right—she is damn right. I think people in her electorate would agree absolutely because our regions are the engine room of the Queensland economy, and I commend her in that regard.

I mentioned Mayor Jenny Whitney before, the mayor of the Whitsunday Regional Council. In wrapping up, I want to commend her and her colleagues in local government for, as the member for Stretton said, effectively lining up the corporate plan for the Whitsunday Regional Council along the lines of the Queensland Plan. I think that is marvellous. Minister Crisafulli did touch on that this morning—how local government has embraced everything about the Queensland Plan and continues to play an integral role in its implementation.

I will finish by saying that, as the Premier has said time and time again, not to mention the minister who has been responsible for this whole process from the get-go, this is a plan for Queenslanders developed by Queenslanders. It is not the Premier's plan, as we all know. It is not the government's plan. It is not the opposition's plan. It is a plan that should hold Queensland in good stead for the next 30 years—no matter which political party or parties occupies the Treasury benches. As the Premier has said, this is the people's plan, and I support the ratification of the Queensland Plan well and truly.

In conclusion, I thank those 80,000 Queenslanders from all walks of life who have had their say. That is something that our side of politics is all about—that is, democracy. I support the Queensland Plan ratification motion and trust that this plan will make the greatest state in the greatest land on earth an even greater place for our future generations.

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (5.07 pm): I rise to make a contribution in this debate on the Queensland Plan ratification motion. I was engaged in many aspects of the plan myself. I took people from my area down to the summit and they were very pleased to be a part of the process. A lot of things that were discussed there were very productive. That is all well and good, but we cannot escape the fact that the funding and delivery of the plan is inextricably linked to the Strong Choices plan, which I inherently disagree with. So it makes it very difficult for me to support the rest of these ideas when the two are so inextricably linked.

What came out in my engagement process was that there was certainly an impetus to develop regional Queensland and to put the people of Queensland into regional areas, which is something that I value very strongly. Whether we like it or not, regional Queensland will always suffer from a geographical or political bias in that respect. Plans like this create hope when people are told, 'This is what we want to deliver to you.' That raises an expectation, but when the delivery of all of these outcomes is linked to the Strong Choices plan—which the public have so clearly said to us that they do not want—it is something that I just cannot agree with. Quite clearly, we said last week that those of us on the crossbenches had signed an accord to prevent that from happening. We are bitterly opposed to that. It is very unfortunate that asset sales are linked in and are an intrinsic part of the plan because that is something I cannot support.

It is often said that that is the only option to fund this. I fundamentally disagree. I think that the funding model for a plan like this is ideologically driven. It is neoliberal economics that is opposed to the policies and economics that were applied to this state and this country by Ted Theodore, Jack

McEwan, Robert Menzies and Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen—people who were nation builders and built this state. We are still riding off the back of the projects that they debt funded. They plunged this state and this nation into debt to carry it forward. Without using those tools, these things will be not happen. It often comes up in discussions I have with mining industry people and just about anyone in North-West Queensland, which is a very rich industry and resource area. People know that if government does not lead that development, it will not happen. There is no current business case for many of those things that are nation-building activities. That is the answer to everything—there is no business case for it. That is not aspirational and that is not true leadership. The government owes the people of Queensland and Australia a lot more than that. They owe them a vision. They have to have the intestinal fortitude to accept that debt and apply it to fund these infrastructure and industry-building projects that are in regional areas where there are no votes. That is the pathway forward. That is how Australia and Queensland were built.

The happy news is that there is still so much development potential in Queensland. We still have hundreds of thousands of acres of vast blacksoil plains that have major river systems going through them that are untouched which could be farmed tomorrow. We have one of the richest minerals provinces in the world in the North West Minerals Province. It has a variety of different minerals and base metals. It is not just related to one single industry like coal or gas.

There are so many opportunities out there for the government if it debt funds some infrastructure to take the state forward rather than selling off assets. Unfortunately, that is intrinsically linked in this plan, which makes it very difficult for us to support the motion. In light of that, despite all the great contributions that were made by many people in formulating this plan and the good work that the minister, the member for Glass House, has done in bringing this together, unfortunately that link is such a strong part of it that I cannot support the motion.

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (5.12 pm): I rise to contribute briefly to the debate on the ratification of the Queensland Plan as required under section 6 of the Queensland Plan Act 2014, which was introduced to the House by the Premier, the honourable member for Ashgrove, on 26 August of this year. Ultimately, that bill enshrines in legislation *The Queensland Plan: Queenslanders' 30-year vision*, an innovative and collaborative document. Encompassed in this legislation are three main components: requiring a Queensland plan to be developed, directing it to be implemented and the progress reported to parliament, and establishing an ambassadors council to promote ongoing community engagement.

In February 2013 this LNP government announced that we would embark on an ambitious bipartisan approach to developing the strategic direction of this state. What followed in the months since that announcement have been unprecedented levels of community consultation and a true grassroots engagement program. More than 80,000 residents contributed to this landmark approach, the first of its kind in Australian history. As the Premier highlighted in his explanatory speech, consultation was creative and involved discussions at summits and community think tanks to boardroom workshops and robust family debates. Unlike those opposite, who held meaningless talkfest after talkfest around the state, all the while driving Queensland into startling and disturbing levels of debt, this bill before the House indicates that it is a collaborative plan that harnessed ideas and input from across the entire state with practical implementation measures.

Currumbin was well represented at the Queensland Plan summit in Mackay last year by Tom Mackay, a university student and former school captain, Ian Grace, a well-known business leader, and Kerry Shepherd, a long-time environmental advocate on the southern Gold Coast. We also engaged with local students, community groups and residents to garner an understanding of what was important to them. Local feedback supported the key areas that have been drawn out in this plan. In developing this plan, a multifaceted approach was devised to tackle the challenges and opportunities our state will face over the next 30 years. The nine main categories include education, community, regions, economy, health and wellbeing, environment, people, infrastructure and governance.

A key area of focus has been on the education sector with ambitious goals and targets that will be detailed in the Queensland education accord set to be released in 2015. We are not waiting to address this issue though, with the \$20 million Best Start family literacy program already announced in response to the high priority that Queenslanders placed on education during the consultation phase of this plan. Alarming, almost one in four children are not at the right literacy level when they commence school and, sadly, many never catch up.

We have committed to investing funds in our schools and local libraries to ensure all Queenslanders have access to world-class education and resources. Our commitment to grow a four-pillar economy has been tied into this plan. Key sectors have developed 20-year blueprints to guide the industry's future. In 2012 I hosted the DestinationQ forum, a whole-of-state tourism symposium, the first of its kind in some 20 years. This forum continues to flourish each year as we incorporate a whole-of-government approach. ConstructionQ, RegionsQ, InfrastructureQ and more have also been established and provide the foundation for structured growth in our great state.

Also adopting this long-term approach is the Housing 2020 Strategy, with a plan to deliver 12,000 new homes for Queenslanders in need. Blueprints in Health and participation frameworks in the areas of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders will ensure that we have a detailed strategic direction for the future. The Premier has been resolute in his commitment that this will be a live plan. It will be re-evaluated and reassessed. I look forward to watching this plan, the people's plan, grow and develop over the years.

Currumbin is a very connected community with residents who take an active interest in their area. Locals want to be involved in decisions that will affect them, a fact demonstrated by more than 10 per cent of residents responding to electorate-wide surveys that I distribute each term of government. Now that the bill has been passed and is now being ratified, residents in my electorate can be confident that their views and ideas have had, and will continue to have, a direct impact on the future of our great state. I am very proud to be part of a government that understands that good governance necessitates planning for the future and takes steps now to ensure the path forward is a bright and prosperous one for all Queenslanders.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.17 pm): I wish to rise to speak in favour of the Queensland Plan ratification motion and make a brief contribution on behalf of the people of Chatsworth whom I am incredibly proud to represent. If you do not plan, you plan to fail. It is a mantra that I have lived by most of my professional life. Therefore, it is only natural that the Queensland government should have a long-term strategic plan for our great state. The community have called for a strategic direction for Queenslanders and the Queensland Plan is exactly what they need. We all know that over three decades governments will come and go. However, the Queensland Plan is a 30-year strategic document that will continue to be a part of Queensland's journey no matter how the electoral cycle turns out.

I was proud to be included in the two summits held in Mackay and Brisbane. Also I subsequently held discussions with the Chatsworth Queensland Plan consultation group on a regular basis during the community consultation period. Chatsworth residents were also given the opportunity to discuss and provide feedback in the numerous community forums that were held across the electorate during this period. The one held with Stefan from the CSIRO was a real highlight. It was held at the Whites Hill State College. Thirty years is a significant period. Therefore, I found it vitally important to include school age children who are our future generation of Queenslanders. Therefore, I conducted a Queensland Plan competition with local schools to get their perspective on how they felt Queensland should look in the future.

Whether it was coloured in or written down, I encouraged all local Chatsworth school students to express what they thought Queensland might look like in 30 years time. I thoroughly enjoyed looking at the entries and awarded Tingalpa State School with a school-wide pizza party for several hundred students to celebrate submitting the most entries, carting in box load after box load of pizza. They loved it and so did I! The Queensland Plan created a real buzz in the electorate—in none more so than the school kids, who will indeed be adults in 30 years' time.

As someone who has worked for private corporate organisations, I am fully aware of the need for a strategic plan. Many people have commented to me over the years as to why the government does not have a long-term strategic vision. I totally concur, which is why it was music to my ears when the Premier outlined this process. The Premier showed vision and leadership by undertaking a similar process within Brisbane City Council when he was the mayor, and I absolutely commend the Premier for his initiative to bring this opportunity to all Queenslanders. Indeed, I too worked on a strategic vision exercise many years ago when I worked for the then Redland Shire Council. I was heavily involved in what was called the vision 1995-2005 exercise and it was a real runaway success. I know firsthand the benefit of setting a long-term strategic vision in the public arena.

Queensland, as we all know, is indeed a great state with great opportunities and our prosperity as a state will only increase with the implementation of the Queensland Plan, aka the people's plan. Like many of my colleagues on this side of the chamber, I stress that it is not the LNP's plan; it is the

people of Queensland's plan. The performance of the opposition leader in this chamber will be referred to for years to come when people refer back to this historic debate. I do not propose to give her any more air time other than to say that I thought the member for Inala was bigger than that performance in this chamber an hour or so ago. *Hansard* will show that I was wrong, as she tried to politicise over 80,000 Queenslanders' desire to have a democratic say in the vision for their state. Everyone will be accountable to the Queensland Plan: local governments will have to include aspects of the strategic direction of the plan, and obviously state government departments will also need to ensure that their policies, services and programs incorporate elements of the plan. Additionally, the Premier will be required to provide an annual progress report on the implementation of the Queensland Plan and table a copy here in this chamber on a yearly basis. The key aspect that shone through the process was the absolute commitment towards education being the cornerstone of the state's ongoing economic and social progress and a desire to see the state grow in the regions, not just the south-east.

Finally, I wish to place on record my thanks to Chatsworth summit delegates Allan Todd, Wayne Cameron, Eloise Slade and Darren Barker, who attended various Queensland Plan summits as part of the Chatsworth electorate's contribution to the overall Queensland Plan. May I also place on the public record my sincere appreciation for the dozen or so members of the Chatsworth Queensland Plan consultation group and last, but not least, the hundreds of Chatsworth residents who took the time to attend the forums or participate in providing feedback online. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier and the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection for the superb job they have both done on this ambitious people's plan. I lend total support to the motion to ratify the Queensland Plan.

 **Mr JUDGE** (Yeerongpilly—Ind) (5.23 pm): I also rise to make a brief contribution on the ratification of the Queensland Plan. I think that the member for Mount Isa has succinctly summed up the crossbench position on the issue and spoken very, very clearly on the broader sentiment that exists among the crossbenchers.

We have heard that about 80,000 members of the Queensland community participated in the Queensland Plan and that is a large number of people, but let us put that in perspective: there are 4.6 million people who live in Queensland. You do not need to be a mathematician, but it works out to be about 1.7 per cent of the population who participated in the Queensland Plan. There are 89 electorates throughout Queensland and 74 of them are occupied by members of the LNP. I was very cautious to ensure that I had a diverse group of people when I considered who would accompany me to Mackay. I included people who were not aligned to one political party. I appreciated their efforts, and I thank them today for their contributions regardless of their politics.

I do agree with the previous member's contribution that Queensland and all governments throughout Australia require long-term plans. Long-term plans require vision, and we need to consider the record of the Newman government in terms of vision. We have a Premier who pledged to build a four-pillar economy based on tourism, mining, agriculture and construction. Tourism has gone backwards under the Newman government; mining is failing; agriculture is failing. You would think that the member for Nanango would be out there standing up for the farming community. We have prime agricultural land which is being sacrificed to mining, and we have members who put their own political agendas ahead of their community's interests. I will stand up each and every day in this chamber and represent my community of Yeerongpilly. I will put the people of Yeerongpilly ahead of politics every day with no worries whatsoever. I do not care if I am here for one term, two terms or three terms, but when I am here I will put the people of Yeerongpilly first each and every time.

Fourteen members of the LNP are on the speaking list for the motion to ratify the Queensland Plan, which would show the commitment of the government to the Queensland Plan: they cannot even get their own members to come and speak on it. Let us talk about the Premier's vision for Queensland. He pledged to get unemployment down to four per cent. It was a pledge and then it became a 'target'. He said that six years from now we will achieve that, and where are we today? The Roy Morgan polls in August and September showed real unemployment in Queensland is at 10 per cent with 8.3 per cent underemployment. That is nearly one in five people in Queensland who do not have sufficient work, and that is the reality of the vision of the Premier of Queensland.

Let us not forget that the Premier of Queensland spent \$80 million of Queensland taxpayers' money sandbagging his electorate. Guess what? There is a poll out today to show that the people of Queensland still do not want him. Do you know why? They do not want his Queensland Plan because it is tied to the so-called Strong Choices campaign. What a load of nonsense that was. Leading

economists said that that was a flawed survey. If your Queensland Plan is based on a flawed survey, your Queensland Plan is flawed—it is that simple. It is not rocket science. You need to have a good, hard think about this.

If you had a vision for Queensland you would be well aware that we have an ageing population, and 30 years from today by 2031 we will have three times as many seniors. In the Newman government's agenda the minister for seniors is nowhere. Do you know why? They do not care about our ageing population. They do not care about seniors. I do. I stood up in this House twice now and spoke about needing a minister for seniors, and in my electorate of Yeerongpilly I will stand up for seniors each and every day. I have heard the member for Nanango say that she cares about the future of her children. We all care about the future of children in Queensland. We all care about our own children, and I share her affection towards the children of Queensland. However, I disagree with her that the privatisation of assets is protecting and growing our children's future. I disagree strongly with her on that point, and I think it is actually selling out our children's future.

If you lease the Port of Gladstone, you are creating a natural monopoly. If you lease the Port of Townsville, you are creating a natural monopoly. If you create a natural monopoly, there will be cost implications for future generations of Queenslanders. Ultimately, our children will pay for the members in this House today supporting the ratification of the Queensland Plan.

**Mr Hathaway** interjected.

**Mr JUDGE:** I heard the previous speaker criticise the member for Inala. Let *Hansard* show that the crossbenchers and the member for Inala—along with the other members of the Labor Party, I am sure—stood up for Queensland's children and the future of Queensland. We stood up for protecting assets. We stood against selling assets.

We have heard the Labor Party apologise for selling assets. I do not know that the Queensland public have forgiven them yet. I think they are relying on the crossbenches into the future—the people here who legitimately represent their communities, the people here with a public agenda and not a political agenda. How many of the 74 government members have crossed the floor—when they should have crossed the floor—on bills that did not align with their electorate's views? The answer is not one, because they all want to be preselected and they all want to be members of parliament. They are too scared to do what they are supposed to do: come in here and stand up for their electorates. They were elected to represent their communities, not to sell them out. The Queensland Plan is based on Strong Choices and the privatisation of assets. It is not good enough.

We have just seen the Education Accord held in the Premier's own electorate. Why would that happen? Why would people have to travel from Far North Queensland—from the electorates of Cook, Barron River and Thuringowa? Why would they have to travel all the way from North Queensland to Brisbane and get a bus or a taxi out to Ashgrove? It is not rocket science. I think the Premier needed people in his electorate in order to try to convince people that he is doing a good job. He needed sandbagging. He needed propping up. The truth of the matter is that people are across the issue. They are aware that he is selling them out.

I signed the accord against asset sales, along with the good members of the crossbenches, because I am here to stand up for my electorate. I will continue to do that. I have no fear whatsoever about standing up for the good people of Yeerongpilly.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Member for Yeerongpilly, take your seat. What is your point of order?

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I know that you have given direction as to relevance and that this is a broad-ranging debate, but we have just listened to nine minutes of absolute diatribe—

**Mr Hopper** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Condamine, two things are going on. Firstly, I am listening to a point of order and you are yelling across the chamber and you are not in your allocated seat. If you want to be warned under the standing orders, keep it up. Secondly, member for Yeerongpilly, I asked you to take your seat while I listened to the point of order. Please do me the courtesy of listening while I listen to the point of order. I have given an awful lot of leeway here today when I could have shut it down, so please do me the courtesy of at least listening. Minister?

**Mr POWELL:** Again, Mr Deputy Speaker, relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. I will listen carefully. Member for Yeerongpilly, have you finished?

**Mr JUDGE:** I was drawing to a conclusion, but I will add one more thing. The Great Barrier Reef is under threat. This week some issues have been highlighted in the paper, with scientists condemning the current approach being taken to protect the Great Barrier Reef—one of Queensland's assets that requires a greater vision than what is included in the Queensland Plan in order to protect it beyond 30 years. I would encourage the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection to revisit his plan. I do not support the vision of the Newman government. I think it is a flawed vision.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.34 pm): I rise to reflect on the fantastic progress that has been made in creating a 30-year vision for our state and the impact this has had on my electorate of Mudgeeraba. As members of this House are aware, the Queensland Plan was launched as an unprecedented kind of community consultation that would see as many Queenslanders as possible contributing to a vision for the future of our state.

The Queensland Plan was announced in 2013, and since then well over 80,000 Queenslanders from throughout the state have had their say and outlined their priorities for the next 30 years. Through the Queensland Plan we can ensure that we have a road map for our future, crafted by local residents of our 89 electorates based on their unique experiences and world views. This plan will go beyond the three-year electoral cycle. It will go beyond the day-to-day rough and tumble of political life and ensure that, no matter the politics of the day, the needs and priorities of Queenslanders are understood and form the basis of policy in this state.

At a local level I have been absolutely privileged to engage with members of my community to ensure their voices are heard. We have ensured that the needs of Mudgeeraba residents are front and centre when considering how we can take our great state forward. I would like to thank the three members of the Mudgeeraba community who took time out from their busy schedules to take part in this important initiative of the two Queensland Plan summits. My electorate was ably represented by Councillor Jan Grew, councillor for division 11; Matt Kenworthy, president of the Mudgeeraba Redbacks Junior Rugby League Club; and Earle Hinschen, events director of the D'Arcy Doyle Art Awards. These individuals were uniquely placed to draw from their extensive community involvement and intimate knowledge of our local area to ensure that Mudgeeraba was counted in this important process. It is with their help that we have been able to create a plan that will guide us into the years ahead.

As a result of the Queensland Plan, this government has already acted to introduce the legislation which will benefit our state for generations to come. This plan is not the government's plan or the LNP's plan; this is the people's plan based around the areas of education, community, regions, the economy, health and wellbeing, the environment, people, infrastructure and governance. The priorities identified are very clear. We will enhance our education system and actively work to ensure that education in Queensland and at local schools in my electorate of Mudgeeraba is the best it can possibly be. We will ensure that we give students the best possible start to their lives and ensure that they understand the importance of learning in all that they do. We will maintain and enhance community spirit, inclusion and engagement, especially in communities like those in Mudgeeraba in the Gold Coast hinterland. We will foster sustainable and liveable regions in which all residents can live highly satisfied and prosperous lives. We will support our regions, their businesses and local communities to ensure that no-one in this state misses out on opportunities based on where they live. We will aim to be the best performing economy in Australia by 2044. We will aim to have the most competitive, innovative and multifaceted economy in our region. We will recognise that to do so it is important that we protect our environment, like the fantastic hinterland areas in my electorate. As we support our growing economy, increased population, better education systems and more regional development, we will ensure that we have the infrastructure that we require.

This is a plan which will have a tremendous impact on every community across Queensland for the next 30 years. It has been great to see the level of enthusiasm not just amongst elected representatives but also amongst the broader public. In my electorate, the issues and priorities locals have raised with me when I knock on their door or catch up with them at local shopping centres or community events have been reinforced by the broad notions contained within the Queensland Plan. Mudgeeraba residents want the roads they need to commute into the future. They want to make sure that our 16 local schools continue to be well equipped to educate our young people. They want hospitals which can continue to adequately cater for our community. They want our natural environment and hinterland protected. We want our streets to remain safe and our communities strong, and these are the things I have been working towards since I was elected as their representative in this place, and these are the things I will continue to fight for into the future.

 **Mr BERRY** (Ipswich—LNP) (5.38 pm): Today I rise to speak about how I see the vision for the ratification of the Queensland Plan as relevant to the people of Ipswich. In fact, as I speak, the Rotary Club of Ipswich City is meeting and having a barbecue within the precincts of the parliament. I certainly hope they have an opportunity to listen to what I see as being the vision for Queensland.

One thing we must remember is that there is no other state like Queensland. It is the most decentralised state of all. As a result we have—

**Mr Pucci:** It's a great state.

**Mr BERRY:** It is indeed a great state, member for Logan. I want to emphasise the fact that on my side of the House most, if not all, of us have at some stage of our lives been involved in business. The member for Chatsworth said it succinctly when he said that if you do not plan you will plan to fail. That is the essence of it, and it is not just my generation. I am advanced in terms of my business and career, but the vision I see is when the member for Nanango talked about her children. My vision is for my children, who are all adults. This week my youngest daughter had a baby and my vision is for that generation. That is the part that concerns me.

**Mr Johnson:** You don't look old enough to be a grandad!

**Mr BERRY:** Indeed. Thank you, member for Gregory. That is a vision that we ought to imbibe whilst knowing that Queenslanders can join in. There is something to be said of 80,000 people not being representative of Queensland. As an analogy, if we added up the square kilometres that mining takes, it is infinitesimal on 80,000 of the population. Those arguments do not take us far because 80,000 Queenslanders have participated and given a positive impact.

I refer to the first summit in Mackay, which I attended. I thank the member for Whitsunday taking all of the credit for it being in Mackay. That is something which we ought to acknowledge on his behalf. The reality was that it was a process that I had never been involved in before and one that really impressed me. I did not understand how inclusive it was going to be and how we would get so many ideas about what we were all thinking. I certainly went there with my ideas in mind, but my vision was expanded. Many of the people with whom I spoke from various walks of life also expanded their views about what Queenslanders wanted. Did I get everything that I thought was appropriate? No, I did not because that is the thing about Queensland: it is so decentralised. We have electorates like Warrego and Gregory and areas like South-East Queensland, but that is the thing about this plan: we do not want Queensland to be South-East Queensland centric. We have to be inclusive. The key word I got from the Queensland Plan is it is all about we, not me. In politics we come across many people who think it is all about me—what is in it for me? It is so great to be able to sit with thinking people and for that mix—that melting pot—of ideas and ideals to come out with a plan that we all accepted. We may not all be happy in that we are not getting necessarily what we wanted, but I felt quite content that what we agreed on was a vision, and that is what I like about this.

I have to give credit to the people who came with me from Ipswich. I was grateful to be accompanied by Dr Mary Corbett, the chair of my local hospitals board. She is a person who is able to facilitate decision-making processes and she made such a valuable contribution. Also attending was Mr Gary Edwards, who is not only in my Rotary Club but Chair of the Churches of Christ. Churches of Christ is an organisation which is participating with government in delivering housing—an important ingredient. He is also a businessman in Ipswich with RT Edwards stores, so he brought not only business experience but also philanthropic experience as well as community involvement. I could not have asked for a better candidate. Lastly, Mr John Berry also attended. He is not related to me but is a director of the JBS abattoir. Why did I choose John? It just so happens that JBS is the biggest employer in Ipswich. It employs 2,000 people. We needed that ingredient because—

**Mrs Menkens:** A big employer in my area, too.

**Mr BERRY:** JBS is a real player in the meat industry within Queensland. We needed those ingredients—I knew that within the various sectors of electorates around Queensland we would get such a variation—but for me they were the important ingredients from my area. I thank them for their contributions. We had meetings and discussions in the lead-up to this so that we could make that contribution. I want to make my contribution to the debate on this motion brief, but I say to the people of Ipswich: embrace the Queensland Plan and its ratification because it is a vision and it is a blueprint by which we will have our lives go in a certain direction so that we all go together. I thank the House for allowing me the opportunity to say a few brief words.

 **Mr PUCCI** (Logan—LNP) (5.45 pm): This evening I rise to speak on the Queensland Plan ratification motion. The Queensland Plan is a 30-year vision designed by Queenslanders that will affect not only Logan but our entire state. As I understand it, this plan is the result of the largest

community engagement of its kind ever undertaken in Australia, with more than 80,000 people across the state contributing to the process. The Queensland Plan is not the government's plan; it is the people's plan. It is only by working together that Queenslanders' goals and targets will be achieved, and this motion makes it clear that everyone has a role to play. As we heard earlier from my learned colleague from Ipswich, when I was going through the Queensland Plan with my Logan community action group one of the main features was this question: as a society, how do we move from me to we? That is what this plan is all about. It is the people's plan about moving to we and about looking at what our neighbours need and helping them out—our neighbours in Northern Queensland, our neighbours in Central Queensland, our neighbours in Western Queensland and not just being Brisbane centric.

In developing the plan, Queenslanders expressed a desire for a long-term approach to state planning that goes well beyond the electoral cycle—a plan that does not change after every election—and this motion supports that goal. We are committed to ensuring that every initiative our government introduces will be aimed at achieving Queenslanders' vision for a prosperous future. The Queensland Plan is innovative. It is the first of its kind across the nation and it is worthy of our aspirations. As a living, breathing document, the Queensland Plan has many facets, and one component that I am particularly proud of is the Education Accord, a visionary document and one which the government is in the process of delivering for Queenslanders and the most precious commodity we have—our children. Improving education is a passion of mine not only because my two youngest daughters attend local schools in Logan City but also because I truly believe that education delivered in a way that produces results is a key to the success of any people.

A few weeks ago I and three delegates from the Logan electorate attended the Education Accord—a principal, a deputy principal, a teacher and a parent—as 'team Logan'. The vision of the Education Accord links directly to the Queensland Plan. The Great Results Guarantee, a Queensland government initiative, is another innovative plan purposely designed to raise education standards within our schools for both numeracy and literacy. This new innovation, backed up with real dollars directed towards these sensational programs, is designed to lift education standards for our schools. Over a whopping \$2.4 million will be directed towards Logan schools. I would further add that these new funds are not being directed from George Street in terms of how and where they should be allocated but delivered directly to the schools to spend on programs they believe will benefit students most in lifting literacy and numeracy.

The Great Results Guarantee, along with the Education Accord, which came about as a result of the Queensland Plan, are assisting this state in its goal to lead the country with the best literacy and numeracy benchmarks and Logan schools are benefiting.

What effect will the Queensland Plan have on our economy? The economy is one of the major pillars of the Queensland plan. The economy is a varied, changing product of all Queenslanders contributing towards this great state. They have helped to forge a diverse economy that is designed to withstand impacts and shocks that occur from time to time. It is a resilient economy.

Logan is growing quickly. We are expecting an explosion in population over the next 30 years. We have growth corridors within Logan City such as Yarrabilba and Greater Flagstone that have an anticipated growth explosion of 120,000 to 150,000 new residents. Where will all of these families live? Where will they work? What schools will their children attend? They are essential questions to ask with the common goal of a prosperous future. The Queensland Plan is a plan that is designed purposely to answer these relevant questions.

As the economy grows exponentially, infrastructure has to be planned and organised. For example, the Mount Lindesay Highway, which is the direct conduit between these developments and greater Brisbane, will need improvements and upgrades. As Logan continues to grow, we will need more emergency service stations for ambulance, police and fire and rescue officers. We will need more schools, more hospitals, better roads and public transportation. The solutions to getting this infrastructure and these services require resources that do not just appear. Thus the Queensland Plan is an excellent way to plan for the development of these types of projects.

As important as major projects are, planning for them requires vision and foresight. The Queensland Plan—the people's plan—is a plan that is focused on delivering for all Queenslanders and it is a plan, I can assure members, that will include Logan. As members heard me mention, my electorate needs public transportation, the Mount Lindesay Highway upgraded, ambulance and emergency service stations to support growing areas and hospitals upgraded. The emergency department of Logan Hospital was upgraded through funding of \$145 million, but with the growth in the area my electorate will need more hospitals.

This plan is a plan to move from 'me' to 'we'. This plan is about Queenslanders. It is about 'we'; it is not about 'me'. I support the ratification of this plan in this House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.52 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the ratification of the Queensland Plan. At the outset, I place on the record my acknowledgement of the great work done by Minister Powell, the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. I think that all of us in this House, regardless of whether we sit on the government, opposition or crossbenches, would appreciate the time and effort that the minister put into making sure that this plan enabled Queenslanders across the length and breadth of this great state—from Currumbin to Cooktown—to have their say on the future of this state. It is heartening to know that about 80,000 Queenslanders had the opportunity to have their say about our vision for the next 30 years. The formulation of the Queensland Plan was one of those really rare opportunities that we have to engage with people from right across Queensland, from all different walks of life, to talk about the things that matter to them not only now but, importantly, will matter to them well into the future.

I pay tribute and thank the three delegates whom I took with me to both the Mackay and Brisbane summits. I took Evange Epa, who at the time was an 18-year-old university student. He was the 2012 school captain of Coombabah State High School. The reason I took someone young was that, if we are going to talk about a 30-year plan, we needed to take people who were going to continue to ensure that this 30-year plan that we are enshrining today is acted upon and that the values that we are espousing in this plan continue to show through in the works of the Queensland government in 30 years time. I took David Morgan, who is a family man in his late 30s. He is not only concerned about the Queensland of today but also concerned about the Queensland of tomorrow for his children. It was great to bring along someone with David's experience. He had served in the military, he had public and private sector experience. I think the unique skill sets that he brought to those summits was a great thing. I also took along a great gentleman called Leo Beutel, who is retired but who has spent a long time working and volunteering in the community sector. When we think about what it is that we want to achieve for the next 30 years, I think that we also need to consider what we have done. I think it is really important that the people who were able to participate in the Queensland Plan at those summits covered the length and breadth of the demography of Queensland. I was really pleased to be able to do that.

As I say, the engagement in the formulation of the Queensland Plan was a really critical thing that we saw. I would also like to commend those who worked on the engagement side of things within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. They received awards and acknowledgements at an international level. I think it is only fitting that we pay tribute to them and acknowledge them for the work that they did,

Locally, we had hundreds of people really engaged in the process. We decided that we would hold individual summits based on the individual questions. We had six questions and we had six meetings in my office. We had local champions who were really driving the discussion and the debate. That is what it was all about: making sure that members of the local community had the opportunity to be champions of this plan not only as it affected their community but also as it affected the entire state of which we are all so proud to be a part. After holding those six individual summits based on the questions we then brought everyone together, including others who just wanted to participate at the end stage, to talk about the feedback that we had received locally and to think about what it is that we wanted to see going forward for the next 30 years.

One of the really empowering things for me was to be able to engage with the year 11 and 12 students of Coombabah State High School. That school is the only high school in my electorate, but I am very privileged to be able to work with them on a range of different things. As I say, when we are talking about a 30-year plan, we need to make sure that the next generation of leaders, the next generation of people who will sit on these hallowed benches, have the opportunity to really engage with the process. It was really lovely for me to be able to do that and engage with them. I joined my colleague Rob Molhoek, the member for Southport, in engaging with Gold Coast residents at the Gold Coast show. Time and time again we heard from people that the best part about this plan was its apolitical nature. Because of that, so many people really felt that they could engage.

In conclusion, having paid tribute to the minister who really took charge and was the figurehead within the parliament for this plan, I also pay tribute to the Premier. I am sure that we would all agree that if it were not for the Premier we would not have been able to engage on this level. If it had not been for his idea, we would not have been able to engage with our communities and talk about the issues that were really important to them, such as education, health care and infrastructure. Again, I pay tribute to Minister Powell. I look forward to seeing this House ratify the plan.

 **Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory—LNP) (5.58 pm): It is with much pleasure that I rise to speak to the Queensland Plan, Queensland's 30-year vision for the future. I have to disagree with that concept. A 30-year vision for the future! I think it is probably more like a 100-year vision for the future to get it right the first time.

I want to go back to the days when I was the minister for transport and main roads in 1996, 1997 and 1998. When the Borbidge- Sheldon government embarked on the program to build the Pacific Motorway to the Gold Coast, I witnessed firsthand the heartache and the trauma that was suffered by people along that corridor as we resumed their properties to widen that roadway to eight lanes and in some place six lanes.

I will never forget when somebody from the department said, 'Well, we'll doorknock the houses and tell the people what we're doing.' I said, 'No, you won't doorknock the houses, I'll doorknock the houses.' As the minister I doorknocked the houses. The program chief, a fellow called Bob Higgins, did it with me. I remember going to Eagleby. We treated those people with respect. I believe that with a plan like this people will never have to endure that discomfort and heartache—I hope not anyway. They were moved to places like Mount Warren Park and other places in the region. It was a very traumatic time for those people. Many of them were working-class people who did not have a lot. They lived in small homes. Many were retirees. I believe to our government's credit that we did an admirable job in moving those people to somewhere equal or a bit better. At the same time in the northern suburbs of Brisbane in the Redcliffe area the suburb of Mango Hill was put in place. I was the minister at the time

**A government member:** A great suburb!

**Mr JOHNSON:** It is a great suburb and it has been very well planned. This is what the Queensland Plan will do for planning in this great state. When we planned Mango Hill I had in my mind to make certain that the heartache and the dramas that the people of Eagleby were subjected to would not be experienced by the people of Mango Hill. Transport corridors, communication corridors and power arteries were put in place so that young couples in particular who were just married and deciding to have children, who wanted to send their kiddies to the local school, shop locally and work locally, could be confident that in 40, 50, or 100 years time those corridors were not going to be interrupted by somebody wanting to plan something that was not planned properly in the first instance. That is what this document, the Queensland Plan, is all about. It is about getting it right the first time.

Going back 150 to 160 years ago when Queensland was proclaimed a state, one could have a greenfield site and get it right. To the credit of many of those early surveyors, engineers and builders they did get it right. Nobody knew how communication links would change, how power would come or other innovations would improve the life of many people. As we progressed well and truly into the 20th century we saw things change in great detail and with great haste. This afternoon I have heard members make reference to their own electorates. What I admire about those members is that they were not only speaking about their own electorates, they were speaking about the whole of Queensland. That is what this plan is all about. Last year we went to Mackay and earlier this year we had a meeting in Brisbane. As it says in the documentation, some 80,000 people have had input into the plan. I think it is a fantastic initiative. I congratulate the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection. He has managed this program and should take all the accolades for the outcomes from this plan. The member for Nanango said that her children will go into their future knowing that it is set in granite and there is a fair chance it will be there forever and a day. They will hopefully avoid any trauma and hurt.

If I can now turn to the electorate of Gregory and remote and regional Queensland as a whole, many people do not realise what is out there. I heard the members for Ipswich and Logan talk about western and remote areas. It is important that we do not have a selfish attitude about what we want in Brisbane, the Gold Coast or the Sunshine Coast. We need the Toowoomba range second crossing. We need the Kuranda rail crossing. We need these pieces of infrastructure so that we can create a safer road environment for the progression of commercial product, tourists and for the movement also of local traffic. It is about getting the plan right. A classic example was the Pacific Motorway. We started to build that back in 1996. It was finished off by the Beattie government in 2000. Many people do not remember that whilst there were two lanes going either way on the old Pacific Motorway and it was a dog's breakfast, what the engineers did when they planned it was use those side roads as service roads for the local communities. It was good engineering and design that made that piece of infrastructure what it is today. We probably need another road south and in time I hope we see another road south but, as a result of that engineering design and the vision that those people put in

place, 30 per cent of the local traffic does not go on the Pacific Motorway; it goes on the service roads beside the motorway. That means that the Pacific Motorway is opened up for more through traffic going further down the southern coast or into New South Wales. It gives the people on the southern Gold Coast an even flow. I know that we will see that road widened in future.

When it comes to planning, it is important that we market each other's electorate and that people in this House, regardless of their political persuasions, travel the state and see firsthand what the needs are in those other parts of Queensland. For example, Townsville has become a very liveable city. It is a great city on the end of the western railway line from Mount Isa 1,000 kilometres to the west from the Port of Townsville. The infrastructure that has gone in there in the last 15 or 20 years is phenomenal. It is a very liveable place. It is a place with good hospitals, education facilities and social infrastructure. It is the home of the North Queensland Cowboys, the great rugby league side that was very unfortunate again this year to be rubbed out in Sydney in the quarter finals. I will not go into it because I will probably get fined \$10,000 or \$20,000 for saying it.

**Mr Minnikin:** You are offside, Vaughan!

**Mr JOHNSON:** No, you're offside. I will take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Where did St George finish this year? Just remember the dogs were in the grand final. Getting back to the serious side of the Queensland Plan, Townsville, Cairns, Rockhampton, Mackay and also Gladstone and Bundaberg are wonderful places. There are wonderful cities right along the coast. But there are also wonderful towns in inland Queensland: Mount Isa, Charters Towers, Richmond, Hughenden and Cloncurry, Longreach and Barcaldine, Blackall, Winton and Alpha and Emerald; and those places in the central highlands, Clermont and Springsure. They are great places to live. In the south-west we have places like Dalby, Miles, Chinchilla, Roma, Charleville and my home town of Quilpie at the end of the railway line. The point I want to make is that in all those towns there are not many people. Last week in Longreach we launched the 10-year health services plan in conjunction with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, QAS, the Remote Area Planning and Development Board, which incorporates all those western shires, and the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service. It is a magnificent plan where everybody is working together for better health services for the 14,000 people who live in that remote area of Queensland. That catchment includes Charleville in the south, Longreach in the central west and Mount Isa in the north-west. They are the only three birthing hospitals in Western Queensland. They are all 600-odd kilometres apart. The next closest birthing centre is Emerald, which is 420 kilometres to the east.

These programs are making life better. People will go and live in these places if they know that that social infrastructure is there. That is exactly what this plan is about. It is about providing social infrastructure for the future. It is about getting people to move out of Brisbane, the Gold Coast and the south-east corner and find out for themselves that places like Emerald, Charleville and Mount Isa are good places to live. They can educate their children right through to grade 12 there. We have many success stories out of our western schools.

In terms of underprivileged people from lower socioeconomic areas, it is our God given responsibility as members of parliament to make absolutely certain that we have a social conscience when it comes to education. Whether people are black, white or brindle, we need to give them the opportunity to get a grade 12 education. What most people do today is get a grade 12 education and then they have the opportunity to go on and do a trade or do further education through university or elsewhere.

**Mrs Miller:** The agricultural colleges.

**Mr JOHNSON:** That is a good interjection from the member for Bundamba. This is a very serious matter. The agricultural college in Longreach is the only dry land agricultural college in the world. The agricultural college in Emerald teaches farming, irrigation, horticulture and everything that goes with that. This is what the Queensland Plan is all about.

The education forum held recently at The Gap State High School in the Ashgrove electorate was chaired by the Minister for Education, the Hon. John-Paul Langbroek. This opportunity is about educating our kids from the south-east or the coast so that they can go to a place like Longreach and say, 'I want to do a diploma course at Longreach and work on the land'—whether that be in the Territory, Western Australia or wherever. We are looking at engaging students from overseas to study in our institutions in the west.

We have a great opportunity in this state to market what this great nation provides and what this great nation does. There are a lot of people out there who are envious of what we have. At the end of the day, I really believe that the Queensland Plan is going to address all of these issues.

One of the biggest manufacturing industries we have in this state is the meat processing industry. Two-thirds of the cattle that are processed in Queensland are processed in the south-east corner.

**Mrs Miller:** At Dinmore.

**Mr JOHNSON:** That is right; at Dinmore, Beenleigh and in the Lockyer. We have to make absolutely certain that we get the arteries to those places right. With the Toowoomba second range crossing we will see the movement of livestock and other commercial goods through our state expedited. That needs to happen sooner rather than later. The other side of the equation is the rail lines that are the arteries to the west and north-west. They are paramount.

I turn to the mining industry. There is one big hindrance for the mining industry. My colleague the member for the Warrego, Howard Hobbs, put a water infrastructure program together in 1976, 1977 and 1978 that would have addressed the problems with water in this state for centuries to come. I hope that documentation is picked up by the current federal and state governments and implemented in time to come.

On numerous occasions I have heard the member for Whitsunday elaborate about the Urannah Dam project south-west of Mackay on the Broken River. What an opportunity that would be for the northern part of Queensland in the Clermont and Kilcummin areas south-west of Mackay. We would have another Central Highlands irrigation scheme. The opportunity would then exist to export goods through the port of Townsville and maybe Abbot Point. They could then go into Gladstone.

These are all opportunities that will happen in Queensland because of the vision contained in the Queensland Plan. There is the vision of local government. This plan shows how important local government is in this state. There are many good mayors around this state and good councils. They have an in-depth knowledge of their own regions. They know how they can be developed. They know how they can progress. That is why we have an open door policy. They can come to our government with their ideas and put those initiatives in place.

That is another reason our government is not selling off assets. We will be leasing some of those assets. They will come back to the people. I know people in rural and regional areas of Queensland and in resource areas of Queensland who are welcoming the policies of this government. Do members know why? We did not have a knee-jerk reaction and implement them overnight. We went to the people and talked about it. We now have in place the Queensland Plan that was researched. There was input from 80,000-odd people. People are still applauding it.

What this means for the children born today and the kids at schools today is that by the time they become mums and dads, leaders in this state or businesspeople in this state, they will applaud this government for the initiative and vision it had to give this great state the foundations it needs to go well into the 21st century. There are a lot of young mums and dads in this House who are probably worried about what is going to happen to their children. This government has set the foundation. They know that they will be able to buy a home. They know that they will have a home that is not going to be bulldozed to make a road for something else. They know that if they have savings they can plan what they want to do with them. They will not have to purchase another home somewhere that is going to be twice the cost.

This is about putting Queensland at the forefront to walk tall in the 21st century. No other state has an initiative like this in place. No other state has even thought about it as yet. I can bet you one thing: they will be copying this policy initiative of the Newman LNP government. I hope they do.

We have seen the downturn in the mining industry. There is not always going to be a downturn in the mining industry. We are the most progressive and productive people in this country. We have to make certain that we put programs in place so that we can have people living in places like Blackwater, Emerald and Collinsville—those places that are dormitory towns for the mines—so we can have secondary industries there that can employ people. We do not want to see the rebirth of Broken Hill. When Broken Hill South closed down, what did we see? We saw people who resided in that town out of work.

People like me, the baby boomer population, whose parents are still alive—unfortunately mine are not—and who live in remote and western communities deserve good nursing homes, good hospitals and good care in their twilight years. I applaud the minister, the Premier and the government on this plan. It is a little rip-roaring snorter.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (6.18 pm): I table this box of Queensland Plan documents which has been delivered to my office on the ninth floor here at Parliament House.

I am tabling this box of documents as an example of what this government makes out to be consultation, but it is in fact an insult—an absolute insult—to the people in my electorate of Bundamba and to other Queenslanders as well.

On the weekend I had the pleasure of going to the Jacaranda Festival at Goodna. Everybody in my area likes to go to the Jacaranda Festival, and it was a very good time because Bazza and Dogger left the Royal Mail Hotel to walk up the road to the Jacaranda Festival. So I said to Bazza and Dogger, who are the Queen's representatives in my area—

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mrs MILLER:** They are very good people. I said to them, 'What do you think about the Queensland Plan?' They said to me, 'Well, you know, Jo, the Queensland Plan wouldn't even be useful in the outhouse, mate—just like, you know, it's got no absorbent properties, it's way too slippery and it's too glossy,' and they said to me, 'I bet it would leave a nasty stain as well.' Well, I could not have said it better. I really could not have said it better. They said it all and they said it on behalf of my community.

I want to make it clear here tonight that I do not support this Queensland Plan. I will not distribute this Queensland Plan in my electorate and I will not support this propaganda of this Newman government that should in fact be paid for by the LNP. It should not be paid for by the Queensland government and it should certainly not be paid for by the taxpayers of Queensland.

I would just like to suggest another use for these copies of the Queensland Plan for everyone right across Queensland if they have the misfortune of having received them. I hope that the people of Queensland will use these glossy plans to set a bonfire—a bonfire of change right throughout the state—and that the bonfire will set off a change in government to get this mob, the LNP, out of government in Queensland, because that is what needs to happen. It is really true. The government is incompetent. It is useless. And to say that it has a Queensland Plan for 30 years time is an absolute and utter nonsense. That is my contribution tonight—waste of money, waste of time, waste of resources, waste of taxpayers' money.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (6.21 pm): Eighty thousand Queenslanders participated in the preparation of the Queensland Plan, and to each and every one of them tonight I say thank you. I would also like to make it clear to those 80,000 people that their plan, their aspirations, their vision for the next 30 years, their dreams, have not been supported by the opposition, nor by many of the crossbenchers.

This is truly the people's plan. It is Queensland's plan. It is not any party's plan. It is not the LNP's plan and it is certainly not Labor's plan, because any plan from those opposite would be an absolute first.

**Mr Cripps:** No, no—we had one last night. Remember that last night we had one—their first policy.

**Mr POWELL:** I take that back. I take the interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** We did have a plan from those opposite last night and that was to let people continue to trash the Great Barrier Reef—something that this government has stood up to and put a stop to.

The member for Gaven said, 'If this is the best the Queensland people have to offer then it is not good enough'—really, how arrogant, how insulting to the more than 80,000 people who contributed to the plan. They created the plan. They determined the questions. They gave their time and energy, their efforts and their intelligence to a plan described by many as one of the world's best, and that is not good enough for the member for Gaven? The arrogance of the member is astounding as is the response from the Leader of the Opposition, not to mention the member for Bundamba. I must admit that I am completely and utterly gob-smacked. I am amazed and appalled by the opposition's response to the plan for Queenslanders. Up until a fortnight ago Queenslanders were of the belief this was a bipartisan approach—the process certainly was—and it was acknowledged by Mount Isa Mayor, Tony McGrady, a man who served in this chamber under the Labor Party. He understood the value of this plan and has agreed to be a Queensland Plan ambassador because he

understands what this 30-year vision for the state means. The mayor said, 'This is neither an ALP plan, nor an LNP, a PUP or a Katter party plan. This is a plan for Queensland and one that could have great outcomes.' Why then, I ask, can't those opposite see that for themselves? How difficult is it to understand this is not the government's plan. This is not a means to another end. It is about putting in place what Queenslanders want for the short-term, the medium-term and the long-term good of this great state. Perhaps this is something the opposition does not understand because it never did. It never thought beyond an electoral cycle—it never thought beyond a potential vote winner—and look how well that worked out for it at the last election.

May I remind the opposition that sometimes a government has a responsibility—in fact I would say a government always has a responsibility—to not only the people voting now but to those who will live, work and, yes, vote in the future, a responsibility to the mums and dads of Queensland who want their children to grow up with the best possible opportunities. This government recognises the value of planning but, even more importantly, it recognises the value of listening, listening to the people of Queensland, listening to each and every one of the 80,000 Queenslanders who wanted their voices heard.

At a time when a true bipartisan approach would leave a legacy beyond my role, beyond our role, in this parliament, the best the opposition leader, the opposition and many of the crossbenchers could do is thumb their nose at Queenslanders. Certainly the Leader of the Opposition has thumbed her nose at the 80,000 Queenslanders who contributed to the Queensland Plan. I will ask again: what has the Leader of the Opposition got against Queenslanders? It is their plan, made from their contributions. Why has she thumbed her nose at it?

I guess it comes as no surprise that the Leader of the Opposition does not support the government's response to the plan, but the Leader of the Opposition can and should support the voices of Queenslanders who contributed to the plan. The process and the outcome of the Queensland Plan has been endorsed and hailed as a success by many individuals and many groups including the Queensland Council of Social Services and the Queensland Conservation Council. The Queensland Plan has been recognised internationally by experts who conduct community engagement throughout the world, and we collectively should be proud of what has been delivered by the people of Queensland.

It comes as no surprise the opposition wants to talk down the efforts of Queenslanders, the efforts of QCOSS, of the QCC, of Bravehearts, of the LGAQ, of the Queensland Teachers Union and of our many universities throughout the state. It comes as no surprise the Leader of the Opposition wants to talk down the efforts of the fine folks in my electorate of Glass House and, indeed, the fine folks of her own electorate of Inala who participated in the process and those who have taken the time to read the Queensland Plan—people who come up to me every day and congratulate the government and, up until two weeks ago, the opposition on a bipartisan approach for an initiative and an outcome. They are blown away by the quality of the document itself, of the plan itself, and the commentary that has come through the document from the many people who had input into it.

This is the beauty, the real worth of the Queensland Plan. The voices of Queenslanders have been heard. They have been documented and they will be acted upon, at least by this government. That, Mr Deputy Speaker, is what good government is about. I commend the motion to the House.

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

**AYES, 47:**

**LNP, 47**—Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dillaway, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Gibson, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Johnson, Kaye, Kempton, King, Langbroek, Latter, Maddern, McVeigh, Menkens, Minnikin, Nicholls, Powell, Pucci, Seeney, Shorten, Smith, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trout, Young.

**NOES, 12:**

**ALP, 8**—Byrne, D'Ath, Lynham, Miller, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Scott, Trad.

**KAP, 2**—Hopper, Katter.

**INDEPENDENTS, 2**—Judge, Wellington.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 6.36 pm to 7.36 pm.

## QUEENSLAND HERITAGE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 9 September (see p. 2976).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (7.36 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The bill is an important element of the Queensland government's efforts to ensure future planning for this state's growth and prosperity takes into account its unique past. It helps connect our heritage legislation to the road map laid down in the Queensland Plan which emphasises effective protection and management of our natural and cultural resources, adaptive reuse of heritage places and the development of world-class heritage tourism experiences.

The reforms in the bill align with the newly revised Queensland Heritage Strategy, which has been reviewed in partnership with the Queensland Heritage Council and in consultation with a range of stakeholders including the Queensland branch of the National Trust of Australia. This new strategy responds to the bold vision expressed in the Queensland Plan. It sets out a clear framework and direction for government, business and community to manage our heritage over the next five years.

The Queensland Heritage Register gives us a snapshot of our heritage while serving as a lens through which to see our future. A range of amendments in this bill tonight seek to ensure the places on that register represent the very best examples of this state's past, whether they are historic buildings, mine sites, landscapes or shipwrecks. Other reforms recognise the vital role played by local government in protecting places of local cultural heritage value. I hope this reform will initiate a new era of partnership between state and local governments cooperating in the promotion and protection of heritage.

The bill streamlines the processes whereby a place may be nominated and assessed for entry onto the Queensland Heritage Register. The standard of information required means only the best quality applications will start the registration process. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection will update its guidance material and continue to engage with potential applicants, but I want to emphasise that only nominations making a reasoned and informed case about the state's significance of a place will meet these revised requirements.

The nomination process calls on the time and resources of the owners of the properties involved, the department in conducting its comprehensive assessment of heritage significance and the Heritage Council in weighing up all the information provided before a decision is made. It is only fair that this process is initiated by a well prepared document. Owners of places nominated to the Queensland Heritage Register are given an additional opportunity with the bill to respond in writing to the recommendation the department makes to the Heritage Council about a nomination. The recommendation is the department's expert assessment of whether or not the place satisfies the culture heritage criteria and is eligible for entry in the state register. This change means, though, that owners can engage with what may become a key document describing why a place is on the register rather than the application.

The best way to protect historic places is to ensure they remain in active use, and this bill makes this task easier for owners and custodians of Queensland heritage places. It does so by expanding the scope of work covered by an exemption certificate issued under the Heritage Act, which means a significant reduction in red tape. This change affects the certificates that are issued for specific work at individual places but also the general exemption certificates made by the department and applicable to all places on the register.

To assist the Newman government in identifying and protecting the state's underwater heritage, the bill requires discoveries of certain shipwrecks and submerged aircraft wrecks be reported to the department. The protection against interference that already covers shipwrecks in Queensland waters that dates back at least 75 years is extended to aircraft wrecks of the same age. The bill also makes clear that the artefacts associated with both types of wreck are important too. This means that from late 2016 aircraft associated with the Pacific Ocean theatre of World War II will be progressively protected by the Heritage Act. In fact, it is estimated there are at least 100 aircraft wrecks throughout Queensland waters that date from this important period in history.

A key reform in the bill involves giving local governments the flexibility to decide how to appropriately identify and protect places of local cultural heritage significance in their areas, whether through their planning scheme or through a local Heritage Register kept under the Heritage Act. Flowing on from this reform, local governments will be able to use exemption certificates and heritage agreements on local heritage places to ensure the red-tape-reduction benefits these tools provide are available to owners and custodians of local heritage places as well. Additionally, certain local governments that have been prescribed by regulation will be empowered to use essential repair and maintenance notices with owners of local heritage places to prevent neglect.

The bill introduces a number of measures to better enable the government to protect our important heritage places. It strengthens the state's power to issue essential repair and maintenance notices in circumstances where an owner is deliberately neglecting a place in the erroneous belief that this will facilitate its removal from the register. It re-engineers the stop order provisions by revising the ministerial power to stop work at a place if there is a demonstrated risk it will destroy a potential aspect of Queensland's cultural heritage. With the bill, the orders available to the court in penalising those who destroy or damage Queensland heritage places are expanded and modernised.

I would like to thank the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee under the stewardship of the honourable member for Warrego for its comments and recommendations on the bill, also noting that it has recommended the bill be passed. I thank the committee and the member for Warrego for that recommendation. I take this chance to commend the honourable member for Warrego for his service to the people of Western Queensland, and indeed the state of Queensland, for over nearly three decades in parliament. Sir, it has been an honour to serve with you and I hope we get plenty more opportunities to recognise your service to this state. I also acknowledge personally how good it was to have you on board when I first started in 2009 and to learn from your sage advice and wisdom. I am sure many of the backbenchers, assistant ministers and ministers here today will reflect those words as well. I also thank the member for Warrego for his specific thanks of my departmental staff in the committee report. I am pretty proud of my team in EHP but to hear that come back to us from someone of your esteemed stature, Sir, I thank you very much and the team in EHP certainly appreciates it as well.

The committee tabled its report on 22 October 2014. It contained 11 recommendations and a comprehensive series of comments on the issues raised in submissions. I will now table the government response to the committee's report.

*Tabled paper:* Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee: Report No. 55—Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, government response [\[6397\]](#).

I am very pleased to advise that eight of the recommendations have been accepted and will be actioned. This reflects the high level of productive scrutiny the committee has applied to the bill, and I am extremely grateful for that effort. A number of amendments involve minor improvements to the bill to ensure it meets its policy objectives and achieves clarity, while some require further consultation to progress matters raised in submissions.

The committee recommended that further detail be included in a regulation about what local governments have to demonstrate in order to be prescribed to use the essential repair and maintenance power with owners of local heritage places. I am pleased that my department has found ways of balancing concerns about the improper exercise of this power against sincere calls to give certain local governments the ability to deal with neglect of local heritage properties before they reach a point of no return. The Brisbane City Council, in particular, has made representations to me personally about extending the essential repair and maintenance power to local heritage places as it believes it will be a useful tool in protecting their local heritage.

On a number of matters that involve the planning reform agenda, the committee recommended that consultation be carried out to explore options to identify the most effective approaches to be taken. Recommendation 6 asked that further investigation be undertaken into the prospect of affording appeal rights to owners of local heritage places opposed to local heritage listing. Recommendation 7 referred to removing unnecessary duplication in development assessment processes involving places under both local and state heritage listings. The committee asked that I consult on these important matters with the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience. I undertake to do this. My department will also consult further with the Property Council of Australia with regard to the second matter, as there may be an administrative solution available.

Through recommendations 8, 9 and 11, the committee asked that I ensure the department consults with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning on a number of matters—firstly, about changes in the statutory guideline *Making and amending local planning instruments* to make minor updates to local heritage data in planning schemes more efficient. It also recommended that I ensure the department consults about the charging of fees for local exemption certificates and the definition of a local heritage place in the Sustainable Planning Act. I confirm this consultation will occur and feel confident some useful outcomes will result.

I will now provide more detail for the two recommendations not supported. Recommendation 2 of the committee asked that a change be made to the bill in relation to the application of the five-year moratorium period following a Heritage Council decision not to remove a place from the Queensland Heritage Register. Currently, the Heritage Act prevents new nominations being made before one year has passed and following a decision of the Queensland Heritage Council. So, for a year after a council decision, new nominations cannot be accepted for places that have not been entered in the Heritage Register. Likewise, new applications proposing to remove a place from the register cannot be accepted in the year following a decision of the council to keep that place in the register. This bill extends this moratorium period from one year to five years.

The committee recommended that, when significant new information is brought forward about a place, this prohibition be lifted and a new application be considered if it involves removing that place from the register. Extensive consideration was given to the question of an appropriate moratorium period following a decision of the Heritage Council. A number of submissions on the discussion paper reviewing the Heritage Act suggested that, if substantial new evidence comes to light, the prohibition on new applications should be lifted. It was determined that the level of additional prescription that would have to be introduced into the Heritage Act to provide a fair and transparent way of doing this was too onerous. It was also determined that the registration process, which this bill improves, produces highly sound and thoroughly considered decisions that are based on a wide range of material from all interested sources. Other options exist for owners of state heritage places if their property is destroyed by fire or natural disaster and should be removed from the register, or if they wish to develop them. It should also be noted that the moratorium will apply once the amendments commence, meaning owners of places entered in the register after this date have an appeal right in the Planning and Environment Court. Also a removal application would have to be rejected by the Heritage Council before the moratorium period had effect.

Recommendation 5 of the committee was that shipwrecks and submerged aircraft wrecks be protected before they have been in Queensland waters for at least 75 years, as currently provided in the Heritage Act and the bill. The intention behind this recommendation is to extend protection to ship and aircraft wrecks that date from World War II. Various 75th anniversaries associated with this conflict have passed or are approaching. I acknowledge the committee's concern and share its enthusiasm for this topic. The application of the term 'historic' to those wrecks in Queensland waters that date back at least 75 years corresponds to the time frame set out in the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 and changing it would create unwarranted confusion in terms of these overlapping jurisdictions. While a gap in protection exists for a short period, the bill clarifies that younger wrecks can be considered for protection through entry into the Queensland Heritage Register.

I would like to take this final opportunity to thank all those individuals, organisations and agencies who contributed a submission on the discussion paper about review of the Heritage Act or those who made one to the committee about this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (7.50 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. The Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 makes relatively minor amendments to the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, which was last reviewed in 2008. The opposition will not be opposing the legislation, but I will use this speech as an opportunity to place on record some of the concerns that we have with the legislation and give voice to some of the issues raised by organisations and individuals who made submissions. I will deal briefly with some of the more contentious issues that arose during the committee's investigation on the bill. I also take this opportunity to commend the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee and the member for Warrego for all their work and deliberation in relation to this bill.

Clause 21 of the bill will replace section 40 of the act to enable the chief executive to publish applications made under section 36 of the act on a website rather than having to make physical copies available. The provision also allows applicants for registration or deregistration of a place to

withhold their name from publication. Some submitters were concerned that this would enable anonymous applications and have pointed out that the identity of applicants should be public information. The committee believed that the clause should remain in the bill as is. The Queensland Environmental Law Association, or the QELA, does not support this provision, stating—

If a person wishes to make an application to enter a place in the Register or an application to remove a place from the Register, that person should be prepared to make their identity known. The consequences of an application being made can be significant for the owner of the place and the owner is entitled to know the identity of the person who has initiated the process.

The Property Council was also strongly in support of mandatory naming of applicants. It is difficult to strike the right balance in matters such as these. The opposition believes that it is generally preferable for the names of applicants to be publicly available unless there is an overwhelming or compelling reason to the contrary.

Clause 16 proposes to require written statements to be submitted based on historical research to support any application for registration or removal of a place from the register. This is not currently a specific requirement. The committee supports its inclusion and there were submissions for and against the provision. I note that the National Trust Queensland expressed concern about this requirement. They stated—

Increasing the information required for a compliant nomination to the Queensland Heritage Register could make the process even more onerous and daunting for some members of the committee interested in heritage and could put an increased load on the resources of the NTA(Q) as it tries to help members of the community prepare nominations;

The Property Council submitted that the additional requirement would not be too onerous for applicants to comply with. We acknowledge the concerns raised with respect to the provision but do not feel that it is too onerous. I note the department's advice that those who have made applications in the past have met this requirement despite having varying skill levels. I think the community would reasonably expect that, in order to make an application for the registration or deregistration of a heritage place, a written statement would need to be provided outlining the case for registration or deregistration. I have firsthand experience of this when the recent application in relation to the Queensland cultural precinct was submitted to the Queensland Heritage Council.

Clause 14 proposes to amend section 34(2) to clarify that the chief executive can make minor changes to the details in an entry for a place on the Queensland Heritage Register in order to update it and correct errors or omissions without needing the agreement of the owner or the Queensland Heritage Council. A minor change is to be defined as one that is only to correct a minor error or make another change that is not a change of substance. The Environmental Law Association has raised concerns about this change, arguing that an entry on the Heritage Register should not be altered without the opportunity for meaningful input from the owner and the Queensland Heritage Council. I note that any minor change decisions would be subject to judicial review to ameliorate any improper exercise of authority. The opposition is prepared to support this change. I would suggest, however, that it may be appropriate for the minister to review use of this power after an appropriate period to ascertain the frequency and nature of any minor amendments or changes that are made to Heritage Register entries to ensure that the power is being used appropriately.

Section 37 of the Heritage Act currently provides that, where an application to either enter a place into the register or remove a place from the register has been decided by the Heritage Council, a person or other entity cannot reapply to have the same place entered or removed—whichever the original application requested—until at least one year after either the decision or the day the council's decision was executed—that is, the place was added to or removed from the register. The bill proposes to extend that time period from one to five years. This is a significant time extension. I join with the Queensland Tourism Industry Council in questioning the length of time that has been chosen. The QTIC has suggested that a shorter two-year moratorium may be more appropriate. The National Trust of Queensland suggested a three-year period. I would ask the minister to advise how the five-year time period was arrived at and what rationale underpins it.

The committee has recommended that the minister amend the bill to enable reconsideration of a decision by the Queensland Heritage Council not to remove a place from the Heritage Register during the five-year moratorium period only in circumstances where significant new information comes to light. This recommendation gives voice to concerns raised by the Property Council and the Environmental Law Association that property owners seeking to have a property removed from the register in light of new information would have to wait five years. Indeed, it may also be appropriate to include an exemption to the five-year moratorium for applications to enter a property on the register where new information becomes available.

Clause 46 of the bill proposes that part 8 of the Heritage Act be replaced to remove reference to interim protection orders as the operation of these orders are now subsumed into a single stop-work order. The proposed new part 8 provides for notices about essential repair and maintenance of state heritage places and local heritage places. The replaced section proposes to: expand the scope of work covered by such notice, reduce the emphasis on the urgency with which work is required to prevent damage and provide the refurbished power to certain prescribed local governments. QELA and the Property Council of Australia Queensland raised an issue about the expansion of the scope of work to be covered by essential repair and maintenance notices. They argue that the threshold for giving an essential maintenance and repair notice as provided for by the bill will substantially increase the impact on owners of state and local heritage places. QELA and the Property Council of Australia Queensland also raised a concern that there is no right of appeal for an owner issued with a notice or capacity to stay the effect of a notice through the appeal process. The committee recommends that the regulations clearly establish rules about the circumstances in which local government can use the power to issue an essential repair and maintenance notice. I take it from the minister's earlier comments in his speech that he will be accepting that recommendation.

The bill proposes to differentiate between archaeological artefacts and what are termed underwater cultural heritage artefacts, which are historic shipwrecks, historic aircraft wrecks and the articles associated with them. Protection that is currently afforded to historic shipwrecks under the Heritage Act, whether reported or not, is proposed to be extended to historic aircraft wrecks. That will protect these wrecks in Queensland waters for 75 years or more—that is, from late 2016, the bill will apply to those aircraft that were wrecked during World War II. The committee recommended that the minister amend the bill to ensure that World War II aircraft and ships wrecked in Queensland waters and the historic underwater articles associated with them are protected upon commencement of the proposed amendments to the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. The opposition supports that recommendation as an important measure to start protecting significant historical sites as soon as possible. I would like to register our disappointment that that particular recommendation of the committee will not be supported by the government tonight.

The Queensland Environmental Law Association raised the issue of introducing appeal rights for owners of places entered in local heritage registers or those included in local planning instruments instead of relying on the compensation of injurious affection provisions contained in the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. The committee recommended that the minister consult with the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning and the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience to investigate options for introducing appeal rights regarding a decision to enter a place into a local government heritage register or planning scheme.

I will now turn to the committee report in some detail. I have already mentioned some of the recommendations made by the committee, but I will touch on the remainder of the recommendations. The committee report makes 11 recommendations, including that the bill be passed. The committee recommended that the minister consult with the Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning on the draft Planning and Development Bill regarding the removal of unnecessary duplication from the development assessment process for the owners and managers of heritage places.

The committee also recommended that the minister ensure that his department consult with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning about implementing the Cairns Regional Council's proposal to include a similar administrative change as the one proposed in clause 64 of the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 on how to make a minor change into the Making and Amending Local Planning Instruments statutory guideline. The committee recommended that the minister ensure that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection consult with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning in relation to the potential for charging fees for local exemption certificates. The committee also recommended that the minister ensure that the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection consult with the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning regarding the definition of a local heritage place in the Sustainable Planning Act 2009.

We support the recommendations made by the committee and in some instances, such as the suggested changes to the five-year moratorium on applications, believe that they should go further. I am pleased that the government has confirmed that they will support eight of the 11 recommendations made by the committee. I note that in the circulated amendments the minister has only given effect to recommendations 3, 4 and 10. The minister has not accepted recommendation 2,

which calls on him to amend the bill to enable reconsideration of a decision by the Queensland Heritage Council not to remove a place from the Heritage Register during the five-year moratorium period only in circumstances where significant new information comes to light. Again we express our disappointment.

I will now turn to those amendments that have been circulated as of today in the name of Minister Powell but which go to the Sustainable Planning Act. The bulk of these amendments, namely clauses 81A to 81Q, relate to planning issues—specifically, infrastructure charges and amendments to the process of incorporating structured plans of detailed master plan areas into local planning schemes. I note that the Deputy Premier and Minister for Planning provided me with a departmental briefing about these specific amendments which related to planning. I received this briefing this morning at 8.30 am, and I would like to register my thanks to the departmental officers involved in that briefing. Based on these briefings and the advice provided by departmental officers, we do not find that the amendments themselves are objectionable. However, I do wish to note that the opposition does register its concern in relation to the development and circulation of these last minute amendments.

In relation to the proposed clause 81M, which amends section 761A of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, I was advised that this amendment only affected two declared master planned areas; namely, the Coomera Town Centre in the Gold Coast City Council and Kinross Road in the Redland City Council. I specifically asked the departmental officers whether clause 81M would affect the other declared master planned areas, and I was advised that it would not. I am very cautious about this matter because I do not want to see another Karreman Quarries episode sully this House.

The proposed amendment 761A of the Sustainable Planning Act gives the planning minister the power to approve proposed planning schemes which are consistent with the existing structure plan for a master planned area. This is a step back from the outright incorporation of structure plans which is currently required by the act. The only gatekeeper from the total abandonment of the structure plan in these circumstances is the planning minister, who must give approval. Whilst I understand that this is a transitional measure, given that the declared master planned areas are effectively being phased out by the current government, it is important that we minimise any opportunity for abuse of this clause. The advice received by departmental officers that the clause had limited impact on only two master planned areas gave me comfort in this regard.

In relation to infrastructure charges, the advice I received from departmental officers was that the changes included in clauses 81A to 81L and 81N to 81Q were technical in nature and were based on feedback from stakeholders. As such, I was advised that there were no substantive changes to the infrastructure charges framework contained in the proposed amendments. I wish to put on the record that I place trust in the advice I was given by departmental officers that the changes to infrastructure charges framework proposed in this bill were based on good faith feedback from stakeholders, as this process of introducing amendments at the last minute is obviously not ideal.

In conclusion, the opposition will not be opposing this legislation and will merely place on record some areas of concern and speak to the advice that was received by departmental officers in relation to the last minute amendments circulated by the minister. Protecting our heritage is a matter that should be of interest to all Queenslanders. It is incumbent on all of us to take an active role in heritage protection to ensure that these important sites will be enjoyed by future generations, and I join with the minister in commending the bill to the House.

 **Mr HOBBS** (Warrego—LNP) (8.06 pm): I am pleased to speak to the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is a very interesting bill. The last major review was done in 2008, and I think it was timely that this review was done. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the extensive work undertaken by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection in this review. I thought they did a very good job, including the in-depth consultation that was undertaken with stakeholders. The committee reviewed the bill even though it is not part of our portfolio, and we have made a number of recommendations which we believe will assist in adding value to the operation of the revised heritage act.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank those individuals and organisations who lodged written submissions in relation to the bill and others who have informed the committee's deliberations. I particularly want to thank the committee secretariat, officials from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for their technical scrutiny of the legislation and, most importantly, my committee. You cannot do these things without good teamwork, and I have a very

good committee. Minister, I thank you for your kind words as well, but you cannot do these things without a good team behind you. I want to place on the record my thanks for their good work and dedication.

There are a few aspects of the bill that I would like to cover and I know that there are other speakers here tonight who will cover a lot of this. We considered that the policy objectives being pursued by this bill will better align the Queensland Heritage Act with its purpose of conserving Queensland's cultural heritage by improving the operation of the legislation. This will bring a welcome reduction in the regulatory burden, particularly on owners of heritage listed places, will strengthen protections for the state's heritage places and provide more flexibility to local government to identify and establish appropriate protections for places of local heritage significance. The committee certainly recommended that the bill be passed, and we believe that there will be significant gains for all Queenslanders.

We looked at a number of aspects—in particular, the capacity of applicants to choose whether their name is made public. This has been an issue for MPs at different times over the years, because sometimes a place would suddenly appear on the register and there would be a bit of animosity about how it got there, who did it and that type of thing. I think this bill will streamline that as well, but we noted the concerns raised by the Queensland Environmental Law Association and the Property Council of Australia regarding the removal of the applicant's personal information from public applications.

The committee was also cognisant of the strong response in the submissions to the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection opposing the mandatory naming of applicants on their published submissions. The committee notes that the names of applicants are provided to the Queensland Heritage Council and also the department's advice that there is a trend toward applicants allowing their names to be published but not their contact details. The committee was of the view that the proposed amendments to section 36 of the act, which will require applications to include a well-researched and evidenced case, would reduce the risk of nominations being made without due cause. The committee believes that the Queensland Heritage Act strikes a reasonable balance between the rights of owners and those of applications that there are adequate provisions to ensure natural justice is provided to owners of properties. We think that is probably the best way to go under these circumstances.

The minister said that he accepts nine of the 11 recommendations. We thank him for that. Obviously you cannot get it right all the way through. I would like to cover a couple of aspects of the recommendations the minister has not accepted. One is the restriction on new applications, to enter or remove a listing, for five years. This was a particularly interesting issue that we had a good look at. We noted the concerns raised by some submitters about the proposal to extend the moratorium on reapplication from one year to five years and also the concerns raised that there is no ability for an owner to reapply to have a place removed from the register during the moratorium period, even if significant new information comes to light. The committee is satisfied that the extension of the moratorium to five years is justified but is concerned that, while there is an opportunity for a decision on inclusion to be reconsidered within the moratorium period if substantial new evidence comes to light, there is no equivalent opportunity for review of a decision not to remove a place from the register, even if significant new information comes to light.

We were somewhat reassured by advice from the department that there is no impediment to owners making a development application, including an application to demolish, while the place is on the register and while a moratorium is in place and that the inclusion of a place on the state register does not stop a council from approving a development application, including demolishing, based on health and safety concerns or for economic reasons. However, the committee also understands that the requirements for assessing and making a decision on the development application are more onerous for places listed on the Heritage Register as the definition of building work contained in section 10 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 is currently far broader for a place entered in the Heritage Register than normally applies due to the concern about the impact building work can have on the fabric of heritage significance and provides a mechanism for regulating it where necessary.

The committee accepts the advice from the department that the application process is extremely thorough and comprehensive, but we were of the view that, if significant new information comes to light, a decision not to remove a place from the register should be able to be reconsidered during the moratorium period. The minister has made it clear—I accept the minister's view—that there are other processes in the act that will in fact work as well. I am quite comfortable with the decision that has been made in that regard because other avenues, as I mentioned before, are also available.

The only other matter I want to mention—I know that other speakers will cover a lot of other aspects of this bill tonight—relates to the protection of historic aircraft wrecks and historic shipwrecks. This is obviously something that interests a lot of people. Of course, we welcome the proposal to safeguard underwater cultural heritage, with underwater aircraft wrecks 75 years or older to be protected by the expansion of the definition of ‘underwater cultural heritage artefact’ to underwater aircraft wrecked 75 years or more ago. This means that from 2016 those World War II aircraft wrecked in Queensland waters, regardless of whether reported or not, will be protected by the Heritage Act.

The committee notes that there are over 1,600 historic shipwrecks along the Queensland coast, with accurate locations for only about 10 per cent of them—so there are significant numbers that have not been marked—and that there are currently no offence provisions or protection afforded to World War II aircraft until 2016. That is not very far away, but the issue remains. The committee was concerned about the potential damage that may occur to underwater wrecks and the historical underwater articles associated with them less than 75 years old, especially given that most World War II wrecks are less than 75 years old. So we made a recommendation that we should amend the bill to include them. The minister, again, has made it quite clear that sites can go on the Queensland Heritage Register, so there is protection in the legislation. Overall, I believe that that is an acceptable situation. Wrecks that are found can be put on the register and will obviously be protected and looked after for the future.

This bill is certainly an improvement on the current legislation. There will be a lot of improvements made. I believe that the process will be much better. The red tape has been reduced. This legislation is certainly very welcome.

 **Hon. JJ McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) (8.15 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to debate of the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I do so from a fairly personal perspective of my home town of Toowoomba. I do so given that that perspective is steeped in the tradition—the heritage, if you like—of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs.

With that in mind, I can share with colleagues that on 19 October this year Toowoomba Open House was celebrated. It was celebrated, as happened elsewhere across the state, with the support, guidance and leadership of the minister. I congratulate him in that regard. It celebrated the local historic attractions, our innovative architectural design and the re-use of heritage treasures when buildings like the Empire Theatre, City Hall, Vacy Hall, St Luke’s church and the Masonic Centre, amongst many others, were open to the public. Toowoomba Open House, in doing so, opened the doors of both public and private buildings and places of architectural interest to visitors and residents of Toowoomba. That, of course, was not unique to Toowoomba. These open-house events have certainly been running in Brisbane for quite some years, in Maryborough, as I understand it, for two years and all across the world in cities such as London, New York, Dublin and the likes of Melbourne back here in Australia. I think that is significant, because Queensland’s cultural heritage is part of who we are as Queenslanders, who we are as Australians.

Our heritage buildings used as homes, businesses and tourist attractions need to be, I believe, very strongly protected for future generations. The Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014 will help do that. It will help preserve and honour the history that is woven into our Queensland culture. The bill, therefore, amends the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 to allow community collaboration in the promotion of Queensland’s places of cultural heritage significance such as those I have mentioned in Toowoomba. With that in mind, it is also very important, I believe, to recognise that this government is committed to reducing red tape. That is certainly the case with this bill. It is no exception from that overall drive.

The Queensland heritage bill streamlines the statutory process of the Queensland Heritage Register; reduces unnecessary regulatory burden, particularly on owners of heritage listed places; and strengthens the protections for the state’s most important historic heritage places to ensure they can be appreciated certainly by our generation but by future generations of Queenslanders as well.

Earlier I referred to the Toowoomba Open House event and, as the local member for Toowoomba South and following the minister’s visit a couple of weeks earlier, I was very proud to be there to launch the weekend at the very well-regarded Royal Bull’s Head Inn at Drayton in Toowoomba. This inn, constructed in the 1800s, was interestingly enough a place that my late grandfather, James Meara, the longest serving mayor of the Clifton shire, visited whilst he was a young man. He passed away before I was born so I did not get to know him, but given that he married

relatively late in life—this was my mother's father—it is interesting to note his life and my life, which almost overlapped, represent three generations rather than the normal four generations that you would expect to be spanning over that period. Therefore, I have a direct connection with that building through my late grandfather. It is up to me to maintain that story for my children and others of my children's generation because I have that direct connection, and I am so very pleased that this bill assists in maintaining that story.

The bill provides a more contemporary and flexible system of penalties to the court to deal with those convicted of damaging or destroying heritage places—those places so important to all of us in our electorates across the state and so important to Queenslanders. The orders can be used in addition to or in lieu of a fine and include public benefit and education orders. It is for those sorts of reasons, and given my own passion for heritage places in my own home town, that I see these amendments facilitating far greater and meaningful protection of state heritage places. I therefore congratulate the minister and his team and the committee for considering this bill. It establishes a well-considered path forward to safeguard the state's treasured past but does so in a very balanced manner. It is for that reason that I strongly support this bill.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (8.21 pm): I rise to support the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I thank and congratulate the minister, the Hon. Andrew Powell, for bringing this bill before the House. I also congratulate the chairman of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee, the member for Warrego, the honourable Howard Hobbs, who has done a lot of work in this House over many years. It will be really sad to see him go.

**Mr Johnson:** Is he heritage listed?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection from the member for Gregory. I am not sure that he is heritage listed, but at some stage we will all in future remember the member for Warrego in the way that he should be remembered—as an absolute gentleman and stalwart of this great House—and I have been very pleased to be his colleague in this House.

These reforms confirm our government's commitment to rejuvenate the Queensland Heritage Act 1992—an act which was introduced into Queensland with bipartisan support. These reforms establish the state's framework for conserving our historic heritage places while also ensuring these important places are well managed in the future. Many members in this House may not realise, but the electorate of Nanango's namesake town—Nanango—is the fourth oldest town in Queensland, so I am very proud to have numerous heritage examples scattered throughout my electorate. There are 56 heritage listed places throughout the South Burnett, Somerset and the northern Toowoomba regional areas. They include Taromeo Homestead and cemetery near Blackbutt which was devastated by the 2011 floods and it was through a heritage grant that that historic cemetery was rebuilt, and it was just wonderful to see that. There is also Argyle Homestead near Geham, and tonight it is pertinent for me to say to the House that I am thinking about my constituents around Geham and Ravensbourne who are currently being threatened by fire right at this minute. There is also the historic Taabinga Homestead near Kingaroy, obviously Cressbrook Station in the Somerset, the Kingaroy Butter Factory and the old Kingaroy Shire Council Chambers are other great examples. The owners of these places are passionate about conserving them for future generations and I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for taking on this responsibility and being caretakers of our history and our heritage for our future generations.

I know that the introduction of our government's Everyone's Environment protection grants was very popular with the heritage place owners who need financial support to complete important renovation and conservation projects. This year I was pleased to announce that two of our places received funding—both Inverness at Toogoolawah and Castleholme Homestead near Esk. Both are beautiful examples of the pioneer heritage of that wonderful Somerset region. Sarah Stevenson, one of the co-owners of Inverness, told us that the heritage grant was a fantastic help and would help them achieve a major project which would ensure Inverness is preserved for the benefit of the heritage of that Somerset region. At Conroy's farm, which is part of Castleholme Homestead near Esk, the owners used the just over \$8,000 grant to fund the restoration of the roofing, gutters and downpipes of the property to prevent any damage occurring to the building's foundation from storm run-off—another project which will ensure the longevity of our state's great heritage. With those few words, I again congratulate the minister and the committee for considering this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Berry): Order! Before calling the member for Algester, I wish to acknowledge members of my Rotary Club from Ipswich City in the gallery. Welcome. I call the member for Algester.

**Mr SHORTEN** (Algester—LNP) (8.26 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Berry, I will always indulge you when it comes to your constituents. I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and want to touch briefly on the five core objectives of the bill and how they will be achieved. The first objective of the bill is to collaborate with the community in promoting the value of Queensland's places of cultural heritage significance. How is that going to be achieved? That will be achieved by articulating the function of the Queensland Heritage Council related to encouraging interest in and an understanding of the state's cultural heritage to emphasise the value of this work. This will also be achieved by providing access to material associated with nominations to the Queensland Heritage Register on the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection website to encourage interested members of the community to become involved by making a submission and track progress to its conclusion, allowing for those purchasing the property to be alerted to a current nomination affecting it through a standard heritage search undertaken as part of the conveyancing process.

I divert for just one moment. In a previous life when I worked as a PA for a Brisbane city councillor I was made aware of a situation where it was decided by the neighbourhood to put a significant vegetation order over some trees. The person purchasing that property had no idea that the significant vegetation order had been placed on the mango trees and when they finished the purchase they went to make some adjustments to their driveway and were told that they could not because of the significant vegetation order and a whole process around that then ensued. So I think it is important that people, particularly if they are buying a heritage home or a possible heritage home or property, are aware of the possibility that they may be limited in what they can and cannot do with that property.

The second objective of the bill is to streamline the statutory processes associated with the Queensland Heritage Register. The bill proposes to achieve this by emphasising the high level of heritage significance a place must demonstrate to be eligible for entry into the Queensland Heritage Register and to ensure it fits within the accepted framework of world, national, state and local heritage significance.

It improves the standard of information required of a nomination to the Queensland Heritage Register and clarifies what happens with nominations that do not comply with these requirements. It also introduces a mechanism whereby owners of nominated places can make a considered, written response to a recommendation made to the Queensland Heritage Council by the chief executive about the place's eligibility for entry into the Queensland Heritage Register. I think that is a very important point. Owners of nominated places can have that opportunity to have their say as well.

The third objective is to reduce the unnecessary regulatory burden and to further encourage appropriate development. Tonight, other speakers have spoken about this government's objective of cutting red tape. This bill is another example of this government getting on and cutting red tape. The bill will achieve this by allowing the Queensland Heritage Council to have regard to whether certain cultural heritage values of a place that are also natural heritage values are effectively protected by other legislation. The bill gives local government greater flexibility in how it identifies and manages places of local cultural heritage significance in its area as well as clarifies the application of local heritage provisions in the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. It also provides for local government to use exemption certificates with local heritage places identified in a planning scheme or entered into a local heritage register established under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

This is another foundation stone of this government of empowering local governments to make decisions. The former Labor government took away all the power from local government. This bill is about us giving that authority and that power back to local governments. They are best placed to make decisions about their heritage. They know which properties, which houses, which manufacturing locations they want to register.

The fourth objective of the bill is to strengthen protections for the state's most important historic heritage places. I think that that objective goes to the heart of this bill. This includes establishing a process associated with the discovery of underwater cultural heritage artefacts. These are defined as historic shipwrecks and aircraft wrecks and the articles associated with them having been in Queensland waters for 75 years or more. I think it is fair to say that the committee was astounded to learn that aircraft from World War II or aircraft found in the water or on land were not covered by the

current Queensland Heritage Act. Having been to North Queensland and having been to Cape York which, of course, saw a lot of action during World War II and which probably harbours a number of significant military artefacts, as I said, I and other members of the committee were astounded to learn that those sorts of historical artefacts or wrecks were not covered by the existing legislation. So I think it is a fantastic move by the minister and the government to bring those historical locations and artefacts into this legislation.

The final objective of the bill is to provide flexibility to local government in identifying and protecting places of local heritage significance. Again, I come back to the comments that I made previously. This government made a commitment to local government that it would give back to them their authority to look after their patch. They are best placed to make decisions, not central government—not us, not bureaucrats sitting in Brisbane. It is about the local council in Murgon, or in Cairns, or in Townsville making those—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SHORTEN:** In Nanango—making those decisions about their local historical locations or artefacts. I commend the minister for bringing this bill to the House. I commend the departmental officials who came before the committee. They were knowledgeable, they were informative and they were very helpful in answering the committee's questions. I certainly thank my other committee members. Again, as I have expressed in previous statements in this House, it has been an honour and a privilege to serve with the member for Warrego. I hope that the committee has a little bit more time under his tutelage. Of course, it would be remiss of me not to praise the hardworking staff of the secretariat of the Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee who continue to provide the correct information when we need it and who continue to provide the utmost service to our wonderful committee.

 **Hon. JW SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning) (8.34 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the consideration of the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014. I commend Minister Powell for the bill, which will strengthen our approach to conserving and promoting our important heritage assets. There can be no question that our cultural heritage contributes to our sense of place and who we are as Queenslanders.

I welcome the committee's recommendations relating to the consultation between the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and my department and I can assure the House that this consultation will continue to occur. My main reason for making a contribution to this debate is that Minister Powell will move some amendments on my behalf during the consideration in detail of this bill to the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, or SPA as it is known. These amendments are technical and process orientated in nature, but it is fair that the House is properly briefed about them. The opposition was briefed regarding the amendments this morning and for the benefit of the House I will outline the amendments tonight.

The amendments that will be moved to SPA will, if carried, commence on assent and make a number of necessary amendments to address issues relating to infrastructure planning and the charging framework for infrastructure and the structure plans and how they are incorporated into town plans. As I said, the amendments are technical in nature. Nevertheless, they are important. As part of the Property and Construction Strategy, the government is committed to reforming Queensland's local infrastructure planning and charging framework. The new infrastructure planning and charging framework was developed following a period of extensive consultation over 18 months. Since its commencement, stakeholders have indicated that a small number of sections of SPA require further refinement to ensure the effective operation of the new framework. This is certainly not unusual in the implementation stages of new legislative or regulatory provisions.

The amendments are detailed in the explanatory notes. Broadly, they facilitate the intended outcomes regarding requirements for a planning scheme to include a local government infrastructure plan—or LGIP—clarifying that a local government infrastructure plan is an optional component of a planning scheme. They clarify that after 30 June 2016 a local government can levy infrastructure charges or impose conditions about trunk infrastructure only if its planning scheme includes an LGIP. They also clarify the requirements under section 635 for a local government to give an infrastructure charges notice.

The amendments insert a new section 636(3A) to clarify the circumstances when additional demand may be included in the calculation of infrastructure charges. The amendments also amend section 637(1)(f) to replace the word 'details' with the words 'information about' an offset or refund.

This amendment recognises that, although infrastructure costs are not always accurate at the time of development approval, an applicant must still be provided with the best available and necessary information about an offset or refund to enable decision making—for example, decisions about negotiations or the lodgement of an appeal. The amendments also seek to address these issues in a timely way and ensure that the infrastructure planning and charges framework can operate efficiently. It is necessary to make these amendments promptly and I thank Minister Powell for the opportunity to move these amendments during the consideration in detail of his bill this evening.

In addition to the amendments relating to the infrastructure charging framework, it is also necessary to amend section 761A of the Sustainable Planning Act, which relates to structure plans. Currently, under SPA an existing structure plan for a declared master planned area must be incorporated into the new SPA planning scheme. This has been taken to mean that a structure plan cannot be amended when it is incorporated into the planning scheme. The outcome can result in outdated content within those structure plans with potential adverse effects on the economic feasibility of the overall development being carried forward. This amendment provides flexibility for changes to be made to the structure plan when it is embedded into the SPA planning scheme.

The amendment protects existing use and development entitlements and ensures that any changes will not adversely impact on the broader community through the following provisions: any amendments must be consistent with the strategic intent of the structure plan; any amendments must ensure that there are no material or adverse effects on development entitlements or development obligations stated in the structure plan; and the planning minister must be satisfied that these outcomes are achieved and will provide written notice to the local government in this regard.

The member for South Brisbane raised an issue in her contribution to the consideration of the bill in regard to the areas that have been the catalyst for this amendment. I can give her the assurance that she sought that Kinross and Coomera are the only two areas where this problem has arisen and which these amendments seek to address. I commend the bill and the amendments to the House.

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (8.40 pm): I rise to speak to the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We have some amazing buildings throughout Queensland, buildings that must be protected for our future generations. Sadly we do not have a lot in Gladstone. The centre of town did not have a lot of buildings at the time, but quite a number of them we have lost to advancing development. The few that we do have, however, are greatly valued and I know certainly figure greatly in a lot of photographic shoots, particularly weddings and the like. I think those small uses of buildings should never be forgotten.

I am always reminded of the value of old buildings and the wonder and pleasure that it gives people to be in a beautiful building. When schoolkids come to tour this building I remind them that it belongs to them. The pride, the joy and the absolute pleasure on the faces of even the youngest children indicates that such beautiful buildings are therapeutic to our spirit. I think the legislation is essential to keep these items—whether it is built structures, artefacts from war, ships, no matter what it is—that form part of our heritage and are of inestimable worth. I commend any efforts to support people in their endeavours to protect and maintain built structure, also to protect other artefacts and items that are of great value to our community over time—in particular, to protect them from those who would, without a second thought, pillage them and take material away.

In relation to the infrastructure charge amendment that has been circulated today, I think it is important that on behalf of the Gladstone Regional Council I again place on the record their concern about the limits on the infrastructure charge. They repeatedly have represented to me, and I am sure to the Deputy Premier, the disadvantage that those caps have placed on the community of Gladstone. I bring that forward today. It is not dealt with in specific detail, but perhaps it is dealt with in the amendment. It is important for governments to recognise that each community in this state is different, particularly communities that are accommodating significant short-term development—although in Gladstone we have had it over the long term—and that there are very special circumstances and mitigating matters that make our situation significantly different. I commend the minister for the heritage protection aspects of this bill. I believe that over time we do lose some of these things that are so incredibly important, so incredibly beautiful, and I certainly believe that we in our generation have to do our part to protect what is of such great worth.

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (8.43 pm), in reply: I thank all members of the House this evening who have contributed to the debate on the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Act. I will use this opportunity to

address some of the questions and queries raised by members and to acknowledge some of the contributions made by others. If I can start by referring to the speeches by the member for South Brisbane and the member for Warrego, who both raised a number of the key issues that the committee reported on, and perhaps provide a bit of extra information.

Firstly, the member for South Brisbane raised the issue of whether we release publicly the identity of the nominee of a place coming on the Heritage Register. I will confess that this is something I have tried to grapple with personally and have actually sought views on more broadly. We made very clear in the original consultation paper, *Our heritage: a collaborative effort*, the broader views of the community and those interested in heritage matters around whether we should make it mandatory for the name of the person that is making a nomination to be made publicly available. It is fair to say that the resounding response was no. There were only six submissions out of the 48 that we received during that consultation period that were supportive of us publicly naming the nominee. The main reason that many of the submitters were against doing so was the fear of potential retribution or retaliation if a nominee's details were made public. For a place like Brisbane that might not mean much, but if you are making a nomination in a small country town the ramifications when you are literally living right next door to the person who has made the nomination could be quite significant. It is something we did give a lot of consideration to, but we have decided to go with the feedback from the majority of the submitters and continue to allow anonymous nominations.

The second matter that the member for South Brisbane raised was whether we would review the minor changes to the heritage listing element of the bill. I am happy to report to the member for South Brisbane that I will ask my department to report to the Queensland Heritage Council on an annual basis on how that is going so that the Heritage Council itself can keep an eye on whether it is being used as it is intended to be used.

Both the member for South Brisbane and the member for Warrego raised the issue of whether a five-year moratorium is too long. That is something that we took into consideration both when preparing the bill in the first place but also upon receiving the committee's recommendations. It is not a decision we have made lightly but it is something that we have thought through. The primary reason that we have kept it at five years is that there is virtually no chance that substantial new evidence will be found before this period ends. If I can just give the House a bit more information—this is not going to disadvantage owners wishing to remake an application to have their state heritage place removed from the register. An owner of a place dissatisfied with a decision to enter their property in the register first has a right to appeal it in the Planning and Environment Court. When the Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Act, which is now the bill, commences, this restriction will apply to all places entered in the register after that date and will apply after a first application is made proposing removal of a place from the register. The level of scrutiny given to an application throughout the registration process, as improved with this bill, means there is really no chance that significant information will be missed.

One of the advantages of the digital revolution has been that it has literally transformed historical research and the way historical research is done. The department has access to decades worth of comparative analysis and data. The intention behind increasing the restriction period from one to five years was to have the length of the period more accurately reflect the frequency with which applications are remade after a decision of the Heritage Council.

During drafting of the bill, consideration was given to introducing provisions that would provide for substantial new evidence to be accepted and then used to initiate a new application before the end of the proposed five-year moratorium period. This proposal would have resulted in a substantial new subprocess being established. This is because it involves a decision about whether new information represents substantial new evidence and then the question of rights of appeal is triggered and whether an opportunity to speak to the decision maker before a decision is made should be allowed. What I can say is that very few applications are remade after a decision of the Heritage Council, hence why we are sticking with the five-year moratorium.

I thank the member for Toowoomba South for his contribution this evening. Toowoomba Open House was indeed a huge success this year. It was great to be there at the launch of it some weeks before it actually occurred. I also appreciate the member's comments in terms of red-tape reduction, particularly acknowledging that this bill not only reduces red tape but also strengthens the protection for our heritage registered properties.

I thank the member for Nanango for her contribution. I understand that she and the member for Gregory will be proposing that we heritage list the member for Warrego. I am not sure whether the amendments that we are moving this evening will actually allow us to heritage list an individual, but perhaps we could move an amendment for a special occasion to heritage list the member for Warrego.

The member for Nanango also mentioned the town of Nanango which her electorate is named after. I must confess that I have a personal affinity with the town. My wife grew up in Nanango. I was married in Nanango. I think all of the heritage listed properties in that town that the member mentioned my wife was—I will not say forced—encouraged to visit during school excursions at both primary and high school.

I thank the member for Algeester for his contribution, and particularly for enlightening us on the heritage significance of mango trees. That was a very worthwhile contribution.

**Mr Shorten:** Queensland icon.

**Mr POWELL:** A Queensland icon. Every Queensland house should have one or two. I thank the member for picking up on the additional opportunities we are giving owners to have their say on heritage listing and what they can do with a heritage listed property once it is listed. He also acknowledged the red-tape-reduction measures.

I thank him and the member for Gladstone for their contribution with regard to aircraft wrecks. We made the decision to be consistent with Commonwealth legislation which is that we will list those after 75 years. That means that by 2016 all of our World War II aircraft will be covered. If there is a concern that a site is being pilfered or raided in the meantime, there is the opportunity for that specific site to go through the nomination process to go on the state heritage list sooner. That will naturally occur after the expiry of 75 years. That is how we are addressing that.

I thank the Deputy Premier for enlightening us on the amendments that I will shortly be moving in the consideration in detail stage.

Before I conclude, I thank the staff from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection for their work, particularly Fiona Gardner, Cathy Chambers, Sean O'Keefe, Tyson McCulloch, Louise McHugh, Kaitlin Nichols and Paddy Waterson. They have certainly worked incredibly hard on the preparation of this bill. As I mentioned in my second reading speech, their efforts were acknowledged by the committee, for which I thank the chair and his team. It is due recognition of a considerable amount of effort by the team to ensure that this process runs as smoothly as it can, given that it can be a somewhat contentious issue.

This bill is the outcome of extensive consultation with the community, with property owners, with industry and with local government. This process has brought to light a number of issues that require further consideration and consultation. I hope this represents the opening of a new era of partnership and collaboration. I look forward to pursuing the direction set out not only in the hopefully amended act but also in the revised Queensland heritage strategy. This bill reforms our historic heritage legislation to streamline requirements for all stakeholders while also strengthening the mechanisms for protecting Queensland's cultural heritage into the future. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 82—

**Mr POWELL** (8.53 pm): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc and outside the long title.

Leave granted.

**Mr POWELL:** I move the following amendments—

**1 Clause 2 (Commencement)**

Page 8, line 7, after 'Act'—

*insert—*

, other than part 2A,

**2 Clause 29 (Insertion of new pt 4, div 5A)**

Page 23, line 15, 'State;—

*omit, insert—*

State heritage place;

**3 Clause 37 (Amendment of s 72 (Application for exemption certificate))**

Page 27, lines 13 to 15—

*omit, insert—*

(4) Section 72(2)(b)(iv) and (3)(b), after 'impact'—

*insert—*

, or will only have a minimal detrimental impact,

**4 Clause 46 (Replacement of pt 8 (Interim protection orders and notices about maintaining State heritage places))**

Page 33, after line 14—

*insert—*

(3) A regulation may prescribe matters the Minister must consider in being satisfied that a local government has appropriate procedures in place.

**5 Clause 80 (Insertion of new pt 15, div 4)**

Page 55, line 7, 'section 112(1)a'—

*omit, insert—*

section 112(1)(a)

**6 After clause 81**

Page 59, after line 10—

*insert—***Part 2A Amendment of Sustainable Planning Act 2009****81A Act amended**This part amends the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*.**81B Amendment of s 88 (Key elements of planning scheme)**

Section 88(1)(e)—

*omit.***81C Amendment of s 313 (Code assessment—generally)**

Section 313(2)(f), after 'LGIP'—

*insert—*

, if any

**81D Amendment of s 314 (Impact assessment—generally)**

Section 314(2)(i), after 'LGIP'—

*insert—*

, if any

**81E Insertion of new ch 8, pt 2, div 1A**

Chapter 8, part 2, before division 1—

*insert—***Division 1A Preliminary****628A Application of pt 2**

This part, other than section 629 and division 4, applies to a local government only if the local government's planning scheme includes an LGIP.

**81F Amendment of s 635 (When charge may be levied and recovered)**

(1) Section 635(3), 'may give the notice only'—

*omit, insert—*

must give the notice

(2) Section 635(3)(a)(i)—

*omit, insert—*

(i) if it is the assessment manager—at the same time as, or as soon as practicable after, the development approval is given; or

**81G Amendment of s 636 (Limitation of levied charge)**

Section 636—

*insert—*

- (3A) Also, the demand generated by development mentioned in subsection (2)(c) may be included if—
- (a) an infrastructure requirement applies to the land on which the development will be carried out; and
  - (b) the infrastructure requirement was imposed on the basis of development of a lower scale or intensity being carried out on the land.

**81H Amendment of s 637 (Requirements for infrastructure charges notice)**

Section 637(1)(f), 'details of'—

*omit, insert—*

information about

**81I Amendment of s 647 (Necessary infrastructure condition for other infrastructure)**

Section 647(3)—

*omit, insert—*

- (3) However, a local government may impose a condition under subsection (2) only if the development infrastructure services development consistent with the assumptions stated in the LGIP about the type, scale, location or timing of future development.

**81J Amendment of s 649 (Offset or refund requirements)**

Section 649(3)(b)—

*omit, insert—*

- (b) the local government must refund the applicant an amount equal to the difference between the establishment cost of the trunk infrastructure and the amount worked out by applying the adopted charge to the development.

**81K Amendment of s 652 (Restriction if development completely in PIA)**

Section 652(2)(a)—

*omit, insert—*

- (a) for trunk infrastructure to be provided earlier than planned in the LGIP—the additional establishment cost that would be incurred by the local government in providing the trunk infrastructure earlier than planned;

**81L Amendment of s 724 (Documents local government must keep available for inspection and purchase—general)**

(1) Section 724(1)(a), ', and its LGIP'—

*omit.*

(2) Section 724(1)(ab)—

*omit, insert—*

- (ab) if the local government's planning scheme includes an LGIP—all supporting material used to draft the LGIP;

(3) Section 724(1)(p), 'LGIP'—

*omit, insert—*

local government's LGIP, if any, that was

**81M Amendment of s 761A (Special requirement to amend or make planning scheme)**

Section 761A—

*insert—*

- (3A) The local government is taken to have complied with subsection (2)(a) or (3)(b)(i) if—
- (a) the Minister is satisfied the amended or new planning scheme, to the extent it applies to the declared master planned area—
    - (i) is consistent with the strategic intent of the structure plan; and
    - (ii) does not affect development entitlements or development obligations stated in the structure plan in an adverse and material way; and
  - (b) the Minister gives written notice to the local government that the Minister is satisfied of the matters mentioned in paragraph (a).

**81N Amendment of s 976 (Deferment of LGIP requirement for existing planning schemes)**

Section 976—

*insert—*

- (3) This section ceases to have effect on the commencement of section 628A.

**81O Amendment of s 976B (Existing development approvals)**

Section 976B—

*insert—*

- (4) Subsections (5) and (6) apply to the development approval if—
  - (a) the development approval is subject to a condition imposed under section 848; and
  - (b) either or both of the following is approved for the development approval—
    - (i) a request under section 369(1) to change the development approval;
    - (ii) a request under section 383 to extend the period of the development approval.
- (5) Despite subsections (2) and (3), an infrastructure charges notice may be given for the development approval under the amended Act.
- (6) However—
  - (a) the infrastructure charges notice must relate only to the change to, or extension of, the development approval; and
  - (b) section 626(3)(a) and (b) does not apply to the approval of the request to change or extend the development approval.

**81P Amendment of s 979 (Charges resolutions until 1 July 2016)**

- (1) Section 979(5), '2016'—

*omit, insert—*

2015

- (2) Section 979(6), after 'may,'—

*insert—*

before 1 July 2016 and

- (3) Section 979(8), after 'provision'—

*insert—*

included in a charges resolution under subsection (6)

**81Q Insertion of new ch 10, pt 13**

Chapter 10—

*insert—***Part 13 Transitional provision for Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014****996 Provision for planning schemes in effect before 4 July 2014 that do not include an LGIP or PIP**

- (1) This section applies in relation to a planning scheme that—
  - (a) does not include an LGIP; and
  - (b) before 4 July 2014, did not include a PIP.
- (2) Despite section 628A, the local government for the local government area to which the planning scheme applies may do the following until the stated day—
  - (a) adopt charges under section 630;
  - (b) give an infrastructure charges notice under section 635;
  - (c) impose conditions about trunk infrastructure under section 646, 647 or 650.
- (3) In this section—
  - PIP** see section 975.
  - stated day** means the day that is the earlier of the following—
    - (a) 1 July 2016;
    - (b) the day the local government amends its existing planning scheme to include an LGIP or adopts a new planning scheme that includes an LGIP.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

*Tabled paper.* Queensland Heritage and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014, explanatory notes to Hon. Andrew Powell's amendments [\[6398\]](#).

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 82, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

**Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (8.53 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. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (8.54 pm): I move the following amendment—

**7 Long title**

Long title, after '1992'—

*insert—*

and the *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*

Amendment agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## DEPUTY SPEAKER'S RULING

### Tabled Paper

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Honourable members, during the debate on the ratification of the Queensland Plan earlier this evening, the member for Bundamba tabled a box containing copies of the Queensland Plan. I note that Speakers have previously made rulings regarding the types of documents being tabled where they serve no purpose and where members can make their point without tabling those items. I remind all honourable members that there is a cost to the public purse when documents and items are tabled. They must be recorded, registered and stored at public expense forever. Given that the Queensland Plan has already been tabled and archived, there is no purpose served by tabling additional copies of the plan. Therefore, I rule that the tabling by the member for Bundamba is out of order. The Table Office may hold the copies for distribution if required.

## PRIVILEGE

### Ethics Committee Report No. 151

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (8.55 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I refer to report No. 151 of the Ethics Committee, which was tabled on 16 October 2014. That report related to allegations that I had misled the House. The committee did not make any conclusive finding that my statements were misleading, merely that it was arguable that they were.

Recommendation 2 of the report provides that, at the next opportunity, I am to make a statement to the House apologising if my statements were misleading. The committee did not make a finding that my statements were misleading so the wording of that recommendation is ambiguous and open to a number of different interpretations.

The chair of the committee has written to me tonight clarifying that it was the intent of the committee that I apologise for my statements at the earliest opportunity after the tabling of report No. 151. So, in the spirit of cooperation with the committee, I unequivocally apologise to anyone who may have been misled by my statements.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (Leader of the House) (8.57 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Support the Duck Festival

 **Ms TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (8.57 pm): In some way we have all been touched by cancer. It is a leading cause of death amongst Australians, affecting one in every three Australian women and one in every two Australian men. I have had a very dear friend die from ovarian cancer in the not-too-distant past. That is why I was very happy on Sunday, 26 October, last Sunday, to attend the annual Support the Duck Festival to stop cancer, along West End's Riverside Drive in my electorate. The festival has been running since 2007. It is a great afternoon for families and individuals alike.

Riverside Drive is home to the famous duck race where 80,000 rubber ducks flock to the Brisbane River in the race against cancer. The Support the Duck Festival brings many members of the community together. Hundreds of people were in attendance, from survivors and families currently battling cancer, to members of the community who wished to show their support by donating money or buying the famous duck merchandise. I acknowledge that the health minister spent quite a bit of time down there on Sunday afternoon.

All funds raised support cancer research at the PA Research Foundation. The dedicated team of researchers at this foundation bought us the world's first cancer vaccine, Gardasil. They have saved millions of lives by developing better treatments and ways of detecting cancers early. Each and every day they try to get one step closer to finding a cure. All of this work would not be possible without the support of members of the community and generous donors who believe that scientific research is imperative if we are to overcome this disease.

For 2014, the Support the Duck Festival raised over \$200,000, and it is projected that they will make it to \$400,000—\$50,000 more than last year. It is crucial that we do everything we can to support this vital work and I commend all of those involved in the Support the Duck Festival for their efforts, particularly the volunteers who persevered through the intense Queensland heat last Sunday.

I also want to say thank you to the team at the PA Research Foundation who really are the front line when it comes to beating cancer. As I said earlier, in some way we have all been touched by cancer. Cancer changes our lives but because of scientific research carried out at places like the PA Research Foundation and the PA Hospital, which is located in South Brisbane, having cancer is not necessarily an end. By supporting our best researchers, training them and giving them access to the important scientific tools they need, I am confident that we can one day beat cancer and find a cure.

### Waterford Electorate, Sporting Clubs

 **Mr LATTER** (Waterford—LNP) (9.00 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the contribution of sport and recreation in the electorate of Waterford. On the weekend just gone I had the wonderful opportunity to open the Pacifica rugby league festival at Beenleigh Multisports. I have to tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, those guys play hard, they play fast and I begged them on that occasion to at least play fair. I have to say that there was certainly some very fine football being played on that day. The event was attended by multinationals. We had Tokelau, the Kingdom of Tonga, Samoa, the Cook Islands and, of course, Papua New Guinea; hence the fantastic football that was being played.

While I did not get to be there for all of the weekend, I was there enough to see Samoa and, again, expectations around their sporting ability are always high and they very rarely fail to deliver. I saw, however, the under-16s Samoa boys take out the game that day against the Cook Islands but the under-14s Cook Islands boys got it over Samoa. So well done to both of them on that occasion.

I always find it a pleasure to get to the clubs in my area and help out, work the canteens or work the bars or just have a great weekend, and certainly this one was no different. But I do want to acknowledge some of the other clubs for the work that they do in my space, particularly the AFL club, the former Logan Cobras, at Tansey Park. In very recent times they have transitioned into a new club, following their new and exciting vision moving forward into next year. So they are no longer the Logan Cobras. It was very sad to see that club wind up, but they have now become the new Southern Sons down on our side of town. The club has a very bright future. Benny Head, the president of that club, has been a genuine visionary in that space, and I enjoy supporting him and look forward to working with him into the new year.

The Beenleigh Netball Club, of course, is always doing a smashing job. Maree is a close friend of mine—someone who has known me since I was born. The work that she and the guys do down there is fantastic. I also acknowledge the junior rugby league clubs around the place, including the Waterford Demons, for another smashing year. It was great to get down there and acknowledge and recognise the kids through their awards and their achievement ceremonies a couple of weeks ago. Their AGM is coming up too at the end of this week, and I wish them all the very best for that. I congratulate the executive and some very long-serving executive members who will be moving on. That will be no small loss, I dare say, in those roles given the contribution that they have made over the years. On that note, I would like to thank the sports clubs in my space.

### **Focal Extended Inc.**

 **Mr CHOAT** (Ipswich West—LNP) (9.03 pm): My Ipswich West electorate boasts so many great organisations which really help people in our community. Whether it is the fantastic Lowood Slimmers, the Rotary Club of Ipswich North or the Grandchester Model Live Steam Association, they do their bit to put back into the region and beyond.

This evening I would like to talk about a very special organisation—Focal Extended Inc. Focal is located at North Ipswich on Canning Street, offering support and opportunity for people with a disability, their carers and those around them. Just over a week ago I had the absolute pleasure of attending Focal's 40th birthday celebratory dinner. I was in such great company being seated with the magnificent Peter Tully and his wife, Linda, among other great community people. It was a great night and certainly a milestone.

Focal draws its name from a strong local historical perspective; namely, the Friends of Challinor Aid League. In 1968, there was a change of focus in health services in Queensland and the Ipswich Special Hospital was reconstituted as the Challinor Centre for the training and care of the 'intellectually handicapped'. It provided training programs to develop the capacity of people with an intellectual disability and care for people with high support needs.

In 1973, when Challinor Centre staff went on strike, volunteers and family members went in to help the residents. As a result of providing that care, the volunteers realised that the standard of care for residents needed to improve and a community meeting was called. It was decided that there was a need for a support organisation for the people in Challinor who either had no family or had family who could not get to see them. In February 1974, the first inaugural meeting was held in Ipswich and was attended by the general community including parents, church people and in particular the then state member for Ipswich, Sir Llew Edwards. Dr Edwards continues as the patron of Focal to this day.

The Challinor Centre, which is now the Ipswich campus of the University of Queensland, has continued to play an important part in the history of Ipswich. Over the years Focal has expanded its services to include support with accommodation, transport, respite care, advocacy and community access for people with a disability. Today Focal continues to be a well-respected community organisation that promotes the rights of people with a disability and supports them to be independent. They do this by providing a range of innovative individual and group programs that are designed to meet the specific needs of individuals and their carers.

Last week I was proud to host the Hon. Tracy Davis MP, Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services. We had a great morning together joined by many Focal members and clients as well as Chairman Roy Henderson and CEO Sonja Gilchrist. Focal's 2014 committee members are Wendy Maller, Tony Swords, Dennis Ward, Anita Wheeler and Teresa Harding, and they certainly deserve our thanks. They have my gratitude. Of course, the workers and the volunteers at Focal do a wonderful job. I am proud to have them in my electorate and I am proud to support them.

### **Lions Children of Courage Awards**

 **Mrs D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (9.06 pm): I rise to speak about the Lions Children of Courage Awards. These awards were first initiated in 1983 in Western Australia by the then District Governor, Joe Mason, to recognise a very special group of young Western Australians and their families. There were many awards that recognised the achievements of young people. However, children with special needs were not catered for. These awards are especially designed to recognise the courage and bravery shown by these children every day.

The Lions Children of Courage Awards is not a competition: every child who is nominated receives an award. It is hoped that by receiving the award it will act as an encouragement for their future, help them believe in themselves and help increase their self-worth. Nearly 100 children were

recognised as children of courage in ceremonies hosted by 12 Lions and Lioness clubs within the last 12 months. Not only does the receiving of the award help the child; the family also benefits from the award, sharing in their pride and the recognition of how these children have overcome the many hardships that they face day to day.

The criteria of the awards have been altered to include siblings and also carers who need to look after their parents. This program allows members of the Lions family to show that they care about all children and they are proud to recognise their bravery and their determination to reach their full potential. This year in Redcliffe there were 18 recognised for this award, and I would like to try to briefly cover some of these wonderful children.

Rachelle and Breanna are twin sisters and are eight years old. They were born three months premature and spent much of their early life in hospital. Rachelle has combatted skin conditions and breathing problems through her short life but is a very happy, loving child. She loves art, fishing, football, karate and gaming. She has many friends but her very special friend is her twin sister, Breanna. Breanna is a brave and positive young girl who is currently being treated for a broken neck and is awaiting further treatment at the Royal Children's Hospital. Breanna had her accident falling off a trampoline. She is a little fighter with a great attitude. She loves art and craft, fishing, walking and gaming. We congratulate both Rachelle and Breanna for receiving these awards.

Elliot was recognised for a bravery award. He is 10 years old and was diagnosed with cancer and has undergone extensive chemotherapy treatment. He had a relapse in 2013 and in early 2014 he had radiation treatment followed by massive doses of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant. His brother, Jaidyn, who is 12 years old, was recognised because he donated his bone marrow and was a very brave boy in supporting his brother.

There are so many great stories. I cannot go through all of the stories of these wonderful kids who have faced challenges that we can only imagine, but these kids are incredible and they are brave. Their proud parents and siblings are extremely supportive and we congratulate them.

*(Time expired)*

### **Bulimba Electorate, Front-line Services**

 **Mr DILLAWAY** (Bulimba—LNP) (9.09 pm): I rise tonight to speak on the revitalisation of front-line services in the Bulimba electorate. In just over two years my electorate has noticeably felt the positive effects of the improvements our government has made in the areas of law and order, education and health. The Newman government continues to work hard to revitalise front-line services to ensure Queenslanders are safer and more secure. We are investing in better technology and providing more support for front-line staff so Queenslanders receive better services and the care they need.

With stronger laws and more police on the beat, crime rates are dropping in communities right across the Bulimba electorate. In the past two years, numbers from the Morningside Police Station have indicated assaults have reduced by 11 per cent, unlawful entry is down 42 per cent and unlawful use of a motor vehicle is down 20 per cent. These figures are a direct result of our strengthened front-line services including a 23 per cent increase in police officers at Morningside and a similar increase in police officers at Carina.

In Education we have increased the overall budget to \$11.8 billion, which includes \$537 million as part of the Great Teachers = Great Results action plan to ensure our kids are taught by the best and brightest teachers. Furthermore, the Great Results Guarantee program gives money to schools to spend where it is needed most. For example, Seven Hills State School is using this funding to support the early identification of students with learning difficulties and to engage an additional teacher to coach individuals and small groups of students. They are implementing a professional development program which facilitates a feedback culture and supports individual teachers to build their capacity in data analysis and the use of explicit teaching strategies. Additionally, they will allocate funding to support additional teacher aide time in P-2 classes to implement a whole-of-school reading program and to support speech programs developed by a speech pathologist and support the implementation for learning plans for identified students.

This year Seven Hills State School has maintained its tradition of academic excellence through its performance in the 2014 NAPLAN. I am immensely proud to report that its year 7 results were identified as being in the top 10 schools of the state, with 85 per cent of year 7 students performing in

the top two bands for numeracy and 72 per cent performing in the top two bands for reading. The Great Results Guarantee funding will ensure Seven Hills is well positioned and supported to continue its outstanding academic record and provide its students with quality education.

The LNP's strong plan to revitalise front-line health services is delivering record levels of health services to communities across Queensland. The number of people waiting longer than clinically recommended for surgery has been reduced by 92 per cent since March 2012. The Princess Alexandra Hospital has the most improved waiting times in the country, recording a 73 per cent increase in the percentage of emergency department patients treated within four hours.

These are only some of the many positive outcomes we are seeing in the areas of crime, education and health in my electorate under the Newman government. Only the LNP has a strong plan to revitalise front-line services. Only a strong local voice in government can deliver for families and constituents right across the Bulimba electorate.

### Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Eight Mile Plains

 **Mr STEWART** (Sunnybank—LNP) (9.12 pm): I rise to draw the attention of the House to the wonderful work being undertaken by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Eight Mile Plains. Since 1982, the church has provided emergency relief including fresh bread, fruit and vegetables, food vouchers, assistance in paying utility bills and clothing vouchers for some of the most disadvantaged in my local electorate. In the last 12 months, under the leadership of Senior Pastor Andre van Rensburg, the church's community centre has given out 1,148 grocery parcels as well as 1,543 Coles food vouchers. The centre provides assistance to around 24 families including 60 children every week.

I was privileged to attend the opening of the centre's first counselling service on Monday this week. This new service will help the centre to meet the emotional and psychological needs of those who come to the centre for assistance in addition to their physical needs. There are so many wonderful and caring people working for the church, and I would like to draw attention to their kindness and generosity. Counsellor Deanna Pitchford joins the church as part of its new counselling service. Deanna will help the disadvantaged identify and work towards personal goals, big or small, to help improve their situation.

The church's volunteers run the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, ADRA, providing emergency relief for some of the most vulnerable members of the community. They also run free training courses in adult literacy and numeracy classes as well as basic computer classes. The ADRA centre is managed by Ken Read, who is ably assisted by his wife, Sherrell, Tony and Sarah Macnaught, Don and Nhung Briden, Mary Endo, Theresa Laconi, Gwen McGregor, Raewyn Lamb, Rosalie Tasker, Sandra Lawton, Kylie Tagg, Shann Dean and Lawrence Lane.

Volunteers also manage the Forever Loved Op Shop, where clothes and shoe vouchers can be redeemed. The op shop is supported by Maria Je, Mary Crisp, Evelyn Khinz-Zaw, Ros Ryan, Jan Langton, Sardar Garghani, Soryya Farhadi, Leight Watts, Evelyn Cresswell, Judy Ernst, Gwen Peng, Julia Toma, Joe Crainean, Leon Cox, Steve Gosling, Jenny Hay, Cedric and Jenny Powrie, Heather Seifert, Clara Jung, Rachel Oh, K Kang, Rosie Kim and Sonya Yun. They are some of the remarkable individuals who help keep the op shop up and running, proving that many hands make light work.

As we all know, governments have limited financial resources to provide assistance. As a government, we try to put in place the structures and funding streams to allow the most vulnerable in our communities to receive assistance. However, it is the volunteers who are on the ground providing the one-on-one assistance that people need. As the local member for Sunnybank, I have nothing but admiration for all the volunteers in our community, and I commend each of them for the service they have given to the local community.

### Bill of Rights

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (9.15 pm): Recently I spoke about the need for a bill of rights to protect the rights and liberties of Queenslanders against this Liberal National Party government's abuse of power. Queensland has no upper house or house of review, and the current committee system is not able to properly provide the necessary checks and balances on the excesses of this state government. We have seen the way this Liberal National Party government interferes in the powers of the court, and I believe it is time for an act of parliament that enshrines the rights and liberties we value as important.

My proposed bill of rights will protect the rights and liberties of all Queensland citizens such as everyone is equal before the law, freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly and you are deemed innocent until proven guilty. My bill of rights will provide a specific act of parliament to fill the void in our current legislation. It will formalise a protection of rights we consider fundamental to our democratic system of government. It will place new responsibilities on the Attorney-General, as Queensland's first law officer, to report to parliament if any proposed law or regulation is inconsistent with any of the fundamental rights set out in the bill. It will make sure members of parliament will remain accountable to the people who elect them, and it will be clear that the freedom and rights in the bill are subject to such reasonable limitations as can be justified in a free and democratic society based on human dignity, equality and freedom.

I believe the 2½ years of abuse of power we have suffered under this state government has mobilised Queenslanders to call for a specific act of parliament which would protect us from extreme governments, and recognise and enshrine the many rights and liberties we have traditionally taken for granted. We are not alone in our calls for protection from a government that abuses its power. The Australian Capital Territory passed its human rights act in 2004, and in 2006 the Victorian government adopted a Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. New Zealand has had a bill of rights since 1990 and Canada has had a bill of rights since the 1980s.

A constitutional expert is assisting me with the preparation of this bill, which I plan to introduce into the parliament early next year. I use this opportunity to invite Queenslanders who have an opinion on the bill of rights to contact me via email, Facebook or through my electorate office in Nambour. When my bill is introduced into parliament next year, I hope the government and the opposition will allow their members a conscience vote so that together we can strengthen our democracy.

### Diabetes

 **Mr RUTHENBERG** (Kallangur—LNP) (9.17 pm): Yesterday I visited Dakabin State High School for the graduation of 24 students from the Need for Feed program sponsored by Diabetes Queensland. Why is this important? The program ran over eight weeks and consisted of around 20 hours of cooking instruction. The program develops cooking skills and helps students to recognise healthy cooking choices. This program is part of Diabetes Queensland's efforts toward early intervention to prevent obesity and diabetes.

In the electorate of Kallangur there are about 2,400 people with type 2 diabetes, and there are around 6,600 further adults at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes including me. Thus the reason for my weight loss efforts this year. Indeed, my own weight loss efforts have resulted in much healthier eating habits, and I thank the member for Nudgee for his advice with my new diet. Type 2 diabetes is responsible for about 30 per cent of all avoidable hospital admissions across the state. That is why this program is so important. It helps create healthy habits early in life. This program used to be funded by the federal government but funding ceased this year and the state government through Queensland Health picked up the funding gap.

I want to thank a few people who have given their time to run this program. The first is Rachel Latimore from Diabetes Queensland who coordinates this program across Queensland. We also need to thank a few people at Dakabin State High School—firstly, the head of department, Cheryl Conroy, for organising the program at the school, as well as the two classroom teachers who led the program, Laura Ball and Fay Buchanan. The principal, Mr Schuh, and I were privileged to sit with the students and eat what they had cooked—a wonderful savoury mince dish full of super food vegetables and seasoned with spices and herbs.

Can I say that this is yet another outstanding result for Dakabin State High School. Three years ago when I first visited this school, it was a mess. I have worked hard with Mr Schuh and his leadership team. I have advocated for and delivered several million dollars in maintenance and facility funding, but Mr Schuh and his leadership team have delivered a fantastic school culture over the last three years. This is a real testament to the hard work of all the staff and teachers at Dakabin State High School. The school's agriculture program is second to none. Their new basketball program was a huge success this year. Their extension program has delivered in spades. Their dancing program is fantastic, and in fact I attended their dance showcase last Friday night. The school's focus on every student doing their best is developing a culture where the students are proud to wear their uniform and represent their school. Well done, Mr Schuh. Well done, Diabetes Queensland. Well done, Queensland Health.

### Cairns Electorate, Events

 **Mr KING** (Cairns—LNP) (9.20 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak about a great day I had on Saturday. With the able assistance of the member for Whitsunday and his wordsmithing skills, we have dubbed it 'The day of diversity, Diwali and delight'. It was a day that had it all. It started on Saturday morning at the Cairns Mosque open day. It was a fantastic morning and it was a great initiative by the local Islamic community. I commend Imam Abdul Aziz and Aboo Auckbar from the Cairns Islamic Society. It was a fantastic morning with wonderful food and wonderful presentations. I had a great tour of the mosque. It was a very important initiative by the local Muslim community which stretches back three or four generations in Far North Queensland. They were particularly instrumental in the cane farming industry in the early days.

After the Cairns Mosque open day, I moved on to the Bhutanese community day. The Diwali celebration—the Festival of Lights, as it is known—had wonderful costumes and dancing—

**Mr Costigan:** A kaleidoscope.

**Mr KING:** A kaleidoscope of colour—I take that contribution from the member for Whitsunday. I give special thanks to the Gurung family who invited me to that event. They are a wonderful family. They are recent Australian citizens and they are making a fantastic contribution to the Cairns community, as are all of the Bhutanese. There are about 700 to 800 Bhutanese now settled in Cairns. They are a growing part of our community and we welcome them with open arms.

Finally, on this day of diversity, Diwali and delight, my wife, Leah, and I went to a theatre production called *Much Ado About (Nothing) Dragons*, which is a play on words on the old Shakespeare classic. In fact, it was a bit of a Shakespeare remix, if I can say that. The production was put on by Tropical Arts, which is a great local theatre company, and I can see the Minister for Arts nodding in agreement that they are a great—

**Mr Costigan:** He's getting excited.

**Mr KING:** He is getting very excited about *Much Ado About (Nothing) Dragons*. One of the reasons this production was seriously special was that some of the actors and some of the production was done by clients from ARC Disability Services, which provides a great local service. One of the leading actors was blind but made a fantastic contribution and played a great character. It was a sensational production. It was a fantastic day in the great electorate of Cairns.

### Gourley, Mr A

 **Hon. IB WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (Minister for Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts) (9.24 pm): Tonight I am glad to speak about the work of Andy Gourley, who is a constituent and passionate youth worker in the electorate of Mansfield who started the highly successful Red Frogs program for schoolies around the nation. Andy was recently a Queensland finalist in Queensland's local hero category of the Australian of the Year awards announced last Friday. His work and achievements are outstanding and he deserves any accolade that we can give him tonight.

Andy had a vision to engage youth, and Red Frogs was born in 1997. An accountant by day, Andy would spend his nights as a youth worker. He perceived a need to help young people and he did something about it. So 1997 was the first year that Andy and a small group of helpers went to the Gold Coast during schoolies week to meet up with the thousands of young people there. They began handing out Allen's red frogs and from there the concept only got bigger. They handed out 80 kilograms that first year in 1997; they now hand out about seven tonnes of red frogs.

The program has grown exponentially, and from that initial idea the program now reaches 15 locations for school leavers' celebrations annually right around Australia. I can add that when my son went to schoolies he was actually captivated by the Red Frogs team. I am sure that many members have had this experience because the Red Frogs helpers not only come and stand beside kids during that time when they are under some pressure but they help clean up their room, they cook their breakfast and they get them back onto the straight and narrow if they are out wandering at night. The program is quite exceptional during the schoolies period. From that point of view, the Red Frogs team offers members the ability to go with them to school lectures where they prepare kids for schoolies week. I could recommend to each member that they accompany a Red Frogs representative out to their local school to hear what they say and how they get kids ready for schoolies.

We now have 1,500 volunteers who hand out Allen's red frogs each schoolies season to about 70,000 school leavers. Andy is the sort of bloke who rolls up his sleeves and helps regardless of what needs to be done. He escorts intoxicated teens home late at night, and then early the next morning, as I said, Red Frogs is there cooking them breakfast. The program is no longer confined to schools. In fact, Andy said to me that their university orientation weeks are in fact a bigger challenge for them than schoolies week—in particular, with kids who come from the bush to the city and get caught up in some of the rituals of those O weeks. Andy is a pastor of the Brisbane Citipointe Church located in my electorate of Mansfield. He is always helping youth—that remains his driving passion. I congratulate Andy for his nomination in the Australian of the Year awards and I commend the work of Red Frogs to the House.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.27 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Barton, Bates, Bennett, Berry, Bleijie, Boothman, Byrne, Cavallucci, Choat, Costigan, Cox, Crandon, Cripps, Crisafulli, Cunningham, D'Ath, Davies, T Davis, Dempsey, Dickson, Dillaway, Douglas, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Flegg, France, Frecklington, Gibson, Grant, Grimwade, Gulley, Hart, Hathaway, Hobbs, Holswich, Hopper, Johnson, Judge, Katter, Kaye, Kempton, King, Krause, Langbroek, Latter, Lynham, Maddern, Malone, Mander, McArdle, McVeigh, Menkens, Millard, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Newman, Nicholls, Ostapovitch, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Powell, Pucci, Rice, Rickuss, Robinson, Ruthenberg, Scott, Seeney, Shorten, Shuttleworth, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Symes, Trad, Trout, Walker, Watts, Wellington, Young