



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 26 March 2015

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THURSDAY, 26 MARCH 2015



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Peter Wellington, Nicklin) read prayers and took the chair.

MOTION

Sessional Orders



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.31 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing orders, the order of business and times set out in the schedule circulated in my name be adopted for the remainder of this week's sittings, unless otherwise ordered.

ORDER OF BUSINESS AND TIMES FOR THURSDAY 26 March 2015

(1) Order of business

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Appointment of Deputy Speaker

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Motions of Condolence

Petitions

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

To be immediately followed by debate of a Motion to be moved by the Premier.

1.00pm—2.30pm—

Lunch break

2.30pm—

Continuation of debate of the Motion moved by the Premier

If the debate of the Motion moved by the Premier is completed by 4.00pm—

Preliminary business, comprising:

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Tabling of Reports

Personal Explanations

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

(If Preliminary Business completed before 4.30pm, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except the dinner break, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

4.30pm—5.30pm—

Question Time

5.30pm—6.30pm—

Government Business

6.30pm—7.30pm—

Dinner break

7.30pm until special adjournment and adjournment moved—

Government Business

(No adjournment debate, question for adjournment to be put without amendment or debate)

If debate of the Motion moved by the Premier is not completed by 4.00pm, at the conclusion of the debate the following shall occur:

- (a) A special adjournment shall be moved, adjourning the House until 9.30am on Friday, 27 March 2015
- (b) The adjournment of the House shall then be moved

Notwithstanding Standing Orders, there shall be no adjournment debate.

(2) Time limits

The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are contained in the Schedule below.

ORDER OF BUSINESS AND TIMES FOR FRIDAY 27 March 2015 (Should the special adjournment on 26 March 2015 adjourn to this day)

(1) Order of business

From 9.30am—

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Motions of Condolence

Appointments

Petitions

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Tabling of Reports

Personal Explanations

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

(If Preliminary Business completed before 10.00am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except the dinner break, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)

10.00am—11.00am—

Question Time

11.00am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.30pm—

Lunch break

2.30pm—6.30pm—

Government Business

6.30pm—7.30pm—

Dinner break

7.30pm until special adjournment and adjournment moved—

Government Business

(No adjournment debate, question for adjournment to be put without amendment or debate)

(2) Time limits

The maximum time limits that apply to debates, speeches and statements are contained in the schedule below.

Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements

Subject	Relevant Standing or Sessional Orders	Time
Address in Reply Debate	SO 47	
—Total time		28 hours
—Mover		20 minutes
—Other members		20 minutes
—Mover in reply		30 minutes

Adjournment debate	SO 56	Suspended
Bills—Government Bills Introduction of Bills (explanatory speech) First reading	SO 129 SO 130	1 hour No debate
Government Bills reported on by a committee Second reading debate —Minister —Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) —Members of the relevant committee —All other members —Minister in reply Consideration in detail —Mover (Minister) —Other members (on each question)	SO 138 SO 146 & SO 147	1 hour 1 hour 20 minutes 10 minutes 30 minutes No limit 3 minutes
Government Bills declared urgent and not referred or not reported on by a committee Second reading debate —Minister	SO 129, SO 137 & SO 138	To speak once only as per SO 129 for 1 hour
—Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) —Other members —Mover in reply Consideration in detail —Mover (Minister) —Leader of the Opposition (or nominee) (on each question) —Other Members (on each question)	SO 146, SO 147 & SO 156	1 hour 20 minutes 30 minutes No limit 1 x 20 minutes; or 2 x 10 minutes; or 1 x 10 minutes & 2 x 5 minutes 1 x 10 minutes or 2 x 5 minutes
Extension of Time, by consent of a majority of the House, without debate —Motions and Second Reading Debates —Question Time		10 minutes 2 minutes
Matters concerning privilege	Sessional Order 1, & SO 248 & 267	At discretion of Speaker
Motions —Mover —Other members —Mover in reply	Chapter 15	20 minutes 20 minutes 30 minutes
Personal Explanations —each member	Sessional Order 1	At discretion of Speaker
Tabling of Reports —Chairperson of Committee on presentation of committee report —Member tabling report	Sessional Order 1 & 2	5 minutes 2 minutes

<p>Questions Without Notice</p> <p>—Question time (total time)</p> <p>—Member asking question</p> <p>—Minister answering question</p>	<p>Sessional Order 1 & SO 113</p>	<p>1 hour, At discretion of Speaker 3 minutes</p>
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However, I draw to the attention of the House that on Friday the order of business is that question time will be from 10 am to 11 am.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable F. Simpson MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 5 December 2014

“A Bill for An Act to amend the Forestry Act 1959 and the Recreation Areas Management Act 2006 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for An Act to amend the Water Act 2000, the Alcan Queensland Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1965, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001, the Commonwealth Aluminium Corporation Pty. Limited Agreement Act 1957, the Explosives Act 1999, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the River Improvement Trust Act 1940, the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009, the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Vegetation Management Act 1999 for particular purposes, to amend the statutory instruments mentioned in part 10 for particular purposes, to make minor or consequential amendments of the legislation mentioned in schedule 1, and to make minor amendments of the Water Resource Plans mentioned in schedule 2”

“A Bill for An Act to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Building and Construction Industry Payments Amendment Act 2014, the Health Ombudsman Act 2013, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Mental Health Act 2000, the Public Health Act 2005, the Radiation Safety Act 1999, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 and the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979 for particular purposes”

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

5 December 2014

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 December 2014, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to bills on 5 December 2014 [26].

COMMISSION TO ADMINISTER OATH OR AFFIRMATION



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to issue a commission under the public seal of the state authorising me to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office to such members as might hereafter present themselves to be sworn. I now ask the Clerk to read the commission to the House.

The Clerk read the following commission—

Queensland

Constitution of Queensland 2001

To the Honourable PETER WILLIAM WELLINGTON, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland.

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, acting under section 22 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001, authorise you to administer to any member of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and of Office that is required to be taken or made by every member before the member is permitted to sit or vote in the Legislative Assembly.

(Sgd)

Signed and sealed with the Public Seal of the State on 24 March 2015.

By Command

(Sgd)

A Palaszczuk

RECORDED in the Register of Patents, No. 50, page 5 on 24 March 2015.

(Sgd)

Clerk of the Executive Council

Tabled paper: Commission, dated 24 March 2015, authorising the Hon. Peter William Wellington, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, to administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance and of office [\[27\]](#).

GOVERNOR'S OPENING SPEECH



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that His Excellency the Governor on Wednesday, 25 March 2015 delivered a speech to parliament of which for greater accuracy I have obtained a copy. I table a copy for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Opening speech—Governor's speech to the opening of the first session of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament, dated 25 March 2015 [\[28\]](#).

APPOINTMENT

Deputy Speaker



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That Ms Grace Grace MP, member for Brisbane Central, be appointed Deputy Speaker.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

REPORTS

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 11 of 2014-15 titled *Results of audit: maintenance of public schools* and report to parliament No. 12 of 2014-15 titled *Results of audit: oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools*. I table the reports for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 11: 2014-15—Results of audit: Maintenance of public schools [\[29\]](#).

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 12: 2014-15—Results of audit: Oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools [\[30\]](#).

SPEAKER'S RULING

First Speeches



Mr SPEAKER: A member's first speech, formerly called a 'maiden speech', is the first speech made by a member following their first election to the Legislative Assembly. The first speech made by a member following their first election to the Legislative Assembly is afforded certain courtesies by the Assembly—by practice or convention. The Speaker, before calling the member, will draw the attention of the Assembly to the fact that this is the member's first speech and that the courtesies afforded such

a speech be observed. The courtesy afforded by convention in the Assembly is that a first speech is heard without interjection or interruption. Usually other members of the Assembly will move to congratulate the member on the conclusion of the speech.

It is important to stress that the courtesy of not being interjected upon or interrupted is contingent upon the member making their first speech not being unduly provocative. The question that may arise in the next few days is when is a speech a first speech. Even though the member may have had previous parliamentary experience in another parliament—particularly the House of Representatives or the Senate—their first speech in the Assembly is considered their first speech. Members who have previously been members of the Assembly, either immediately before the most recent election or who are returning after a break in service to the House, are not afforded this courtesy in their first speech after the election.

The next issue that may arise is when does a member make their first speech. In a new parliament, newly elected members normally make their speech during the address-in-reply debate. Members elected at by-elections have sometimes made their first speeches in debate on a bill before the Assembly. In such a case, the relevance rule has been suspended to allow members to make their first speech during debate on bills.

More recent practice in the Assembly has been to suspend standing and sessional orders to allow a member elected at a by-election to make a statement for a period not exceeding 20 minutes. Some speeches are not regarded as a first speech because it is understood that some speeches are not given by a member's own choice or timing. Practice in Queensland and other Australian jurisdictions indicates the following have not been considered first speeches: a speech made in relation to a condolence motion; the asking of a question without notice; the answering of a question without notice; a speech by a newly elected member in their capacity as minister or opposition spokesperson—for example, a minister's second reading speech on a bill or the opposition's speech in reply; or an office holder advising the Assembly of matters relating to their office—for example, a Premier being also a new member advising the Assembly of government commissions and appointments necessary for a new parliament. Despite the above, it is noted that recent practice has been for the opposition to avoid asking questions without notice of ministers who are also new members until they have delivered their first speech.

It is likely that today we will debate a motion of confidence before proceeding to any other business, such as the address-in-reply. Some new members will feel compelled to join in this debate. It is my view that contributions to this debate should be regarded as a first speech as members have a choice as to whether to participate or not. However, as per practice, the rule of relevance shall not be enforced against these members and the normal courtesies will be applied. I note that my first speech was made on a motion of confidence in the Beattie government on 30 July 1998 and Speaker Hollis recognised my speech to the confidence motion as my first speech. That can be found on page 1382 of *Hansard*. Honourable members, that is the reason I have made that ruling in relation to members who wish to speak to the confidence motion when it may be their first speech in parliament.

APPOINTMENTS

Panel of Temporary Speakers

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in accordance with standing order 11, I advise that I have appointed the following members to the Panel of Temporary Speakers: Ms Di Farmer MP, member for Bulimba; Mr Mark Furner MP, member for Ferny Grove; and Mr Mark Ryan MP, member for Morayfield.

Ministry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.39 am): I wish to inform the House of ministerial arrangements. During February 2015, in accordance with the Constitution of Queensland 2001, His Excellency the Governor accepted a number of resignations and subsequently made a number of appointments to the ministry and the Executive Council. His Excellency, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council, also appointed an assistant minister. I table the relevant *Extraordinary Government Gazettes* for the information of the House.

Tabled paper: Copies of the relevant government gazettes appointing the current ministry [\[31\]](#).

I also seek leave to have the details of the appointments incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

Premier's Office

Brisbane, 16 February 2015

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified that he has been pleased to appoint—

The Honourable ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK

to be Premier and Minister for the Arts.

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK

PREMIER AND

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Premier's Office

Brisbane, 16 February 2015

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified that he has been pleased to appoint—

The Honourable JACKLYN ANNE TRAD,

to be Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade;

The Honourable CURTIS WARREN PITT,

to be Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships;

The Honourable CAMERON ROBERT DICK,

to be Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services;

The Honourable KATE JENNIFER JONES,

to be Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games;

The Honourable ANTHONY JOSEPH LYNHAM,

to be Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines;

The Honourable YVETTE MAREE D'ATH,

to be Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills;

The Honourable JO-ANN ROSLYN MILLER,

to be Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services;

The Honourable WILLIAM STEPHEN BYRNE,

to be Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing;

The Honourable MARK CRAIG BAILEY,

to be Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply;

The Honourable STEVEN JOHN MILES,

to be Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef;

The Honourable LEEANNE MARGARET ENOCH,

to be Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation;

The Honourable SHANNON MAREE FENTIMAN,

to be Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs;

and

The Honourable CORALEE JANE O'ROURKE,

to be Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland.

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK

PREMIER AND

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Premier's Office

Brisbane, 16 February 2015

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified that he has been pleased to appoint—

The Honourable CAMERON ROBERT DICK;
 The Honourable KATE JENNIFER JONES;
 The Honourable ANTHONY JOSEPH LYNHAM;
 The Honourable YVETTE MAREE D'ATH;
 The Honourable JO-ANN ROSLYN MILLER;
 The Honourable WILLIAM STEPHEN BYRNE;
 The Honourable MARK CRAIG BAILEY;
 The Honourable STEVEN JOHN MILES;
 The Honourable LEEANNE MARGARET ENOCH;
 The Honourable SHANNON MAREE FENTIMAN;
 and
 The Honourable CORALEE JANE O'ROURKE

to be members of the Executive Council of Queensland.

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK
 PREMIER AND
 MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Premier's Office

Brisbane, 16 February 2015

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

In accordance with section 24(1) of the *Constitution of Queensland 2001*, His Excellency the Governor, acting by and with the advice of the Executive Council, has been pleased to appoint Stirling James Hinchliffe MP as Assistant Minister of State Assisting the Premier from 16 February 2015.

As an Assistant Minister, the abovementioned is to perform the functions of an Assistant Minister as may be decided by the Premier from time to time.

ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK
 PREMIER AND
 MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

Leader of the House

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.39 am): I have to inform the House that arrangements have been made, and the honourable the Speaker informed accordingly, for Mr Stirling Hinchliffe, member for Sandgate, to be the Leader of the House.

Government Whips

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.39 am): I have to inform the House that Mr Mick de Brenni, member for Springwood, has been appointed Chief Government Whip; Mr Linus Power, member for Logan, has been appointed Senior Government Whip; and Mrs Julieanne Gilbert, member for Mackay, has been appointed Deputy Government Whip.

Opposition

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): I table a list of opposition appointments for the information of the House and I seek leave for them to be officially and properly recorded in the records of this parliament.

Leave granted.

LIST OF OPPOSITION APPOINTMENTS

As at 26th March, 2015

Lawrence Springborg: Leader of the Opposition

John-Paul Langbroek: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Shadow Treasurer and Shadow Minister for the Commonwealth Games

Stephen Bennett: Shadow Minister for Environment, Heritage Protection and National Parks
 Jarrod Bleijie: Shadow Minister for Police, Fire, Emergency Services and Corrective Services
 Andrew Cripps: Shadow Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, State Development and Northern Development
 Tracy Davis: Shadow Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services.
 Scott Emerson: Shadow Minister for Transport
 Deborah Frecklington: Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
 Timothy Mander: Shadow Minister for Education and Training
 Mark McArdle: Shadow Minister for Health
 John McVeigh: Shadow Minister for Science, Information Technology, and Innovation
 Robert Molhoek: Shadow Minister for Housing and Public Works
 Timothy Nicholls: Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Planning, Small Business, Employment and Trade
 Andrew Powell: Shadow Minister for Energy and Water Supply
 Fiona Simpson: Shadow Minister for Local Government and Main Roads, Community Recovery and Resilience
 Tarnya Smith: Shadow Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs
 Jann Stuckey: Shadow Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Sport and Racing
 Ian Walker: Shadow Attorney-General and Shadow Minister for Justice, Industrial Relations and Arts
 Jason Costigan: Shadow Assistant Minister to the Opposition Leader for North Queensland
 Ray Stevens: Leader of Opposition Business in the House
 Jeff Seeney: Chairman of Parliamentary Policy Committees
 Ian Rickuss: Opposition Whip
 Steven Minnikin: Deputy Opposition Whip
Tabled paper: List of opposition appointments as at 26 March 2015 [\[32\]](#).

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

Cunningham, Hon. JI



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Hon. Junita Irene Cunningham, a former member of the Parliament of Queensland and Minister of the Crown.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased lady 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.

Junita Irene Cunningham, better known to all of us as Nita, was born in Bundaberg on 12 February 1939. Nita truly loved Bundaberg and its people, and it was there last month that I was honoured to speak at her funeral at the request of her family. It was an occasion to remember her service to her local community and our state as well as her dedication to the Labor Party. At the 2006 state election Nita retired as member for Bundaberg and I was elected in Inala, so our paths did not cross in this House. However, I met Nita and heard enough from my father, Henry, to be well aware of her contribution to public life in so many areas.

Nita was elected to our state parliament at the state election held on 13 June 1998. On 4 August that year Nita was given what she described as the privilege of leading the address-in-reply debate to the Governor's opening speech for the 49th Queensland parliament. That was her inaugural speech in this House. Her words then give us an insight into the depth of her commitment to her community and our state. In that speech Nita spoke of the need for people to have confidence in our democracy and the need for open and honest government. She called it the most basic right of all Queenslanders. The issues she identified then are all still relevant almost two decades later. She spoke of community concerns about unemployment and job security and even what she described as the continued sale of our assets. One could say some things never change. Other issues she identified were the need for affordable health care, the personal safety of elderly members of the community and the concerns of young people for their education and their future.

Nita also devoted a large part of her inaugural speech to the Bundaberg community, the community she loved so dearly. She described Bundaberg as a modern, progressive and very beautiful city in the heart of a rich sugarcane and small crops belt. She spoke of the Bundaberg region; its wonderful climate and superb quality of life; the hospitality of its residents; its diverse economy; its sugar industry, rum distillery and the variety of fruits, nuts and vegetables growing in the

district; its busy fishing industry; its many tourist attractions; and its position as the southern gateway to our Great Barrier Reef. Nita clearly loved her community. Her own words make that obvious as do her own deeds in the service she gave to Bundaberg and our state.

In 1988 Nita was elected to serve on the then Bundaberg city council. She became the first woman to serve on that council and, as she remarked regarding her first term, she was the only woman on the council. However, three years later, at the 1991 council election, that changed dramatically and the new council consisted of six women and three men. By the time of her 1998 inaugural speech in this parliament, Nita noted that there were then eight women and three men on the council. She remarked it was the highest proportion of women on any council in Queensland's history and possibly in Australia. It is women like Nita who have provided the leadership and inspiration to so many other women in public life. In 1991 Nita was elected as Bundaberg's first female mayor. She was widely regarded as a very effective mayor and she oversaw many programs that gave Bundaberg a new image and its residents a renewed sense of civic pride.

In the local government arena Nita took a wider role than councillor and mayor. Throughout her years of local government service, Nita also held significant positions such as executive member of the Urban Local Government Association of Queensland, chair of the Bundaberg and District Local Government Association and chair of the Bundaberg and Burnett Counter Disaster Committee. Nita served as mayor until being elected to the state seat of Bundaberg in 1998.

During Nita's time in parliament she served as the chair of the select Travelsafe committee from 1998 to 2001 and she was a member of the estimates committees from 1998 to 2000 and in 2004 and 2005. Her local government experience served her well here and she was a logical choice by then Premier Peter Beattie to serve as minister for local government and planning. She served in that role from 2000 until 2004. She was a perfect fit for that ministry and she made an important contribution to the betterment of Queensland during her time in the cabinet.

Nita was also devoted to her Labor Party. Her daughter, Anne Harding-Smith, said her mother loved the Labor Party and she had been a visionary in her public roles. Anne said of her mother, 'She was a people's politician and always promoted Bundaberg, even taking local produce to parliament.' It is true that even in cabinet meetings Nita never missed a chance to promote her local community and its needs. Former minister Robert Swarten tells the story of how Nita would bring to cabinet lots of those big, red, juicy strawberries grown in the Bundaberg region. Ministers would gratefully eat them and remark on how big and tasty they were. Nita would say, 'You know we can't grow them without water. That is why we need the Paradise Dam.' Finally that lobbying saw the government commit to build the Paradise Dam.

In all the tasks she undertook, Nita Cunningham set high standards for those in public life. In her inaugural speech she expressed her belief that people want politicians with a high standard of ethics to contribute to a more informed public debate. She said they wanted more dignity in the parliament; they wanted politicians who could ensure our environment was protected for the generations to come. At the same time she said that we must ensure that any such protection is not used as an unreasonable excuse to stop progress. These were the fundamental beliefs, the standard of behaviour and the expectations she set for herself.

Following Nita's retirement from the parliament, she remained heavily involved in the Bundaberg community just as she had been throughout her entire life. Nita never forgot her city, its region or its community. She championed them all of her life. We should never forget Nita Cunningham's contribution to the Bundaberg region and to Queensland. She was warm; she was a lady in every sense of the word. She was polite, intelligent, engaging and passionate about her family, her community and her party. I do remember that before the last election campaign I met with Nita and she said, 'Annastacia, wouldn't it be lovely for Bundaberg to be returned to Labor?' Today in this House we have the return of a Labor member for Bundaberg.

I place on record today our thanks for the years of service that Nita gave to the institution 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 Nita's children, Anne and Glenn, and to the rest of her family and friends.

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.48 am): The first woman to be elected mayor of Bundaberg, Nita Cunningham was a powerful advocate for her home city who made a highly successful transition to become a member of parliament, minister and key figure in the development and governance of our state. Nita was born on 12 February 1939 in Bundaberg and died just short of her 76th birthday, on 7 February. In her term as first an alderman

and then mayor of Bundaberg from 1988 to 1998, Nita mixed a passion for economic progress and key local priorities such as the development of Bundaberg Airport and the revitalisation of the CBD with an understanding of social issues. Nita was an executive member and chair, respectively, of the Urban Local Government Association and the Bundaberg and District LGA. In the wider community, she chaired the Bundaberg and Burnett Counter Disaster Committee and was founding managing director of the Bundaberg Income Tax Consultants.

Nita was a key figure in the campaign to attract a university campus to Bundaberg. She went on to serve on the council of the Central Queensland University from 1990 to 1998 and was recognised as a companion of the university in 2007. Nita was a role model for women in leadership not only in the field of politics. She ran her own business while raising a family and winning office, first on the council and then here in George Street. Along the way Nita also served as a member of the executive of her local Labor Party branch, chaired the Travelsafe Committee and contributed to other parliamentary committees in areas such as state development, the environment, communications, local government and regional and rural communities.

In the sphere of state politics Nita served from 13 June 1998 to 14 August 2006. In her first speech in this place on 4 August 1998, the newly elected member for Bundaberg saluted the completion of Bundaberg's long awaited second traffic bridge but decried the loss of the Kallawa Dam as a planned source of local irrigation water supply. The priority was to find jobs for more than 5,000 local unemployed people and to complete a major water storage project for the district. In fact, as MPs who were present at that time would recall, that was already on the way: the 300,000 megalitre Paradise Dam located near Biggenden which I, as minister for natural resources in the Borbidge-Sheldon government, had the honour of approving. As minister for local government and planning from November 2000 to February 2004, Nita, as the member for Bundaberg, was in parliament to help see this vision into reality when the Paradise Dam was finally completed in December 2005. In her role as minister, Nita Cunningham was responsible for the reform of the Integrated Planning Act and also changes to legislation governing dangerous dogs. Following the Palace Hotel backpacker tragedy at Childers in June 2000 in which 15 people tragically died, she oversaw the state government's response which culminated in legislation being passed in this place in 2002.

I had the great privilege and honour of serving in this place with Nita Cunningham right throughout her entire parliamentary career. As the Premier said, I found her to be an absolute lady, someone who was completely and absolutely dedicated to her family and to her community and someone who, in relation to myself and many other members, always conducted herself with the utmost decorum and politeness. I also had the sad privilege of attending Nita Cunningham's funeral to recognise her and pay the respects of the LNP for her outstanding service to her local community and the people of Queensland. There were many hundreds of people from throughout Queensland, various political spectrums and all walks of life who had gathered to pay their respects for her contribution locally and to recognise what she did across the state. Mr Speaker, I join with the Premier to place on the record my condolences and those of the opposition to Nita's family in their time of sadness. We pray that our recognition of her proud and dedicated service will be of comfort and support to them in their time of great loss.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (9.53 am): It is an honour to rise in this place and contribute to the condolence motion which has been moved by the Premier and to pay tribute to a great Labor woman and her significant contribution to Bundaberg and this state. Nita was Bundaberg's greatest advocate. She was a councillor and went on to become the first woman mayor of Bundaberg. Her popularity and standing in the community saw her win the state seat of Bundaberg in 1998. In total, Nita represented her community in elected roles for almost two decades. Her abiding love for the Bundaberg region and her enduring commitment to her community made Nita a visionary and trailblazing politician who transformed her beloved home city. As mayor of Bundaberg Nita embarked on an enormous package of reform, concentrating on the building of essential infrastructure and delivering beautification and redefining programs that changed the physical look and feel of Bundaberg.

In terms of planning for the future needs of Queensland, Nita was ahead of her time. She oversaw the implementation of major infrastructure upgrades to sewerage and water systems and introduced water meters and recycling. Under her stewardship thousands of trees were planted all over Bundaberg, with 7,000 trees and plants in the CBD area. One of her lasting legacies is the avenue of figs in Bourbong Street. Nita introduced a pecuniary interest register for councillors long

before it was mandatory. She also introduced the Mayor's Christmas Concert, together with the Pageant of Lights and Christmas lights competition for Bundaberg and brought back the Mayor's Charity Ball. In her final speech to council in 1998 prior to moving to her new role as a state member, she said it gave her a tremendous feeling of achievement and satisfaction to see the beautiful city of Bundaberg evolve.

In November 2000, her experience and the respect she had from her caucus colleagues elevated her to the Beattie cabinet as minister for local government and planning. I consider her one of my predecessors and one of my mentors. Her achievements during this time were many and include introducing pool fencing legislation, improving fire safety in budget accommodation, modernising plumbing and drainage and cracking down on dubious and shonky certifiers. At Nita's funeral the overwhelming message was that people believe Bundaberg is now unquestionably a better place—a fairer place, a more modern place, a progressive community—because of the contributions she made. I wholeheartedly agree with the Premier when she described Nita as an amazing woman who always put people first. She was the first female mayor of Bundaberg and the first female state member, and I know she would be enormously proud of the fact that Leanne Donaldson, the new member for Bundaberg, is continuing strong female representation in the Bundaberg community.

Nita should be remembered for not only her wonderful spirit, her immaculate style and her determination but also her sense of fairness. People will never forget her contribution to the Bundaberg region. She has left a legacy that can never be forgotten. I place on record the government's thanks for the many years of service that Nita Cunningham gave to local and state governments and to the broader Queensland community. I take this opportunity to extend my sympathies and the thoughts and condolences of this House to Nita's family as a dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of Glenn and Donna, Anne and Glenn, loving grandmother of George, Ed, Millie, Erica and Louise, sister-in-law of Merlyn, Janice and Keith, Allan and Marlene and to the many friends she has made and the people whose lives she has touched throughout her lifetime.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (9.57 am): I also wish to place on record our deep regret at the death on 7 February this year of the Hon. Junita Irene Cunningham MP, former member for Bundaberg and former mayor of Bundaberg, and our appreciation of her long and highly distinguished service to the state. We extend our profound sympathy to her family in their bereavement.

Nita Cunningham, as she was known, was born in Bundaberg on 12 February 1939. Prior to being elected to the Bundaberg city council Nita served in a number of roles including executive member of the Urban Local Government Association of Queensland; chairman of the Bundaberg and District Local Government Association; chairman of the Bundaberg and Burnett Counter Disaster Committee; and founding managing director of Bundaberg Income Tax Consultants. In her many years in public office, Nita became only the second woman ever elected to the city council, the first woman deputy mayor and the first woman mayor. She became the first woman to represent Bundaberg in any parliament and in 47 years was the first member for Bundaberg to be elevated to the Queensland cabinet. Nita served Bundaberg as alderman and deputy mayor from 1988 to 1991 when she was elected as mayor, a position she held until 1998. As mayor of Bundaberg Nita was party to many momentous occasions, including the royal tour of the Duchess of Kent, the visit of Prince Charles, the opening of the Tallon Bridge, the new library and the sugar museum. She oversaw the Bundaberg CBD redevelopment and gave our city a totally new image and our residents a renewed sense of civic pride. Nita made an official visit to China with a deputation of businessmen to cement our sister city arrangement that continues today with Nanning City, turned the sod for Bundaberg's first university building and opened the long awaited Paradise Dam project.

Nita served her community and the state as the member for Bundaberg from 13 June 1998 until her retirement on 14 August 2006, winning the seat of Bundaberg at three consecutive elections. In her maiden speech to this House on 4 August 1998 Nita spoke proudly of Bundaberg's success in establishing the Central Queensland University campus. Of course, 72 per cent of the students enrolled at Bundaberg were the first members of their families to ever have that opportunity in our city.

Nita spoke of two major problems facing Bundaberg at the time: unemployment and the need for a major water storage. While we continue to face high unemployment in Bundaberg and Burnett, especially amongst our young people, Nita saw clearly the benefits of a reliable water supply. The growers and industry still respect that today. She worked hard to secure funding, and on 7 December 2005 proudly opened the dam, describing the dam opening as one of the proudest moments in her political career.

As the then president of the Bundaberg Sunrise Rotary Club, in 2006 it was my personal privilege to present Nita with one of our highest distinctions—the Paul Harris Fellowship—in recognition of her community service to the people of Bundaberg. Those who knew Nita would remember the handwritten thankyou cards, the beautiful words and the penmanship she presented.

In her letter of thanks to the people of Bundaberg on 7 August 2006, as she moved into retirement, Nita described some of the things she had done—things like going up in a hot air balloon and a light plane, abseiling, riding a penny-farthing bike, going to sea on a tall ship, going to China as an official guest, visiting every capital city in Australia and 80 Queensland cities and towns from Thursday Island to Birdsville and opening countless projects, from sewage plants to the giant gumboot at Tully.

She listed some of her achievements during her 18 years in office with Bundaberg City Council: Bundaberg's second traffic bridge, the purchase of Baldwin Swamp, the beautification of the CBD, a waste management program and new recycling centre, the annual Light Up the Region Christmas lights pageant and the annual mayor's fundraising ball, which continues in her legacy.

Nita took enormous pride in the achievements of her first three terms in state parliament, including twice being appointed as a cabinet minister for local government and planning. She was responsible for the tough new laws for the keeping of restricted dogs and new swimming pool fencing legislation that saved many young lives. She mentioned her appreciation of the honour and distinction of being part of the cabinet and the friendship she enjoyed with her fellow ministers and so many councillors across Queensland.

As a result of being appointed twice to cabinet, and with the blessing of the Governor, she retained the title 'the Hon. Nita Cunningham' for the remainder of her life. In her last term in parliament Nita sought and gained the opportunity to concentrate solely on her electorate of Bundaberg—its people, its problems and its future.

Just a few of the achievements from Nita's time in parliament are the construction of two new weirs and the raising of numerous others, the daily tilt train service from Bundaberg to Brisbane, the new TAFE hospitality building, a new marine centre at the port, and the \$42 million massive ring-road project.

Nita was predeceased by her beloved husband, Elvin, and leaves behind son Glenn, daughter Anne and their families.

 **Ms DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (10.02 am): It is well known that Bundaberg has one of the longest Labor histories of any electorate in Queensland, in most recent times being held by Nita Cunningham, who passed away last month. I was privileged to spend time with Nita in her final years, and she was always there for some advice and strategic direction for me—with poise and grace of course. Nita was a trailblazer for Bundaberg. As a councillor and mayor for four terms and the state member for three terms, she has left her mark on our community and it will remain that way forever.

I am honoured and privileged to stand here today and remember Nita Cunningham. Nita was born and raised in Bundaberg and was a warrior for her community in the true Labor spirit. Nita's path to public life started with Bundaberg South State School and a career in accountancy. But Nita loved Bundaberg so much, and it was this love that led her to become a councillor and then mayor of Bundaberg in 1991. In her local government role Nita brought progress and beauty to our city. Her vision of a modern Bundaberg is there today for all to see. It was also her vision that led her to this House in 1998—her vision for the city and the people she loved and who loved her back. In her address-in-reply speech in 2004 Nita recalled—

I joined this parliament in 1998 to get a dam—a dam that no-one had been able to get in almost 30 years—and we are getting it. This has given me the greatest sense of achievement in my 16 years in public life and it has given Bundaberg a future.

Without this foresight and tenacity that only Nita had, our city would be all the poorer. We would not have the rich agricultural footprint we now enjoy or the associated industries that now call Bundaberg home and are part of the fabric of our community. The water security has also had associated benefits such as employment increases the likes of which had not been seen before. It is also worth remembering that it was Nita's hard work that secured Crown land which is now the beautiful Bundaberg campus of CQ University, which has gone from strength to strength and has allowed young people to get a quality education and still have the support of their families nearby.

Bundaberg is the city it is today because of pioneers like Nita who have listened to the community and turned that intelligence into action. Whether it was securing water for the region, producing one of the most vibrant CBDs in Australia, ensuring our major traffic bridge was delivered

in the right place or making sure the ring-road was fully funded, she always tackled each commitment with the same enthusiasm. At her funeral there was a common theme—that she did everything through consultation with the community, and particularly in council with the outside workforce. They were always part of the solution.

During her time as the minister for local government and planning in the Beattie government, Nita's ability to bring Bundaberg to Brisbane was famous. In cabinet meetings she would ensure that her fellow ministers had the pleasure of experiencing the best Bundaberg has to offer, like the delectable local strawberries. Nita loved to share her beloved city. I can confidently say that, with the long-sighted political vision for Queensland that Nita had, we will continue to see Nita's legacy for years to come, and I thank her for futureproofing our city.

In finishing, I would like to express my sincere condolences to Nita's family and friends. In her final days Nita was able to see the return of her beloved electorate of Bundaberg to Labor and the election of the Palaszczuk government. I am humbled to be at the feet of giants like Nita, and I hope to continue her legacy in our region.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.06 am): I wish to associate myself with the contributions made in this debate by the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the member for Bundaberg and in fact all speakers who made a contribution as this parliament represents and remembers the life of former member for Bundaberg Nita Cunningham.

Condolence motions in the first sitting week of a parliament bring with them a special sense of poignancy. The days of the ceremonial commencement of the Queensland parliament are days to cherish and to remember. They are days to reflect on what has been gained and what has been lost. They are days not so much for each of us as members of this place; rather, they are days to reflect on the extraordinary nature of our state's democracy. They are days to share with those people who have given so much to enable each of us to take our seat in this House—our family, our friends, our party, our supporters and our volunteers.

If the opening of the parliament is the alpha of our lives of public service, then a condolence motion is the omega of our careers. For all of us, Nita Cunningham's life is an example of how we might conduct and distinguish ourselves as we span that period between the beginning and the end of our public lives.

Nita Cunningham was a good and decent person. There was a very deep wellspring of kindness in her heart. I remember Nita Cunningham because she unfailingly treated everyone she met with courtesy, with kindness and with respect. This view of Nita was repeated time and time again at her funeral in Bundaberg which I had the privilege of attending. Most of all, Nita Cunningham was a very fine representative of the people of Bundaberg. Nita was a passionate and tenacious fighter for them. She loved her home town and spent every day of her time in public life—as a councillor, as mayor, as an MP, as a minister—trying to make Bundy better, trying to improve the lives of the people of that great Queensland city. Nita was driven to deliver for her city and for her region.

In my view, Nita's greatest public achievement as a state MP, so eloquently described by the new member for Bundaberg, was the Paradise Dam. Nita used her first term in parliament to advocate for the dam. In her second term, the Labor government of which she was a part, led by Peter Beattie, committed to constructing the dam. And in her third term Nita got that dam built.

Surpassing all of this was her devotion to her husband, Elvin, and perhaps her greatest pride and her greatest achievement, her children, Anne and Glen.

If we can say at the end of our careers that our political party remembered us as loyal and devoted servants, that the community for which we worked remembered us fondly and with respect for what we were able to achieve, and that our family remembered us for our unstinting love and devotion, then our lives of public service, like Nita Cunningham's, will have had meaning and will have been well lived indeed.

 **Hon. JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.09 am): I take this opportunity to offer my respects to a remarkable woman—Nita Cunningham. Along with the member for Mirani, Jim Pearce, I served with Nita during the Beattie Labor government. Nita devoted her working life to serving her local Bundaberg community and this state. Nita was always a hardworking and popular personality. She was a former mayor and member for Bundaberg—a much loved identity who was selfless and who gave so much to the people of her community. Nita Cunningham served in this state parliament as

the member for Bundaberg from 1998 until 2006 and had previously served her community as Mayor of Bundaberg from 1991 to 1998 and prior to that as Deputy Mayor and councillor from 1988. Her council experience was reflected in the work she later undertook as minister for local government and planning in the Beattie Labor government from November 2000 until February 2004.

Nita was such a strong character. She was totally committed to her community. We all knew that when Nita Cunningham was on a mission she was more than likely to achieve her goals. The people of Bundaberg will tell you that Nita Cunningham had a wonderful ability and practicality to mix economic growth through infrastructure development projects while at all times recognising the social needs of her community and keeping the people she was representing always foremost in her thoughts. She was totally instrumental in progressing the growth of the Bundaberg Airport, and one of her major accomplishments was the revitalisation of the Bundaberg CBD to produce a very liveable and attractive city. As others have said here this morning, as good as she was at getting things done, Nita was also a great champion of women in public life. In 1988 Nita Cunningham was the first woman to serve on the city council. In 1991 she became the city's first female mayor. As she progressed down her journey in public life, she came to be totally respected for her hard and tireless work and for her passion for the city of Bundaberg and its people and it was something that we all talked about.

I also make reference to the fact that the Dr Patel affair hit Nita very hard. She did not know about this, and neither did anyone in this parliament know. The only people who knew were the doctors and nurses at the hospital who became whistleblowers. Nita was very worried. She was actually in shock and the community was in shock as well. As parliamentary secretary to the then minister for health, Premier Beattie sent me to Bundaberg to help Nita, the patients and also her constituents. During this time and afterwards, Nita became ill—in fact, very ill—and the whips and I looked after Nita when she was here in Brisbane. I can remember one time when Nita was coming back from a specialist appointment on Wickham Terrace and she was so sick that she could not walk up the Queen Street Mall, so I went up the Queen Street Mall to get her and to bring her back to parliament safely. Nita was also a person who was quiet and dignified, and she was beautifully groomed. She never, ever had a hair out of place. In fact, she was the real fashionista of parliament during the time that she was here.

I asked her once how she became a minister and Nita said to me, 'I just told Peter Beattie that if I wasn't made a minister I would lose Bundaberg.' She then, in true fashion, put her hand on my arm and said, 'It will never apply to you, Jo-Ann.' She was also the lolly queen of the parliament. In fact, Nita used to sit in the second back row—Jimmy will remember this—and Nita used to have snakes and jubes and peppermints in huge plastic bags and then towards the end of the evening she would get chocolates and put them in her drawer. She knew that we would always take the lollies out of her drawer in the parliament. Nita, I know in my own heart that you are up there in heaven. May God bless Nita and may we always remember her as our very own 'Bundaberg belle'.

Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

PETITIONS

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

Gold Coast Light Rail Connection

Mr Molhoek, from 444 petitioners, requesting the House to deliver the Gold Coast Light Rail connection with heavy rail at Parkwood or Helensvale in time for the 2018 Commonwealth Games [\[33\]](#).

Noosaville, Swan and Wylah Streets and Creek Road, Bus Service

Mr Elmes, from 146 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately and permanently remove Swan St, Wylah St and Creek Road, Noosaville from bus routes as these streets do not meet legislated requirements for use by large 12.5m buses [\[34\]](#).

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

Democracy Referendum

5 petitioners, requesting the House to initiate a referendum giving the people the option for more direct democracy [\[35\]](#).

Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, Inpatient Beds

346 petitioners, requesting the House to source operational funding to meet community needs for inpatient beds in the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Services area [\[36\]](#).

Mount Isa, Rates

Two petitions, from 76 petitioners, requesting the House to ease the financial burden on Mount Isa ratepayers who have been forced to pay a massive rates increase to access drinking water due to the drought related issues [\[37\]](#) [\[38\]](#).

Cannabis for Medical Purposes Bill, Proposed

3,750 petitioners, requesting the House to consider the Medical Cannabis Advisory Group proposal for the introduction of a Cannabis for Medical Purposes Bill [\[39\]](#).

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

Moreton Bay, Protection

Hon. D'Ath, from 1,244 petitioners, requesting the House to initiate an independent enquiry into the current and future threats to Moreton Bay's habitat, wildlife and social sustainability [\[40\]](#) [\[41\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by Mr Springborg and the following paper and e-petition, sponsored and lodged by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Orders 119(3) and (4)—

Bridge, Recognition

4,693 petitioners, requesting the House to allow for Bridge organisations to be recognised as a sport and recreation to allow them an equal opportunity to submit grant applications to the department [\[42\]](#) [\[43\]](#) [\[44\]](#).

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

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, Amendment

Mr Crandon, from 143 petitioners, requesting the House to amend section 82 of the *Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995* to make education and rehabilitation compulsory [\[45\]](#).

Roma Street Pedestrian/Cycle Overpass, Construction

Hon. Trad, from 358 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding so that the Roma Street Pedestrian/Cycle Overpass can be constructed [\[46\]](#).

Rabbits, Pet Restrictions

Mr Grant, the former member for Springwood, from 2,155 petitioners, requesting the House to remove existing restrictions and allow Queensland residents to apply for a permit to keep registered, desexed and vaccinated domestic pet rabbits [\[47\]](#).

Aussie World, Highway Exit

Mr McArdle, from 44 petitioners, requesting the House to maintain the exit from the Bruce Highway to Aussie World and neighbouring businesses/petrol station to ensure direct access for customers [\[48\]](#).

Mount Isa, Rates

Mr Katter, from 658 petitioners, requesting the House to ease the financial burden on Mount Isa ratepayers who have been forced to pay a massive rates increase to access drinking water due to the drought related issues [\[49\]](#).

Eagleby South State School, Playground Facilities

Mr Crandon, from 7 petitioners, requesting the House to assist the development of a suitable playground area within the Eagleby South State School for use by the school's young students [\[50\]](#).

Eagleby South State School, Playground Facilities

Mr Crandon, from 124 petitioners, requesting the House to assist the development of a second multipurpose court within the Eagleby State School [\[51\]](#).

Firearms, Licensing

Mr Gibson, the former member for Gympie, from 2,272 petitioners, requesting the House to reduce red tape by and allow licensed shooters to acquire the firearms in the category they are licensed for [\[52\]](#).

Mandatory Sentencing

Mrs Cunningham, the former member for Gladstone, from 433 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce mandatory sentencing for home invaders, incorporating three levels of offences [\[53\]](#).

Redland Bay Community Care Unit

Hon. Miller, from 93 petitioners, requesting the House to open the Redland Bay community care unit [\[54\]](#).

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

Calamvale, Beaudesert Road Development, Access

98 petitioners, requesting the House to support access to the development of Lots 2222 and 2226 Beaudesert Road, Calamvale via a service road directly from Beaudesert Road [\[55\]](#).

Taxi Industry, Ride-Sharing Applications

2,902 petitioners, requesting the House to enforce all ridesharing apps comply with existing government regulations and ensure any ride sharing app or taxi-related service that does not meet regulations remains illegal in Queensland [\[56\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE 54TH PARLIAMENT

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received after the last sitting day of the 54th Parliament on 27 November 2014, and prior to the dissolution of the 54th Parliament on 6 January 2015, were tabled on the dates indicated—

28 November 2014—

- [6648](#) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions—Annual Report 2013-14
- [6649](#) Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal—Annual Report 2013-14
- [6650](#) Sixteenth Annual Report of the Queensland Public Interest Monitor—Annual Report 2013-14
- [6651](#) Response from the Minister for Health (Mr Springborg) to a paper petition (2326-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 689 petitioners, requesting the House to retain the parcel of land at Mill Road, Edmonton which has been strategically acquired for the provision of future hospital health and services for the greater Cairns area
- [6652](#) Response from the Minister for Health (Mr Springborg) to a paper petition (2332-14) presented by Mr Bennett, from 474 petitioners requesting the House to review the Health Legislation Amendment Bill and not regulate personal vaporisers as smoking products under the Tobacco Act
- [6653](#) Response from the Minister for Health (Mr Springborg) to an ePetition (2314-14) presented by Mr Bennett, from 363 petitioners requesting the House to review the Health Legislation Amendment Bill and not regulate personal vaporisers as smoking products under the Tobacco Act
- [6654](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 57—Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 August 2014 and 9 September 2014
- [6655](#) Adult Guardian—Annual Report 2013-14
- [6656](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Infrastructure (Busway) Regulation 2002
- [6657](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 61—Subordinate legislation tabled between 27 August 2014 and 9 September 2014
- [6658](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 82—Inquiry on strategies to prevent and reduce criminal activity in Queensland
- [6659](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 82—Inquiry on strategies to prevent and reduce criminal activity in Queensland—submissions received in relation to the inquiry

1 December 2014—

- [6660](#) Response from the Minister for Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (Ms Davis) to a paper petition (2335-14) and an ePetition (2251-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and 119(4), from 1,087 and 169 petitioners respectively requesting the House to ensure that all Queensland Child Care Centres/Services and their staff are included as mandated notifiers in Queensland's Legislation and that this new mandatory legislation should be known as Mason's Law—honouring Mason John Parker
- [6661](#) Report on the administration of the Nature Conservation Act 1992—2013-14
- [6662](#) Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee: Report No. 59—Inquiry into coastal sea freight

4 December 2014—

- [6663](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 24—Police Powers and Responsibilities (Motor Vehicle Impoundment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6664](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 30—Liquor and Gaming (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6665](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 31—Industrial Relations (Transparency and Accountability of Industrial Organisations) and Other Acts Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry

- [6666](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 23—Criminal Law (Child Exploitation and Dangerous Drugs) Amendment Bill 2012—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6667](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 28—Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (Justices of the Peace) Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6668](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 27—Criminal Law Amendment Bill (No. 2) 2012—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6669](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 40—Criminal Code (Looting in Declared Areas) Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6670](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 26—Criminal Proceeds Confiscation (Unexplained Wealth and Serious Drug Offender Confiscation Order) Amendment Bill 2012—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6671](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 47—Classification of Publications (Billboard Advertising) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6672](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 39—Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6673](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 49—Identification Laws Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6674](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 41—G20 (Safety and Security) Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6675](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 44—Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6676](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 57—Child Protection (Offender Reporting—Publication of Information) Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6677](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 45—Industrial Relations (Fair Work Act Harmonisation No. 2) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6678](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 60—Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6679](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 63—Criminal Code (Cheating at Gambling) Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6680](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 74—Oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner, government response
- [6681](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 62—Auditor-General Reports: Private practice arrangements in Queensland public hospitals
- 5 December 2014—
- [6682](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 48—Penalties and Sentences (Indexation) Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6683](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 46—Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6684](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 51—Property Occupations Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6685](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 52—Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6686](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 53—Debt Collectors (Field Agents and Collection Agents) Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6687](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 54—Agents Financial Administration Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6688](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 55—Fair Trading Inspectors Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6689](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 56—Electoral Reform Amendment Bill 2013—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6690](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 58—Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6691](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 61—Public Safety Business Agency Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6692](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 65—Construction and Tourism (Red Tape Reduction) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6693](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 62—Crime and Misconduct and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry

- [6694](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 66—Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6695](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 68—Criminal Law Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6696](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 71—Land Sales and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6697](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 70—Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6698](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 76—Disaster Management Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6699](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 80—Weapons (Digital 3D and Printed Firearms) Amendment Bill 2014—submissions received in relation to the inquiry
- [6700](#) District Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2013-14
- 8 December 2014—
- [6701](#) Director of Mental Health—Annual Report 2013-14
- 9 December 2014—
- [6702](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 7: 2014-15—Results of audit: Queensland state government financial statements 2013-14
- [6703](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 8: 2014-15—Traveltrain renewal: Sunlander 14
- [6704](#) Office of the Public Advocate—Annual Report 2013-14
- [6705](#) Hansard 150 celebration, Monday 25 August 2014, collation of some of the written speeches given at the event
- 10 December 2014—
- [6706](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 55—Consideration of Department of the Premier and Cabinet Annual Report 2013-14
- [6707](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 56—Consideration of Queensland Treasury and Trade Annual Report 2013-14
- [6708](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 57—Inquiry into Public Sector Contract Extensions
- [6709](#) Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009—Annual Report 2012—2013
- 11 December 2014—
- [6710](#) Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee: Report No. 45—Rail freight use by the agriculture and livestock industries, final government response
- [6711](#) Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee: Report No. 53—Inquiry into Auditor-General's Report No. 15: 2013-14 Environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries
- 12 December 2014—
- [6712](#) Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia—Joint Standing Committee on Treaties—Report No. 145: Treaty tabled 26 August and 2 September 2014
- [6713](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services (Mr Dempsey) to ePetition (2316-14): Member for Gympie, Mr Gibson, from 201 petitioners, requesting the House to engage with Queensland's Australian Volunteer Coast Guard to formulate a sustainable funding model that reflects the valuable work undertaken by volunteers of this organisation
- [6714](#) Letter, dated 12 December 2014, from the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties to the Speaker, regarding treaties tabled on 24 November 2014 and 2 December 2014
- [6715](#) Children's Court of Queensland Annual Report 2013—2014
- [6716](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 55—Inquiry into telehealth services in Queensland, government response
- 16 December 2014—
- [6717](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 9: 2014-15—2018 Commonwealth Games: progress
- [6718](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 10: 2014-15—Bushfire prevention and preparedness

[6719](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie) to a paper petition (2341-14) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 31 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Legal Profession Act to provide individuals holding legal qualifications and unemployed lawyers who possess a restricted practising certificate to perform basic legal services for fee or reward

[6720](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr Bleijie) to an ePetition (2337-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 361 petitioners, requesting the House to protect the family nature of the suburb of Acacia Ridge and say no to the application for an adult entertainment permit to introduce sexually explicit entertainment by the Acacia Ridge Hotel

17 December 2014—

[6721](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience (Mr Crisafulli) to an ePetition (2291-14) sponsored by Mr Watts, from 104 petitioners, requesting the House to change the traffic zoning on Bridge Street Toowoomba, just east of Fairholme Street intersection through to Simla Street intersection, from 60 km/h to a school zoned 40 km/h

[6722](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience (Mr Crisafulli) to a paper petition (2344-14) and an ePetition (2298-14) sponsored by Mr Stevens, from 195 petitioners, requesting the House to restrict the powers of local government in section 36(1) of the Local Government Act to recognise the limited functions for which local governments should assume responsibility

[6723](#) Cairns Hinterland and Hospital Health Service—Health Service Investigation, Final Report, 12 December 2014

18 December 2014—

[6724](#) Response from the Minister for Energy and Water Supply (Mr McArdle) to an ePetition (2285-14) sponsored by Mr Pitt, from 893 petitioners, requesting the House to not close Lake Kurwongbah to water skiing and to allow shared use of the lake

[6725](#) Supreme Court of Queensland Annual Report—2013-14

19 December 2014—

[6726](#) Health and Community Services Committee—Report No. 63—Queensland Health—eHealth Program—Auditor-General's Report to Parliament No. 4 for 2012-13

[6727](#) Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority Reports for the periods 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2013

[6728](#) Response from the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Dr McVeigh) to an ePetition (2274-14) sponsored by Mr Choat, from 2,587 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a Queensland Pest and Game Management Authority to manage licensed conservation hunting of game and pest animals on public land and to assist with an effective integrated pest management program

[6729](#) Education and Care Services Ombudsman, National Education and Care Services, Freedom of Information and Privacy Commissioners—Annual Report 2013-14

[6730](#) Crime and Corruption Commission: Review of the operation of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008, December 2014

[6731](#) Report by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Mr Seeney), pursuant to section 432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application, Austcorp Residential Development, Coral Cove

[6732](#) Report by the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (Mr Seeney), pursuant to section 432 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application, Austcorp Residential Development, Coral Cove, Annexures A-F

5 January 2015—

[6733](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works (Mr Mander) to a paper petition (2348-14) and an ePetition (2284-14) sponsored by Hon. Palaszczuk, from 78 and 269 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to call on the Minister for Housing and Public Works to reverse his decision to enforce a four-week only leave policy on public housing tenants

[6734](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2346-14) presented by Mr Young, from 449 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a secure drop off zone and car parking for the Farnborough State School

[6735](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2345-14) presented by Mrs Ostapovitch, from 223 petitioners, requesting the House to support access to the development of Lots 2222 and 2226 Beaudesert Road, Calamvale via a service road directly from Beaudesert Road

[6736](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2347-14) and an ePetition (2318-14) sponsored by Mr Dillaway, from 89 and 50 petitioners respectively requesting the House to provide additional parking for commuters using the Cleveland Train Line by expanding current park-and-ride facilities at Murarrie train station

[6737](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to a paper petition (2342-14) and an ePetition (2312-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and 119(4), from 1,513 and 253 petitioners respectively requesting the House to implement measures to address the traffic congestion for Upper Ross residents on Riverway Drive as a matter of priority

- [6738](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to an ePetition (2390-14) sponsored by Mr Molhoek from 10,379 petitioners, requesting the House to deliver the Gold Coast Light Rail connection with heavy rail at Parkwood or Helensvale in time for the 2018 Commonwealth Games and the connections to Burleigh and Gold Coast Airport be funded and completed as priority infrastructure projects this decade
- [6739](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Mr Emerson) to an ePetition (2311-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 104 petitioners, requesting the House to consider as a matter of urgency the upgrading to dual lanes on Cleveland-Redland Bay Road from German Church Road north to South Street, Cleveland
- [6740](#) Queensland Local Government Grants Commission—Annual Report 2013-14
- [6741](#) Response from the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Affairs and Minister Assisting the Premier (Mr Elmes) to an ePetition (2330-14) sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 9 petitioners, requesting the House to collaborate with local government and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs to secure funding for a memorial for previously unrecognised fallen heroes killed in action during WW1 and to deliver this memorial as part of the Yeppoon Centenary of ANZAC celebrations

PAPERS TABLED PRIOR TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE 55TH PARLIAMENT

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received after the dissolution of the 54th Parliament on 6 January 2015, and before the constitution of the 55th Parliament on 24 March 2015, were tabled in accordance with s 59A of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and Standing Order 31, on the dates indicated—

13 January 2015—

- [3](#) Electoral Commission of Queensland: Electronically assisted voting procedures (refer to Subordinate legislation No. 1 of 2015)

14 January 2015—

- [4](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 53—Annual Report 2013-2014, interim government response

22 January 2015—

- [5](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 80—Weapons (Digital 3D and Printed Firearms) Amendment Bill 2014, interim government response

23 January 2015—

- [6](#) State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee: Report No. 52—Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol) Amendment Bill 2014, interim government response

6 February 2015—

- [7](#) End of Session Report, 54th Parliament, Office of the Speaker, January 2015

19 February 2015—

- [8](#) Education and Innovation Committee: Report No. 42—Review of state school attendance rates, interim government response

27 February 2015—

- [9](#) Statement for Public Disclosure: expenditure of the Office of the Speaker for the period 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2014

- [10](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 82—Inquiry on strategies to prevent and reduce criminal activity in Queensland, interim government response

4 March 2015—

- [11](#) Health and Community Services Committee: Report No. 62—Auditor-General Reports: Private practice arrangements in Queensland public hospitals, interim government response

5 March 2015—

- [12](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal: Review of Salary Levels of Members of the Queensland Parliament, Determination 7/2015, 5 March 2015

9 March 2015—

- [13](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 57—Inquiry into Public Sector Contract Extensions, interim government response

11 March 2015—

- [14](#) Letter, dated 23 February 2015, from the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties to the Speaker, regarding a treaty tabled on 30 September 2014

- [15](#) Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia—Joint Standing Committee on Treaties—Report No. 146: Treaty tabled on 30 September 2014

- [16](#) Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee: Report No. 53—Inquiry into Auditor-General's Report No. 15: 2013-14 Environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries, government response

17 March 2015—

- [17](#) Torres Strait Protected Zone Joint Authority—Annual Report 2010-11
- [18](#) Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority—Reports for the periods 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014

23 March 2015—

- [19](#) Letter, dated 20 November 2014, from the Speaker of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Commons of the Canadian Parliament, acknowledging the Queensland Parliament's sympathy for the events of October 2014
- [20](#) Office of the Speaker—Speaker & Security at Parliament report, March 2015
- [21](#) Letter, dated 16 March 2015, from the Chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties to the Speaker, regarding treaties tabled on 3 March 2015 and 5 March 2015

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT TABLED PRIOR TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE 55TH PARLIAMENT

The Clerk informed the House that the following statutory instruments, received after the dissolution of the 54th Parliament on 6 January 2015, and before the constitution of the 55th Parliament on 24 March 2015, were tabled in accordance with s 59A of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and Standing Order 31, on the dates indicated—

13 January 2015—

- [1](#) Electoral Act 1992 : Electoral Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 1
- [2](#) Electoral Act 1992 : Electoral Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 1, explanatory notes

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The Clerk tabled the following statutory instruments, received during the recess—

Economic Development Act 2012—

- [57](#) Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2014, No. 274
- [58](#) Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2014, No. 274, explanatory notes
- [59](#) Document, dated November 2014 titled 'Queen's Wharf Brisbane Priority Development Area, Interim Land Use Plan' (refer to Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2014: Subordinate Legislation No. 274 of 2014)
- [60](#) Document, Regulatory Map Queen's Wharf Brisbane Priority Development Area (refer to Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2014: Subordinate Legislation No. 274 of 2014)

Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Act 1971—

- [61](#) Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 275
- [62](#) Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 275, explanatory notes

Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001, Education (General Provisions) Act 2006—

- [63](#) Education Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 276
- [64](#) Education Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 276, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [65](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 277
- [66](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 277, explanatory notes

Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [67](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 278
- [68](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 278, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [69](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014, No. 279
- [70](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014, No. 279, explanatory notes

Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000—

- [71](#) Police Powers and Responsibilities Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 280
- [72](#) Police Powers and Responsibilities Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 280, explanatory notes

Stock Act 1915—

- [73](#) Stock Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 281
- [74](#) Stock Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 281, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

- [75](#) Fisheries Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 282
- [76](#) Fisheries Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 282, explanatory notes

Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2014—

- [77](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 284
- [78](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 284, explanatory notes

Family Responsibilities Commission Amendment Act 2014—

- [79](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 285
- [80](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 285, explanatory notes

Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008—

- [81](#) Family Responsibilities Commission Regulation 2014, No. 286
- [82](#) Family Responsibilities Commission Regulation 2014, No. 286, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994—

- [83](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 287
- [84](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 287, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [85](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 8) 2014, No. 288
- [86](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 8) 2014, No. 288, explanatory notes

Local Government Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [87](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 289
- [88](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 289, explanatory notes

City of Brisbane Act 2010, Local Government Act 2009, Local Government Electoral Act 2011—

- [89](#) Local Government Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 290
- [90](#) Local Government Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 290, explanatory notes

Forestry and Another Act Amendment Act 2014—

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

Nature Conservation Act 1992, Recreation Areas Management Act 2006—

- [93](#) Recreation Areas Management and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 292
- [94](#) Recreation Areas Management and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 292, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975—

- [95](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014, No. 293
- [96](#) Building Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014, No. 293, explanatory notes

Professional Standards Act 2004—

- [97](#) Professional Standards (CPA Australia Limited Professional Standards Scheme) Notice (No. 2) 2014, No. 294
- [98](#) Professional Standards (CPA Australia Limited Professional Standards Scheme) Notice (No. 2) 2014, No. 294, explanatory notes
- [99](#) CPA Australia Limited Professional Standards Scheme

Building Act 1975, Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990—

- [100](#) Building Fire Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 296
- [101](#) Building Fire Safety Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 296, explanatory notes

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003—

- [102](#) Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 297
- [103](#) Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 297, explanatory notes

Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2014—

- [104](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 298
- [105](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 298, explanatory notes

Education and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [106](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 299
- [107](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 299, explanatory notes

Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001, Education (General Provisions) Act 2006—

- [108](#) Education Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 300
- [109](#) Education Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 300, explanatory notes

Economic Development Act 2012—

- [110](#) Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2014, No. 301
- [111](#) Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2014, No. 301, explanatory notes
- [112](#) Document, dated December 2014 titled 'Toowoomba Railway Parklands Priority Development Area, Interim Land Use Plan' (refer to Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2014: Subordinate Legislation No. 301 of 2014)
- [113](#) Document, Regulatory Map Toowoomba Railway Parklands Priority Development Area (refer to Economic Development Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2014: Subordinate Legislation No. 301 of 2014)

Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [114](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 302
- [115](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 302, explanatory notes

Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014—

- [116](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 306
- [117](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 306, explanatory notes

Land Act 1994—

- [118](#) Land Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 307
- [119](#) Land Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 307, explanatory notes

Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [120](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 308
- [121](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 308, explanatory notes

Professional Engineers Act 2002, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991—

- [122](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 309
- [123](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 309, explanatory notes

Building and Construction Industry Payments Amendment Act 2014—

- [124](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 310
- [125](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 310, explanatory notes

Building and Construction Industry Payments Act 2004—

- [126](#) Building and Construction Industry Payments Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 311
- [127](#) Building and Construction Industry Payments Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 311, explanatory notes

Legal Profession Act 2007—

- [128](#) Legal Profession Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 312
- [129](#) Legal Profession Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 312, explanatory notes

Security Providers Act 1993—

- [130](#) Security Providers Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 314
- [131](#) Security Providers Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 314, explanatory notes

Wagering Act 1998—

- [132](#) Wagering Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 315
- [133](#) Wagering Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 315, explanatory notes

Industrial Relations Act 1999—

- [134](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2014, No. 316
- [135](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No. 6) 2014, No. 316, explanatory notes

Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [136](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 317
- [137](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 317, explanatory notes

Liquor Act 1992—

- [138](#) Liquor Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2014, No. 318
- [139](#) Liquor Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2014, No. 318, explanatory notes

Liquor Act 1992, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [140](#) Liquor and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 319
- [141](#) Liquor and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 319, explanatory notes

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991—

- [142](#) Uniform Civil Procedure and Another Rule Amendment Rule (No. 1) 2014, No. 320
- [143](#) Uniform Civil Procedure and Another Rule Amendment Rule (No. 1) 2014, No. 320, explanatory notes

Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013—

- [144](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 321
- [145](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 321, explanatory notes

Magistrates Courts Act 1921—

- [146](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection Rules 2014, No. 322
- [147](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection Rules 2014, No. 322, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [148](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 323
- [149](#) State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 323, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

- [150](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 324
- [151](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Driver Licensing) and Another Regulation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 324, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [152](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2014, No. 325
- [153](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2014, No. 325, explanatory notes

Weapons Act 1990—

- [154](#) Weapons Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 326
- [155](#) Weapons Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 326, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

- [156](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 8) 2014, No. 327
- [157](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment Amendment Regulation (No. 8) 2014, No. 327, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

- [158](#) Fisheries Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 328
- [159](#) Fisheries Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2014, No. 328, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

- [160](#) Water Resource Plans Amendment Plan (No. 2) 2014, No. 331
- [161](#) Water Resource Plans Amendment Plan (No. 2) 2014, No. 331, explanatory notes

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004—

- [162](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014, No. 332
- [163](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014, No. 332, explanatory notes

Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [164](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 333
- [165](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 333, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Sustainable Planning Act 2009, Water Act 2000—

- [166](#) Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 334
- [167](#) Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 334, explanatory notes

Electricity Competition and Protection Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [168](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 335
- [169](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 335, explanatory notes

National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014—

- [170](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 336
- [171](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 336, explanatory notes

Electricity—National Scheme (Queensland) Act 1997—

- [172](#) Electricity—National Scheme (Queensland) Regulation 2014, No. 337
- [173](#) Electricity—National Scheme (Queensland) Regulation 2014, No. 337, explanatory notes

Electrical Safety Act 2002, Electricity Act 1994, Energy and Water Ombudsman Act 2006, Gas Supply Act 2003, Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997—

- [174](#) National Energy Retail Law (Consequential Amendments) Regulation 2014, No. 338
- [175](#) National Energy Retail Law (Consequential Amendments) Regulation 2014, No. 338, explanatory notes

National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Act 2014—

- [176](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Regulation 2014, No. 339
- [177](#) National Energy Retail Law (Queensland) Regulation 2014, No. 339, explanatory notes

National Gas (Queensland) Act 2008—

- [178](#) National Gas (Queensland) Regulation 2014, No. 340
- [179](#) National Gas (Queensland) Regulation 2014, No. 340, explanatory notes

Housing Act 2003—

- [180](#) Housing Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014, No. 341
- [181](#) Housing Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2014, No. 341, explanatory notes

Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008—

- [182](#) Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 342
- [183](#) Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2014, No. 342, explanatory notes

Major Events Act 2014, Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000—

- [184](#) Major Events (AFC Asian Cup) Regulation 2014, No. 343
- [185](#) Major Events (AFC Asian Cup) Regulation 2014, No. 343, explanatory notes

Legal Profession Act 2007—

- [186](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2014, No. 344
- [187](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice (No. 2) 2014, No. 344, explanatory notes

Parliamentary Service Act 1988—

[188](#) Parliamentary Service Amendment Rule (No. 1) 2014, No. 345

[189](#) Parliamentary Service Amendment Rule (No. 1) 2014, No. 345, explanatory notes

Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

[190](#) Proclamation amending previous proclamation, No. 2

[191](#) Proclamation amending previous proclamation, No. 2, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Sustainable Planning Act 2009, Water Act 2000—

[192](#) Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 3

[193](#) Water and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 3, explanatory notes

Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002—

[194](#) Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 4

[195](#) Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 4, explanatory notes

Plant Protection Act 1989—

[196](#) Plant Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 5

[197](#) Plant Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2015, No. 5, explanatory notes

MEMBER'S PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following member's papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Inala (Ms Palaszczuk)—

[198](#) Letter, undated, from the Leader of the Opposition (Ms Palaszczuk) to the Integrity Commissioner (Mr Richard Bingham) regarding meetings with registered lobbyists during the month of September 2014

[199](#) Opposition Diary—Leader of the Opposition, 1 September 2014—30 September 2014

PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following papers, received on the dates indicated after the dissolution of the 54th Parliament on 6 January 2015 and before the constitution of the 55th Parliament on 24 March 2015, were tabled by the Clerk—

6 January 2015—

[200](#) Proclamation (Dissolution of Parliament) dated 6 January 2014

9 January 2015—

[201](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an overseas visit by the Treasurer and Minister for Trade (Mr Nicholls) to Singapore and Indonesia, 6-13 December 2014

27 February 2015—

[202](#) Transport, Housing and Local Government Committee: Report No. 59—Inquiry into Coastal Sea Freight, interim government response

REPORT TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

Report pursuant to Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any Bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

[203](#) **Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2014**

Amendments made to Bill*

Clause 2 (Commencement)—

Page 32, line 17, 'section 235(3)'—

Omit, Insert—

section 235(3).

Clause 68 (Insertion of new ch 2)—

Page 160, line 4, 'licence'—

Omit, Insert—

Licence

* The clause, page and line number references relate to the Bill, after amendments made in consideration in detail unless stated otherwise.

MOTION

Confidence in Palaszczuk Labor Government



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (10.20 am): I move—

That this House expresses its confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Mr Speaker, on 31 January, Queensland voters had a stark choice. They had a choice between a party whose long and expensive list of election commitments was based on asset sales and one that had modest, yet carefully costed and fully funded promises that did not rely on asset sales. They had a choice between a party that never listened and one that has spent the past three years listening and has made a commitment to calm, steady and responsive government based on a consensus approach. They had a choice between a party that had spent three years dividing our state and talking it down and one that wants to unite Queenslanders and take a positive approach to build on our state's strengths. On 31 January, voters made their decision to reject the LNP. It was not a subtle or a vague rejection; it was a comprehensive and definitive rejection that saw Labor make history by leaping from holding seven seats at the 2012 election to holding 44 seats at this year's election. After the election, I was asked by the Governor, His Excellency Paul de Jersey, to form government. I told His Excellency that I could do so with the support of the Independent member for Nicklin. Today, I am seeking an expression of confidence by this House to enable me to deliver stable government for the coming three years.

In the post-election period, Queenslanders witnessed the embarrassing spectacle of the Leader of the Opposition struggling for relevance. But what every Queenslander also saw was the simple numerical fact that the party opposite simply could not form government. What is worse and more embarrassing is the equally simple fact that the party opposite now has no plans, no policies and no ideas for governing Queensland. This opposition comes here today with its policy cupboard totally bare. Once it disowned its previous immovable commitment to asset sales, it was left with no feathers to fly. Yet today it will no doubt try to suggest that it should be sitting on this side of the House.

What our state needs and what was missing for three years is a government that listens, a government that wants to work with Queenslanders and a government that will talk up our state, not denigrate it at every opportunity just to play cheap politics. What was missing for the past three years was confidence. You do not instil confidence in state and regional economies by cutting the jobs of up to 24,000 workers. You do not instil confidence in business and others who create new jobs by constantly ringing false alarm bells about the state of Queensland's finances and its economy and you cannot create confidence if you spend three years playing the blame game and arguing with anyone who seeks to disagree with you.

My government will deliver confidence to this state. We will deliver confidence to business and industry, to workers, to individuals and to families and especially to those seeking jobs and training. That all begins by delivering sound and stable government. It begins with a commitment to a steady and measured implementation of our policies and our commitments.

My government got down to work on day one. At our very first cabinet meeting we put job creation front and centre of our agenda. This government is focused on job creation and implementing our Working Queensland jobs plan. The creation of secure jobs with fair wages and conditions is my government's clear priority. I have said previously that we face big economic challenges in tackling unemployment, including the current low coal prices and sluggish economic conditions among our major trading partners. But that means that we will need to work that bit harder to secure more jobs for Queenslanders, more training opportunities for those seeking or changing jobs and help business and industry to create the jobs for the future.

Since becoming Premier I have already met with many business and industry groups and my message is a simple one: my government will work with the private sector to create jobs and I want the private sector to have job creation as a priority too. More Queenslanders in secure jobs means a stronger state economy now and into the future. State cabinet has already endorsed our Working Queensland jobs plan and its individual employment policy elements. We have also established a powerful Employment Committee of Cabinet that has already met to ensure a whole-of-government approach to job creation. The new Employment Committee of Cabinet includes me as Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and Minister for Employment and the Minister for Training.

Our Working Queensland jobs plan includes the reinstatement of Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs, with funding of \$240 million over four years. This is expected to help some 32,000 Queenslanders back into the workforce. It is unbelievable that those opposite fully supported the now shadow Treasurer's decision to abolish all of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs across this state over the past three years. We can all recall that that happened just days before independent consultants delivered their report showing that those programs delivered \$8 in benefits for the community for every \$1 that they took to run. So the current shadow Treasurer actively abolished a program that had a track record of success in training and employing Queenslanders. What is worse is that that happened with the 100 per cent backing of the current Leader of the Opposition and many others of those opposite who were in government at that time. Yet again, those opposite now have no plans and in office their only plan was to slash and burn regardless.

My government will implement its Advance Queensland program with funding of \$50 million over three years. It will reinvigorate science and innovation and create the well-paid knowledge based jobs of the future. Advance Queensland will also support researchers to stay in our state, stopping the brain drain so that our state benefits from their expertise. My government will invest \$40 million over four years in a Business Development Fund to help start-up firms create the jobs of tomorrow. We want to harness ideas, we want to foster innovation and we will invest in innovation in our state. We want to take the bright ideas of those in the business community and turn them into new opportunities, new jobs and new export income for our state.

We also have plans to generate jobs through new infrastructure projects funded under the Building Our Regions program, including a \$100 million contribution to a new sports stadium for North Queensland in Townsville. I know that the members for Townsville are very happy about this initiative. Those opposite actively neglected and ran down our TAFE system. We will rescue TAFE and restore its status as Queensland's leading vocational training organisation to help people get the training they need to get a job. We want to tackle the high levels of youth employment that are evident in so many parts of our state and, unlike those opposite, we have fully costed and fully funded plans to do so. As I travelled across the state over the last three years and during the election campaign, I was struck by how high that youth unemployment rate was in our regional centres and that those opposite over the last three years failed to do anything that would help those young people in our regional communities get the jobs that they deserve.

There was no hope; there was no opportunity. This government is committed to restoring hope and opportunity for those young people across the state. We have already announced an incentive to increase apprenticeships and traineeships through a 25 per cent payroll tax rebate worth \$45 million over three years. We also plan to ensure 10 per cent of workers on major government projects are apprentices or trainees, including those undertaken by government owned corporations. We will be establishing Jobs Queensland, a roundtable body to advise on workforce and training needs. We will be establishing Building Queensland to ensure major capital works projects worth \$50 million or more meet community demand and deliver jobs as well as value for money for taxpayers. This will make sure new major projects deliver best value for our taxpayers.

That stands in stark contrast to the sloppy and thoughtless use of taxpayers' funds exhibited by those opposite over the past three years. A case in point is the 1 William Street project that the Auditor-General reports show will cost taxpayers \$2.6 billion over the next 10 to 15 years, even though the taxpayers in our state will never own the building. This is the so-called good deal the former Treasurer devised—once again fully supported by the current Leader of the Opposition and all the former cabinet ministers sitting opposite. The \$2.6 billion for taxpayers includes a rent bill for the new Executive Building of \$1.2 billion over the next decade.

In addition to creating jobs and strengthening our economy, Labor will repair the damage that the LNP did in just three years to our system of integrity and accountability in government. We will be reversing the LNP's laws allowing massive secret donations which were backed by the Leader of the Opposition.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Those opposite do not want to hear about accountability and integrity, Mr Speaker.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will restore the independence of the anti-corruption watchdog in this state. We will not erode it as was done by the bungling former Attorney-General sitting opposite and the Leader of the Opposition who presumably cheered him on in the cabinet room. We will not sack the parliamentary committee overseeing the corruption watchdog in Queensland. My Attorney-General will consult on appointments to the judiciary with stakeholders such as the Bar Association and the Law Society of Queensland. We will have a merit based selection process for directors-general. We will not be appointing mates to those highly sought-after positions.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Michael Caltabiano! There is the former minister for transport over there. Michael Caltabiano—we all know how that ended. We will restore the estimates process in this state because my ministers are not afraid of accountability. We will treat this House with respect because this is the people's House.

This government will reverse the neglect and savage attacks on front-line services that were the hallmark of the previous government. We outlined a range of plans in the election campaign to do so and we have already started to put them into action. We also have plans to protect our greatest natural asset, the Great Barrier Reef. It supports 60,000 jobs and generates \$6 billion in economic activity. We must preserve it for this and future generations.

I have outlined just a few elements of the plans we have for our state, plans that we will implement over the next three years. On this side of the House we have clear plans, costed plans, funded plans and we have already started to implement them. But what do we see opposite us here today? We see a party that has nothing to offer. Just about every commitment it made to Queenslanders relied on asset sales. As we said consistently for three years, Queenslanders do not like and do not want asset sales. We said it over and over and over again. We heard the message in 2012; we listened. But did those opposite listen? No, they did not. They did not listen to Queenslanders. Now they sit there with not a single plan of their own for the future of Queensland. Nothing. Not even a plan for a plan. The post-election period must have been one of the few times in political history when a major party tried to argue it should form government with a program consisting entirely of a blank sheet of paper. Since the election the opposition can offer absolutely nothing.

The Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues are in denial. Before the election they were all 100 per cent behind asset sales. They were 100 per cent behind the attacks on Queenslanders that were the hallmark of the former government. They were 100 per cent behind the attacks on Queensland itself and its economy. They supported the massive waste of taxpayers' funds on the Strong Choices advertising campaign that spread misinformation so thick that the voters clearly rejected it. Since the election those opposite suddenly think that having no plans, no policies and no ideas qualifies them to govern this state. It simply does not.

Our greatest asset is the people of Queensland. No matter where they live in our vast state my government will look after the people of Queensland first and foremost. We will show that there is a better way for Queensland. At this point in Queensland's history what is needed most is confidence in our state, confidence in its people and confidence in its future. We need a government that can deliver that confidence even in the face of what we can already see is going to be relentlessly negative attacks from those opposite. Those of us on this side of the House will reject the negativity of those opposite. When it comes to confidence in our state, confidence in its people and confidence in its future, my government can deliver it. My government will deliver it and my government has already started delivering it.

A key to good government is goodwill. Today I want to take this opportunity to thank Queenslanders for the goodwill, support and trust they have shown to me and my government. I am honoured to be standing here today as Premier and leader of a government that has confidence in our state and in our future. I say to Queenslanders that I will work tirelessly to live up to your expectations. This is a government that will listen. We will always respect and govern in the best interests of Queenslanders.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (10.38 am): Mr Speaker, can I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment to the high office of Speaker of the parliament. Can I also state how honoured I am to second this motion moved by the Premier and to place on record in this place that this honour is only possible because I have the confidence and support of the people of South Brisbane to stand in this place. I thank the people of South Brisbane for their support and confidence in me. I know that over the past three years the many things that

were done to my community by the Newman LNP government made them lose confidence in those opposite—things like the axing of the literary awards; the wind-back of civil unions without any consultation; the lack of action around Great Barrier Reef protection; trying to close the Dutton Park train station, a train station that directly adjoins the PA Hospital, one of the largest tertiary hospitals in Queensland; the axing of a number of bus routes; and let us not forget the number of public servants who live in my electorate who were still coming to visit me late last term who still had not been able to secure employment after being sacked by the Newman government after the former Premier stood up and said public servants had nothing to fear from an LNP government.

I place on record my deep gratitude for and thanks to the people of South Brisbane for giving me their confidence and their support to stand in this place. Ultimately, the result of the 31 January state election sent a message to all politicians from both sides of the House—all politicians. It is a message that we heard in 2012 and it is a message that I hope those people opposite heard on 31 January. The message was quite clear: you cannot take the support and the confidence of the people of Queensland and come into this place and trash it, and then expect them to support you in three years time. It will not happen and it did not happen on 31 January.

I can tell the House why it did happen under Anastacia Palaszczuk's leadership and why it did happen for Labor on 31 January. In three long hard years in this chamber, Labor worked tirelessly with only seven and then nine members to hold to account an LNP government with an absolute majority. Three years ago almost to the day, 78 members took their place in this House under the LNP banner. That was an absolute majority of more than 80 per cent and in less than three years they come back into this place having lost government. That is a stinging rebuke by any measure. The reason for that was the absolutely disgraceful and arrogant behaviour that was on display for all to see. In the three long years that we sat in opposition, we bore the brunt of that. We took the concerns, the anger and the frustration of Queenslanders from right across this state and brought those concerns into this place, only to be dismissed and ridiculed by those opposite.

Let me say quite clearly that the reason Labor has returned to this side of the House is that we heard the message in 2012 and we worked incredibly hard to restore Queenslanders' confidence in Labor. We came to the election on 31 January and won it because of that confidence. Ultimately, the Premier was able to convince the member for Nicklin that he could put his confidence in her and her government in order to produce the stability and the certainty that Queenslanders need for government to continue over the next three years.

Of course, many assertions will be made and many stories will be told about what went wrong on 31 January. I had the privilege of being on the Channel 9 election coverage panel, with the member for Surfers Paradise. A lot of commentary was put forward about what happened on 31 January. The member for Surfers Paradise said that it was just a volatile electorate; that people had just determined to wake up, having put their confidence in the LNP only three years ago, and toss them out because they were feeling a little bit agitated and a little bit angry. Let me say that that lack of insight really does bode ill for those opposite. If you are only going to blame Queenslanders for your predicament—

Mr Langbroek: Through the chair. Through the chair, Mr Speaker.

Ms TRAD: If the opposition are only going to blame Queenslanders for the predicament in which they find themselves, they will be spending many years in opposition.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: Oh really? What Queenslanders expect are governments that deliver on what they promise; what they did not get from the former LNP government is a government that delivered on its promise, particularly, the promise to govern with dignity, grace and humility. Labor will not make the same mistake as those opposite. We will honour the trust placed in us and deliver on our promise to create jobs, restore front-line services, and return integrity and accountability to government. The Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver on this promise and, as the Premier has already outlined, we will build confidence in the economy to build the jobs of the future. We will not talk down our state economy for our own political gain.

We know that when the LNP walked into this place, one of its first acts was to start talking down the Queensland economy for its own political gain to build a platform to sell assets. They had their mate from Victoria, the former federal Treasurer, Peter Costello, head up a shonky audit that went through government and essentially said, 'Well, you should actually sell everything. You can sell everything except the parliament, the people who write the legislation and perhaps the police force. Everything else is up for sale.' That did not bode well and Queenslanders did not swallow it at all.

However, they continued by delivering on their Strong Choices agenda, which also did not work for them. Fundamentally, talking down the Queensland economy and suggesting that Queensland was the Spain of Australia and that we were all in a power dive into the abyss broke confidence in the Queensland economy and it never truly recovered under the LNP.

In 2012, the LNP inherited an unemployment rate of 5.5 per cent. In October 2014, under the LNP unemployment peaked at 7.1 per cent. That was an 11-year high. When it comes to jobs, the architects of the LNP's financial management approach—the member for Southern Downs, the member for Surfers Paradise and the member for Clayfield, combined—had a strategy for the Queensland economy that resulted in a worse outcome for unemployment in Queensland than anything experienced during the global financial crisis. For that, they should hang their heads in shame.

The LNP broke the trust that they had earned from Queenslanders in 2012 when they came into this place and ruthlessly sacked more than 20,000 public servants. In my portfolio alone, 2,700 jobs were lost in TMR and QR—that is, 20 per cent of the workforce gone, just like that—after those opposite said they had nothing to fear from an LNP government. It seems the only jobs the LNP created were for mates such as Michael Caltabiano.

Labor will invest in infrastructure and programs that improve productivity, generate jobs and build economic confidence. As the Premier has already outlined, we will restore Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which was a key election commitment. We know that independent analysis from Deloitte Access Economics found that the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program paid for itself within a year through increased economic productivity and higher employment. Every dollar invested in the program generated nearly \$8 in return and it led directly to the employment of over 8,500 Queenslanders.

Unlike the LNP, we will not be constrained by only four pillars of our economy. The Advance Queensland policy is a \$50 million investment in innovation and new industries, including 100 Advance Queensland research fellowships, some of which will specifically target research that will help protect the Great Barrier Reef and stimulate new industries. The program will facilitate and improve collaboration between researchers and industries. It will also deliver on a three-year payroll tax holiday for any new companies established in Queensland as a result of the Advance Queensland research program.

Labor will also create jobs by investing in critical long-term infrastructure. We will do this by establishing Building Queensland, an independent body that will provide advice on major infrastructure projects based on cost-benefit analysis and assessment of community benefit.

We will have legislation to create Building Queensland introduced in our first 100 days in office. We will take the politics out of funding major infrastructure—unlike the former LNP government whose only major project for three years was a giant high-rise for themselves. The tower of power was more about creating a legacy for the former Premier than creating good public infrastructure. The LNP sold government owned buildings, as we have already heard, to fund a building which we will never own and which we will have to rent back. The Auditor-General slammed the project in 2013 stating—

Without a competitive sale process and given the significant difference between the book value and the sale price achieved, prima facie it raises the issue of whether the state can demonstrate that it obtained the best value for money for the assets it sold.

By establishing Building Queensland we will put an end to these sorts of bad decisions which leave the Queensland taxpayer worse off by building infrastructure that does not serve a public purpose, like the former Premier's tower of power.

But that was the problem with the LNP's plan to sell assets—the numbers never stacked up. They could not guarantee they could sell the assets in the first place, particularly when other states were taking similar assets off the sales list, and the predicted sale price changed multiple times, particularly during the election campaign. First the former government came into this place and said they could get \$33 billion for the assets. Then it went up to \$37 billion. Then during the election campaign miraculously all of these assets increased by \$10 billion and the former Premier said that he could get \$47 billion for all of these assets. But ultimately he could not convince the people of Queensland.

Despite the shaky economic ground, the LNP's infrastructure plan was funded primarily by asset sales. Queenslanders everywhere were told that if they wanted more infrastructure for the future they would have to sell the assets they had then and there. Queensland voters showed at the ballot box that they had no confidence in this plan despite the many millions of dollars the LNP spent trying to shove it down their throats.

After voters resoundingly rejected asset sales, the LNP members ditched their Strong Choices plan—or so they say. How can Queenslanders be asked to have confidence in those opposite when they have been left with no plan? As the Premier has already said, they have no plan to build and fund the critical infrastructure our state needs.

Queenslanders can have confidence that the Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver on its commitment to build the critical infrastructure we need and create the jobs Queenslanders deserve because we were honest with the electorate during the election campaign. We came with modest spending. We came with the fiscal strategy. We laid it all out for Queenslanders to see and we will deliver on that commitment.

The Palaszczuk government will not just create confidence in our economy; we will also grow confidence in our parliament. For the past three long years those opposite have run this parliament down and have in the process run the confidence of Queenslanders in this parliament down too. Queenslanders became accustomed to the LNP using this parliament as their own personal playground rather than the people's House.

Let us remember what those opposite did over the past three years. They came into this place at 11 o'clock one night and decided to sack an entire parliamentary committee because they did not like what the parliamentary committee had to say. They just sacked them. Then they rushed through legislation without any warning, without parliamentary scrutiny or public scrutiny, without any consultation. Debates were guillotined, including the LNP's own budget. The public was given only days to make submissions on complex legislation. Of course, let us not forget estimates. The number of days for estimates hearings were slashed. They were slashed so that those opposite could avoid scrutiny of poor performing ministers. Political donation disclosure limits were increased from \$1,000 to \$12,800, meaning that more than 90 per cent of political donations that were made were kept secret. Retrospective legislation was rushed through the House to later discover that it specifically benefited their LNP donor mates. Of course, let us not forget the politicisation of what should be Queensland's independent Crime and Corruption Commission. No wonder Queenslanders believed their parliament was no longer working in their interests. The LNP believed the parliament was here to serve them, not Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Labor government will restore confidence in our democratic system. We will restore openness, accountability and integrity. We will reverse the LNP's decision to lift the disclosure levels for political donations from \$1,000 to \$12,800. We will introduce laws to ensure that the disclosure of all donations to any political parties of \$1,000 or more is made retrospective to 21 November 2013. We will ensure that the appointments of the chair and the CEO of the Crime and Corruption Commission will have bipartisan support. We will limit temporary appointments of the chair, commissioners and CEO of the anti-corruption watchdog to three months unless there is bipartisan support.

We will reintroduce portfolio estimates committee hearings over seven days, ensuring each committee meets on a separate day to ensure that there is sufficient opposition scrutiny and there is sufficient media scrutiny to hold this government to account. As the Premier said, we do not shy away from scrutiny. We are happy to be accountable to this parliament and to the people of Queensland.

As I said at the outset, I am honoured to stand in this place and second the confidence motion moved by the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, because only the Premier and Labor have a plan to restore confidence in our economy and confidence in our parliament. Our government does not need to arrogantly demand people's respect. We will continue to work for it and we will continue to earn it. The stark reality is that this election showed that you cannot treat people like dirt and then expect them to vote for you in three years time. You have to bring people with you. You have to involve people in decisions, not shove it down their throats.

We heard the message and we have changed. We will collaborate and consult with Queenslanders. They may not always agree with us but they can always have confidence that we are working in their interests. For the sake of our democracy, I hope the LNP have also heard the message. I urge every member in this House to support the motion before them.

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.56 am): I start today by congratulating the honourable member for Inala on being appointed the Premier of Queensland. But that does not mean that the LNP has confidence or supports the government which she leads. Over the next 20 minutes I intend to indicate why that is the case. The member for Inala holds a very high office in this parliament and deserves to be respected as such. Each and every person who holds a position in this place deserves to be respected for what they have achieved and the fact that they have been able to win the confidence of their electorate.

The question that we have to resolve today is whether this parliament has confidence in those who sit opposite as the government of Queensland and the government of the 55th Parliament in this state. I have actually heard a range of things this morning from the leaders of the government. This started as a confidence motion and almost turned into a comedy routine. I heard the member for South Brisbane stand up and make a further stake of claim as to why she should be Premier at some future time in this parliament. I think we have seen a fair bit of that from the honourable member for South Brisbane over the last five or six weeks.

There were a couple of salient points made in their contributions this morning, in particular by the honourable member for South Brisbane. She actually said that there were lots of messages on election day—31 January this year. I reflect upon the comments of the honourable member for Mulgrave made in this parliament around 12 or 18 months ago. He said that no government that actually achieves less than 40 per cent of the vote can claim a mandate from the people of Queensland. I simply remind those opposite, as they bask in the glory of being in government, that they received 37½ per cent of the primary vote. We accept the fact that because of our electoral system—which is optional preferential—they were able to achieve 44 seats in this parliament. But I say that that does not mean that this government has an unfettered right to claim that they have an absolute mandate from the people of Queensland. Indeed, their mandate is unclear. Indeed, their mandate, because of their lack of plan, is at very best confused.

I would also like to thank the more than one million people who voted for the LNP in Queensland. It is very important that, as those opposite have thanked their supporters, we should do the same. We need to recognise and understand that many of those people were disappointed in the results and that there were things which the previous government had disappointed Queenslanders in doing. Just as any politician in this place who stands and says that they will learn the lessons, we similarly will do so.

As I indicated before, those opposite do not have an absolute, clear, unfettered mandate. It is very clear that we cannot support a government that does not have a plan. This government came to power in Queensland without a plan. Indeed, I think it requires a little bit of analysis as to what their plan was. If you look at what they put forward to the people of Queensland, it was very, very scarce at most. Indeed, their costings document was extremely limited—maybe one or two or three pages at most—because they did not expect to win. But they did win and we understand that particular reality. Having said that, there is a requirement on them to clearly outline to the people of Queensland what they intend to do over the next three years, and there are glaring omissions. There were glaring omissions during the campaign and there were glaring omissions during the Governor's speech yesterday for the opening of parliament where the narrative of this government was outlined, and we will have more to say about that tomorrow and on other days in this parliament.

This parliament is a hung parliament. No side has a clear majority, and therefore it has to operate as such. This government has come to power with 37½ per cent of the vote and relies upon the support of the honourable member for Nicklin in order to be able to govern with 45 seats—and that matter will be determined when the vote is held later today. But we also have a role to play to make sure that as an opposition we reflect upon those areas where we went wrong in government. We also have a responsibility to ensure that as we have our discussions with the people of Queensland we listen to them about the things that they liked which we did, those things that will be carried forward by members opposite during the course of this term and also the things that the people of Queensland want us to cast aside and other matters of policy consideration that they would like us to adopt along the way as well.

We intend to question. We intend to inquire. We intend to support this government when it needs supporting, and there will be significant circumstances for that throughout the course of the 55th Parliament. But we also plan to test and inquire as to what they are going to do. Indeed, we have heard from honourable members opposite this morning about the whole notion of accountability and that these new ministers are not scared. Why was it so then that when the parliamentary sitting days were laid out for us to see a couple of weeks ago they had the shortest number of parliamentary

sitting days in the last decade, and certainly also for returning or new parliaments? That does not indicate to me a government that is considering its role properly and accountably here in this place or a government that was very confident in being able to portray itself and its plans and defend them to the people of Queensland in this place. I do not believe that was the case. Indeed, after raising those concerns, this government was then forced to schedule an extra sitting day tomorrow. So let us not have this complete and absolute revisionism that happens so much in this place and as we have heard so much from members opposite today.

It is also very interesting as this government tries to defend and claim a mandate to look at what it inherited. I remember walking into the health minister's office in April 2012 and it was very, very interesting. I walked into the health minister's office after a time when even the former Labor Premier of Queensland, Anna Bligh, said that Health in this state was a basket case and could not be fixed. It needed to be torn asunder. It was running a \$300 million budget deficit. There were 62,500 Queenslanders on the long-wait dental waiting list—some of them waiting up to 10 years and even longer. There was a significant increase in the number of people on the waiting list for the waiting list over the previous six years of this government—from 120,000 in 2006 to 132,000 in 2012, escalating at 15 per cent a year with no plan.

Indeed, what was said by Dr Ken Donald and others when they conducted a review of the previous government's management of waiting lists in this state at the behest of the previous government? They said that there was no plan, that there was no commitment. The Minister for Health can check this because these briefing notes are available to him. There was no plan. They had no care. On the Gold Coast they simply marked people as 'never, ever, ever to be seen'. Indeed, at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, with regard to the ophthalmology waiting list, people in category 3 were marked as 'never, ever to be seen' and so were others in the vascular clinic. That was done under this government as they hid the waiting list for the waiting list in this state which was actually disclosed by us for the first time. We saw for the first time ever a reduction in waiting lists over the course of a government—down from 232,000 to 228,000. If the level of escalation had increased under those opposite, it would have been close to 300,000.

It is not only that. We had a pathway for people into surgery which saw a reduction from 6,485 to 73 at the end of February. And this Minister for Health and this government had no mandate to tear up the surgery guarantee—the first one that was put in place in the Southern Hemisphere—and set key performance indicators and targets lower than what was actually being achieved. That is what they are doing. It is a return to the days of mediocrity of outcome in government.

Let us also look at some of other outcomes in Health. There was a secretive process with regard to the Health payroll—\$1.253 billion on a contract that started out at \$6 million, something which was left to this opposition when in government to clean up, something which tore \$800 million of revenue, which should not have had to be applied, out of the health system. Yet we were still able to make significant improvements within that system.

Mr Rickuss: What about the Tahitian prince?

Mr SPRINGBORG: And who can forget the fake Tahitian prince—someone who came in and wrote their own cheques, someone whom the honourable member for Bundamba welcomed into the office in her position at the time as the assistant minister for health in Queensland. But is it good management in this state when you go in as the health minister and you have to ask for the list of organisations which are funded by the taxpayer in the state—the \$1 billion of outsourcing which was happening at the time of the Labor government—and after three months of inquiry you are told by a distressed public servant, 'This is a major task because no minister has actually asked for it for 10 years'? That is the sort of management that we saw from those over there.

Also with regard to Health we hear those members opposite now claiming that they will have 1,000 nurse graduates a year. Last year we had 1,040! Indeed, we had more than 1,000 nurses net over and above what we inherited when we left office in Queensland. They propose to employ 400 additional nurses over the period of four years. Our target was 1,600 over three years. So already they are lowering the bar all the way through.

If you look at housing—an area where those opposite say they are the ones who have the warm and fuzzy social policy heart—there were 33,000 people on the waiting list for the waiting list with regard to Queensland public housing, and at the end of our administration there were fewer than 20,000 people because of the way we managed the system and we were able to give people more access to public housing in this state.

I was at a school in my electorate the other day and the principal was most appreciative of the \$300 million which had been allocated by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition when education minister for fixing up backlog maintenance. He said, 'We now have buildings that are painted and repaired that stood in disrepair for so many years,' and that was repeated right across the state.

If we look at public finances, we started off with a debt trajectory of some \$100 billion. Even under the forward estimates of those opposite it was \$85 billion. At the end of our tenure we were able to flatline that to just below \$80 billion—four billion dollars a year worth of interest. That is the equivalent of six nurses an hour, 144 nurses a day or 57,000 nurses a year in interest payments alone on our debt. What have we seen from those opposite? There is no plan from those who went broke in a boom. At a time when they achieved \$33 billion worth of unforeseen windfall revenues between 2001 and 2008 and despite selling Queensland Rail, the Queensland Forest Service and our motorways in this state they still went broke. How can we now believe that they are able to use revenue from these government owned corporations which they now say will be able to pay off debt? Revenue from their dividends is already allocated—twice or three times in some cases. That is a very interesting narrative with regard to that.

Let us look at what we did with the Great Barrier Reef. Thirty-eight million cubic metres of dredge spoil, which would fill Lang Park a dozen times or more, was to be dumped on the Great Barrier Reef. That was reduced to three million cubic metres under our government and then put on land as well. That is part of our environmental credentials.

With regard to law and order and public safety, the South Australian Labor Party is now looking north of the border to the antiassociation laws which we put through this parliament. It is looking to adopt our laws to help them with the problems they face with regard to organised crime, lawlessness and drug manufacture in this state. It stood as a friend of our government in the High Court to support us with regard to that very important legislation.

Let us look at the legacy of the member for Inala in the area of transport. When the member for Inala took a breath from privatising Queensland Rail—a secretive privatisation which she did not have a mandate for, which she withheld from the people of Queensland and which she oversaw—she increased public transport fares in this state on a trajectory of 15 per cent times four years. When we came to government we immediately reduced that to 7½ per cent and last year reduced it to minus five per cent. It was absolutely unheard of to cut public transport fares in Queensland. While the member for Inala was increasing public transport fares and selling Queensland Rail, she was also able to order trains without carriages and carriages without trains. She was certainly not able to run them on time.

It is very instructive for us to look at the legacy of those opposite while in administration as we look to how they are going to be able to take the state of Queensland forward if they win the confidence of this parliament. If we look at their jobs plan, we have a process of training. That is noble in itself, but training without a sustainable employment pathway does not mean anything. One of the signature policies of this government is an infrastructure freeze while it works out its plan for a plan for capital works and infrastructure in Queensland, because it has no infrastructure plan. The LNP at least had an infrastructure plan which we took to the people of Queensland. We gave them a chance to look at asset leasing and what it would mean for the people of Queensland. Those opposite had no infrastructure plan whatsoever. For people to have any hope whatsoever of having a jobs pathway when they finish training, they need to know what the final employment plan is going to be in this state.

In the last week the ACCC has injected itself into one of Labor's key signature policies—its magic pudding approach where it is going to merge the electricity entities in order to pay for \$150 million worth of policies. The ACCC has said that this is anticompetitive. Not only is it anticompetitive; it is likely to drive electricity prices up. Our government was able to bring to an end the days of double-digit increases in electricity prices and bring them down to the lowest single-digit increase. What did the Deutsche Bank say after this government was appointed? It indicated great concern with regard to credit watch because of the policy settings this government had. It had no idea about debt, no idea how it was going to pay for it and no idea how it was going to invest in the future.

We still have not heard a plan for agriculture. We have not heard a plan for roads. We have not heard a plan for transport. We have not heard a plan for trade. We have not heard a plan for resources industry development in the state of Queensland. Without those, it is impossible for this state to flourish into the future. This government needs to explain to the House why it intends to be different in those areas where it previously let the people of Queensland down. Not only that, it needs

to fill in the significant gaps that exist in its plans. We know that it does not have a competent holistic plan for running Queensland and for governing Queenslanders. We have seen 27 reviews since this government was appointed. We now have paralysis by analysis in this state, and it is going to be a major problem as we go forward.

Again, while we acknowledge the appointment of this government, we cannot have confidence in a government that does not have a plan. We cannot have confidence in a government which for the 10 days or so after it looked like becoming a government did not seek or accept one caretaker briefing in major portfolio areas—whether it be in Health, State Development or Treasury. That is a hallmark of a political party that did not expect to win and certainly did not have a plan for the future of Queensland consequent upon winning.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.16 am): Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your appointment and also the Premier and the executive on their appointments. I rise to oppose the motion before the House. I cannot in all conscience support a motion of confidence in a clueless administration. As we have already heard, this is a government that fell over the line, with 37 per cent of the primary vote compared to the LNP's 41.5 per cent of the primary vote. It is clear that we have seen a duplicitous mashup of preference deals, emotive election day antics and a well-resourced union scare campaign. Queenslanders were put through a torturous two weeks before His Excellency the Governor asked the member for Inala to test her numbers on the floor, and so here we are today.

To hear the Deputy Premier's contribution this morning which sought to liken the election result to Labor's humiliation in 2012 when they were reduced to seven seats is a real eye-opener. We are only a hair's breadth away from potentially forming government should there be some other incident during this parliament, and it is nothing like Labor's humiliation in 2012. Just under a year ago, on 22 May 2014, in this place the member for Mulgrave defined a massive gerrymander as governing despite not winning more than 40 per cent of the vote. I wonder if he still feels that way today.

I think it would be instructive to take a brief look at Labor's past and then its present so we are able to confidently cast our minds to the future. But before that I would like to refer to some of the Premier's and Deputy Premier's comments about appointments. Let us have a look at some of Labor's merit based appointments. In the past under Anna Bligh her husband, Greg Withers, was appointed to head the office of climate change. Paul Scurrah, whose wife was chief of staff to Anna Bligh, was appointed as the CEO of Queensland Rail. John Bradley, the former political adviser of the Beattie government and long-time ALP member, was appointed DG of the Department of Premier and Cabinet in 2011. Peter Beattie, a former Queensland Premier, was appointed trade commissioner to LA in 2008. In terms of merit based appointments, while no-one is questioning the rights of people to apply for jobs, even the Premier could not keep a straight face when she tried to suggest that a new government is not going to make appointments based on who they know and who they are.

So let us have a look at the past. In 2012 when the LNP government entered this place—and I note the new member for Ashgrove who has returned was not here in that parliament—we were left with a disgraceful, disorganised, dysfunctional mess. When I walked into Education House, there was a sense of relief, because the former minister, now the member for Woodridge, had been AWOL and MIA. He had abandoned ship. He had left an office rudderless for months. His only appearance since about October or November 2011 was in March 2012—and it was to shred documents the week before the election.

Nowhere was the task confronting the LNP government more obvious than the Queensland Treasury's incoming government brief, and I will quote from it, as I know the former Treasurer did quite regularly in this parliament. It stated—

Queensland's fiscal position and outlook is unsustainable and restoration must be an urgent priority for this term of government.

It continued—

Treasury's medium term fiscal analysis serves to demonstrate that a long and sustained period of restorative fiscal measures and unprecedented fiscal discipline is required to restore the State's fiscal position, stabilise the debt to revenue position and return the State's AAA credit rating.

As much as the member for Mulgrave may try, there is no way to spin these irrefutable facts. Thanks to Labor, Queensland had the largest debt of any state in absolute terms, the largest debt of any state in per capita terms and the largest debt of any state as a proportion of revenue. There is no way around this. Labor and the Labor party are the kings of debt. Labor saddled every man, woman and child in Queensland with almost \$16,000 of debt each. They forced the state into paying around

\$4 billion a year in interest costs to service that massive debt. That is \$4 billion that could and should be spent on schools, hospitals and roads. That is \$4 billion that could and should be spent on the front-line services that Queenslanders deserve. No accounting trick or adoption of a new measure will hide these facts; there is no way around this. Labor are the kings of debt.

Between 2006-07 and 2011-12, Labor delivered fiscal deficits totalling \$29 billion with further deficits locked in. In the period from 2005-06 to 2009-10, the level of state debt doubled. Under Labor, government expenses grew at an average rate of 8.9 per cent per year—far in excess of revenues. Under the LNP, expenses growth averaged just 0.1 per cent. That is responsible fiscal management and it is spelt 'L-N-P' not 'A-L-P'. In 2005-06 one-third of capital expenditure on things such as new roads, schools and hospitals was funded by borrowings. By 2011-12 almost all capital investment in the Queensland public sector was funded by borrowings. They were not just putting part of it on the credit card; they were putting the whole lot on the never-never, and it is the next generation of Queenslanders who are going to have to pay. That is what the state can look forward to under a Labor government.

Many voters might ask why that matters. After all, is it not a government's job to spend money to provide services? And they are right. That is exactly what governments need to do, but to borrow recklessly, as Labor did over 20 years, lost this state its AAA credit rating. As the current Treasurer, the member for Mulgrave, previously said in his famous 'Mythbusters' fact sheet—

FACT: The credit rating is a big deal because it determines how much interest is paid on loans.

Because of Labor, we are paying a higher interest rate on our debt. Anyone with a credit card knows that is dead money and we are throwing away more money than we need to. Labor's last financial document—the *2011-12 Mid year fiscal and economic review*—showed debt increasing to as much as \$85.4 billion this financial year. This is before taking into account the \$5.9 billion in revenue writedowns experienced during the term of the LNP government and the \$2.5 billion reconstruction cost from natural disasters like Cyclone Oswald. The LNP was able to absorb these costs and still reduce the state's projected debt. We have reduced Queensland's forecast debt by \$7.8 billion in 2014-2015, despite these challenges. We put the budget back in a sustainable position, with fiscal surpluses forecast from 2015-16 onwards. The LNP got in there, made tough decisions and stopped the rot.

And so to the present. Just one month after Labor took the reins, the rot is back. There are two reasons for this. The first reason is the paralysis the state is suffering after two months of Labor. This is a government which has done nothing. There is a freeze on infrastructure—12 months with no new projects, no new jobs. All Labor has to show after its first month is not, as the Leader of the Opposition said, 27 inquiries—because since he received his facts Labor has announced another inquiry. There are now 28 reviews. 'We'll look into it,' they cry. Those inquiries include: a review into boot camps and youth justice, a review into the Queensland greyhound industry, a review of health targets, a review of Queensland's biosecurity capabilities, a review into fair price for solar power, a review into administration staff allocation in schools, a review into what is needed for research and development blueprint for agriculture, a review into the VLAD laws, a commission of inquiry into the closure of the Barrett centre and a commission of inquiry into organised crime. Can I just say to those opposite that those laws have made sure that we have a very safe state. Queenslanders do not want to see the confirmation that those laws are going to be wound back.

There are more reviews, committees and panels: a review into the Queensland Productivity Commission; a review to establish an electrical safety commissioner; an Advance Queensland panel; a red-tape-reduction panel; an animal advisory board, which is another significant policy from the Premier in that campaign; a rural jobs agency; a regulatory body for the plumbing industry; a review of the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council; a sentencing advisory council; an electrical education committee; an electrical equipment committee; and a review of the Queensland Electrical Safety Office. The list just goes on and on and here are some more: Building Queensland; Jobs Queensland; a Great Barrier Reef task force; a task force to advise the government on the residential transition for older Queenslanders; a review into the Queensland Plan; and a review into the Callide Dam and SunWater. That is 28 reviews. The bureaucracy gets bigger, the consultants gets richer and the bottom line descends further into the red. Make no mistake, that is what this government does best—it spends money with no benefit for the 4.6 million Queenslanders seeking cost-of-living reprieve and an enhanced level of service delivery which the LNP was providing in spades.

The second reason for my lack of confidence in this government is trust. Queenslanders should not and cannot have confidence in a government that has already broken its word. During the election campaign time and time again Labor said they had a plan to reduce debt and that they would not sell assets. These promises were littered throughout their flimsy fiscal document *Our state, our assets*. It is a rather ironic title, is it not? It does not say 'Our state, our major assets', or 'Our state, our strategic assets', does it? There is the first broken promise. Labor have already come out and said they will sell off government land and buildings. Mr Speaker, did you hear this mentioned during the campaign?

In Airlie Beach during the campaign, the media reported that the member for Inala would not comment in detail about Labor's economic plan, only insisting it would not include asset sales or asset leases. She was asked if Labor would sell publicly owned buildings and land or sell Queensland's ports and electricity generators. The media report stated—

'There is no starker contrast between Labor and the LNP,' Ms Palaszczuk said.

'Labor will not sell your assets. We will not sell the assets.'

That was the quote. Her first words in today's confidence motion were to reiterate the no-asset-sale mantra. The member for Mulgrave sold his fiscal strategy with the following words—

There is a better way to pay down debt and deliver election commitments. We do not have to sell off power utilities and port authorities and other assets to achieve that.'

On election night, the member for South Brisbane told me and the people watching Channel 9 that the biggest issue in the campaign was asset sales. Apparently, when Labor is in opposition building sales are asset sales for which you need a mandate, but now that Labor is in government these sales make business sense, in the words of the Deputy Premier. And that is a broken promise whichever way you spin it, but that is not the only broken commitment since the election.

Returning to Labor's fiscal document, and moving past the title, here is what it actually says: 'Labor's vision allows us to pay down debt without further damaging our economy'. But less than three weeks after taking office the Deputy Premier and Treasurer were already backing away from that promise as well. The respected *Australian Financial Review* newspaper trumpeted on 2 March 2015 under the headline 'Sunshine State may borrow to pay for infrastructure', that Queensland's Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, has left the door open to increasing the state's debt to build much needed infrastructure. So not only does the ALP have no plan to build infrastructure; they have no way of paying for infrastructure other than borrowing more money.

To put it simply, the government cannot be borrowing more money on one hand and reducing debt on the other. On top of that, the newly minted Treasurer has already been out making his case to weaken Queensland's fiscal principles in a shameless attempt to hide the inevitable increasing debt under Labor. Following the 2005 election it took Labor less than three weeks to break its own promises around debt and start the process of selling government land or assets. Those of us who were here in 2009 will remember then that at least Labor waited a few months before breaking its promises. One thing it has done is move the goalposts. It is no wonder that Labor wants to revert to the weaker operating balance measure. It is an attempt to weaken Queensland's fiscal principles to hide its inability to manage the budget.

Mr Pitt: It is what every other state and territory uses.

Mr LANGBROEK: Every other state does not do it, because our debt is greater than every other state. That is why Treasury has always had the advice that we cannot be looking at just the operating balance; we need to be considering the fiscal balance.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr LANGBROEK: I want to explain that, taking the interjection from the member for Mulgrave, the Treasurer. In 2012 the LNP government took Treasury advice and moved from targeting the operating balance, which takes into account revenue and expenses, to the fiscal balance, which also takes into account capital purchases. In the words of Treasury, the existing fiscal target of an operating surplus is too narrow as achieving this target is insufficient to arrest the growth in debt. One look at the numbers shows why. In 2008-09 the former Labor government posted an operating surplus of \$35 million, however debt that year increased by almost \$4 billion. In 2009-10 there was an operating deficit of \$56 million and an increase in debt that year of \$5.6 billion. I can see why the Treasurer does not want to count the capital purchases to come up with a fiscal deficit policy. He only wants to talk about the operating budget. In 2010-11 there was an operating deficit of \$1.5 billion and an increase in debt of more than \$9 billion. In 2011-12 there was a deficit of \$233 million and an increase in debt of \$4.4 billion.

I hope I have dealt with the Treasurer's interjection as to why we consider the fiscal balance and not just the operating balance, because the debt in this state is so significant that Treasury recommended we should be considering what those positions are. Treasury's recommendation was to replace the operating surplus target with a general government net lending surplus, in other words a fiscal surplus target, by no later than 2015-16.

We know that large increases in debt can still occur despite the government posting positive operating surpluses because we have seen it before under Labor. Make no mistake; Labor stands for higher debt and larger deficits, and the only way to fund these is through more taxes. The Treasurer has already signalled his intention to focus on general government sector debt, which he refers to as real debt. As much as the member for Mulgrave may want to ignore it, the state's total borrowings are heading towards \$80 billion. As much as he may want to ignore it, this debt would be much higher today if it were not for the responsible management of the LNP. As much as he may want to ignore it, the last time Labor was in power general government sector debt increased more than tenfold.

I hope the member for Mulgrave understands that the state's total borrowings are guaranteed by the Treasurer of Queensland. He needs to make good on his promise to reduce these borrowings because increasing debt will mean more taxes on future generations. Shutting his eyes and ignoring the reality of the debt will not make it go away. Increasing debt will mean Queensland's credit rating is downgraded once again, hurting every man, woman and child in this state.

Let us look at what Labor intends to do about that debt. It seems its members have been relying a bit too heavily on the *Magic Pudding* from Norman Lindsay. The real world of finances does not work like that. Under Labor's so-called plan to reduce debt, two-thirds of the profits from government businesses would go towards debt reduction; I heard the Premier speaking about it yesterday on radio. However, in real life people cannot spend the same money twice. Queensland households cannot use the mortgage payment to clear the grocery bill. That is precisely what the member for Mulgrave and the Premier want to do. These profits are already used to meet the existing commitments of the government—and those are the services provided to Queenslanders or the construction of infrastructure upon which Queenslanders rely. Directing cash from one purpose to another will not reduce debt unless new debt reduction measures are found. Given this government's publicly stated opposition to asset sales, that means cutting services, sacking staff or introducing or increasing taxes as we know members opposite did when they were last in government.

Similarly, Labor's promise to provide savings of \$150 million a year by consolidating energy businesses does not stack up. When asked last week, the Premier could not even say whether the merger plans would be included in the budget, despite Labor relying on these supposed savings starting next financial year. What we do know is that these costings were done by the Electrical Trades Union's preferred consulting firm. However, the modelling behind these numbers has never been released. If this government is truly committed to openness and accountability, it should release these numbers. When we hear efficiencies, we know that means job losses. Is it not ironic that a union preferred consultant's report recommends efficiencies or job losses for its members? There has been no public detail provided, apart from the spectacular revelations from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to which the opposition leader referred casting the whole nonsensical proposal in doubt. ACCC Chairman, Rod Sims, said Queensland already has the most concentrated energy market in mainland Australia and further reducing competition by merging CS Energy and Stanwell could end up costing Queensland families more. His exact words were—

They [the Labor government with the previous merger] turned Queensland from one of the most competitive generation sectors to the least. Queensland has the most concentrated electricity generation market of the four main electricity generation states.

Any increase in that form of concentration will obviously give greater market power and push up electricity prices.

The Premier said she would not do anything that would increase the cost of household electricity and yet she has done another triple twist pike with a backflip. Last week, responding to Rod Sims, the Premier said—

My government is not going to do anything—any mergers—that cause any disruption to Queensland families ...

We will be consulting but we do not want to see any negative impact on any Queenslanders in relation to their power prices.

However, yesterday in an interview on 612, recorded right here, the member for Inala shifted to say, 'My government is not going to go down any path that's going to cause any massive price rises in electricity to families out there.' In this case, size does matter. We have gone from 'no impact' to 'no massive impact'. Which is it to be? Deal or no deal?

As appealing as the *Magic Pudding* answer is, it is a fantasy and the Labor government cannot have it both ways. Where are the savings coming from? The member for Mulgrave knows he needs to tread carefully. Business needs confidence to invest. Without business investment there are no jobs, jobs, jobs.

Mr Pitt: You've spent 20 minutes talking it down.

Mr LANGBROEK: The Treasurer has reassured us that he will not be talking down the Queensland economy. I am not talking down the Queensland economy; I am talking down his stewardship of it. Members opposite have already created uncertainty about the Turbot Street dental school and the Kurilpa riverside site. What business needs from this government is a plan—a plan to create jobs and a plan to strengthen the Queensland budget. Unfortunately, all we have so far is a plan to have a plan in 12 months time, a plan to cross their fingers at budget time. We have a plan; Labor does not. Ours was not all calculated on asset sales. We register a verdict of no confidence in this government.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.36 am): I begin my contribution to this debate by acknowledging, by thanking and by paying tribute to the people of the Woodridge electorate, a community I feel so very privileged to represent in this parliament. I speak in support of this motion of confidence sure in the knowledge that the people of Woodridge are resolute and certain in their support of the Palaszczuk Labor government. The citizens of Woodridge voted in overwhelming numbers at the state election held on 31 January this year to consign the Newman LNP government to history. On election day, the Woodridge electorate expressed its overwhelming confidence in the Australian Labor Party. They did so because they had felt the full force of cuts to front-line jobs and services. They had felt the full force of cuts to employment and training programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work. In this debate, as in all things I do and will do as a member of parliament and as Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the people of Woodridge remain uppermost in my mind.

On a day like today it is worth reflecting on the primacy of parliament. In 1891 as shearers and bush workers, many of whom went on to form the Australian Workers Union, gathered around the tree of knowledge in Barcaldine, those workers collectively came to a view—a view that is found in the DNA of the Australian Labor Party to this day—that economic, social, political and industrial justice can only be delivered through parliamentary means. Almost 125 years ago those Queenslanders formed the view that a more peaceful, just and equal world could only be created by organising and electing Labor members of parliament—members of parliament who would commit to implementing a Labor platform and program once in power. Creating that better world can only be achieved by the formation of Labor governments—Labor governments like the one we are here today to sanction, Labor governments that will implement reforms that will help make Queensland a fairer and more prosperous place. What was true 125 years ago remains true today. On a day like today it is worth remembering that this inbuilt respect for parliamentary democracy and for the institution of parliament itself, its processes, its privileges and its duties, sits at the core of our Labor tradition.

In this debate all honourable members have to decide whether or not to support the Palaszczuk Labor government. To help them answer that question, can I ask honourable members to consider Labor's detailed and comprehensive plans for Health. Those members opposite have called for a plan. Mr Speaker, I am about to deliver Labor's plan for Health. As Minister for Health I am committed to working with my department and hospital and health services across the state to bring integrity and accountability back into our state's health system. I am committed to restoring front-line services and ensuring that the safety of patients and quality of care are part of everyday decisions made in the health system. Labor will refocus our health system on patient safety to ensure that quality care is driven by professional commitment, not short-term targets and expensive television advertising. Labor will start to rebuild our nursing, midwifery and allied health workforce through programs designed to ensure both new graduates and experienced practitioners are recruited where they are needed most. Labor will also address unfair and unsafe workloads for nurses and midwives.

But there is more to Health than just hospitals, and that is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is focusing on keeping Queenslanders healthy so they do not have to visit a hospital. That is in stark contrast to those opposite, who gutted the health system by cutting millions of dollars out of preventative health programs and by shutting down community services. We will start rebuilding our health system by reinvesting in preventative health programs, health promotion and research and innovation. This is about driving positive health outcomes, easing pressure on the entire health system and improving the quality of life for all Queenslanders.

I want to say a few things about Labor's significant election commitments relating to nursing. There is strong international and local research which shows that mandating the ratio of nurses to patients improves the quality of care and provides greater patient satisfaction and better patient outcomes. This evidence indicates reduced readmission rates and reduced post-operative mortality rates. Everywhere I go I hear from nurses and health staff that they have been stretched too thin by the cuts made by the LNP. That is why we will introduce legislation in this term for safe nurse-to-patient ratios and workload provisions to ensure patient safety and quality care. We are funding our hospital and health services to recruit an additional 400 nursing positions, at a cost of \$110 million, to rebuild services cut back by the Newman government. Through our nursing and midwifery graduate program, we will support up to 4,000 new graduate nurse places in our public teaching hospitals over the next four years. Each year up to 1,000 new graduate nurses will be employed by our hospital and health services and provided with formalised transition to practice programs by their employers. This is about reinvigorating the nursing and midwifery workforce for Queensland by ensuring employment opportunities for our best and brightest nursing graduates.

As part of our commitment to increasing transparency about health system performance, hospital and health services will be required to monitor and publicly report on compliance with safe nurse-to-patient ratios. We will start by restoring the system-wide functions that were lost with the closure of the Health Quality and Complaints Commission and the axing by the LNP government and the former Minister for Health—now the Leader of the Opposition—of 80 positions from the Patient Safety Centre. Patient safety and quality improvement will be properly included and funded as key performance indicators in hospital and health service agreements. We want Queenslanders to have a say in how their services are delivered. That is why we will establish a service agreement with Health Consumers Queensland to independently advocate for patients and their families and to empower health consumers in planning, designing, delivering, monitoring and evaluating hospital and health services.

As I have said, Mr Speaker, there is more to the Health portfolio than hospitals. Our plan is to invest in preventative health to encourage Queenslanders to stay healthy and out of the hospital system. Population and preventative health initiatives help drive down social health costs and improve quality of life in the community. We will do that by re-establishing and expanding the school aged health service for primary school aged students. We will work in partnership with the community to promote and support healthy lifestyles. We will work in partnership with local government to reduce smoking rates and the problem of passive smoking, and we will update strategies to increase consumption of Queensland's great fresh fruit and vegetable produce. Our approach will make sure that healthy choices are easier choices and that services are available to people who need added support.

As I said, in this debate all honourable members have a choice whether to support the Palaszczuk Labor government or not. Having set out some of Labor's policies and plans for Health, let me compare that with the legacy of the last three years of LNP administration of this state. In my portfolio area of Health and ambulance services, what was it that characterised the last three years of LNP rule in Queensland? LNP cuts over the past three years included 4,820 positions in the health system, including nearly 1,800 nurses and midwives as well as 700 allied health positions. More than 4,500 staff were gutted from the health system. More than 1,800 nurses and midwives were taken out of the health system in Queensland. Health promotion systems, prevention programs, aged care and community health programs were amongst the worst hit by the callous and arrogant LNP government. Eighty out of 120 positions in the Queensland Health Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service were axed while the Leader of the Opposition presided as the Minister for Health. The Newman LNP government closed the Health Complaints and Quality Commission. The LNP—let me say it again—ripped 4,820 jobs out of our health system, including 1,800 nurses and midwives.

The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP failed to stand up to their federal colleague Tony Abbott and the good friend of the Leader of the Opposition Warren Truss in Canberra, whose very first budget sought to cut billions of dollars from future health funding for Queensland. Patient safety and quality improvement systems were dismantled by a short-sighted government. At the last election the only plan the LNP had was a fire sale of the state's assets and continued cuts to jobs and services for Queenslanders. The LNP's health policy was to cut costs by cutting corners, undermine patient safety with staff reduction, reduce services and cut funding to valuable community organisations. Time and time again I have heard stories from Queenslanders who were shocked and dismayed by what happened to Queensland's health system—all of which happened under the watch of the Leader of the Opposition.

In that respect I have been asked many times by Queenslanders about the LNP's wait time gimmick. Let me be clear: the Leader of the Opposition's wait time gimmick did not deliver one single dollar for patients. It shows the twisted priorities of those opposite that they wanted to spend \$77 million on spin and bureaucracy for their wait time gimmick, and not one cent of that money was to be spent on services for patients. The Leader of the Opposition's plan when he was the health minister was to sack nurses and health staff and to buy advertisements. While the federal coalition plans to rip billions of dollars out of Queensland's health and hospital systems, the Palaszczuk government is investing significant amounts in health services. As a government, Labor has immediately made \$30 million available to hospital and health services to target the 114,000 patients left in waiting rooms by the member for Southern Downs. That is 114,000 Queenslanders who have been waiting longer than clinically recommended for an outpatient appointment. Let us reflect on the millions of dollars that were poured into the Queensland health system by the federal Labor government that reduced waiting lists for surgery and dental waiting lists, and we heard nothing from those opposite for three years. The member for Southern Downs spent three years wandering around Queensland telling everyone how good he was as the health minister and then asking people to tell him how good he was.

A government member: And then spending money!

Mr DICK: And then spending money on advertising to tell people how good he was as the health minister. Do members remember that ad on television for the wait time gimmick with the elderly man standing there and seeing all the numbers disappear? What was disappearing was the \$77 million spent on advertising for spin, bureaucracy and media. That is the legacy of the member for Southern Downs. In contrast, Labor will take a genuine, transparent and realistic approach to tackling waiting lists across the whole patient journey—from GP referral to outpatient or diagnostic appointment and then to surgery and recovery.

The question the Leader of the Opposition needs to answer is why on earth he thought it was prudent to sack 1,800 nurses and midwives and then spend \$77 million on nothing but bureaucracy and television advertisements. Sadly, the cuts made by Lawrence Springborg and the state LNP are reflected in the approach to health adopted by Tony Abbott and his federal coalition colleagues.

Despite our Prime Minister promising no cuts to health—remember that, Mr Speaker?—the Abbott government plans to take \$50 billion out of Australia's health system. Billions have been stolen from Queenslanders on the watch of the Leader of the Opposition. Why did the Leader of the Opposition say and do nothing to protect Queensland? Why did the Leader of the Opposition do nothing to oppose Tony Abbott's cruel and unjustifiable cuts? Why does the member for Southern Downs not stand up for Queensland? Perhaps he is taking the same approach that he took to Campbell Newman: advocate leadership, avoid responsibility, deny duty and say nothing to a leader who wants to bully Queensland. Tony Abbott wants to bully Queensland. I am saying, as all members on this side of the House are saying, that the fight against Tony Abbott starts today.

What have I learned in the past 38 days as health minister? I have learned that television ads do not cure people; doctors and nurses do. I have learned, unlike the Leader of the Opposition, that you cannot cut your way to a world-class health system. As I have said, I have a message for the Liberals in Canberra and for all members opposite: the fight against the cuts starts today. The Abbott government and all members opposite need to know from today onwards that the Queensland Labor government, led by Anastacia Palaszczuk, will not sit idly by while that government trashes its election commitments and rips funding out of Queensland's health services.

Tony Abbott and the Leader of the Opposition have dismantled the hospital funding system put in place by a federal Labor government—activity based funding, funding 45 per cent in efficient growth in the system. That is what came out of the national partnership agreement—a national partnership agreement in health now repudiated and rejected by Tony Abbott, all the time supported by the Leader of the Opposition. Instead of sharing the load of increasing costs in the health system, the Abbott government simply shifts the blame and shifts the problem onto state governments. I am saying that that is simply not good enough for Queensland.

I ask that all members reflect on just how it is that we come to be in this place today having this debate. I respectfully ask that particularly members opposite stop and consider why it is that they are sitting where they are sitting today. The last three years of LNP government were characterised by disrespect, disingenuousness and outright dishonesty. The LNP simply took the electorate for granted. They thought they could not lose and they simply stopped listening to Queensland. And are they not demonstrating today that they are the sorest of sore losers?

The LNP forgot about the primacy of parliament and the representative nature of our democracy. The LNP tried to impose their program of asset sales on an electorate that did not support it—an electorate that told the LNP it did not support their program. But in their arrogance they simply refused to listen. The LNP undermined public trust and confidence in the institutions of government by gagging debate, ramming through legislation at will and neutering parliamentary committees that opposed their great leader and their government.

The LNP silenced and banished non-government organisations and community groups who dared to disagree with them. In their arrogance, led by the now opposition leader, the LNP extended their attack to other significant professional groups and civil society organisations such as doctors, trade unions and professional associations because those groups dared to raise concerns about the LNP's extreme industrial relations agenda and the doctor contracts pursued by the now Leader of the Opposition. The LNP botched judicial appointments and undermined public confidence and trust in the judiciary and the institutions that we as a community rely on to deliver justice in this state. For any government, that is simply unforgivable. The LNP's culture of arrogance and their disregard for accountability and proper processes led to countless questionable decisions and to a devastating electoral result for them on 31 January this year.

Only a Queensland Labor government will drive improvement of health care and bring integrity and accountability back to not just our state but also our healthcare system. I ask all honourable members to vote for confidence in Queensland—vote for confidence in our state's economy; vote for confidence in openness, accountability and transparent government; vote for confidence in a fairer, stronger and better health system; vote for confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (11.55 am): I am so pleased to stand in this House as the member for Ashgrove. Judging from some of the comments made by those opposite, I am sure that some of them share this opinion! I rise to support the confidence motion moved today.

Mr Dick: That's the winner!

Ms JONES: They are not arguing with it!

The past three years have been tough for many Queenslanders, especially those who have lost their jobs. Thousands of Queenslanders have been without work and have lost their livelihoods. I have met with many local people in my own community who were sacked or did not have their contracts renewed and who have not been able to find alternative work. Many locals who voted for Campbell Newman and the LNP in 2012 believing their promises that their jobs would be safe and that front-line services would not be cut felt let down and betrayed. I have spoken with fathers with tears in their eyes because they were no longer able to afford to pay their mortgages and with young married couples who had had to move back into their parents' home just to try to make ends meet. Many small business owners have had to lay off staff and cut back staffing hours. This has often meant that the owners have had to step up and work even more hours just to keep the doors open, meaning even less time to spend with their families.

No-one expected the LNP's agenda to be as ruthless, heartless and short-sighted as it was. No-one foresaw the unprecedented attacks on the judiciary and the institutions that uphold the democratic systems in Queensland. Many reforms that were instigated after the landmark Fitzgerald inquiry that had been in place with bipartisan support for more than 20 years were suddenly, without warning, under threat.

One of the first changes made by those who now sit opposite was to kick the media cameras out of this very chamber to reduce scrutiny. The LNP used their numbers in this House to sack the entire Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee. There seemed to be a new era in which public servants, journalists and community sector workers were threatened just for doing their jobs. New privacy clauses were added to funding agreements to deliberately silence critics and create a culture of fear. But it was not just the winding back of integrity and accountability safeguards—

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive and untrue. I ask that the minister withdraw her comments. She has misled the parliament.

Ms JONES: I withdraw. It was not just the winding back of integrity and accountability safeguards that caused widespread concern in the community about the LNP government's approach; it was also the kneejerk decision-making, lack of consultation and disregard for the views of local communities that became symbolic of the LNP administration. In my electorate this is best represented by the removal, relocation, retention and reinstatement of eight houses on Samford Road

near the Samford Road-Wardell Street intersection. Throughout the election campaign, one of the most commonly asked questions asked of me as a candidate in Ashgrove was why on earth the LNP government put the houses they had removed back on to Samford Road and how much this cost.

During the election campaign I spoke to thousands of local people personally and not one person who has driven past the eight dwellings that were gone one day and miraculously reappeared, although somewhat dilapidated, 18 months later thought that plonking the houses back on the widened Samford Road was a good idea. Despite Campbell Newman insisting time and time again that the local community wanted these houses to be reinstated, I am advised that this was not the result that a survey of local residents found.

Against the advice of the department of main roads, the former Premier and member for Ashgrove personally intervened and directed that the eight houses along Samford Road should not only be retained by Main Roads but relocated to be stored off site for the duration of the construction period for up to 20 months and then repositioned back where they were.

Of course, this proved to be costly and an ill thought out Campbell Newman special. As the intention was to resell the properties on the open market once they were back in place, further works were then required to bring them up to a standard where they could be sold. In total, I am advised that the cost associated with this special project was in excess of \$4.5 million. This is the first time that this figure has ever been publicly released. Despite journalists and local residents requesting this information from Campbell Newman, I have been told that time and time again he refused to release it.

Another local announcement many people I have spoken to thought was another example of on-the-run decision-making by the LNP government was Campbell Newman's election sweetener to use state government funds to upgrade a wholly owned local government road. There is no doubt that Waterworks Road is a busy road and a cause of frustration for many local residents and business owners. However, with this announcement we saw the same issues as before—no consultation with local residents and, I understand, very little consultation even with the Brisbane City Council.

The release of the draft concept plan revealed that the Ashgrove Memorial Park at Stewart Place where our Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services are held would be partially resumed. When I first learnt of the announcement by the then Premier and member for Ashgrove, I read the concept plans and immediately saw that there would be an impact on Stewart Place. I contacted the RSL and the Ashgrove Historical Society and neither of them had been consulted before the plans were released. What makes this situation even worse is that Mr Newman made the time to announce his mocked-up plans, printed thousands of glossy brochures promoting his latest concept and called all of his mates to make sure they were standing around him in their blue LNP T-shirts.

But today I can advise the House that he never bothered to actually secure the funding in the budget. There is no money allocated for this project in the forward estimates for Main Roads. Mr Newman was happy to tell local business owners that he was going to provide these works but never came clean with them that there was no actual funding in his own government's budget to do it. These are just two local examples of the chaotic way that government decisions were made under Campbell Newman and the LNP.

With regard to my new portfolio responsibilities, there are a number of decisions that were made that have caused me alarm and that will have a detrimental impact on Queensland into the future. In Education the PPP negotiated centrally through Treasury has resulted in a massive black hole in the Education capital works budget for the next few years. In the 2015-16 year alone, \$105 million in capital payments is required to meet the PPP contract obligations. The LNP entered into this exclusively South-East Queensland agreement with the full knowledge that this would mean that it would not be able to build any other new schools in the rest of Queensland for the next four years even though its own data showed that there was significant demand and growth in cities such as Cairns and Townsville in future years. No wonder so many from those regions are sitting on this side of the House today! It shut down schools without any proper consultation with local communities, causing distress to parents, students and staff. I am advised that, in total, it reduced funding by \$165 for every primary school student in Queensland, \$203 for every high school student and \$1,770 for every student in Queensland going to school with a disability.

The Palaszczuk government comes to government with a very clear plan—a plan for a better way. In my portfolio of Education we are committed to ensuring that every child, no matter where they live, has access to world-class education so they can reach their full potential. We have committed to employing an additional 2,500 teachers in Queensland schools, including 90 experienced teachers to

bring their skills and expertise to our high schools. Our policy will allow high schools to focus on key areas of teaching, such as agricultural science, or an area of need by bringing in a teacher with a background in behavioural management or literacy and numeracy teaching.

We believe teachers play an important role in our society. Often, as their careers progress, teachers leave the classroom to take on administrative roles. Put simply, we believe teachers should teach. That is why we will establish an enriched and rigorous new teacher classification system and pay structure to modernise and improve the teaching profession. The Palaszczuk government will boost the ranks of guidance officers in state schools so that students receive the support they need to deal with stress and also to help them plan for their future in terms of getting jobs. This commitment includes delivering 45 full-time guidance officer positions over three years to ensure Queensland students do receive that professional support.

In my Tourism, Major Events and Small Business portfolio, the Palaszczuk government is committed to growing jobs in Queensland. This stands in stark contrast to the last three years under the LNP. Despite claiming that the tourism industry was one of the four pillars of the LNP government, the previous government cut funding to tourism and events in Queensland. The LNP government's refusal to provide funding certainty to the sector put at risk 11 major events that attract visitors and tourists to Queensland—major business events as well as regional tourism events that are vital to local economies and the small businesses that rely on the revenue that these injections bring to make their businesses sustainable.

It is a matter of public record that the Auditor-General was very concerned with the LNP's oversight of the Commonwealth Games, in particular the governance arrangements and failure to work with the Gold Coast City Council, a key delivery partner. Labor is the party of jobs, and I am committed to working with the tourism industry to grow tourism and tourism jobs in Queensland. We know that we cannot have growth in our economy without growth in tourism. That is why we have committed to boosting Tourism and Events Queensland's funding by \$40 million. We are providing certainty for the sector with four-year funding guarantees to support new major events. I am proud to be part of a government that has committed \$100 million to protect one of the greatest tourist attractions—the Great Barrier Reef—once again generating billions of dollars for small business and tourism businesses in Queensland. We want to draw more international flights to Queensland, and that is why we have committed \$10 million to the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund.

Labor believes this is the Asian century. That is why we are focusing on developing emerging tourism markets, especially in Asia. The Palaszczuk government firmly believes that the tourism industry will play a vital role in jobs growth in Queensland. That is why during the election campaign we committed to inviting the industry to sit on the Jobs Queensland board.

Of course small business will also play a key role in growing jobs in Queensland. Small business accounts for nearly half of all private sector jobs in this state, and that is why the Palaszczuk government has committed \$40 million to create a Business Development Fund that will help innovative Queensland businesses turn ideas into new products and jobs. I have already met with CCIQ to look at the way that we will establish a red-tape-reduction advisory council to focus on growing a business environment for strong, profitable and globally competitive Queensland businesses. The Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program we have committed to will also support education in computer science and business development and help stay-at-home parents develop home based businesses to create additional opportunities in local communities.

In conclusion, I am proud to be part of a government with a positive plan for Queensland. We know that over the last three years we saw unemployment rates reach unprecedented levels in recent times. We know that many Queenslanders did it tough. Locally in my community many people felt let down by the Campbell Newman LNP government that promised one thing before the election and did another thing after the election and that was not up-front about its secret plan to cut jobs and cut front-line services.

As the Deputy Premier said, we understand that there has been a strong message sent from the electorate to every member in this House. Mr Speaker, under your position as Speaker, I know that we can lift the standards in this parliament and I look forward to working with you. I also want to say that, in supporting this motion, I have absolute confidence in Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier of Queensland, and the Palaszczuk government to deliver on our commitments to grow the economy, build future infrastructure and create jobs in Queensland.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (12.10 pm): Mr Speaker, I join with other members in congratulating you on your election to office two days ago. I join with the Leader of the Opposition in also congratulating the government on its success in the recent election campaign, as I have done so in a number of places since the election, particularly at the St Patrick's Day dinner where I acknowledged the Premier's success. However, I need to register my total support for the opposition in the debate on this confidence motion, moved today by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier. In doing so, I want to thank the people of Clayfield for the opportunity to serve them here again.

During the course of the debate this morning I have heard comments made by the member for South Brisbane—the Deputy Premier—about people coming up to her and asking her questions, comments made by the member for Ashgrove about questions that have been asked of her and I think I even heard the member for Woodridge, who obviously has a constituency different from his previous one, refer to people coming up to him and talking to him about things. Let me tell members what the people of Clayfield said to me after my election. They asked, 'How could this happen? How could a government be formed with no plan, with no idea?' Increasingly, like the emperor with no clothes, the government members are being seen for what they are, with the domination of the union movement, the control of the left wing of the party with seven out of 14 ministers all sitting there cutting deals—

A government member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The member for Sandgate is stuck out there on the end, representing God knows what out there at Sandgate in terms of his union constituency. I know the member for Sandgate. I get on quite well with him. As they do in the British parliament, I am quite happy to call him my honourable friend. But he was left out in the wheeling and the dealing that was being done in the weeks after it looked like the government would be formed.

The people of Clayfield still have the same questions that the financiers, the ratings agencies, the business community, those people looking for jobs, those people looking for certainty, those people looking for development in the state of Queensland have. Where are the plans? How is it going to be paid for? What is their strategy? What are they going to do? During the campaign there was no description of what was going to happen. There was no inkling from them about what they were going to do.

The Treasurer says that he had modest plans. The government members had very much to be modest about as well. They had little or no plan and they had little or no idea and they still have little or no idea. From what I understand is occurring, there is an ongoing turf warfare about which minister is getting which part of which departments and they still have not resolved it. The people who are poorer for it are the people of Queensland. So I say to the people of Clayfield: thank you for once again returning me to this place. Thank you for the opportunity to serve again and I look forward to holding this government to account over its stewardship of the state.

I want to reflect on a couple of comments that were made by the Premier in relation to the motion that has been moved today. I think it is important that we understand that this government does not have the unfettered or unqualified support of the people of Queensland. As the opposition leader pointed out, 37½ per cent of the primary vote can hardly be called an overwhelming endorsement of the policies. Indeed, it is clear that the LNP, with 41 per cent of the primary vote, was the first preference for the over 2.4 million voters in Queensland who took to the polls on Saturday, 31 January. Obviously, the member for Nicklin has made a choice and, of course, that is a choice that we respect and acknowledge and we understand the reasons for that choice being made. But that does not mean that this government is in any way, shape or form the endorsed government of the majority of people in terms of their first preference vote in Queensland. We need to keep that firmly in mind. I think the people of Queensland understood that when they voted the way they did. It is by no means the case that a protest vote gone wrong can be claimed to be an endorsement of Labor's policies. That is the certainly the case that we have here.

This is a government that comes to power with no commitment to a jobs target, a government that comes to power with an economic plan that flies in the face of almost all reasonable economic and business commentators and all sensible people, and a government that has no believable plan that is able to pay down debt. We are already seeing the government resile from its commitments. Government members are now starting to use the weasel words that many of the returning members started using only four or five years ago when they started down their program of saying one thing before an election and doing something completely different afterwards. So there can be no confidence in a government that behaves in such a way.

The Premier spoke about the need for doing things in a financially sound way. The previous government had already delivered a balanced budget outcome for 2015-16. It was going to achieve the fiscal surplus that Treasury recommended. I have heard a lot about the Treasury recommendations. The new Treasurer does not quite know what he wants to measure himself by. He does not know whether he wants to be measured by the operating surplus or the fiscal surplus. He is waiting for someone to tell him what to think about those sorts of things. He has admitted that already on radio. He did not admit it beforehand. But let me say what our incoming government brief was. The deputy opposition leader and shadow Treasurer has already referred to it. It stated—

Queensland's fiscal position and outlook is unsustainable and restoration must be an urgent priority for this term of government.

But the part that I do not think the shadow Treasurer mentioned is that, in the period from 2005-06 to 2010-11, general government expenses—and we know the Treasurer is very keen on talking about general government expenses—grew at almost double the rate of revenue. The main drivers of growth are employee expenses attributed to the number of employees and wages. Employee expenses increased by 40 per cent over the period 2004-05 to 2008-09 before the GFC. The numbers are important, because in 2007-08—

A government member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: It is before the GFC hit. Their expenses increased before the GFC hit. As the deputy opposition leader said, the debt has gone up, but over 2008-09 before the GFC. Expenditure on employee expenses—recurrent expenditure—was ballooning, as was capital expenditure ballooning before the GFC. So, quite clearly, the nonsense that is being proceeded with by those opposite that it was simply in response to the GFC is fallacious. In terms of proceeding forward, I think it will be very interesting to see how a Treasurer who does not know what it is he wants to measure himself by will end up adopting for his political purposes.

The Deputy Premier made mention of honouring promises. Already we are seeing a government that is not honouring its promises; a government that is backing away from its commitments. None more so than from what it claims to be its prime commitment—that is, in relation to dealing with government owned businesses and assets. As I have said, those opposite are already starting to use weasel words around major assets, strategic assets, property assets and those sorts of areas when before the election they made it clear they were not going to deal with any assets. Of course, that presents them with a problem because they cannot pay for it any other way.

The member for South Brisbane referred to employment and the unemployment rate. She referred to the unemployment rate under our government. As I always said in this place, unemployment is a scourge that needs to be addressed. But it is not the government that creates jobs; it is the private sector growing, expanding, vibrant, attracting investment, providing jobs, opportunities and training that is the engine room of employment growth not only in Queensland but throughout Australia. Unlike those opposite, who think the only way that they can get a job is by getting a job as a ministerial staffer or working as a union hack, we believe a job comes from a dynamic, vibrant and supported private sector. Despite their best efforts, in the last term of the last Labor government what happened to the unemployment rate? It started at 3.5 per cent and increased by two per cent to 5.5 per cent. That is higher than any increase experienced by the LNP government between 2012 and 2015. In fact, in January of this year when the election was called, the unemployment rate had fallen to 6.5 per cent seasonally adjusted. It was tracking down at that stage.

Building Queensland is a flimsy, three-page document that spends most of its time having a crack at 1 William Street. It is a document long on vitriol and light on detail. We are six weeks into a government that was formed following the resignation of ministers on 14 February and we still do not have the name of anyone who is going to be on Building Queensland. Are those opposite still searching for someone to do what they want? Do they have any idea? Do they have any plan? By the same time of the previous Newman government we had implemented our seven-day plan and our 30-day plan. We had already set up the resources cabinet committee, the social services cabinet committee, if memory serves me we had set up the tourism cabinet committee and we were well on the way to setting up the property cabinet committee. We were a government that got on with the job. What do we see from Labor? We see 27 different attempts at deferring the problem and making it someone else's problem because those opposite have no plan themselves.

We heard a little bit about the appointment of people in a merit based selection process. I was hopeful that in terms of that process we would not see a return to some of the decisions that had been made previously by the Labor government. We saw 'Big Bill' Ludwig on the board of Racing

Queensland; we saw the member for Brisbane Central on the board of Energex; we saw the former Labor Party president and Queensland Council of Unions general secretary Ron Monaghan on the board of Energex; and we saw John Battams on the board of Energex and the board of Skills Queensland as well. Who do we see on the board of the Port of Townsville? Tony Mooney and Tony McGrady. It was good to see Tony yesterday. We saw Ian Brusasco, the head and founder of Labor Holdings, on the board of Gladstone Ports Corporation; when the Bundaberg Port Authority existed, Owen Doogan, the current national president of the RTBU, was a board member, as was Cheryl Dorrin, three times failed Labor candidate for the federal seat of Hinkler. On Powerlink, Walter Threlfall from the ETU—of course he would be there—and on North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation Jack Camp, a member of the ALP for over 30 years and an organiser with the Communications Electrical Plumbing Union, electrical division; Julie Bignell, the assistant secretary of Together, on the board of North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation; Greg Simcoe, CS Energy; Rob Henricks, past state secretary and national president of the ETU—are we starting to get a theme here?—on the board of CS Energy; and on Skills Queensland, Andrew Dettmer, Ben Swan and John Battams. Why should we be surprised about that when federal government board appointments included Anna Bligh on the board of Medibank Private; Andrew Fraser, the former Queensland Treasurer, an Australian Sports Commission board member; Paul Lucas, former Queensland Deputy Premier, Airservices Australia board member; Desley Boyle, Telecommunications Universal Service Management Agency.

Mr Dick: The vindictiveness continues. The same SRCC chair. Very happy to do it.

Mr NICHOLLS: Hang on, I hear the member for Woodridge, Cameron Dick, former Queensland Attorney-General and Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission chair; and the member for Ashgrove, Landcare Council board member appointed in December 2012 and so on. Merit based appointments—we will believe it when we see it. Here is the challenge: if those opposite want merit based appointments why don't they appoint someone from the opposition to sit on the selection panel as well? Why don't they do that? It is good enough for them to do it for the CCC; why not do it for the heads of the great departments of state that they are so concerned about?

We can see that it is very difficult for any Queenslanders to reasonably have confidence in this government. It is very difficult indeed. A Labor campaign built on mistruths and fear, supported by a union scare campaign equally built on mistruths and fear—a campaign they are now trying to run in New South Wales this weekend to try to frighten people, an attempt to prey on people's fears and concerns rather than to provide a light for the future—is the campaign that led Labor to the position it is in in this House. A campaign that was relentlessly focused on the negative and put very few of the positives is the reason why Queenslanders can have no confidence that this government can deliver infrastructure. The only thing the Labor Party has delivered since this election is uncertainty: uncertainty about the status of projects that will attract billions of dollars in investment and thousands of jobs.

One of the very first acts of the incoming government following the election was the Deputy Premier proposing a ministerial call-in of the Cedar Woods development in Upper Kedron, a parcel of land that was originally earmarked for development by the previous Labor government, championed by the local government minister at the time, Andrew Fraser. It had gone through a council process. It was a development that had kept with the local plan, was supported by Labor in council and which had been substantially mitigated by the developers during that process. The Deputy Premier does not call it in to ask what the problem with it is and why is it not going ahead; she calls it in to overrule a decision by a local authority. Local authorities can have no confidence in this government if what they see from the Deputy Premier is the first example of how the government decides to go on.

On top of that we have had the Premier voicing her concerns over the Queen's Wharf development, another thought bubble coming through that endangers about \$7 billion worth of investment and economic activity providing jobs to thousands of Queenslanders, including young Queenslanders being trained up in the vital areas of hospitality and tourism. What were the concerns? She could not say what they were at first and then she wanted to stay in that architectural exemplar of the Executive Building.

One can have no confidence in a government that operates with those thought bubbles. What did we do by contrast? We got on with the job of delivering major infrastructure. We put \$1 billion into the Bruce Highway upgrade; in conjunction with the federal government we put \$1.6 billion into the Toowoomba second range crossing; in conjunction with the federal government we put \$1.5 billion into the Gateway upgrade north project; we started building 10 new schools, the first of which has been delivered this year—we completed construction of the Highfields State School; we put

\$460 million into the upgrade of the Bruce Highway just out of Gympie; we started the contract for the Sunshine Coast University Hospital—more hospital for less money; we also delivered the government wireless network worth \$450 million; and we put \$4.4 billion into the new generation rollingstock project to deliver 75 six-car trains—twice the cars for the same price that Labor was going to deliver them for.

What have we seen for small business? We have seen only the imposition of a greater tax. We were going to lift payroll tax, which would have benefited thousands of small businesses. What is Labor doing? Scrapping it! We see the same thing in trade. There is no additional funding for the trade office to support small business employment and the smart jobs that those over there talk about. Neither small business nor those in the trade exposed sector can have confidence in this government because of its actions. There is no way anyone can responsibly give this government the vote of confidence that it seeks today. It is not a responsible way to go. It is not supporting business. It is not supporting investment. It is not supporting infrastructure. It has no credible plan to pay down debt. It is not supporting trade. As I have said, it has no plan, no idea and increasingly, like the emperor, it has no clothes.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.29 pm): I wish to congratulate the Premier on her appointment and you, Mr Speaker. However, I have no confidence in this government and this morning I have heard nothing from the Labor members opposite that would lead me to believe that they have learnt anything from their time in opposition. This Labor minority government is simply repeating the script from where we have been before in Queensland. It is a matter of history that the LNP opposition, having won 51 out of 89 of the primary votes, did not win the majority of seats. We did not win. There are many lessons to learn from that. While we did make mistakes, many things were done that were very good for Queensland. We need to know those things that Queenslanders have talked to us about and wanted us to hear, and not just throw the baby out with the bathwater. For example, yesterday Kay came into my office and said that if it had not been for the change from the ALP government to the LNP government she would not have received a cataract operation in February of this year and a right hip replacement late last year. She was very happy about that.

As we know, in the past Labor's track record showed that it did not keep figures, because if you keep the figures they might be leaked. When Paul Lucas was health minister, even his correspondence register was leaked because he did not cover the briefs and he did not want to know what was going on. Consequently, they did not collate the actual health figures because they thought they might be leaked and they would face embarrassment. They did not see those figures as tools to be used to deliver better health outcomes. And there have been better health outcomes, such as evidenced by Kay's story, in my electorate and in every electorate in Queensland.

In Queensland I saw a situation where people had to wait years for access to dental health in the public sector. Now, we have a situation where those long waits have been wiped out, thanks to an LNP government. Once again, constituents who knew what it was like under the previous Labor government have come to me to tell their stories. They have not forgotten, but we see a case of amnesia within this Labor government. They have not learnt that simply throwing money at things is not innovation. People need a government that cares about competent service delivery. They need a government to effectively and efficiently take their taxpayer dollars and better use them for the sake of their care. Nothing we have heard from Labor is about real targets and how they are going to address surgery; we have just heard 'surgery on the truth'.

Yet again the debt deniers are back in charge of the Queensland government. They are in denial about their economic record and the legacy of debt that could not be wiped out in a term. They are in denial about the fact that the economy of Queensland needs this to be tackled. On seizing the keys to the Executive Building and the treasury benches, the first thing we saw them do was engage in revisionism; a rewriting of history. ALP amnesia is convenient, but it is not truthful.

This morning what I have heard from Labor indicates that they are making it up as they go along. They did not expect to win government and they did not really have plans, so now they have to make them up and hope that they can cobble something together. They have no plans for the prosperity of Queensland. They have no effective and sustainable plans to allow the businesses of Queensland to create jobs, because it is business that creates the jobs in Queensland.

When they self-profess their honesty and integrity, I am reminded of the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson who said, 'The louder he talked of his honor, the faster we counted our spoons.' I have heard Labor members tell us how honest they are and how much integrity they have, yet there is no

honesty and integrity when you do not tackle truthfully the challenges of Queensland with a real plan that will make a difference. I believe that it is intergenerational theft, burglary and corporate fraud to give the people of Queensland the debt that Labor gave us without an honest plan to tackle it.

A number of years ago in this parliament, I rose and asked a question of the then transport minister, Rachel Nolan, about Labor's asset sale plans for Queensland Rail, which had not been announced at that point. When I asked her the question, she said, 'Queensland Rail is not for sale.' I heard abuse from Labor members, some of whom are opposite me now. It was interesting that within about four days of that pronouncement here in this chamber that Labor would not sell Queensland Rail we started to hear confirmation of what I had heard, which was that they were, in fact, planning to sell Queensland Rail. The difference between our side of politics and theirs is that when we went to the election we were honest with people about asset leases and we were honest about what our plan was. In contrast, Labor had no plan. However, history shows and their track record is that they lied and misled the people of Queensland about their plan for asset sales. They just did not tell people; they did not take it to the electorate to seek a mandate.

I have no confidence in the Labor Party to govern well and competently or to build the economy of Queensland, because its track record is being repeated in the language we are hearing here today. They have never apologised for their maladministration of Queensland's economy and resources, which hurt ordinary Queenslanders, such as the ones I referred to before. They have never apologised for the fake Tahitian prince being able to rip money out of the health system, defrauding Health. You have to get it into your head, Mr Speaker, that, if the Labor government are so incompetent as to engage in maladministration, that is corporate fraud and the ones who pay the price are ordinary Queenslanders, who faced higher taxes under the Labor government. They have never apologised for the hike in transport fees, which occurred under the now Premier of Queensland when she was transport minister. They have never taken responsibility for losing the AAA rating, which I believe equates to about \$4 billion in extra interest payments that Queenslanders have to pay because of the corporate fraud of previous Labor administrations and what they did to rack up an unsustainable level of debt. They have never apologised for misleading Queenslanders by telling them they would not sell assets and then going ahead and doing it.

This is a new minority Labor government, but it is old Labor in the way that it has come to the table. Within a matter of weeks, we have seen their election commitments, scanty as they were, in tatters as it has been revealed that \$150 million of savings that they had hoped to take out of the electricity sector with mergers is being quite widely criticised by the ACCC because it would lead to a greater concentration in the electricity market. That plan has been criticised by the ACCC, which has said that it is anticompetitive, and it has been criticised widely in the business sector as well. There is no acknowledgement that they did not have a plan. They are debt deniers and they are deniers of the economic reality.

Mr Springborg: Now they're attacking the ACCC, the independent umpire.

Ms SIMPSON: Next they will be attacking the ratings agency. Who will be next? They will say that others do not know what they are talking about and that only the fiscal geniuses opposite know how to run things, until those who actually set the credit ratings of this globe come back and provide a blowtorch to scrutiny. The only offering we have heard of is the old magic pudding, where more money is spent than is made. However, we have listened to the people of Queensland and we recognise that Queensland needed change and that how you bring people with you is important. Queensland does need change. We cannot go back to the bad old days of the blowouts in waiting lists which we saw under Labor—to a time when they did not keep the figures because they wanted to deny that there was a problem. They never actually had good administration in place and they did not use the tools to bring it about.

Those opposite never acknowledged or apologised for the backlog of maintenance in our schools. We all should know—well, you should know, Mr Speaker—about the peeling paint, about the leaking roofs, about the damage to walls in our schools that was never fixed. This basic maintenance and the backlog were addressed by the LNP government. To me this is another example of good administration in the hands of those who know what matters. We put those decisions back into the hands of local principals and schools rather than holding on to the old way of doing things which was a centralised bureaucracy for the maintenance program which was inefficiently handled by Labor. We wanted to give that power back to schools. It is not only about consultation but also about delegation to those at the local level who have the ability to do the job. That is what we did.

I want to talk about my shadow portfolio area of roads. We were delivering major road projects to cut congestion, improve reliability and boost economic productivity. What is this Labor minority government's plan? It is an infrastructure freeze for 12 months or for however long. Who knows how long it will go on for? They are still trying to work out their plan.

We worked with the federal government to invest \$8.5 billion—

Government members interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: The behaviour of those opposite has not changed. We worked with the federal government to invest \$8.5 billion to improve flood mitigation, safety and capacity on the Bruce Highway. Some of the major projects included the upgrade at Yeppen South near Rockhampton and the upgrade of the Cooroy to Curra section of the Bruce Highway. We were able to work with the federal government to get on with the job of delivering the Toowoomba second range crossing. We are very proud of that achievement. This will ensure that not only will local residents have a better road but also the important logistic chain will be maintained. Labor had spoken about this for two decades but had never been able to deliver it. Under the LNP and a federal coalition government we were able to prove that this project can happen. The \$1.6 billion second range crossing will result in 1,800 jobs during construction. Modelling shows that over the next 30 years the Toowoomba second range crossing will increase productivity by \$2.5 billion in the Toowoomba region alone.

We worked with the federal government to deliver a \$625 million upgrade package for the Warrego Highway west of Toowoomba. I remember years ago doing a truck run. I think they thought my ears were a bit delicate so they turned the radio down so I did not hear all the banter. I thought it was a bit quiet. It was so rough on that highway that even if the radio were on my teeth were chattering so loudly that I would not have heard it anyway. I am very proud of the fact that it was an LNP government that put money into this road and got on with the job of recognising that the roads in both South-East Queensland and regional Queensland are important.

We also worked with the federal government to deliver a package of works valued at \$250 million across Cape York Peninsula. We again partnered with our federal colleagues to secure \$1.5 billion for the Gateway upgrade north to provide two additional lanes between Nudgee and the Deagon Deviation to alleviate congestion and to make sure hardworking mums and dads spend less time in traffic and more time at home with their families. We provided \$350 million for the Queensland Road Safety Action Plan between 2013 and 2015. This plan improves infrastructure, manages speed and ensures vehicle and driver safety.

The LNP also made it safer for kids travelling to and from school. I am very proud of the wonderful policy—I had quite a lot of involvement in the formulation of it—which saw the delivery of 300 flashing school lights over four years. Drivers had no excuse but to slow down when in school zones. By June of this year 350 flashing school lights will have been installed. That is more than we promised and one year ahead of schedule. Not only did we make significant improvements to our road network; we also cut the cost of living and reduced red tape for everyday Queenslanders. An example is the freezing of vehicle registration.

The list goes on in respect of local government, community recovery and resilience. We worked with the federal government to deliver the \$80 million Betterment Fund so local councils could undertake projects to improve disaster resilience. I wish at this point to acknowledge the communities of Queensland that have recently been through yet more devastating cyclones. We have to admire the resilience of our communities. It is often tougher for people after they come through devastating events to get back to the reality of life, deal with the financial impacts and rebuild their lives, their businesses and literally their homes. At this time we stand with them and support any effort to enable them to get on with their lives.

In 2014-15 the state budget allocated more than a billion dollars for local councils. Local councils are the local decision-makers; local communities in action. With respect to community recovery and resilience, it is very impressive to see well-run committees and well-run networks delivering local responses to local issues.

Last year more than \$8.7 million was spent on infrastructure projects. There was \$2 million for the Get Ready Queensland disaster preparedness program, \$2 million to combat graffiti and \$2 million in grants to show societies.

There were many road funding commitments put forward that were not funded by Strong Choices. I would certainly be very disappointed if this government unwound the very necessary roadworks that we worked hard to ensure met the needs of communities. The road funding

commitments that were not funded from Strong Choices were works such as the exit 54 upgrade worth \$47.4 million. That community needs that upgrade. It is imperative and will unlock the economic potential in that area. There was also funding for the study of the Bill Fulton Bridge upgrade in Cairns. The Bruce Highway upgrade south of Cairns was allocated \$11.6 million over three years. There was \$8.5 billion for the Bruce Highway action plan. There was funding allocated to the Martin Street sporting reserve upgrade. The Peak Downs Crossing at Eton Range was allocated \$24 million over three years. The Bundaberg Road link was allocated \$3 million. The Obi Obi Road upgrade was allocated \$10 million in 2016-17, which I am sure, Mr Speaker, you would be very interested in.

In my area there have been a lot of safety improvements on the Sunshine Motorway that have literally saved lives. I was pleased to fight to see those implemented. We will always want more in respect of duplications, as all communities do. There are a lot of safety measures that can be put in place that make a difference. We saw this with the installation of acoustic rumble strips and the creation of better chevrons between oncoming traffic. We will see intersection improvements at the Pacific Terrace intersection with Mooloolaba-Buderim Road with signals with \$1.6 million assigned for 2015-16. These sorts of roadworks are necessary safety measures for local communities.

Where we are at at this point is determining whether we have confidence in this Labor government. There is no doubt that there are nice people on the opposite side. We even have in this strange old world of parliament friendships across the political divide. In this case though it is not about whether some of the folks opposite are nice people. It is about whether their policies are right for Queensland and their track record when it comes to what they do, not just what they say. Unfortunately, their track record has been to rack up debt and not bring about the changes necessary to ensure Queensland continues to prosper. I have no confidence in this minority Labor government to change their spots, to not deny the legacy of debt that they left another generation of Queenslanders—the intergeneration theft and fraud—and to have a proper plan to address that.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.48 pm): I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government. I am proud to be a member of a government that has committed to listen to Queenslanders and to govern for all Queenslanders. Those opposite said they would be a humble government—a government that governed for all Queenslanders. Nothing was further from the truth.

They still refuse to simply acknowledge that the people of Queensland did not vote for their policies. Queenslanders are intelligent. They demand high standards of their representatives. They did not get anywhere near that standard of representation from those opposite over the past three years. They know when people take the privilege of being in government for granted. Queenslanders simply will not accept that.

A Palaszczuk government will not govern like that. We will not govern with arrogance and a blatant disregard for the wants and needs of Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government campaigned on being a consultative government, a government that listens, a government deeply committed to creating jobs and growing the economy, a government that at the same time cares about the environment, a government that does not say one thing and then go simply ahead and do another, a government that Queenslanders can trust, a government that Queenslanders can be proud of.

I am proud to be given the privilege of being the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. I am proud to be the member for Stafford. I have embraced the Premier's mantra that the hallmark of this administration will be creating jobs and new opportunities through genuine consultation and a robust exchange of ideas. That sums up what I have been doing as I have been meeting stakeholders both here and across the state, or speaking to them by phone, and hearing their views on how to kickstart the Queensland economy.

I want to fully grasp the views and aspirations of the private sector to hear firsthand the issues, to see what is working and what is not when it comes to creating jobs and growing Queensland's economy. I have not been promising any quick fixes, but I have pledged to strongly represent their interests, to speak on their behalf, to ensure that their voices are heard. Building a meaningful and long-lasting relationship with key industry organisations takes time and hard work but will pay dividends as we work together—together—to deliver the best outcomes for Queenslanders.

My first official function was to address a gathering of Construction Skills Queensland and the Queensland Major Contractors Association to launch the major projects report. There I made a public commitment to working closely with all stakeholders in the construction industry so that together we can achieve consensus on the best way forward to achieve our goals. I have made the same

commitment to other sectors, and I will make it again today. I am not about playing favourites. I am about meeting and talking to as many people I can—and I thank my departmental staff for the excellent work done behind the scenes, often at short notice, arranging briefings and meetings. I am about getting on with the business of creating jobs.

This government is committed to responsible and sustainable development. The announcement on the port of Abbot Point demonstrates that conclusively. Unlike those opposite, the Palaszczuk government was able to come up with a solution in under a month that is the best solution for all, including the environment.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr LYNHAM: Madam Deputy Speaker, the chorus of the arrogant—how I have missed it! It is a bit softer these days—but how I have missed it.

It also proves to the business community that they can do business with this government. This solution was welcomed by both GVK and Adani. This solution protects the Great Barrier Reef and the hundreds and thousands that rely on it. A Palaszczuk government will take a steady-as-she-goes approach to business, captaining a streamlined and modern ship. We will chart a course for prosperity for our state by creating favourable conditions for business which will in turn lead to economic development and job creation.

I have met already with my South Australian ministerial colleague, Tom Koutsantonis, to advance an MOU on working to harmonise gas regulations in the Cooper Basin, creating greater certainty in this highly prospective gas field. I am unashamedly telling everyone and anyone that this government is about jobs, jobs and jobs. But back to Abbot Point.

Mr Cripps: I'll bet he told you a few things too.

Dr LYNHAM: It is an original idea. Where's the member for Callide? He is not even here. Where is he? That is a first—an original idea. But back to Abbot Point.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Minister, members should not refer to other members who are absent from the House.

Dr LYNHAM: I apologise, Madam Deputy Speaker. On 11 March we announced a new proposal to enable the expansion of the port that presents a better outcome for the environment—the nationally significant Caley Valley Wetlands and the Great Barrier Reef—and for future growth and jobs in the region. This new agreement with major proponents Adani and GVK will see dredge spoil placed on land on the site known as T2. T2—the only remaining unallocated industrial land at the port—will be available for new development in the future once the dredged material is removed, and the material can be beneficially re-used for the T0, T2 and T3 sites. This project will now enter an approvals process that is expected to involve a full environmental assessment by the Commonwealth.

Public consultation will be an important component of this step—and I can assure you it will be longer than the previous government's 10-day consultation period. We have delivered a responsible, sustainable plan for the port, the region and the environment—and Queensland taxpayers will not be funding the project costs.

I have travelled to Moranbah to see some of the state's international mining operations firsthand and to hear of the challenges they face. Again it is by listening to these people that I am able to understand their concerns. I toured Anglo American's \$2 billion Grosvenor underground long wall project and spoke with some local residents who work there, as well as visiting the company's housing estates within the town. What I took away was a better understanding of the issues facing this industry and what we as a government can do to remove any roadblocks. These issues include ensuring competitive port and rail charges, consistent economic policy settings, and more streamlined and robust approval processes between the state and federal governments. This feedback is important for our government and will be considered by me and my department over the coming months.

While in Moranbah, I met with Isaac Regional Council Mayor Anne Baker to reassure council and the community that the state government will stand by our policy to reject any future applications for 100 per cent FIFO. Unlike those opposite, Mayor Baker and I believe workers should be able to choose where they live and base their families, and, as Anne said, if people are given genuine choice, enough will decide to live and work locally to ensure that our regional communities are sustainable. As we pledged before the election, as well as looking at future cases we will review all approved 100 per cent FIFO mines near regional communities.

The review will consider the current use of FIFO and will make recommendations about the best way forward to address issues with 100 per cent FIFO arrangements and to ensure strong and sustainable resource communities. Consultation will be undertaken with key stakeholders including local governments, mining companies and affected communities. The outcome of this review will inform the Queensland parliamentary inquiry into FIFO workers and especially in relation to mental health impacts. The review panel will soon be announced, and I look forward to updating the House on how we are solving this problem. This government certainly recognises the important role of the regions in driving Queensland's economy.

During the election campaign both the Premier and I heard firsthand the problems regional councils were having with the LNP's Royalties for the Regions program. We listened to those concerns and we are replacing and enhancing previous initiatives with the Building our Regions program, which will provide four pots of money for regional, rural and remote Queensland as follows: a \$27.5 million fund for infrastructure projects in resource-producing communities such as Mount Isa; a \$35 million a year regional capital fund for infrastructure projects in provincial cities and surrounding rural areas; \$60 million for the annual Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme funding for the Roads and Transport Alliance; and a \$7.5 million a year remote communities infrastructure fund for infrastructure projects in those remote communities. The Building our Regions program will help create jobs, support economic development and ensure critical infrastructure is delivered to regional Queensland.

This government is committed to providing the people of Townsville with a new state-of-the-art stadium, and we have cemented this commitment through the provision of up to \$100 million in project funding. I know that the community in Townsville deserves a stadium, and this will strengthen and enhance its tourism base now and into the future and will create hundreds of construction and ongoing jobs.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

 **Dr LYNHAM:** As the House will recall, I was speaking on the Townsville football stadium. Our priority is to work closely with Townsville City Council, the Commonwealth government and regional stakeholders including the Rugby League community to choose the best location for the stadium and investigate funding models and scope. Funding will be available to begin master planning the new stadium as soon as the budget is delivered. This government is committed to ensuring the best value is achieved for the people of Townsville and all Queenslanders.

Defence Industries Queensland, a division within my department, did a sterling job at the recent Avalon expo of showing the defence and civil aviation sectors the benefits of doing business here in Queensland. Queensland currently boasts some of the world's leading aviation companies including Airbus Group, BAE Systems, Boeing, GE Aviation, Northrop Grumman and Raytheon. With \$3.4 billion of new orders received in Queensland in the 2013-14 financial year, it is clear we have the industries and skills to support the defence and civil aviation sector. With more than 20 high value-added, technologically advanced and niche manufacturers in the state recently expanding their operations, defence industries will play a key role in growing our state's economy. Queensland's defence industry already contributes around \$2 billion in revenue to the state's economy annually and employs 25,000 people involved across all sectors.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is an economic development agency that has an important role supporting the sustainable growth of our regions and state economy. The department's activities support job growth across the state in both agriculture and mining sectors. I am working closely with the department to provide industry with customer focused, practical regulatory frameworks that provide certainty, grow investment in the resources sector and fast-track truly sustainable economic development in Queensland. As I mentioned earlier, I am committed to meaningful consultation with peak bodies representing natural resources and mining interests along with key community organisations to achieve a balanced, sensible debate to find solutions to important economic, social and environmental challenges to sustainable economic development in Queensland.

We have made a commitment to stop uranium mining in Queensland. We were open about this during the election campaign, unlike those opposite who two weeks before the 2012 election committed not to open uranium mining but did exactly the opposite. The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting our environment. We have not forgotten the people of the north-west province. We have extended the life of Glencore's Mount Isa smelter, bringing certainty to those employed there.

I am happy to advise that the government is continuing the \$30 million Future Resources Program to attract exploration to Queensland and expand the resource sector's contribution to jobs in our state. The program includes geophysical and geochemical data capture, seismic section scanning and an extension to the department's core library.

Mr Cripps: I did that.

Dr LYNHAM: During the election we committed to repealing the previous government's water laws which will have a detrimental effect on the Great Barrier Reef catchment systems and allow for overallocation of Queensland's precious water resources. Madam Deputy Speaker, I am unable to comment on when a member of the House is absent, but I take the member's interjection and I have real doubts if he did individually do much in his role as a minister.

We care about our state's greatest natural asset. We will not let it go to ruin under our watch. We will ensure it is there for future generations. The government is committed to reinstating the principles of ecological sustainable development into the purposes of the Water Act. This government has already taken the first steps in delivering these commitments. The provisions of concern were scheduled to commence on 18 February 2015, and on 17 February 2015 I acted quickly to obtain approval of the Governor in Council for an amending proclamation to defer their commencement. Deferring the commencement will give me time to consider the best options for how the government may deal with the water related provisions in the Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act.

The Gangalidda and Garawa peoples have two combined native title claims along the coast and hinterland of the south-west of the Gulf of Carpentaria. The claims area runs from Burketown west to the Northern Territory border and inland to the outskirts of the township of Doomadgee. The first claim was lodged in 2004. The state and the applicants, together with the Gangalidda and Garawa peoples, pastoralists, miners and other parties, participated in a negotiation in an attempt to reach agreement on the terms of the consent determination for these claims. The Federal Court has listed the matter for a determination hearing on 1 April 2015. This will formally recognise the native title rights and interests of these peoples, and they can maintain their long and enduring connection with their country. This determination is the 100th native title determination by consent in Queensland—a truly landmark event. This is the highest number of consent determinations in any state and demonstrates Queensland is at the forefront for the resolution of native title across Australia.

In conclusion, I understand that it is a privilege to be the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines in this great state. As a minister in the Palaszczuk government, I will work diligently to bring major projects and new industry to Queensland to create jobs and grow the economy. I will do this by consulting people and listening to their concerns. I will always be looking for the solution that best balances new development in an environmentally sustainable way and that is in the public interest. I want to assure Queenslanders that I will do my best every day for them. As Robert Kennedy said, 'The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better.' The Palaszczuk government will bring accountability back to government and govern for the best interests of all Queenslanders. In conclusion, I commend the motion of confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government—a government for the economy, a government for jobs and a government for all Queenslanders.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.37 pm): I rise on this historic occasion to speak in support of this confidence motion in the Palaszczuk Labor government. I thank the people of Redcliffe for once again putting their confidence in me, and in doing so putting their confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is a pleasure to follow the minister and member for Stafford.

Today sees the acknowledgement of a range of firsts—the first female Premier to have won office from opposition, the first female Premier and Deputy Premier team in Queensland, and the first truly independent Speaker in a century. These are significant milestones—milestones that clearly highlight the difference between this government and others. This is a government with a commitment to integrity, transparency, accountability, compassion and fairness. This is a government with a commitment to consultation and respect. They are not just words; they are indicative of this government's values, its standards and its commitments. These are the bricks and mortar of good government.

It is important to recognise where we have come from and how we arrived at where we are today. The now Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and her Labor team spent three years listening to the people of Queensland. Under her leadership we had a renewed commitment to listening. It was three years of consulting, getting out and speaking to Queenslanders right across the state and listening to their concerns, their expectations and their desire for good government. We listened to their disappointment and anger at being let down by the LNP government. We reconnected with the people of Queensland, utilised their ideas in formulating our policies in education, training, the environment and strengthening front-line services like health and education, and in restoring decency and proper governance in the delivery of justice in Queensland. We recognised that Queenslanders were looking for something better than the arrogant, extreme and out of touch LNP government. We reconnected and rebuilt, and by working with the people of Queensland we were able to restore their faith in us.

Over the last three years, we saw an LNP government, including most of those individuals opposite, attack Queenslanders. We are here today because of the message Queenslanders sent. They sent a clear message at the Redcliffe by-election that they deserved better. They sent a clear message at the Stafford by-election that the LNP were not listening and were refusing to change. When their protests fell on deaf ears, the people of Queensland sent the loudest message they possibly could at the general election, removing what had been the largest majority in Australia's political history. After the result in Redcliffe, the result in Stafford and the result right across the state in the general election, we have LNP members walk into this House still refusing to listen to the people of Queensland. We have only heard one opposition member actually acknowledge that there had been some failings over the past three years by the LNP government, and that has come from the former Speaker.

Today was the opportunity for the LNP leader and deputy leader to step up and acknowledge those failings and how they let down the people of Queensland. They could have showed humility from the fact that they lost government but they failed to do that today. They should support this motion of confidence as a recognition of the views of Queenslanders, as democratically articulated through our open and independent political system. The real test for those opposite will be in the weeks and months ahead—will they actually listen to the people of Queensland or will they spend every waking hour trying to defend the legacy of the LNP government, in which the now Leader of the Opposition and Deputy Leader of the Opposition were senior cabinet ministers?

In terms of my portfolio areas, today marks a new way of operating—one that is based on respect and consultation. The government is committed to rebuilding a respectful, productive, collaborative dialogue with our stakeholders. We may not agree on every last detail but we will always listen and honestly consider differing points of view. We will respect those with which we deal, we will respect due process and we will respect the independence of the judiciary. We will not attack the judiciary for administering the law to the best of its ability in accordance with the oath of office. We will not seek to silence criticism and stifle debate through personal denigration of the legal profession and 'no advocacy' gag clauses. Let me be very clear: we will consult with the legal profession and the judiciary and we will never betray or misrepresent those advices rightly sought and provided in confidence. Sadly, the arrogance, extremism and betrayal of the LNP still has ramifications in the legal profession today.

I as Attorney-General and this government as a whole will have respect for institutions and the law. We will have respect for individuals—whether judiciary, professionals working in the justice system or people going through the justice system. That respect also extends to the hardworking men and women of the Public Service. They are professionals who dedicate their working life to good public policy. In my portfolio, I know there are so many dedicated and enthusiastic people who are passionate about delivering a fair and open justice system—people who are as passionate as I am about training and skills and the power of education and training to improve the lives of individuals, to help them get back into the workforce, to provide for their family, to contribute to the community and to help build Queensland's skilled economy. I am keen to work with our professional and hardworking departments to deliver sound policy and real outcomes for the people of Queensland.

Queenslanders endorsed our integrity and accountability agenda including: legislation to lower the political donation threshold from \$12,800 back to \$1,000, including for the period from 21 November 2013; restoring six-monthly reporting requirements; and investigating the possibility of real-time disclosure of political donations. We are introducing this legislation because Queenslanders deserve to know who is making significant donations to political parties and how much they are donating.

A key priority is our commitment to reviewing and addressing organised crime in Queensland. The Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) Amendment Act 2013, the Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Regulation 2013, the Tattoo Parlours Act 2013 and the Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013 were pushed through this parliament without proper scrutiny or debate. Queenslanders expect better than this. They expect more from their government. I assure the House that this government will do better. I am seeking nominations for the high-level task force to review the 2013 organised crime laws. We are delivering on our commitment to tackle organised crime, and we are examining how to best improve legislation and deliver safe and just communities right across the state. We will do what the LNP failed to do—and that is to properly consult. The task force will report back to the government by December 2015 about how that can best be done. This government is also working to establish a commission of inquiry into organised crime which will inquire into the extent, nature and societal impacts of organised crime in Queensland. We recognise that organised crime is broader than just outlaw motorcycle gangs.

As part of its commitment to restore Queensland's integrity and accountability, the government made a number of election commitments for changes to the Crime and Corruption Commission to ensure its independence. The process of restoring the integrity of the Crime and Corruption Commission is underway with the national search for a chair and a CEO, as well as the two ordinary commissioner positions. I will be consulting with stakeholders about the implementation of the government's other CCC election commitments.

We will also be examining the current processes for the appointment of judicial officers in Queensland to develop a protocol as to how judicial appointments ought to be made. I can assure the House that any appointments that are made before the protocol is settled will follow proper processes, as has already occurred with our first appointment. Let me make this very clear: consultation and any advice offered will be treated by me with nothing but respect and absolute confidentiality.

In talking about the judiciary, I want to briefly touch on the fact that Justice Wilson is retiring today. I would have very much liked to have been at Justice Wilson's ceremony this morning, but unfortunately I could not with parliament sitting. I thank the Solicitor-General for representing me at that event. I want to put on the record the government's thanks to Justice Wilson. I would like to thank him for his years of service and recognise his deserving reputation for fairness, decency and intelligence. Justice Wilson is retiring from the Supreme Court having previously served on the District Court and as the inaugural president of QCAT. He is widely respected and highly regarded in the legal profession, judiciary and government. In particular, his leadership as inaugural president of the newly formed QCAT at the time is regarded as one of the underlying reasons for its success. I and this government wish Justice Wilson all the best for the future.

I also wish to touch on Legal Aid and community legal centres. This is an area that has been of particular concern not just to the legal profession but to many in the community about the potential cuts. I am pleased to say that I recently joined with attorneys-general across the states and territories of this country from all political persuasions to collectively agree to write to the federal Attorney-General asking for a commitment to maintain funding for our community legal centres and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal services into the future. I can advise the House that as of today Senator the Hon. George Brandis QC, the federal Attorney-General, has released a statement which notes—

The Federal Government is providing certainty for the legal assistance sector by guaranteeing current funding levels for the next two years. The changes due to take effect on 1 July 2015 will not proceed.

...

After considerable consultation with State and Territory Governments and service providers, it has been decided there will be no reduction in Commonwealth funding to Legal Aid Commissions, Community Legal Centres (except Environmental Defenders Offices) and Indigenous legal assistance for the next two years.

What this shows is that already this government has proven that we can work with our interstate colleagues of all political persuasions and with the Commonwealth to get good outcomes for Queenslanders.

I wish to touch on youth justice. Youth justice is about getting the balance right between punishment and rehabilitation. It is not, as some might claim, being soft on crime. It is about making sure that those who commit crimes face appropriate punishment and have the opportunity to develop new skills to turn their lives around and that the courts have the necessary sentencing options to achieve these goals. I am looking at all the programs currently operating in the youth justice sector to

ensure they are effective and delivering real outcomes for Queensland. We do not live in isolation. Programs and strategies that have proven to be effective in other states and countries should not be ignored. They need to be carefully evaluated to ensure their implementation is suitable in the Queensland environment.

We are committed to conducting a review of boot camps and we will make sure that review is based on objective data, consultation with stakeholders and analysis of similar systems. We will not hide the review's findings. We will publish them and we will publicly respond to each and every recommendation. We already know some of the previous government's laws in youth justice are counterproductive, and I will be introducing legislation to ensure those laws are righted. Provisions like naming young offenders, removing the principle that detention of young offenders should be a last resort and transferring 17-year-olds with more than six months of their sentence left to serve into adult prisons are entrenching young people into a life of crime. These are areas that we will address. Concerns about these laws were raised at the time by the Queensland Law Society, the Queensland Bar Association, the Anglican Church, the Uniting Church, Sisters Inside, Bond University's Centre for Law, Governance and Public Policy, Griffith University's School of Criminology and Criminal Justice, James Cook University's Comparative Youth Penalty Project, the Anti-Discrimination Commission and the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian. We have listened and we are acting. We do not close the door on young people who have strayed. We do not close the door on opportunities that they need in order to become productive members of society.

This government is committed to also establishing the Sentencing Advisory Council for Queensland. Originally its role was to bridge any gap among the community, government and the judiciary regarding sentencing issues in Queensland. It also gave the community a stronger sense of involvement and connection with the sentencing processes. Crucially, the Sentencing Advisory Council was to advise the Attorney-General on sentencing matters and to inform interested persons about sentencing through the publication of sentencing information and research. We know that misinformation and misunderstanding about the criminal justice system can lead to community fears and assumptions that are not necessarily supported by the facts. Reliance on evidence and expert advice when formulating policy decisions over populism and gut feeling is what will set this government apart from the former administration.

We also understand that continuing need for a skilled workforce and, along with the Treasurer and the Minister for Education, I am proud to be delivering for this government as part of a whole-of-government strategy Working Queensland, our blueprint for generating jobs and tackling unemployment. This government is committed to investing \$240 million over the next four years in Skilling Queenslanders for Work to fund local programs that support young and long-term unemployed Queenslanders—programs that give people the skills to work. We are committed to giving people the skills and the experience they need to get back into the workforce, build a career, provide for their families and contribute to their communities. The new scope for Skilling Queenslanders for Work will build on previous success—success that was highlighted by an independent evaluation undertaken by Deloitte Access Economics, success that delivered real skills for Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government will establish Jobs Queensland, an independent statutory authority that will provide advice to government on skills demand and long-term workforce planning. Jobs Queensland will comprise a strong, independent and commercially focused board with a mix of industry leaders, experts in market and regulatory economics as well as accounting or financial management and union representatives. Our commitment to increasing the number of trainees and apprentices in the workplace will be achieved through the provision of a 125 per cent payroll tax rebate for employers of apprentices and trainees. We will also ensure that 10 per cent of workers on major government projects are apprentices or trainees. We will also expand that to include public-private partnerships and government-owned corporations.

At 6.5 per cent, Queensland's unemployment rate is at an 11-year high, with some regional areas such as Wide Bay and Logan much higher at 11.1 per cent and 9.4 per cent respectively. The impact of unemployment can be felt right across the state and affects all sectors of industry. For this reason the Premier has made it clear that it is the role of all departments across all portfolios to address unemployment and job creation. I am also passionate about the important role that TAFE has to play and should continue to play in our education system, in local communities and in the broader economy. We will deliver on our commitment to provide an additional \$34 million over three years to the TAFE system.

Queenslanders deserve to have a strong and productive public training provider in the important area of training and further education, and this is something that I have heard time and time again when travelling around the state talking to communities. Young and old understand the importance of training. Young and old understand the importance of a strong TAFE system where they can get quality training and affordable training so that we can have the workforce we need for the jobs of the future.

We are also introducing a raft of measures to tackle alcohol fuelled violence. We have taken on board the advice of experts in the field and the clear experience of other jurisdictions that are successfully tackling this issue. That means we will be bringing legislation before this House to stop pubs and clubs serving alcohol after 3 am and introducing a 1 am lockout. We will be giving police the powers to breathalyse drunk or disorderly patrons so they have the evidence they need to prosecute licensees, managers and patrons who breach the Liquor Act. We will create a new scheme of mandatory bans prohibiting repeat offenders from entering our pubs, clubs and Safe Night Out precincts. We will legislate to prevent the service of high alcohol content drinks after midnight. We will back these laws up with intelligence-led policing and increased liquor licensing inspections as well as education and awareness campaigns. Not only are these policies supported by the evidence; they are also supported by everyday Queenslanders. Research by the Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education shows over 80 per cent of Queenslanders support 3 am closing for pubs, clubs and bars, and over 60 per cent support a 1 am lockout. Over the coming months we will be talking to licensees, academics and researchers, police, doctors and nurses, ambulance officers and antiviolence campaigners, drug and alcohol research bodies and others as we work to implement these critical initiatives to keep young Queenslanders safe.

Again, I am proud to stand in support of this motion of confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government. I will deliver on our commitment to the people of Queensland in my portfolio areas to deliver quality training and skills, promote jobs and provide a fair and equitable justice system. I want to return decency and respect to dealings with the community. Sadly, the bungling by the former Attorney-General is still having ramifications today. Campbell Newman and the former Attorney-General destroyed goodwill and civility in the legal community. Their arrogance and self-indulgence have left scars that are still raw to this day.

The question here today is really for the opposition. Will they listen to the message Queenslanders sent, or will they stand here and defend the legacy of the Newman and Bleijie laws? The proof is in the pudding. Every LNP member voted for the laws that the Newman government put forward. In the weeks, months and years ahead let us see if they have learnt their lesson. I invite them to change their position and support this important confidence motion in the Palaszczuk government and the people of Queensland as they clearly indicated their support on 31 January this year.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.58 pm): I rise today to debate the motion of confidence in the Palaszczuk government and to join my colleagues in condemning the motion. I also say, however, that it is great to be back in this House and I am very proud and grateful to those people in Caloundra who voted me back in for my fifth term.

There are many reasons why this House should not support the motion. I want to focus on one. I want to focus on the issue of Queensland Health and the outcomes that were derived from the successive Labor governments from 1998 to 2012. If the Labor Party had a full health plan coming out of the election campaign I would refer to it. What we have are a couple of points cobbled together during the campaign and a few more that have been tacked on since the election date. In 2014-15 the Health budget totalled \$13.1 billion—one-third of the state budget. The last Health budget under Labor was \$11.046 billion. The increase between those two budgets was \$2 billion, or 18.6 per cent.

Health employee numbers in 2014 were 66,614 while the population of this state was in excess of four million—and ageing at that. You would have thought that if the Labor Party had a plan for anything it would be to deliver health outcomes on a long-term basis. They did not; they simply had a few threads that they pulled together. From the history of former Labor governments it is clear that a lack of long-term planning and understanding of the issues in health led to failure not just once, but there were a succession of failures. Under this government that will occur again. However, if we cannot see what the plan is going to be, we can certainly judge the history of successive Labor governments and that is, to put it mildly, a litany of disasters.

In his speech today the minister spoke of 'integrity and accountability' and the 'safety of patients and quality of care'. Let us see how they stack up between 1998 and 2012 across a range of disasters such as the payroll debacle, the failure to provide nurses with a salary on an ongoing basis, and the Labor government not acknowledging that it was their mistake and not taking on board the fact that it was their processes which led to the disaster. How is that integrity and accountability? The fake Tahitian prince and the millions of dollars that he swindled out of the people of this state and Premier Bligh calling Queensland Health a 'basket case' after being in government from 1998 to 2012—how is that accountability and integrity? The plan to divide Queensland Health into two silos, duplicating bureaucracy and allowing those silos to grow and the waiting list for the waiting list—how is that about the safety of patients and quality of care? The EDs, the ramping, the blocking of access—we can all recall the pictures of 10, 12 or 14 ambulances ramped outside the PA Hospital—how is that about the safety of patients and quality of care? There were dental waiting lists with over 60,000 waiting more than two years—how is that about the safety of patients and quality of care? The cost overrun on the Lady Cilento hospital from about \$800 million to almost \$2 billion under Labor's watch—where is the integrity and accountability? There was the delay in the construction of the Sunshine Coast University Private Hospital and—perhaps in the litany of disasters one of the worst—the sadness of the Bundaberg Hospital scenario. Between 1998 and 2012 successive Labor governments delivered poor outcomes, poor quality of care, poor patient safety, a lack of integrity and no accountability. I pose the question: how many hundreds of millions of dollars were spent trying to fix—or in some cases hide—these mistakes that could have been poured into patient care, patient safety and quality of care? That was left to the LNP government to deal with.

I note that one of the first public actions of the health minister was reported in the *Courier-Mail* on 3 March 2015. It was not a call to deal with the issue of obesity or diabetes or the ageing population: it was a rebuke to the former director-general Ian Maynard because he put out an email without having it approved by bureaucrats within the department. What was so horrendous about the email? What he said was, in essence, congratulations to all employees of Queensland Health who have worked so hard over the 18 months or so that he had been the DG and that they should be proud of their achievements. He even wished the new minister all the very best for the future. He said—

Our patients now experience faster access to emergency departments and the shortest waiting times for elective surgery in the nation.

It is my bet that the reason the bureaucrats jumped all over this is that he was telling the truth. Under the LNP there had been dramatic changes in Queensland Health, and it is sad to say that to my knowledge this, the first utterance of Queensland Health, is to pull into line a director-general who is saying to his team, 'What a great job you have done.' Is this micromanaging by the new minister? Is this what we have to expect as time goes on? They never apologised in the past for the pain and suffering they caused Queenslanders from 1998 to 2012.

In March 2012 what did the LNP government inherit in regard to the health sector? It inherited a waiting list for the waiting list that totalled 122,000 in March 2006, and when Labor left government in March 2012 it totalled 232,000. By January of this year that figure had been decreased by 3,000, so we had stopped the growth in the waiting list for the waiting list and we had then cut into the waiting list and reduced the number. But there is more than that: in March 2012 the surgical long waits totalled 5,944 in category 1, category 2 and category 3 that had gone well past the 30-day, 90-day and one-year waiting periods; in February 2015 that figure had decreased to 102. We inherited a waiting list and a surgery long-wait list that had spiralled out of control under Labor. Despite that, they claim that they are going to restore patient care and integrity. This LNP government took that on board and the member for Southern Downs tackled it. He was the first health minister in the history of this state to tackle those waiting lists and bring them under control. In terms of the surgery long-wait list, for category 1 the percentage of those who had their surgery on time increased from 86 per cent to 97 per cent; for category 2, 73 per cent to 96 per cent; and for category 3, 90 per cent to 98 per cent. The AMAQ even said—

Queensland actually stands out in a couple of areas. We certainly have the lowest elective surgery waiting times in the country ...

That is from the AMAQ, the head office of the doctors, praising the former LNP government for doing what no other government had done in this state. The LNP then put in place a surgery on time guarantee, but that has been scrapped by the health minister. In a recently issued media release the minister announced interim targets: for category 1, 98 per cent, and for categories 2 and 3, 95 per cent. The concern I have is that we give a guarantee and they give interim targets. Of course 'interim'

means that they will change at some time and 'targets' means that they do not have to be met. Yet again we are winding back accountability in the issue of health. We are going back to the bad old days, and what we are going to see here over and over again is policy on the run because the wait time guarantee was never part of ALP policy leading into the election campaign. It was cobbled together post the election campaign by the health minister, who was dumped with a portfolio that they had no plans for, and he is now trying to make that viable on the run.

One of the greatest outcomes under the LNP was the reduction in the dental waiting list—61,405 people were waiting in excess of two years when the LNP put in place its dental blitz. There is now not one person waiting more than two years on that list—not one.

Let us look at some of the figures relating to the number of people on the waiting list in excess of two years: Central Queensland, 3,659; Darling Downs, 7,222; Gold Coast, 4,400; Metro North, 14,000-plus; Metro South, almost 11,000; Sunshine Coast, over 4,000; Townsville, over 2,000; West Moreton, 3½ thousand; and Wide Bay, over 9,000. That is the number of Queenslanders who were on the waiting list for in excess of two years, yet successive Labor governments had taken no steps to address the waiting lists and in fact hid them. Until the LNP came to power, those waiting lists were not made public nor tackled. And those opposite think they can tell us how to run Health! They think their history can instruct us on how to run Health.

One of the biggest issues coming into the 2012 campaign was the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. That had been a festering sore for a long time across regional Queensland because successive Labor governments and successive ministers for health—believe me, there was more than one between 1998 and 2012; one is famously now doing time—did not address it. The LNP government invested \$106.3 million to increase the accommodation subsidy from \$30 per night to \$60 per night and to increase the subsidy for mileage from 15 cents per kilometre to 30 cents per kilometre. That was the first change that had been made in years—a change that people and the LNP had begged the Labor government to make but which it refused to make. The Cancer Council said—

Regional cancer patients will have greater hope of surviving cancer, following the announcement by Premier Campbell Newman and Health Minister Lawrence Springborg that the patient travel subsidy scheme will double ...

The Cancer Council came out and supported a move by the LNP government to do the honest, decent thing after having been rebuffed time after time by Labor in government.

We know that the Labor culture is to hide data. We know that the Labor culture is to secrete things away so that they cannot be seen or brought into the light of day. But the LNP did exactly that: we brought data into the light of day. We published data every three months on the official website and in regional and statewide newspapers. This included data on elective surgery, EDs, dental waiting lists and ambulance response times.

The LNP government put in place local hospital boards. We set up 16 local hospital boards right across this state. In fact, then Premier Bligh, towards the end of her Labor government, after Labor had been in power for almost 20 years, said in reference to Queensland Health—

Clearly we have a very ... monolithic organisation that is too big, it is too far removed from service delivery and, frankly, I think there are too many people who are alienated from the job that they are charged to do.

The then Labor Premier acknowledged that Queensland Health had become too big, too bureaucratic and too centralised. Clearly, she believed that breaking it up was the right thing to do—after a litany of disasters. I think the last one might have been the fake Tahitian prince, who was able to abscond with some tens of millions—

Mr Nicholls: Sixteen.

Mr McARDLE: \$16 million—by falsifying his own documentation. So we created the health and hospitals network. We actually put in place local people, local doctors and local nurses to get the information to assist the hospital to treat the patients who needed help on a daily basis.

On a recent hospital visit I was speaking to various people within the organisation and I asked, 'How do you find the networks?' They said to me, 'It is marvellous, because I can communicate directly with the chairman or the board of directors, and I can give them my knowledge from being on the ground.' The concern I have is that the 2014 Labor Party policy platform refers to 'reinstating the central coordination and capacity-building role of Queensland Health', which means centralising power in Brisbane yet again.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr McARDLE: Exactly right. That means that the whole process begins yet again. The manipulation of data and the control mechanisms, based upon Charlotte Street and George Street, fall back on the health minister and his bureaucrats. And that was part of the reason—if not the major reason—for the disasters that unfolded. We need to ensure the local hospital and health networks remain in place—local people, local knowledge, local jobs and local outcomes.

In addition, the LNP government reopened maternity services in Beaudesert and Cooktown after they had been shut down by the Labor government. They refused to acknowledge that by using common sense and working with the relevant population—the community, the doctors and nurses—outcomes could be achieved. Those services are now open and functioning. There is one due to open in Ingham, but I understand that that will be ‘delayed’—code for ‘maybe never’—on the basis of trying to attract staff. To stop the return of services, particularly maternity services, to local populations is a backward step—yet again—back to the bad old days.

We put \$42 million towards the James Cook University Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine so that this nation can have the best training and the best R and D to ensure that our proximity to Asia and the capacity for people to travel quickly between here and there do not lead to diseases coming into this nation. That money, along with the money provided by the federal government, will be well spent.

We put in place a paediatric intensive care unit in Townsville, at a cost of \$14.75 million, that had been rejected by the Labor Party year in, year out. That unit will now be the centrepiece for Far North and North Queensland for children who need ICU treatment.

At the end of the day, the ALP should not be telling us how to look after Health; they should be looking at what mistakes they made in years gone by so they do not repeat them. Surely, on the Health portfolio alone and the disastrous outcomes that occurred between 1998 and 2012, the motion cannot be supported.

 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Gregory, I remind honourable members that this is the member’s first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.18 pm): I stand here today a very humble man. I am honoured to be the new member for Gregory. I confirm my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her representative, His Excellency the Governor, Paul de Jersey, and my loyalty to this parliament and to the electors of Gregory.

I acknowledge the Governor’s address on the opening of our parliament yesterday, and I sincerely congratulate Mr Speaker on his appointment to the high and respected office of Speaker of this House. Madam Deputy Speaker Grace, I congratulate you on your appointment as Deputy Speaker.

I acknowledge and congratulate Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, Deputy Premier Jackie Trad and ministers. I also acknowledge and congratulate our opposition leader, Lawrence Springborg, our deputy opposition leader, John-Paul Langbroek, and shadow ministers.

It has been 25 years since the last maiden speech by the member for Gregory was made in this parliament. Of course, that was delivered by a close friend and colleague to many in this parliament, from members to staff: Vaughan Johnson.

Vaughan was well liked in this House by all sides of politics and throughout this great state. He is a man of integrity, honesty and a man who had endeared himself to many. He has been a part of my life as well. Vaughan has been a man of inspiration, guidance and a mentor and someone who stood side by side with me during the last election. I sincerely thank him for everything that he has done for me and I am truly indebted to him. I am blessed to have Vaughan’s electorate staff in Longreach and in Emerald—Nikki Heslin, Laura Nolan and Larissa Burnett—staying on with me as the new member. I am so truly lucky to have such wonderful, experienced staff to guide me as the new member for Gregory. They have allowed me to hit the ground running and have made the transition smooth and seamless and I look forward to working with Nikki, Laura and Larissa for a long time.

I want to thank the people of Gregory for placing their confidence in me to be their representative in this great parliament. I am truly humbled by that opportunity. I owe my place in this great parliament as well to the hardworking members of the LNP in the Gregory electorate who on 30 November last year selected me as their candidate for the 2015 election. I went through the preselection with four fine, upstanding gentlemen—Sean Dillon, Andrew Martin, Gary Peoples and

Jack Piggott. Any one of them would have been a fine member of parliament for the seat of Gregory. I thank them for getting behind me after the preselection to help me with my campaign. I make special mention of Sean Dillon, a young cattleman from the north of Alpha. After the preselection he, like other preselection candidates, got right behind me, but Sean also spent the whole campaign beside me. Sean left his wonderful and very capable wife and young children and family to manage the cattle operation at Alpha and came and stood beside me to campaign. I am truly indebted to him and he has become a great mate. I need to acknowledge the wonderful efforts made by Mike Burns and Lenore Johnston, both campaign managers for Vaughan Johnson, who continued their mammoth effort and jumped on board with me—two truly wonderful people. Both Mike and Lenore continue to play key roles in helping me as the member for Gregory. I also want to mention Sonia Burton who ran my campaign office—a beautiful, kind woman who put her life on hold during the campaign to help us retain the seat of Gregory. I also need to thank Sonia's husband, Guy. Sonia and Guy are both hands on and busy running their cattle operation near Emerald and Guy was left without his key asset—his wife—helping him on the farm while on the campaign.

There are so many people to thank for helping me throughout the campaign. To each and every one who helped—whether it be handing out my how-to-vote cards, helping with signage, helping just with morale—my sincere gratitude. I make special mention of my appreciation to the following people in the west of my electorate: of course many here would know Rosemary and Warwick Champion; Peter and Sue Webley; Dom Burden; Brett Walsh; John and Joanne Milne; and Sonia and Peter Doyle. On the eastern side it was Sue and John Engwicht, Arthur and Niree Goodwin, Jeanette Bunting, Helen Quinn, Ian Williams, Eric Bowyer and Audrey Fluerty. My family has played a major role in my life and also in my election to the seat of Gregory. To my beautiful wife of 16 years, Peta, who is here with me today with my three beautiful children, Lucy, Ellie and Poppy: thank you for everything you have done and I love you very much.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr MILLAR: Like many in this parliament, I have been blessed with a wonderful partner and beautiful children. My wife has been beside me through this and, like so many other things over the last 16 years of marriage, she did not blink an eye when I said I was standing for preselection and stood by me through this. I truly love her and the children for everything that they have done.

To my parents Cameron and Joan Millar, who stood beside me as I took this journey, thank you so much. Dad, thank you for running around with me in the ute putting up signs in 40-degree heat in Emerald. It is a really great way to spend some time with your dad, so I would encourage people to do that. To Dougall and Hamish, my brothers, for your support not only through this but throughout my life, I am truly grateful. Whether it was coming back on the farm or as an ABC Rural reporter or now in politics, they have always stood beside me and I am very lucky to have that. I also want to acknowledge three matriarchs in my life who are no longer with us. The first is my mother Carol Millar, whom I love and who was very proud for me to commit to politics, and to my grandmothers, Grandma Peggy Millar and Nan Jo Lucas. All played a significant role in my upbringing.

As a son of a farmer and a grandson, a great-grandson and a great-great-grandson of graziers throughout Queensland, agriculture and regional Queensland have been my whole life. From farming to contract harvesting to my career as an ABC Rural reporter, I have always believed that my life belonged to agriculture and representing the bush. I am a proud supporter of it, it is a major economic contributor to this state and it is a major employer.

The seat of Gregory is the second largest in the state covering a massive 330,000 square kilometres—from Haddon Corner on the South Australian border and then in a north-east sweep all the way past Duaringa, which is just 100 kilometres west of Rockhampton. The famous poet Dorothea Mackellar would sum up the electorate perfectly—

I love a sunburnt country,
A land of sweeping plains,
Of ragged mountain ranges,
Of droughts and flooding rains.

The towns and the communities in the electorate of Gregory include Quilpie, Windorah and Jundah in the south-west; Blackall, Tambo, Isisford, Yaraka and Ilfracombe; and Longreach, Barcaldine, Jericho and Alpha in the central west. We then move east to the Central Highlands with the Willows and the gemfields, including Rubyvale, Sapphire and Anakie. We then have Emerald and then to the south of Emerald we have Springsure and Rolleston and then to the north of Emerald we have Capella, Teri and Clermont and then we have to the east Comet, Blackwater, Bluff, Dingo,

Woorabinda and Daringa. I make special mention of Woorabinda. It is the Aboriginal council community in my electorate, and it does a fantastic job. It had a good friend in Vaughan Johnson—a fantastic friend in Vaughan Johnson—and I hope to do the same as Vaughan has done to Woorabinda. They are good people and all they want is a fair go, and I promise to represent them well.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr MILLAR: As members would realise, Gregory is a very diverse and very large electorate. Some of the longer serving members would know the kilometres covered by the former member, Vaughan Johnson. In fact, his Toyota LandCruiser has some key accessories not normally found on a normal car. First of all, you have to have a huge bullbar—one of those ones that wraps right around the car. Secondly, you have to have spotlights that would light up the world at night, and there are lots of spotlights. You would also need an Engel fridge in the back so you can have some sandwiches for lunch in case you do not get to the place that you need to get to in time, always have a swag and always, always have two spare tyres because if you get a flat on some of those roads—even if you get two—you will get home, but if you get three flat tyres on your trip you could be in trouble and possibly hundreds of kilometres from anywhere for help. You are certainly out in the back country.

The electorate of Gregory is a wealth creation region for the state's economy. From the vast Mitchell grass plains, gidgee and mulga country in the west producing this state's best cattle and beef and wool and sheep production to some of the best grazing and agricultural prime farming land of the Central Highlands producing cattle, beef, cotton, grain and horticulture, it is really the salad bowl of Queensland. The electorate is also home to the Bowen Basin, the resource rich mining region for this state, and hopefully soon to be a mining region for the Galilee Basin—a major employer for this state that provides plenty of royalties that this state receives. Gregory is also home to what I believe is one of Queensland tourism's jewels in the crown—outback tourism. I believe it starts in the Central Highlands with the mighty Carnarvon Gorge—where I have been plenty of times—and the Blackdown Tableland then stretching through the gemfields and then on to the west of the electorate which includes the Tree of Knowledge and the Australian Workers Heritage Centre, which those on my right would be very familiar with, the Blackall Woolscour and of course the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame, the Qantas Founders Museum and the Thomson River.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr MILLAR: I look forward to the Minister for Tourism coming out there and I would be more than happy to show her around. There is also the back country in the south such as Quilpie, Windorah and Jundah, and of course Quilpie is looking forward to taking advantage of its dinosaur trail like Winton has and is looking at infrastructure to make it a tourism spot such as a conference centre. I think that that is well worthwhile, so I will be advocating on its behalf as well.

There are many issues that impact the electorate of Gregory that I would like to touch on in my maiden speech, but I believe time will be against me. Drought has ravaged the west for nearly three years. That is three years without a wet season. It has devastated local towns and communities such as Longreach, Ilfracombe, Isisford and Yaraka, down to Blackall, then back up to Barcardine, then to Aramac and across to Muttaborra. It has also hit hard in the south-west at Quilpie, Windorah and Jundah. The drought is hurting not only local graziers but also small businesses—from the local bakery and pharmacy to the auto-electrician, mechanic and the list goes on. Drought funding from the state government was started under the former minister for agriculture, John McVeigh—a good friend—and he has been very passionate about drought assistance since December 2012 when we went to Georgetown. That money for the drought has been well received. The new Minister for Agriculture has spoken to me about it and he is supporting the drought funding as well, especially the water infrastructure rebate, which has gone down well. But I believe that we are now facing a natural disaster. It is a slow, creeping natural disaster that has crept up on us over the past three years.

There has been a massive downturn in local economies that needs to be recognised by all levels of government. People are hurting and we need to do something urgently to keep those people in these towns. Nothing has changed since Prime Minister Tony Abbott's listening tour to Longreach well over a year ago, except that small businesses in these towns are now facing a hard time similar to that experienced by the surrounding graziers. The current situation warrants a roundtable meeting of federal, state and local governments to come up with some more solutions, because if we keep these graziers and small business people in these towns while they are going through this drought, once the season breaks we will get that back from them tenfold through keeping jobs in those local communities, through keeping teachers in those local communities and through keeping police

officers in those local communities. Also, they will be paying their taxes. If we help these graziers and these small businesses now through this tough time they will be there for us when the season turns around and they will stick with us.

As I mentioned, the seat of Gregory is home to the state's best farming land—the Central Highlands where I come from—the Emerald irrigation area and an area they call the golden triangle, which stretches from Emerald down to Springsure across to Rolleston and back up to Comet. This land needs to be protected, because this country is one of the region's best assets—farming land that will be needed as we target the high-end premium markets in Asia, from cotton to horticulture, to grains, to pulses, to cattle on feed. The farming sector and the resources sector have to coexist. Both are vitally important to my electorate and to the region's economy. They both provide most of the jobs in the electorate of Gregory. Right now, with the downturn in the resources sector, local towns such as Emerald, Blackwater, Capella, Tieri and Clermont are hurting. The low price of coal and mining companies laying off workers over the past year has had a huge impact on the local economy. We need to protect our valuable farming land, because when mining is down agriculture provides the economic baseline that keeps our economy out there going.

Before I finish my maiden speech I would like to leave this chamber with some last words from the former member for Burdekin, Rosemary Menkens, whom many members here know. On 27 November last year I had the privilege to personally hear in this House Rosemary Menkens make her valedictory speech. I hope I can live my time in this chamber by what Rosemary said—

Respect is earned, honesty is appreciated, trust is gained and loyalty is always returned.

Thank you.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Congratulations to the member for Gregory. Can I remind honourable members that parliamentary practice generally is to have no clapping in the House. We support members by acclamation such as 'hear, hear!' rather than clapping.

 **Hon. JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.34 pm): It is an absolute honour to be standing here as the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and the Minister for Corrective Services in the Palaszczuk Labor government. I thank the people of Bundamba for returning me as their Labor member and I pledge to them that I will work very hard for them over the next three years.

For the past three years I sat on the other side of the House surrounded by just eight other Labor MPs. We were accosted, laughed at, ignored and mocked in equal measure by the LNP members sitting across from us in this chamber. With their thumping majority they saw us as irrelevant. They thought that they would be in power for years to come. But what a difference a few months make.

Mr Bleijie: I'll still ignore you, Jo.

Mrs MILLER: I take that interjection from the member for Kawana. He said, 'I'll still ignore you, Jo.' I will not ignore you, my friend. We in the Labor Party have a strong record of standing up for all Queenslanders. We have always valued those who choose to stand up to make a difference in their own communities. We need to only look at my portfolio to see the kinds of incredible people who we have working for us for the betterment of Queensland—our police, our fireies, our SES volunteers, our rural fire volunteers and, more broadly, our teachers, nurses and doctors who work right across our state. We are also the ones who have always seen value in a close-knit community, such as encouraging people to work together to solve issues on their streets and in their neighbourhoods and supporting people who are looking to make a difference to their towns, to their state and to their country.

Much has been said and many pages have been written about what happened at the last election. Despite the range of views, one thing is abundantly clear to me: Queenslanders heard the LNP asking them to make a strong choice about the future of the state and they certainly did. They made a very strong choice to remove them from power and to reject a government that picked a fight with just about every section of the Queensland community. Queenslanders were sick and tired of the arrogance of the LNP. They were sick and tired of the LNP members doing whatever they wanted because they were drunk on power. Queenslanders were sick and tired of their concerns being rudely

and callously dismissed by those who were supposed to be listening. The LNP sacked public servants, rushed through laws and wound back the rights of workers and LGBT Queenslanders. They left pensioners out in the cold and they picked fights repeatedly with doctors, nurses, ambos, fires and teachers. The last election is a perfect example of what happens when political parties stop listening to the people who they supposedly represent. We on this side of the House know that only too well.

But the last election was also an example of what happens when political parties listen to Queenslanders. Over the past three years Labor MPs, although very small in number, travelled the length and breadth of Queensland to listen, to consult and to rebuild the trust that we lost in 2012. At the last election, people made it crystal clear that they wanted their Queensland back—a fair Queensland that gives everyone an equal opportunity to thrive with a government that reaches out and lends a helping hand to those who are less fortunate in our community; a government that sees homelessness, poverty and unemployment as wrongs that must be righted, not problems to be avoided at every opportunity, which is what the LNP did; and a government that listens to the people and stands up for the people.

That is what Queenslanders told us that they wanted and that is what the Palaszczuk government will deliver. We know that equality is not the child of growth, it is the twin of growth. Equality does not just depend upon prosperity, it generates prosperity. We will not leave anybody behind. The Palaszczuk government believes in fairness. We believe in listening. We will be open, accountable and will act with integrity in everything that we do. That is the higher ground that we strive for, unlike those in the LNP who thought Queenslanders would not notice their 'jobs for the boys' mentality, their nasty, personal vendettas against individual public servants and their open disdain for an independent corruption body to keep a watchful eye on government.

Since the years of the Goss government—such a ray of light after those prolonged dark days of Joh Bjelke-Petersen—it was Labor that worked to modernise Queensland. We fought hard for an independent judiciary, to improve access to justice for all Queenslanders and we shone a light on police corruption which was left to fester under LNP predecessor governments. As previous premiers, Wayne Goss and Peter Beattie delivered for vulnerable Queenslanders through the creation of things such as the drug courts, youth justice conferencing and other programs designed to break the cycle of crime, not just lock up our kids.

Sadly, the Newman government showed exactly how much damage the LNP can do in three short years. Those opposite saw it as an opportunity to ride into battle, but it was not so much on a warhorse, but on a Shetland pony straight out of the Young LNP stable. The know-it-all, failed former Attorney-General led the charge; a man once so concerned about the rights of outlawed motorcycle gangs that he poured his heart out about it on the floor of this very House. He then did a backflip so mighty that he would be a good bet for the gymnastics gold in Rio next year. Then he had a change of heart. He pranced into battle and he waved his kerchief and he yelled at the bikies. But what did he yell? 'Boo!' The ridiculously named Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Bill was rushed through the parliament with no consultation and no parliamentary oversight. Was the man whose biggest priority was special birth certificates to celebrate a royal birth trying to shed his goody-two-shoes image? Was he trying to strike fear into the hearts of bikies everywhere by channelling Vlad the Impaler? As we all know now, he turned out to be 'Vlad the conveyancer'. The fact is that the LNP's laws were based on the premise that all organised criminal activity in Queensland is undertaken within outlaw motorcycle gangs. The fact is that organised criminal activity can be undertaken by people in suits and ties. We all know that what the former Attorney-General said was wrong, yet the know-it-all could not be told, not even by his own side. He was so obsessed with outlaw motorcycle gangs that I was beginning to think that he had come down with a bad case of a very exotic disease. I ask members, through the Deputy Speaker, did he come down with 'bikie-itis', or maybe was it 'bikie pox', or maybe was it bikie-flammation'? Sadly, whatever it was, there was no cure. His obsession continued and so his laws focus only on bikies when the evidence clearly shows that outlaw motorcycle gangs are just one component of organised criminal activity in Queensland. They were designed to be a political distraction; to hold a shiny ball in the air as a political distraction against the destruction of the rights of the people of Queensland. That is why we are establishing a high-level task force comprised of police and other relevant government agencies—the Bar Association, the Law Society and the Police Union—to review these laws. We are also establishing a commission of inquiry into organised crime in Queensland.

As minister I want to ensure that we value our police and that we listen to their advice and let them get on with the job of keeping Queenslanders safe. Gone are the days of 'Commissioner Campbell Newman', 'Blue Heeler Bleijie' and 'Sergeant Stuckey' sticking their noses in where they are not wanted and imposing their very extensive knowledge on operational policing matters from their many years as keystone cops. That is not how I will operate as a minister. The days of government interfering in police operational matters is over. It is finished.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order on my left!

Mrs MILLER: We are focused on supporting our police in the hard and dangerous job that they do every day. That is why we committed an extra \$20 million for our police to tackle organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the dangerous drug ice, and \$5 million for the rollout of body-worn cameras. The ruthless and heartless nature that Campbell Newman and his team displayed relentlessly from the moment they were sworn in brought heartache and hardship right across Queensland. What that terrible government did to communities like mine in just three years is unforgivable. The cutbacks, the sackings and the postcode discrimination was very real. The arrogance of the LNP is simply unforgivable: the arrogance in sacking over 20,000 people and thinking somehow that none would notice—the LNP took away their jobs, their careers and in doing so took away their family homes, their lifestyle and their dignity because they did not have a job, and many of them still do not have a job; the arrogance in treating 20,000 people—mums and dads, husbands and wives, friends and neighbours—like another line item on a balance sheet; the arrogance in doing backdoor deals and giving jobs to the LNP boys like Michael Caltabiano; the arrogance in spending \$6 million of taxpayer funding on an advertising campaign to hoodwink Queenslanders into asset sales; the arrogance in spending \$6 million more of taxpayers' money to tell Queenslanders why the LNP intended to ignore their plea not to have a fire sale and that they would be flogging the assets off anyway; the arrogance in calling an asset sale a 99-year lease; and the arrogance in the hospital waiting list advertising that no-one at all believed because Queenslanders could not be hoodwinked—no-one believed it at all.

If you stop listening to the people who elect you, you pay a price. We know this all too well. We will never be an arrogant government. We are a government that listens to the people we represent. We are a government that consults. We are a government that acts in the public interest. We are a government with a heart that beats to the rhythm of the people of this great state.

Winding back the clock on accountability does not make for a better Queensland. Sacking the PCMC, of which I was a deputy chair, was unprecedented in Queensland and simply unforgivable, and the people of Queensland were horrified. The LNP paid the ultimate price for failing to understand that. Now it is time to focus on real issues that affect real Queenslanders. Now it is time to put Queenslanders first and now it is time to consign the horrible memories of the past three years under the Newman government, which the opposition wants to forget, to the dustbin of history. The 2012 to January 2015 filename should be 'the LNP forgettory'.

Democratic representative transparent systems should be the goal for all political parties. Labor was founded on a belief in the value of participation and representation for everyone in our democracy. This belief sits deep within the bedrock of our party. It is in our soul. This belief also provides a unique responsibility in facing the challenges that now confront Queensland. By listening to Queenslanders and with their help and their guidance we can revitalise our political system and restore faith and confidence in government as a whole. Trust is the cornerstone of any government. We must take the lead in restoring trust and we will. That trust was brutally and shamefully abused by those opposite when the LNP was in government.

Over the past three years, my colleagues in the parliamentary party and I sought to rebuild that trust with Queenslanders. Hour by hour, day after day, street by street, suburb by suburb, town by town and city by city, we worked to restore Queenslanders' trust, while the LNP destroyed the very fabric of what Queensland means to the people who live in this great state. I pay tribute to those true believers in the parliamentary Labor Party for 2012-15: Anastacia, Tim, Curtis, Bill, Desley, Jackie, Anthony and Yvette. I will never forget the past three years in this place with you. We worked to rebuild, whilst the LNP was on a seek-and-destroy mission. I also congratulate our new Labor members of parliament and the thousands of party members and volunteers who helped us regain that trust across Queensland, and our colleagues in the union movement. I thank those members of the community who voted Labor and put their trust in us. I pledge to uphold that trust, as do all members of our government. Our government will not take that trust as a blank cheque. Unlike the former government, when we say we will consult and when we say we will listen we will do it.

I reiterate something I said in my maiden speech in this chamber 15 years ago. It will be the same principle that guides me as minister. It is pretty simple. I said—

Indeed, the best solutions are where the solutions are found in the community, by the community and owned by the community and the community then consults the Government for its assistance in policy and funding matters.

I am especially proud to stand in this place with my fellow Ipswich members of parliament, Jen Howard and Jim Madden. If Barcaldine is the home of the Labor movement, then Ipswich is the home of Labor values. In three years we saw what happens when trust, equality, integrity and accountability are thrown out the window. We have seen what arrogance and hubris look and feel like; like bowing to a tory tosser. In fact, I am pretty sure that when you look up 'arrogant' in the dictionary, you will be greeted by a photo of the failed former Attorney-General and the oncers who were elected to this place in 2012. At least I told them the truth: day after day I called them oncers, but they never listened and they never believed it, such was their arrogance. Between now and the next election, I will work every minute of every day to deliver for the people of Queensland because that is what they deserve. I support the motion of the Premier.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (3.54 pm): I rise to, of course, support the Premier's motion. Et tu, Brute? I will come back to that term very shortly. It is apt given that, since I was last in this parliament, what has transpired for those on the opposite side of the chamber is the equivalent of an LNP Shakespearean tragedy. I am sure that some on the other side wake in the middle of the night, covered in a cold sweat and screaming, 'Why? How could we get to this position?' Today, we heard reflections from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BYRNE: I will talk about that. Do not worry: I am going to talk about how those opposite squandered political capital at the rate that they did for three years. I can talk about that for as long as I am allowed to stand here, because when in opposition we pointed out exactly what would transpire if the LNP government continued to pursue the line of legislation that it chose.

Earlier this morning, we heard the Deputy Leader of the Opposition talk about capital projects, leverage in the mid-2000s and how they were funded in government budgets. He followed that with a comparison to what happened in later years of the last Labor administrations. However, something happened between those two budgetary plays, which, of course, was the global financial crisis. During three years in opposition, I never heard anybody from the then LNP government actually refer to the implications of the global financial crisis and how states or any level of government dealt with those implications. It is that complete lack of appreciation of the economic standing of the nation and the state that informed many of the decisions that they made subsequently. One of the funniest things I can recall, which happened before I even came into this House, was the now Leader of the Opposition at a time when I think he was Leader of the Opposition—there is something nice and circular about that—denying that the GFC even happened. 'GFC? What GFC?' is a badge for the current Leader of the Opposition.

There has been a lot of reflection on previous Labor governments. What about previous LNP oppositions? What about the previous LNP opposition views on asset sales and leases? We can all recall the famous quote that the leasing program run by a previous Labor government was the equivalent of 'selling the farm'. I ask this simple question: what is their position today? Clearly asset sales are off the agenda, so they must support the Labor position going forward. There has been no commentary at any point from any of the senior members of the opposition about where they stand on this critical issue and how they intend to move forward any plan that they may have. That simply reflects on the complete lack of core substance held by the LNP.

What about the LNP's position on bikies when in opposition? I can recall the now Leader of the Opposition—I think he was the shadow Attorney-General at the time—meeting with patched bikies and coming out of those meetings to do a press conference to talk about bikies' civil liberties. Therefore, the various interjections we have heard so far this afternoon are fairly typical of the complete lack of substance that came from the LNP, either in opposition or in government.

Here is another good one: do members remember what the LNP said about uranium before the 2012 election? 'We have no plans for uranium mining in this state.' They took that position to an election, but what happened when they came to power? There was a complete backflip on what they said prior to the election. I will not stand here and listen to the LNP criticise Labor for backflips.

The LNP has form on this, but I cannot work out what they are going to be doing going forward because, frankly, the only plan they talked about was their 'strong plan for a bright future'. We all remember the logo, although I do not see it on any of their cars today. At that time I warned them that their bright future would be underneath a mushroom cloud; that it would be a thermonuclear bright future. Today the ashes that we see across the chamber are a reflection of their complete failure to understand what Queenslanders desire.

What we should be debating is the supposed mandate of the Leader of the Opposition. I found it interesting to read the media reports as their members came together to vote 23 to 20 in support of the present Leader of the Opposition. I do not know where that third vote came from, but it may have been Brutus in the room. I assume it was 22 to 20, so if one vote changes we will have a hung opposition. Half of the members of the opposition do not support their own leader. Twenty of the members across the chamber do not support him. I am surprised that the Leader of the Opposition has the courage to sit in the front row with all the dirks sitting in someone's socks. Twenty of the people opposite do not support the Leader of the Opposition.

It is a ridiculous notion that the supposedly unified opposition has got something to criticise Labor about in terms of a mandate. Across the chamber there 20 of them do not support their own leader. What is it—the agrarian socialists on one side versus the economic rationalist fundamentalists on the other? Put your hand up if you are an agrarian socialist? It is an interesting reflection on just where we are with the opposition. They are all over the shop.

On this issue of confidence, I can tell members one thing. The people of Queensland have stood up and had their vote. The people of Queensland never get it wrong. That is the first thing that the LNP opposition have to realise. Not one of the speakers from the opposition to this point has accepted the fact that the Queensland public has said, 'We did not like that too much. We did not like the way you approached government. We did not like the way you approached communities. We did not like the results you were generating. We did not like the way you were killing off jobs. We did not like the way you were knocking off everything that Queensland represents and stands for.' There was not an institution in this state that the previous government did not choose to have conflict with—attack, attack, attack, attack—every single moment.

Can anybody in this House recall an election campaign where a president of a police union has stood up and called the sitting conservative Premier a liar?

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. That language is unparliamentary and the member should know that from his previous experience.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! I do not believe there is any point of order.

Mr BYRNE: It is a direct quote from the president of the police union. He stood up and made that statement at a media conference. It is unprecedented—

Mrs Frecklington: What are you doing?

Mr BYRNE: It is all about confidence, is it not? When was the last time anyone in this state heard a police union president stand up and talk about a conservative Premier in such a fashion? That is the core consistency of those opposite supposedly. What do we see? We see criticism even from their core constituency.

It has been a revelation to me to travel Queensland over the last few weeks. Guess what? I have been out in regional Queensland in areas that many of those opposite represent. I can tell members that while they may not vote for us they certainly did not like the last government. One consistent message I have received from all interest groups and from all organisations in the bush is that they despise the previous LNP government.

It takes a certain amount of special effort for a conservative government whose core constituency is supposedly in regional and rural Queensland to end up alienating great chunks of their own constituency. They had blues with the doctors, blues with the nurses, blues with the police union, blues with the firies. Was there anybody out there that the former government did not take issue with in the three years of carnage and ruin that punctuated their reign of terror? Was there any time that the LNP government did not decide that they wanted to have a fight with someone?

Those opposite cannot spell consultation. They never listened to anybody. Those opposite are going to stand in front of Queenslanders and say that they do not have confidence in a Labor government. Goodness gracious me; the election has been done. The LNP have been measured and

found wanting. They should understand that and come to grips with their new reality. If the opposition can get over their own internal disputes—disputes about who gets what in the ruins of the empire—perhaps they may make some sort of valued contribution to public policy in this state.

Right now there is nothing we could say about the previous government, nothing that we could say about the way in which they approached development of public policy, nothing about the way in which they conducted themselves in this House that could give anyone any comfort about the value they are going to add to this parliament. People can have a Liberal National Party administration—one that is clearly deeply divided, 20 to 22; one that has totally opposing agendas and no clear vision whatsoever. All we have heard from every speaker opposite is talk of the past. They are navel-gazing. That is what they did during the last term. Three or four elections ago they were sitting remonstrating about the past.

If we are talking about confidence, let us talk about the future. I challenge anyone over there to stand up and talk about their vision, to talk about the future, to talk about public policy they want to contribute to—where we are going to improve the lot of Queenslanders. That would be refreshing for once. In the three years of the last parliament I never heard a word that we could craft to mean a positive future where they would bring all of Queensland with them.

I want to talk about a few other things. I have been dealing with a few challenges in my portfolio recently. There are a couple that spring to mind. I am happy to talk about some of the issues—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BYRNE: I can talk about that if you like. I will talk about some of the issues in the biosecurity area, for example. What did I discover when I became the Minister for Agriculture? In short order I found out that the—

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr BYRNE: We can talk about net fishing very shortly, if you like. We can see where you want to sit on net fishing. If you want to talk about policy and you want to interject we can talk about net fishing and where you sit, sport—no problem whatsoever.

Let us talk about the banana issue. It is quite a serious issue. I have made some public statements about it. The concerning aspect of that, when looking at the department, is discovering that during the term of the last government they cut 26 per cent of staff out of Biosecurity Queensland. I can tell members that there is no-one in Biosecurity Queensland that is saying, 'Bring back the LNP.' There is nobody coming up to my desk saying, 'Goodness gracious me, the pinkos have taken control of agriculture and here is the horror story.'

The horror story is what the LNP did to the department of agriculture. They are doing high fives in the hallways of the department. I go down and visit people on the fifth floor and the third floor. They have never seen a minister before. Can members believe that? They have never seen a minister. A minister has never gone down to talk to the troops in their own department. What goes on in the LNP? What does leadership mean? A minister has never been down and spoken to anyone at their work station. They have never seen a minister walk through the department. It is incredible. We have the chainsaw wielding LNP out there destroying departments supposedly—

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): What is your point of order?

Mr CRIPPS: The Minister for Agriculture commenced his remarks in relation to Biosecurity Queensland by referring to the current issue relating to the identification of tropical race 4 in the Tully Valley. I ask the Minister for Agriculture to clarify—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a debate.

Mr CRIPPS:—whether he is linking—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am ruling that there is no point of order.

Mr CRIPPS:—the outbreak of tropical race 4—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am ruling there is no point of order. The minister has the call.

Mr CRIPPS:—with the circumstances of Biosecurity Queensland. I challenge you, Bill, to elaborate on your comments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have ruled on your point of order. I call the minister.

Mr Cripps: Be careful, Bill, because I am listening very carefully.

Mr BYRNE: I make the point again in case the member does not understand what I have said.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The minister has the call.

Mr BYRNE: I will make the point again gently so it sinks in. Looking at the issues associated with the banana issue I had discovered that the LNP had cut 26 per cent of staff out of Biosecurity Queensland. You can draw your own conclusions. I am not making any inference.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. He should direct his comments through the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the minister to direct his comments through the chair. I call the minister.

Mr BYRNE: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr Cripps: Pretty interesting, Bill—pretty interesting.

Mr BYRNE: Well, it is a statement of fact. The community at large can draw its own conclusions. This debate is about confidence in the government. I know from my own experience that the peak bodies in Western Queensland are glad to see this mob go. They are thrilled to see them depart, never to return. They say to me, 'We get a better deal with a Labor administration and always have. The worst administration you can have for the bush is a conservative one because they take them for granted and don't listen.' That is the message that has been given to me long and clear from the LNP's supposed core constituency. So the fact is that, while they may not ever vote for us, they certainly would not want to vote for the LNP and do so out of pure desperation if nothing else.

The fact is that the tens of thousands of jobs that were cut by the LNP during their time in government had enormous consequences for regional economies. For places like Rockhampton, where I come from, which was once a large government node—many Public Service functions and services for Central Queensland and for Western Queensland were delivered from Rockhampton—the job cuts in the departments have done irreparable damage to small business and the local economy. There is no doubt about that whatsoever. What did the government of the day do about that? What did they even think was happening in regional economies? Go and have a look at Maryborough, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville—all of those economies.

There is a reason why we lost one per cent of state domestic product after those job cuts. Where were they felt most? They were felt most in regional hubs. When you look at the numbers of jobs that were cut in regional Queensland by this government, you can see that that had a direct and demonstrable effect on those local economies. Everyone who works or who has a small business in those economies knows full well that when you sack thousands of people in regional Queensland—you remove those permanent jobs, you remove those permanent incomes, you remove those children going to school—there is only one trajectory for those local regional economies, and that is down. That is exactly what this House can attribute to the decisions made by the previous government.

The fact that the LNP come in here now in opposition and try to defend the positions that they have taken for three years—the nonsense economics that they peddled and the lack of sensitivity to what people with a genuine interest believe—is why the people of Queensland cast their vote for us. Labor won the election. I know many in the LNP across the chamber have still not reconciled this fact. But that is the fact of that matter. There is only one party that can form government in this state. The LNP cannot form government; that is a fact. This is not a debate about anything. This is a fact of numbers. The LNP do not have the numbers. It is simple. It is maths. It is like the economy.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: Do you understand that? Do you understand that you do not have the numbers? Understand this: you are in opposition, so get used to the idea and start thinking about approaching your responsibilities to your constituents in a fashion that crafts good public policy for this state. Why don't you try that in future? Why don't you think about contributing to this House by developing good public policy? That would be a revelation, particularly to those of us who were here in opposition in the last parliament, because we saw absolutely none of that, not one skerrick of interest in engaging the community in a genuine fashion. That is what we saw from an LNP government—no policy consistency, no policies today, prepared to backflip on everything given the opportunity. I think they need to develop a few characteristics. How about trying this in opposition: what you say in opposition is what you actually do in government? That would be a real revelation for the LNP if they ever decided to do that. In their history there is not a single example that one can think of where the LNP has not flipped over on core policies when the opportunity arose in government.

I conclude with these final statements. What we see today across the chamber is the modern-day equivalent of rebels without a cause, the James Deans of Queensland politics. They have absolutely no cause to hang their flag on and no agenda that makes any sense whatsoever. They are completely in ashes, compared to having the biggest majority that this state has ever seen and burning that political capital like there was no tomorrow. They talk about having no confidence in a Labor government, but Queenslanders have made their decision and that decision is: anyone but the LNP.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.15 pm): If anyone was in any doubt as to why the opposition should have no confidence in the government it is because of the member for Bundamba's contribution to this House this afternoon. Premier Palaszczuk stood in this place when in opposition and stood out there in the electorate and told the people, 'I'm going to have new standards in this place. My members will treat people with dignity. My members will treat people with respect.' Well I hope the honourable Premier heard the member for Bundamba's contribution to this debate. I hope members will read *Hansard* tomorrow and have a look at the language that the member for Bundamba used in this House. If I were in any doubt—and I was not—not to oppose the confidence motion, I have been relieved of that onerous duty.

I will be opposing the motion of confidence in this government for a number of reasons. I will start where we left off—with the member for Bundamba. I am particularly pleased to be the shadow minister for fire, emergency services, corrective services and police, and I note the honourable minister is my counterpart in that respect. So we should start with the member for Bundamba and her contribution to this debate today.

I was interested during the recent election campaign as to what the Labor Party's view on law and order was. We know—and one only has to look through the parliamentary *Hansard* records over the last few years—that the Labor Party have had a few positions on law and order. They are soft one day and then they are medium the next day. They are tough one day and then they are asking for forgiveness for being tough the next day. They have been a bit of a marshmallow.

Mr Costigan: All over the shop.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, all over the shop. I did say at the time that the one consistent thing about the Labor Party was their inconsistency. When we talk about the law and order agenda that the LNP pursued, it led to real results. I note the police minister and the Attorney-General are talking about wanting workable laws. Well I do not know about you, Mr Deputy Speaker, but when I look at crime across the state reducing by 10 per cent and when I look at robberies on the Gold Coast being down by 43 per cent, I am pretty sure the laws are working. The Premier ought to travel to the Gold Coast and speak to the business owners and the constituents on the ground at the Gold Coast and they will all too familiarly tell her why the laws are working.

But we have had the election. We accept the result and we will hold this government to account. What is the first policy the member for Bundamba releases? Prior to the election they had this rhetoric of law and order where they said they were going to repeal the bokie laws, if members recall, and replace them with workable laws. Then the laws became popular and they changed their position to: 'We are going to keep the laws. We are going to review the laws.' Then during the election campaign that turned into having a royal commission and setting up a task force. Now they are relying on the support of the Independent member for Nicklin, who has publicly said he does not want the laws to apply, so they are in a quandary there.

Now we know that they are reviewing the laws. The current laws will stay in place. Much to my surprise, I then heard about the first policy of the new Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. They are big on rhetoric about law and order, but the first policy they announced was 'Get out of jail free'. Members may recall this article in the *Courier-Mail*. I assume the member for Bundamba did a freelance interview that the Premier's office was not fully aware of or fully in tune with. I hasten to say that we have all been there. The member for Bundamba did a freelance interview and talked to the journalist about all sorts of things that the member for Bundamba, as the new police minister, is going to do. So we had the headline 'Get out of jail free'. The Minister for Police was talking about releasing a number—we do not know how many, but I assume thousands—of prisoners onto our streets on community service orders. The police minister and, for that matter, the Attorney-General do not have the power to release prisoners on community service orders. That is a matter for our courts and our judges.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Member for Whitsunday, hold fire; it gets better.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: It gets better, member for Hinchinbrook. The member for Bundamba also did a photo shoot in the *Courier-Mail* and in the same story she said they will release all these prisoners but she then denies it is going soft on crime. Then the member for Bundamba—I think this is one interview she will definitely regret and one sentence she will definitely regret, and we are going to remind people right around Queensland, particularly North Queensland, about this—is quoted as saying—

Jo-Ann Miller, the new Police and Corrective Services Minister, said she was worried about the conditions prisoners were in, doubling up in cells, and facing a construction bill of more than \$1 billion for new jails if radical action wasn't taken.

So the violin comes out and she now feels sorry because we have prisoners doubling up on mattresses. If we have more than six patients in hospital wards and if our military personnel serve overseas and have rations, then I hold the view that it is okay for two prisoners to be on comfortable mattresses in an air-conditioned room in a prison in the state of Queensland. The new police and corrective services minister is worried that prisoners have a comfortable mattress, air conditioning and natural light. She is worried about that so she wants to open the doors of our prisons in Queensland and let the prisoners out. My question to the honourable minister is: how many prisoners are being released under this new plan? What offences have these prisoners committed? Will the minister categorically rule out any form of violent prisoners—albeit minor violent prisoners, any physical altercations—being released onto our streets? That is the question the Queensland community wants answered.

The minister should travel to North Queensland and talk to the likes of Torhild Parkinson, one of the great local campaign action workers for law and order who has had vehicles stolen in Townsville. I know the member for Hinchinbrook has campaigned long and hard on the issue of law and order in Townsville. The minister will know that communities are suffering and will suffer more if the plan of the new police and corrective services minister eventuates. However, I cannot see that plan eventuating because within 24 hours this freelance interview was slapped down by the new Premier, saying that the police minister got it wrong. I can imagine the phone call from level 15.

Mrs Miller interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: As I said, we have all been there. I can imagine the Premier's office reading the *Courier-Mail* the next morning and asking, 'What has the minister done?' Then the phone starts. 'Retract it, retract it.' But she couldn't because the police minister had done a lengthy interview with the *Courier-Mail*.

Let us talk about some other matters. The police minister talks about the VLAD laws. I have obviously taken a keen interest in the VLAD laws and the criminal organisation laws, as I will continue to do now as shadow police minister, because I support our men in blue on the beat. I will put their interests first every single day, every single night, every single year. I will always put first the interests of the men and women in blue who risk their lives first. If you ask, Mr Deputy Speaker, whether I would put first the interests of prisoners in an air-conditioned room who are doubling up on mattresses or our men and women in blue on the beat, I will always put first police men and women. In fact, Mr Deputy Speaker, I put it to you and to the House that the new police minister would be the only police minister in Queensland's history who has talked about police releasing prisoners, not arresting prisoners. That is the policy position of this new police minister, and it is quite concerning.

The police minister obviously has not read the legislation because she says that the VLAD legislation deals only with bikies. It does not. The VLAD legislation deals with motorcycle criminal gangs, paedophile rings—the worst of the worst, child sex offenders, are caught under the VLAD legislation—and organised crime that does not involve motorcycles. So we have covered the underworld, the motorcycle gangs and child sex offenders in one piece of legislation.

Mr Molhoek: So does that affect the people who are out there peddling ice to our kids?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable member for Southport, because he knows all too well the issues on the Gold Coast and what his community has had to put up with for many years. I congratulate the member for Gaven on his election to this place because he campaigned for strong laws against criminal gangs. My advice to the police minister is to spend the time to sit down and read the legislation, because what she told parliament was incorrect in terms of the impact and effect of what the laws do.

To turn to other matters, we just heard the contribution of Minister Bill Byrne. The minister is another reason why members ought be in no doubt why they should not vote in favour of this confidence motion. He was talking about leadership. I think he was trying to do some numbers. He could not count to three, but he was trying to do some numbers over there. I ask the member for Rockhampton which ticket he is on: is he on the Cameron Dick ticket or the Jackie Trad ticket? What we saw in this place today is a lot of shuffling around. The member for Woodridge and new health minister talked about the ringing endorsement he got from the member for Woodridge. The member for Woodridge had to reply on the statistics for Woodridge because if he relied on statewide statistics he would be talking about 37 per cent, and in the words of the Treasurer that is a gerrymander and no government should govern with 40 per cent of the vote, I think he said. I know the member for Woodridge would have preferred things to be a little different. I know he would have preferred to be two chairs to his left but unfortunately he is—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Well, the plan did not work out. Who knows what promises were made. I think it is important in this hung parliament to acknowledge a couple of facts. No party in its own right has the numbers to form government in the state, although I note that the Labor Party have done a deal on confidence with the Independent member for Nicklin. It is their right to do that and it is each individual member's right to do that, but that will not stop the opposition from holding all members to account on any agreements they made or what they might do in the future.

Mr Deputy Speaker—my apologies, I should say 'Madam Deputy Speaker'—you have to compare and contrast the likes of the ministerial team over there with the experienced team on this side of the chamber. We see a cabinet where one-third of the ministers are new in this chamber, and we wish them all the very best and we wish them well tomorrow in their first question time.

I think it is important that we make sure Queenslanders understand—and I am sure they do—that the Labor Party do not have any clear mandate. I have heard Labor members not only in this place over the last 24 hours but in the last couple of weeks talk about this great mandate that they have. As the Deputy Premier has been making all of these decisions that one would have thought the Premier should have been making, she has been talking about the mandate they got at the election. There is no clear mandate from this election. There is a clear indication though that the Labor Party got 37 per cent of the vote and there is a clear indication that the LNP got over 40 per cent of the vote, and if my sums are correct that means that over one million Queenslanders voted first preference for the LNP. If the Labor Party want to treat the LNP the way they have in this confidence motion, then they are essentially slapping the faces of over one million Queenslanders who put their confidence in the LNP, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): It is 'Madam'.

Mr BLEIJIE: Madam Deputy Speaker, we know that the Labor Party were elected on the back of preference deals and numbering every box in the state, and that is the optional preferential system we have. We know that the Labor Party were elected because of the likes of the unions. The comrades were shifted into gear—

Opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: The comrades were on the march right across the state. They are on the march in this place. We see the comrades filling all these positions over there. The left have certainly taken control of the Labor Party now. We see the member for Brisbane Central back in this going forward. I am keen to know what the member for Brisbane Central's position is on trading hours because her nightclubs will all be closed down under the government's policy. I look forward to the debate when that eventuates and to hearing what the member for Brisbane Central has to say.

Mrs Stuckey: How many jobs?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the shadow minister for tourism—we will see how many jobs will be lost in the electorate of Brisbane Central because of that policy. There is no doubt that the member for Brisbane Central will have a good chat to the member for Stafford about that because he of course instigated that program under the Labor Party.

I was talking about the unions, and we saw during the campaign a lot of misinformation spread by the union movement. Unfortunately, we see that a lot of those people who spread that misinformation have now been elected into this place to represent electorates. I can see a few here, but I will honour the protocol of maiden speeches and I will not name anyone in particular in relation to their campaign tactics during the election.

It is clear going forward that this parliament will be like none other that we have seen since 1998. We can assure the people of Queensland that the opposition will be holding the government to account. We can assure the people of Queensland that we will be holding all members of the Labor government to account. I can assure the great police men and women, the fireies, the emergency services personnel, the surf lifesavers, the SES and the corrective services staff in this state that the opposition will be talking to them, consulting them and keeping the minister accountable to that constituency because I do worry—

Mrs Miller: They don't want to talk to you.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection from the member for Bundamba who said that they will not talk to me. I am very happy to announce that I had a very good meeting with the CEO of Surf Live Saving Queensland recently who advised me that he had not even been contacted for a meeting by the new minister. So Surf Live Saving Queensland, and we all have them in our electorates—

Mrs Miller: Two cyclones.

Mr BLEIJIE: It was before the cyclones. Release the diary and let us see who you met with because I can guarantee in this House that the priority list on that side would have been the ETU, the AWU and the CFMEU. All of the major contributions the Premier made in her first two weeks as Premier were at conferences and CFMEU marches against the federal government. We know where the Labor Party priorities lie. I want to say to all the fireies, emergency services personnel and police that we are very proud of the laws we introduced over the past three years, particularly the criminal gang laws, and we will not let the Labor Party tamper with those laws. We will not let the Labor Party put the lives of Queenslanders at risk by taking away any of those laws or the resources that we gave the police. I can assure the minister and member for Bundamba that we are talking already with police men and women about the concerns they have with her new policies, particularly a mass exodus of prisoners on our streets.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak on the confidence motion put forward by the government. I thank my shadow ministerial colleague, the member for Kawana, who said to me just before he rose to speak that he doubted he would take the full 20 minutes, but I knew he would not be able to help himself.

It comes as no surprise that I am speaking against the motion because I have absolutely no confidence whatsoever that this current ALP government has any ability to effectively govern the state of Queensland. On 31 January the people of Queensland did vote and there has been a lot of speculation about what outcome they were looking for. Yes, there has been reflection on this side of the House about that outcome. There is no doubt that many people in Queensland were unhappy with the imbalance of numbers in the state parliament. There is no doubt that many people in Queensland were unhappy with the pace of change that was taking place. May I say there are probably some as well who were not happy with the way some things were implemented. I have no doubt that the people of Queensland wanted to give the former government a kick up the pants, but I doubt whether they really wanted to kick the government out.

Nevertheless, the election result is what it is. The ALP, with a primary vote of just over 37 per cent—just over one in three votes—now has the keys to the Executive Building. Labor is in government not because of the choice of voters but because of the choice made by the member for Nicklin. We now have a Labor government that is ill prepared to govern the state. We now have a Labor government that lacks the experience to govern the state. We now have a Labor government that has no plan whatsoever to govern the state. We now have a Labor government that is making it up as it goes.

My prediction is that this government will make the Bligh government look like the golden era of the ALP. This will be a government that will be great on spin but have very, very little in substance and this has already started. The Premier and her ministers keep crowing on about accountability and raising the standards of parliament. As my shadow ministerial colleague has pointed out, the Minister for Police's contribution to the debate and her personal attacks have already shown how hollow that promise is. This government have spoken about setting new standards in accountability. Part of being accountable is being accessible to answer questions and explain policies, and this government have not got off to a good start. That started during the election campaign when the now Premier would not make herself available for scrutiny to any major media outlet—whether it was ABC Radio, ABC television or the *Courier-Mail*. This has continued now that the ALP are in power, and the ALP have been shamed into having another day of parliament tomorrow so that they have to answer questions for the first time.

During the week I heard a media commentator remark that ministers are afraid to walk through the front doors of the Executive Building and are afraid to answer questions. Only three ministers front the media every Monday morning as they enter the Executive Building. We talk about accountability. What does this government do? It creates superministries, which would make it even more difficult to keep these departments accountable. It is an insult to think that the Education portfolio, my shadow portfolio, which accounts for nearly 25 per cent of the state budget, is not a stand-alone portfolio. What an insult that is to the thousands of teachers and students. Can honourable members imagine the response if the LNP did not have a portfolio devoted to Education? What would the education union be saying if that happened, yet we have heard absolutely nothing whatsoever.

This government has also trumpeted about appointing an Independent Speaker. I mean no disrespect to the member for Nicklin, but believe me, if the Labor Party had just one additional member, a government member would be sitting in that place as Speaker as quickly as one could say 'hypocrisy'. That is what this government is about. I do agree with the government members when they say the difference between Labor and the LNP is stark. The LNP has experience and expertise; Labor does not. LNP members are competent economic managers; Labor members are not. The LNP is a party of substance; Labor is a party of spin.

The record of the LNP government during the 54th Parliament speaks for itself. The great reforms that were brought in right across every portfolio have been outlined by previous speakers on this side of the House and will continue to be outlined by speakers after me. Some incredible reform has taken place. Let me talk about the Housing and Public Works portfolio, for which I was responsible. Our objective in this portfolio was to ensure that the most needy, the most vulnerable, were housed. We brought about this incredible result: we started with over 30,000 households on the public housing waiting list and we reduced that by close to 50 per cent. We did not change the eligibility. There was no criteria difference at all. It was achieved because we were far more efficient in managing the system. We ensured that we used resources like bond loans and rental grants to our advantage and did so effectively. Today more vulnerable people are housed than have ever been housed before.

We began the outsourcing of public housing management to the community housing sector. Why did we do that? It was started by the previous government when 25 per cent of housing was outsourced. We have increased that to 36 per cent. Why? Because the community sector is purpose-built to do this. They are local, they are responsive and they are holistic. They can provide all the services that are needed to properly house our public housing tenants. The Logan Renewal Initiative is a classic example. It is a fantastic contract that has been brought about in cooperation with the workers in the department who are very pleased with the result that has been achieved. With the contract that has been awarded, this will be a success and it will be rolled out right across the state.

In my previous portfolio we also tried to change the culture in public housing. No longer is public housing something that is there for life for those who do not need it. Public housing is meant to be transitional—helping people along the way—but no, it became like Gold Lotto: people went and got a public housing tenancy and they were set for life, regardless of their circumstances.

Government members interjected.

Mr MANDER: There is no doubt there are many people to whom the state has a commitment for the rest of their lives because they are the most vulnerable. However, there are many people in the public housing sector who are ready to move on, who are capable of being in the private housing market. This is about inequality. This side of the House talks about equality, but it is inequality when there are people in the public housing sector who should not be there. We were trying to change the culture to ensure that those with the greatest need are actually housed and that those who can move on and fend for themselves in the private market actually do that, and we brought about great results. We also talked about the fact that public housing is a privilege; it is a privilege that should be respected. Those who could not respect their house or their neighbours do not deserve to be in public housing. That is why we brought in the three-strike policy, and it has been fantastic. It has brought about great results. I have had neighbours of public housing properties sit across from me in tears asking me—begging me—to get these people out of the house next door to them because of the living hell they are going through. Again, we want to be fair about this—and we were fair—but if people cannot respect a government property and if they cannot respect their neighbours, they have no future in public housing.

We tried to make the rent more equitable, and we did. The previous government had made 90 to 100 different types of allowances ineligible as income when they assessed how much people should pay for public housing rent—25 per cent of their income, but it was not 25 per cent of the income; it was 25 per cent of eligible income. People had to see some of the allowances that were made ineligible to believe it. That is why some people were paying eight per cent of their income as rent. That is why the average public housing rent was \$119 per week. We brought in equity. We brought some of those allowances back into eligibility, but we were fair. We made sure that nobody's rent went up by more than \$7.50 a week because of that policy change. We were fair.

Let us talk about the leave policy of the previous government with regard to public housing. People could go away for 12 months and leave their property vacant while there were 33,000 households on the waiting list. In fact, they could go to prison for a year and we would hold their property vacant and, by the way, they only had to pay \$10.95 a week. They could also have a caretaker come and look after it for them. That was the policy of the previous government. Again, it is unfair when there were 33,000—when we came into power—on the public housing waiting list. I urge the minister to visit her housing service centres. I visited 22 housing centres—all the centres that we have—and I urge her to actually talk to the people on the front line. Then she will appreciate how successful these policies have been.

One of the other great things we did in my portfolio of Public Works was to create the Queensland Building and Construction Commission. We finally brought in a new commission, a commission that understood the balance between the rights of builders and the rights of consumers. We brought in an organisation that was customer centric. We gave authority to the board to make sure that they could make the strategic decisions that were necessary. Now we are seeing rapid dispute adjudication take place, rather than months and months of waiting for a decision with all the heartache, angst and money associated with that. That has now been replaced by a very, very quick process which has brought about great results.

One of the other changes we made came about because we wanted to ensure that subbies have security of payment. We have now made it an offence for builders not to pay their subcontractors. Late last year around \$2½ million was recovered from contractors who did not pay their subbies—something of which they are very, very appreciative.

I turn now to the portfolio that I am now the shadow for and some of the incredible reforms that the previous minister brought into this space. That is why we did not hear a lot from the education unions during the election campaign, because they were very happy with the way things were going. Honourable members should talk to school principals about some of the great reforms that we brought in; they have been absolutely amazed. We increased the Education budget by 20 per cent over those three years. There was the maintenance that took place, with a \$300 million backlog. We gave \$300 million to our schools to make sure that they were safe and a good place to work for teachers and to attend as kids every day.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday regarding ensuring locals could be involved in that work, which was a great way to stimulate employment. We also had a plan to build an additional 11 schools through the Queensland School Planning Commission and a plan to build more in the future. I do not believe the current minister has committed to that planning commission yet. Not one school was built in 2014 because the previous government had no plan to bring that about in the future. Now we have an empty school sitting at Fortitude Valley worth \$50 million. That has been dedicated in the forward estimates to build new schools in growth areas and the current minister is sitting back and letting it mothball.

The minister had the hide to criticise our government for school closures, when during 20 years in office they closed 139 schools. Talk about a lack of consultation! There is a school in my electorate, Everton Park State High School, that was slated for closure and we undertook a fantastic consultation process. We worked with the school to develop a plan for the future. Rather than just responding negatively, we worked together as a community and it has brought about a great result: Everton Park State High School remains open. We are absolutely committed to autonomy in schools and the independent public school system has been well received. In fact, it has been oversubscribed. There was a high school in my area which was very angry because it was not selected as an IPS. I have four other schools in my electorate that love the autonomy that comes with the IPS. I would urge the current minister to make sure she visits Ashgrove State School and Gap State School and ask them about IPS, because I know how much they like it.

What about the Great Results Guarantee policy, which was one of the greatest policies ever introduced in the education system to channel federal money. Unlike every other state that gave the money to the central administration, we gave it directly to schools and asked them to guarantee that minimum numeracy and literacy levels would be attained. One principal in my electorate said, 'Tim, this is the "if only" money. This is what we used to talk about. We'd sit around and we'd say, "If only we had this money."' Now they have it, and they are absolutely ecstatic about it. In 2014 we committed \$131 million and this year \$183 million.

What about Great Teachers = Great Results, which recognises the fact that the biggest factor in improving the education of our children is ensuring that we have the highest quality teachers. We have fantastic teachers. My daughter is a teacher, and I understand the pressure that is put on state school teachers. They put in hours well beyond what they are paid for, and I respect their fantastic contribution. We are committed to making sure that master teachers are set aside to help other teachers, and we are also very committed to their professional development. I will now turn to the area of training.

A government member: Tell us about TAFE.

Mr MANDER: I am very happy to talk about that. Labor has absolutely no new ideas for training; they only have recycled policies that did not work in the first instance. Let us look again at what we inherited: a VET system that was withering on the vine; multimillion dollar facilities that in some cases were only utilised 40 per cent of the time; and training that did not lead to real jobs. It was training for the sake of training. Labor has no new plans. Jobs Queensland is simply the Ministerial Industry Commission rebadged under a different name. We had a plan that lets industries, apprentices and trainees decide where the skills and jobs are; not the trade unions. As Labor continues to look to the past for ideas, we have a plan that delivers a quality training sector that leads directly to quality jobs for our students. Let us not forget that it was the former Labor government—when their friends in Canberra were in power—which was more than happy to sign up to the greater contestability concept under the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform. Let us not forget that the current minister supported those changes to training when it was politically convenient when she was a member of the Rudd-Gillard government. Labor says that it is about job creation, but they want to go back to the bad old days of training for training's sake.

Finally, members of the House, I want to speak about planning. I particularly want to speak about this because this government has no plan for the future. Some of the newer members of the House may not appreciate a process that took place over the last two years called the Queensland Plan. If you want to talk about community consultation, this is the ideal.

Mr Costigan: That is the benchmark.

Mr MANDER: This is the benchmark. Thank you, member for Whitsunday. Some 80,000 people were involved—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr MANDER: I think that some of those 80,000 people probably voted for the ALP. No more than 37 per cent, but there would have been some who voted for the ALP.

This is what creating a vision is all about. This is about the big picture. This is talking about a 30-year plan and about consultation with the electorate. I would ask the current government to make sure they do not ditch this. I was very encouraged to see Labor identity Mike Kaiser say there were some good things in this. If you have not read this, you should look at it to understand how planning should work and how it is possible to create a vision for the future.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on the motion. I firmly believe that the Labor government does not have a plan. It has no idea; it is making it up as it goes. It does not have the clear support of Queenslanders, and therefore it should not receive the support of the House.

 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Yeerongpilly, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech, and as such it should be listened to with the courtesy reserved for such occasions. I call the member for Yeerongpilly.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (4.55 pm): May I commence by acknowledging that we gather on the lands of Aboriginal people. I would like to pay my respects to the elders past and present and to their culture of 60,000 years. I would also like to congratulate you on your appointment, Madam

Deputy Speaker, and congratulate the Speaker, the member for Nicklin, and all deputy speakers. I extend my congratulations to every member of this House on their election to the Legislative Assembly. I would also like to thank the good people of Yeerongpilly for placing their faith and trust in me to represent them for the next three years. It is an honour that I have been very grateful to receive. Having previously served three terms with the Brisbane City Council, for me the honour is no less for being here. I thank them for their faith, and I will work hard for them every day.

I wholeheartedly support the motion of confidence in this government. On 31 January Queenslanders voted the Newman government out of office. It was a first-term government that lost 36 seats in less than three years. What we saw was the unprecedented destruction of a government with the largest political majority in Australian history, and it came about in less than three years for very definitive reasons. The Newman government betrayed the trust of the people of Queensland. A lot has been made about the inexperience of this government and this ministry, so I thought I would do a little bit of research to compare the Newman government's incoming ministry three years ago to the incoming ministry under the Palaszczuk Labor government. What I discovered is that, going into the Newman government three years ago, there were 130 days of cabinet experience. When you look at this Palaszczuk Labor government, there is in fact 25 times the level of experience around the cabinet table compared to three years ago under the Newman government—and doesn't it show! The Palaszczuk cabinet has 3,279 days of cabinet experience versus 130. There is a lot of experience—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I remind members of the protocol around showing courtesy during a member's maiden speech.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. That convention relies on the member not being unduly provocative in their maiden speech. We will hold our interruptions, recognising that it is the member's maiden speech; however, if there is a continuation of undue provocation, then we will not uphold the convention forthwith.

Mr BAILEY: That is fine. I do not have a problem with that. Madam Deputy Speaker, instead of keeping their election promises and staying in touch with ordinary Queenslanders, what did we see under the previous government? We saw double-digit electricity price rises three years in a row. We saw the mass sacking of 24,000 public servants across this state after they were assured that they would be safe leading into the 2012 election. We saw schools closed by a shoddy process. We saw front-line services cut, despite very clear assurances to people before the 2012 election. We saw the intake of teachers cut drastically from about 650 down to 140.

We saw front-line nurses cut right across our hospital system. We saw unemployment surging. The only major infrastructure project anywhere in the state—this was something raised with me by the regional mayors in Hughenden and by other regional leaders during my three regional trips so far—was the 43-storey 'tower of power' next to Parliament House, commissioned by the then government in undue haste—at a time, I might add, when they were telling everybody that there was not enough money to pay for basic services in this state. The people of Queensland understood that.

The previous government struck at the heart of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. For instance, in the last budget it tried to take concessions off seniors and pensioners to help with their water and electricity bills. When I saw that, I could not believe my eyes. It took them a day to back down because there was an outcry right across this state.

Householders who made the switch to solar were ridiculed as being latte sippers and champagne drinkers. The public health system was undermined by a protracted and unnecessary dispute with doctors and staff. The Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct—

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. I hate to interrupt in terms of the conventions that apply to a maiden speech—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! There is no point of order.

Mr STEVENS: The point of order is—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Please resume your seat.

Mr STEVENS: I haven't explained my point of order. My point of order is that there is a continuation of undue provocation in this inaugural speech. That means that the convention goes out the door.

Mr BAILEY: That is fine. Go for it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. If you wish to interject and ignore the courtesy, that is your choice.

Mr BAILEY: Be my guest. The Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee was sacked and the bipartisan process which had been in place for a quarter of a century, under successive Labor and conservative governments since the Fitzgerald inquiry, was shamefully scrapped. It was a return to the bad old days of the moonlight state. Environmental protection laws were systematically wound back at a time when climate change threatens our economic future and demands real leadership in response.

Mr Stevens: What about Gordon Nuttall?

Mr BAILEY: We are getting interjections from 10 years ago! I have to remind the member for Mermaid Beach that the year is 2015.

The 23-year uranium mining ban was scrapped, despite clear public assurances to the people of Queensland that there were no plans to take it away. It took them six months to break their election promise—six months! There has not been a mandate in this state to mine uranium, by any major party taking it to the people of Queensland, since 1986. If those opposite are so passionate about uranium, why do they not take it to the people of Queensland as part of their platform? They do not have the courage.

Under the previous government public transport services were cut and debt increased by \$14 billion. Those opposite can go on about debt all they like, but debt increased significantly under the previous government. We saw accountability and transparency cast aside, with secret political donations of up to \$12,800 sanctioned and made legal. The lessons of the Fitzgerald inquiry were deliberately ignored. Workers' rights were systematically undermined and the representatives of working people, the union movement, were under constant attack. The funding of the community sector—this is one of the most shameful examples—which represents our most vulnerable Queenslanders, not only lost large amounts of funding but also were gagged from speaking in the media on behalf of vulnerable people across this state.

We also saw renewable energy programs cut. We saw jobs and investment opportunities lost while other states like South Australia and Victoria took advantage of the global transition to cleaner energy sources. We saw crossbenchers, Independents and minor parties—given no respect throughout the three years of the previous parliament—treated with contempt. That I cannot support.

Tens of millions of taxpayers' dollars were spent on highly political propaganda campaigns promoting the so-called Strong Choices campaign. We still see the same old lines from the Strong Choices campaign being trotted out. It was a deliberately deceptive campaign. The then government should have been spending those millions of dollars on services—on operations—and on helping people, not telling people their political message.

The former LNP government's litany of broken promises tells a story that Queenslanders know all too well. The truth is that at the last election the LNP thought they had two or three terms in the bag and they behaved accordingly. They had no intention of keeping the trust of Queenslanders. It is a sorry record. Those opposite let Queenslanders down.

The opposition leader was there every step of the way. He was a senior member of the previous government.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Yeerongpilly has the call. Could other members please cease the chat across the chamber.

Mr BAILEY: The current opposition leader was there every day of the last term of government—supporting every decision, being a part of every process and every debate—and was very much a part of that government. The question in terms of this confidence motion has to be: has he learned the lessons of losing majority government, of losing 36 seats over the term of the last government? The answer is that clearly he has not. There have been no apologies. After the 2012 election the current Premier, the member for Inala, made it very clear that Labor had got some significant things wrong, and she apologised on behalf of the Labor movement. She took responsibility for those actions. Yet over the past six weeks I have seen none of that from the opposition—in fact, quite the contrary. There have been no apologies—no mea culpas—from any member of the opposition. The closest the opposition leader came was in the *Cairns Post* on 4 March,

when he said, 'We're bad at marketing.' The Leader of the Opposition sees the loss of 36 seats as a case of poor marketing. It is indeed sad. The opposition leader simply does not understand why they lost.

I listened to the contribution to the debate made by the member for Clayfield. He said that the election result was a protest vote gone wrong. I am sorry, but the vote in this election was very clear. There has been some debate about the numbers, so I would like to remind the chamber of a few things. The LNP had a lower primary vote in 2015 than when it lost in 2009. Those opposite can go on about the primary vote all they like, but their primary vote at this election was actually not only less than it was three years ago; it was less than it was six years ago. If those opposite cannot accept responsibility for the colossal loss, they are not fit to govern this state.

The LNP's answer to this catastrophe is to elect a 'new' leader who has already been to the people three times and been rejected. That does not seem to me to be an opposition that is either accepting responsibility for its behaviour in government or placing faith in a new generation of leaders. I note the contribution of the member for Everton, who received quite a substantial vote in the leadership contest. It is remarkable that the LNP has gone back to a leader who has been rejected by Queenslanders three times.

There are no signs or stirrings from any opposition members that they take responsibility in any shape or form. In fact, some of those issues affected my patch. The closure of Nyanda State High School in Salisbury was an absolute disgrace. Unfortunately, that cannot be unravelled; it has already been sold by the previous government. That closure let down communities right across the south side. It was a good school—a school that had won statewide environmental awards. It was a great community destroyed by the previous government.

If you do not listen you do not learn—that is how I see it—and those opposite are still not listening to this day. Queenslanders broke with tradition in that most electorates give a first-term government the benefit of the doubt, but that was not the case on this occasion because those opposite did not earn it.

I want to note the contribution of the nine MPs in the previous parliament—that is, it started with seven but became nine—led by the member for Inala. There has probably never been an opposition with a greater task than the Labor opposition in the last parliament. When few people gave Labor's small team any hope of achieving government, those nine MPs stood up for the vulnerable and stood up for good policy and presented—and I reiterate this very clearly to the chamber—more than 50 detailed policies to the people of Queensland at the last election. Those opposite can bang on about no plans all they like, but we put 50-plus policies to the people of Queensland—policies in consultation with stakeholders—that will deal with a whole range of issues that were comprehensive. Those nine MPs stood up for the vulnerable and at the last election this side of politics received 50.9 per cent of the two-party preferred vote. That is a majority. The numbers speak loudly. I pay tribute to those nine MPs who fought so courageously against overwhelming odds during the last parliament and now are mostly senior ministers—the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and the ministers for police, state development, agriculture and the Attorney-General. I also pay tribute to the former members for Mackay and Woodridge who were part of that team who have since retired. They were members who contributed very much to this chamber.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr BAILEY: In the same vein the member for Nicklin also stood up for justice and a fair go, not just in the last term but over 17 years in office, and I was very proud to see the member for Nicklin become the Speaker of this parliament. For him to be the first truly independent Speaker in 100 years, this is a proud day for the parliament.

The decision to support the Palaszczuk Labor government is consistent with the principles that we put to the people. We are worthy of the confidence of this House as the largest party with 44 seats in conjunction with the member for Nicklin. We said to the people that we would not sell off our public assets and the people agreed with us, and now to the point where the opposition supports that policy. It supports that policy of not selling public assets. That is now apparently a bipartisan position—at least for now! Labor will restore accountability and transparency to the parliament in terms of a bipartisan Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee being restored with an opposition member to chair that committee as an appointment made by joint agreement of the House and, of course, with the Independent Speaker.

Labor has a plan to reduce government debt without selling off our public assets. We will merge the three power network entities—Ergon, Energex and Powerlink—into a single network entity and we will merge the two power generators in CS Energy and Stanwell, as we said in our policy at the last election, in close consultation with the ACCC to ensure competition is protected. There are no surprises there. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to working towards a clean energy future sustainably via renewable energy. While South Australia is producing a third of its power today via renewable energy, Queensland has been left behind over the past three years due to the hostility of the previous government towards renewable energy in a sector where the whole world is moving towards it. You are either part of it or you are part of the problem. This government is part of the solution.

We are also committed to job creation to get investment and confidence flowing back into the Queensland economy. The Premier has already held a number of business forums. On my first morning as a minister I called a whole range of stakeholders to introduce myself as the new minister, and it was a very interesting experience. A range of stakeholders said to me, 'You are the first minister to call me in three years.'

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: They said, 'You are the first minister to call me in three years.'

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BAILEY: No, corporate types; the private business sector in fact. I also spoke to a business leader at a breakfast function—he was a very distinguished gentleman—who said to me that in his corporate career he had never been treated like he was treated by the previous Premier. That was a government that was arrogant and out of touch. We are committed to doing things like establishing the Queensland Productivity Commission to get independent economic advice about how best to invest public money to create jobs. We will be including in the agenda a comprehensive review into renewable energy opportunities for our state to grow jobs, to respond to climate change and to attract investment. As part of that review we will establish a fair price for solar, we will examine off-grid opportunities for local governments to compete for energy solutions and commence Queensland's first renewable energy auction to get projects up and running. Past experience has shown that the LNP is not serious about climate change or the environment, and the people of Queensland are very clear about this: they will punish any party that does not treat the environment seriously. If ever there was a lesson out of this election for all parties, then that must be it. The people of Queensland expect protection of the environment and action on climate change to be a core part of any party's platform.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is a modern government with contemporary values and real diversity in our ranks. I am delighted to be in a cabinet with eight members out of the 14 being women—a first for our nation. I am also delighted to serve with nearly 40 per cent of our government as women. I am also proud to share this chamber with the members for Algester and Cook—Labor's first two Indigenous MPs and, in the case of the member for Algester, the first Indigenous cabinet minister in Queensland's history. I also find it a great privilege to be here with the member for Cairns, who knows the importance of public policy in all areas but especially in the area of disability. He also brings a lot of local government experience to this chamber. We have four previous local councillors in our ranks and two previous federal members of parliament, so this government offers experience at all three levels of government and is a government that understands how to run this state.

I endorse the motion and say in closing that I have known the Premier and the member for Inala for 25 years. I worked for her when she was the minister for transport and I can reliably tell the House that behind the scenes the Premier is the same person as we see in the spotlight. She is gracious, she is inclusive, she is compassionate and she is sharp as a tack. She is deserving of the confidence of this House. She is setting a high standard for this House in every way and I am absolutely proud, as I know everyone on this side is, to support her as Premier and to support her government.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (5.16 pm): I am greatly honoured to stand in this place as the Queensland Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. The word 'partnerships' is no accident. It is reflective of the kind of government the Palaszczuk government will be—one all about partnerships. I thank the people of Mulgrave for expressing their confidence in me and their confidence in the Palaszczuk government. As we have seen over the past three years, in Queensland anything can happen. But when it comes to democracy, Queenslanders do not get it wrong. On 31

January Queenslanders told us that they wanted a government that would listen. They were sick of being ignored and treated with contempt. Queenslanders wanted a return to honesty and integrity. Queenslanders wanted a consensus-building government to replace combativeness. Of course this House is meant to be a place where a contest of ideas happens, but the former Premier and those opposite who sat around the cabinet table took it further than that—way further. At the election Queenslanders asked for their government to lift its game. Queenslanders should have confidence that the Palaszczuk government will not let them down.

I cannot let the opportunity go by without noting that those opposite changed their tune dramatically so quickly after the election. We supposedly only had one choice—mass privatisation. But like a litterbug tossing out some rubbish from the window of his car, the opposition leader junked his signature policy of a \$37 billion sell-off of our income-generating assets. This so-called 'strong choice' was the bedrock of so many of their policies and promises, yet he tossed it to one side as part of his desperate play to form government last month. There are some stark contrasts between this side of the House and those opposite. Today I intend to use my contribution to this motion to draw out these distinctions and to give Queenslanders confidence that the Palaszczuk government will get Queensland's economy back on track after the chaos of the Newman government. Queensland needs a government that will help drive our economy, not talk it down as part of some political agenda; a government prepared to do its bit and put its shoulder to the wheel to be both an enabler and a doer; a government that will deliver real jobs for Queenslanders. Already today we have heard the opposition leader attacking confidence, using terms like 'going broke'. It is the same old rhetoric that Queenslanders have rejected before—several times over—and I am determined to be a Treasurer who fosters confidence through my public statements and through our pro-growth, pro-jobs policy settings.

I also intend to be a Treasurer who is not all about doom and gloom. I want to talk positively about the Queensland economy, not refer to it as a basket case. It is important to recognise the significant challenges that have been left by the former government. Queensland's labour market is chief among those challenges. When those opposite were elected they promised that the unemployment rate would be four per cent after six years. They set a jobs target, then they backed away from it at a million miles an hour, later calling four per cent a 'stretch target'. At the election, under their promise their unemployment rate was meant to be five per cent. Today, the trend unemployment rate sits at 6.5 per cent—a full percentage point higher than it was when the Newman government was elected. More people have given up looking for work because the former government trashed confidence in this state. Last month, the trend participation rate was 65.3 per cent, down 0.6 percentage points over the year. When Labor was last in office, the participation rate stood at 66.9 per cent and the unemployment rate was 5.5 per cent. Queenslanders have paid a heavy price for the previous three years of job cuts and the continued talking down of the Queensland economy by those opposite.

Over the three years of the Newman government the number of unemployed Queenslanders rose by 30,300 people. Under the LNP, 13,800 full-time jobs were lost. That is equivalent to 400 full-time jobs lost each and every month over the last three years. The sacking of more than 20,000 people across the public sector had a particularly disastrous effect on confidence in our economy. That was particularly evident in regional Queensland, where these job losses flowed through to local economies. The government stopped spending and people stopped spending.

In stark contrast, over its last term Labor created 42,300 full-time jobs, or 1,175 full-time jobs per month. Queenslanders should have confidence that the Palaszczuk government will continue Labor's proud tradition of implementing policies that will increase employment and participation in the economy. Our Working Queensland plan includes \$652 million in investment to grow the economy and create jobs, including infrastructure for our regions and funding to rescue TAFE in Queensland. Our Skilling Queenslanders for Work employment program will get 32,000 people back into the workforce. These figures have been independently verified.

We know that programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work directly create jobs for thousands of Queenslanders who may otherwise not be in the workforce. Evaluation of the previous Skilling Queenslanders for Work program showed that for every \$1 invested the program returned around \$8 to the Queensland economy. But despite the evidence of the program's success, those opposite scrapped it. At the same time they helped consign many Queenslanders to the scrap heap. Through the program, a staggering 8,500 people would not otherwise have gained employment. In 2012-13 alone, approximately \$375 million in earnings—real wages—were generated by these people. These 8,500 men and women are our human capital. They are people who would likely have otherwise

fallen through the cracks having not had the opportunity to gain education or skills for future employment. Queenslanders can have confidence that our Working Queensland policy will deliver real jobs.

We are committed to supporting small to medium sized businesses through our Business Development Fund—a \$40 million fund that is all about turning innovative business ideas into commercial realities. The Business Development Fund will provide Queensland businesses with access to the start-up capital they need to create new opportunities and productive capacity, including manufacturing capacity in new and emerging niche markets. We want to see Queensland's best and brightest business minds be able to take their ideas and innovations to the market and create new jobs. We have also pledged to reinstate a 25 per cent payroll tax rebate to give an incentive to employers to take on apprentices and trainees. Again, these are Queenslanders who will gain direct employment as a result of our policy.

There is no doubt that in recent years the Queensland economy has struggled under the weight of the LNP's unwillingness to invest in our human capital. We have inherited a budget that was being buffeted by a contracting domestic economy, global headwinds and natural disasters. It is not all doom and gloom, but we need an honest and real discussion about our economy and our finances. We will not be taking the irresponsible approach of talking Queensland down, as the LNP did in its time in office.

The old saying used to be, 'They'd say one thing in the boardrooms and another in the bush.' The former Treasurer said one thing to Queenslanders and another thing to overseas investors, using the famous blue book, which told the real story of Labor's responsible management of the economy. Under the weight of the previous government's constant negativity, over the last full year of the Newman government economic growth in Queensland fell to just 2.3 per cent. In stark contrast, under the last full year of the last Labor government, economic growth was four per cent.

The LNP let Queensland down on a number of other key metrics of our economy. In the last full year of the Newman government state final demand—the key measure of how our domestic economy is travelling—contracted by 3.4 per cent: the worst result since the GFC. In stark contrast, in the last 12 months of the previous Labor government state final demand grew by 7.5 per cent. In the last 12 months of the Newman government, business investment was negative 20.3 per cent. In stark contrast, in the last 12 months of the last Labor government it was rising by 32 per cent. That underlines the challenges ahead and also underlines why only a Labor government, with policies directed at increasing both employment and participation in the economy, can confront Queensland's economic headwinds.

You do not always know what is behind the curtain until it is pulled back. It has become very clear that the former Treasurer fell asleep at the wheel, because he thought the magic pudding of asset sales would take care of everything. His forward estimates reveal underfunding of key agencies. For instance, we know that the funding set aside for the former health minister's wait time guarantee was, in fact, a wait time gimmick. It was all just money for advertising, marketing and spin. In a desperate attempt to sell our income-generating assets in a fire sale, the member for Clayfield took his eye off the economy. That is why the revenue writedowns seen in Queensland were higher than those in other states and went beyond the impact of global conditions.

Earlier today, the former Treasurer was making excuses for the LNP's record on unemployment. He was quick to restate his ideological belief that it is the private sector that creates jobs. In June 2012 he famously told parliament 'a real job is in the private sector.' What a way to abdicate his existence as somebody appointed to serve the public—no care, no responsibility. If memory serves me, that was around the same time as the former Premier, with reference to the LNP's mass job cuts, talked about using a pooper scooper. Speaking of Campbell Newman, I do not think I have heard any of the speakers on that side talk about in any detail the great can-do Campbell in glowing terms.

Ms Palaszczuk: Have they mentioned his name?

Mr PITT: They have mentioned his name. I think the former Treasurer did, but he was his loyal deputy. Three years ago they could not get enough of him. Now, it is as though he never existed and they dare not speak his name. At least the member for Callide has called it how he sees it publically. I have to say that it was nice to see him crack a smile. It was the first time I had seen him smile since we came back for this parliament. When the House reflected on the fact that we have a new member for Ashgrove, that smile grew large. I note that those opposite, and in particular the member for Kawana, are intent on defending the Joh Bjelke-Petersen style gerrymander. But the member for

Kawana will not refer to the 14 per cent statewide two-party preferred swing to the Labor Party. The member for Kawana did not refer to the 51.1 per cent two-party preferred vote to the Labor Party. The member for Kawana will not refer to the 455,323 more Queenslanders who voted for the Labor Party, Independents and other parties than those who voted for the LNP. The member for Kawana even tried to blame the preferential system of voting that we have for the LNP losing government. It is everyone else's fault except those opposite. I have a newflash for those opposite: people did not like their leader and they did not like their style of government.

But I digress. We all know the damage that is done to private sector confidence when a government rips the guts out of skills and training programs. We all know the damage that is done to private sector confidence when a government sacks over 20,000 people and throws them into the jobs market. We all know the damage that is done to private sector confidence when the only major infrastructure project that you build is Campbell's ego tower at 1 William Street. We on this side of the House know that when governments invest in our human capital and invest in infrastructure, job generation is the result. Indeed, the only two regions that did experience reasonable employment growth over the past 12 months were Moreton Bay and the Gold Coast—regions where confidence had been boosted by two Labor government initiatives: the Moreton Bay rail link and the Commonwealth Games.

It was also remarkable to hear today the former Treasurer trying to take credit for a future surplus in 2015-16. He did not deliver one in government. Now, he is trying to take credit for the future. Today, we have also heard a revisionist view of history. The former government also changed the budget metrics to suit its narrative. I have said this many times over the past three years. The former government did this to say that Labor had overseen a decade of deficits. In fact, in its last 11 years in office Labor had seven budget surpluses, with the exceptions being the year of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the first year of the GFC and the two years of the summer of natural disasters—the worst in recent memory. The combination of those last three events saw revenue writedowns of around \$9 billion in our state. Yet for three years those opposite pretended that those surpluses did not happen. Apparently, it was Labor's fiscal mismanagement that led us to that point. The members opposite still have not listened and, from what I have heard today, they still have not learned. Let me end the nonsense peddled by the shadow Treasurer about a fiscal balance. Let me be clear. The fiscal balance was recommended by the former Howard government minister appointed to lead the Commission of Audit, Peter Costello, in his politicised Commission of Audit.

Every other state and territory uses the operating balance, as Queensland did before the Newman government came into office. We will do it again during the coming budget. As the *Brisbane Times* reported in July 2012, 'other Australian state treasurers, including those serving in conservative governments, did not mention fiscal balance'. At the same time, Deloitte Access Economics rightly argued that an operating balance is a better indicator for state and local governments. We know the real reason why the LNP wanted to use fiscal balance: because it allowed them to count the proceeds of asset sales. This was all about providing a convenient argument to sell assets which would have ripped a \$2 billion a year structural hole in the budget bottom line. It is clear that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is still intent on selling assets given his obsession with a fiscal balance rather than looking at the net impact on the operating position of selling our income-generating assets. As an Australian Laureate Fellow in Economics, Professor John Quiggin, said on 12 January 2014—

Every aspect of the Strong Choices Final Plan is misleading, beginning with the prominent claim that the Plan does not involve asset sales. In reality, the Plan involves the effective sale of public assets, and the dissipation of much of the proceeds in vote-buying policies. The Plan will produce a substantial negative fiscal impact of up to \$2 billion a year by 2020, and reduce public sector net worth by up to \$10 billion.

Those opposite had no plans for the budget if Queenslanders rejected asset sales—not even a plan for a plan. So much so that they have now adopted our plan. We have a bipartisan position in this state around not selling our income-generating assets. It took those opposite all of five minutes, and a bit of wheeling and dealing to clamour for government over the last couple of months, for them to see what we learnt after the 2012 election. No, wait: the Member for Southern Downs wrote to crossbench members and told them he supported Labor's \$1.7 billion in savings and initiatives being part of the 2015-16 budget. He would like to ask us how to deliver it. Those opposite basically adopted our plan because they no longer have one of their own. I wonder whether the shadow Treasurer knew about the letter when it was sent or whether it was something cooked up by the Leader of the Opposition and his chief of staff, which is my bet. We will certainly get to the truth of that as we go down the track. I am pleased to hear those opposite now support our comprehensive, fully costed and independently verified fiscal plan—even if the member for Southern Downs has not read past the third page. I note again that their costings were not independently signed off.

Another stark contrast between us and those opposite is that we have a plan to reduce debt. We know that \$15 billion in debt was added under the Newman government. These are the facts. Those opposite had no other plan but to rack up more and more debt, then sell Queensland's income-generating assets to pay for it. In stark contrast, Queenslanders can have confidence that the Palaszczuk government believes a sustainable fiscal position is a key element of a strong economy. That is why we will quarantine two-thirds of the dividends from our income-generating GOCs that we will not be selling for debt repayment beyond the forward estimates. We are committed to paying down \$400 million in general government debt over the forward estimates from our commitment to run state owned energy businesses better and more efficiently.

We are absolutely committed to maintaining the quality of our state's credit. That is why we have fully offset our election commitments with savings. I may be the first shadow Treasurer who aimed to improve the operating balance by spending less on new commitments than we had found in savings. This side of the House had one of the lowest spending election campaigns in living memory—and that was intentional. It was in very stark contrast to what we were seeing, with over \$8 billion spent before those opposite had sold any assets. Apparently that is what Queenslanders were seeking. But we learnt in 2012 that the people, quite rightly, want these income-generating assets to remain in public hands.

This House should have confidence that I will be a vocal advocate for Queensland when it comes to the implementation of economic and social reforms in areas of state and national importance. This includes standing up to Canberra and ensuring that Queensland gets its fair share. I have written to the federal Treasurer, Joe Hockey, about ensuring Queenslanders get our fair share of the GST. I call on the Commonwealth to be up-front with Queenslanders about the impact of future GST distribution to the states. As the Minister for Health said this morning, the fight against the Abbott government has begun. Queenslanders deserve nothing less than a government that is willing to stand up for them, instead of all but accepting around \$80 billion in cuts to health and education by the Commonwealth government.

When it comes to how the Palaszczuk government intends to manage the Queensland economy, it is not just what we do, but how and why we do it. Our economic values are just as important as our social values. We believe in growing the Queensland economy by investing in our people. We want to grow our economy and we believe in doing that with business outcomes that have a social conscience. This is reflected in the reasons I have the portfolio responsibilities I do. I thank the Premier for the portfolios that I have been tasked with. As Minister for Industrial Relations, Queenslanders can have confidence that I will restore fairness to the working conditions of Queenslanders. I will ensure that the hard fought and won working rights of Queenslanders that were lost under the previous government are returned. This includes ensuring employment security for our tireless public servants. It includes restoring the highest standards of workplace health and safety. It includes restoring the independence of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission.

As Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Queenslanders can also have confidence that I will take a genuine partnership approach with Indigenous communities. The Palaszczuk government does not believe living in a remote Indigenous community is a lifestyle choice. I would hope that those opposite are as appalled as I am at the Prime Minister's recent comments and join us in condemning those comments. This government will work in collaboration, as partners with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander councils, community groups and elders, to make sure that our investments in infrastructure and services produce the maximum possible employment outcomes for our first Australians who call Queensland home.

The Palaszczuk government has a clear plan aimed at reducing the state's debt, improving productivity, growing our economy and creating jobs. We believe that the fundamentals of the Queensland economy are strong. To improve the lives of Queenslanders, we need to restore the confidence that Queenslanders and investors have in this great state. I have absolute confidence that under the leadership of the Premier and this government we will kick goals for Queensland, we will restore balance to this chamber—as we have—and we will make our economy grow once again.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise in this House tonight to speak against the confidence motion put forward by the Premier. Firstly, I congratulate the Premier on her rise to such great office. I congratulate also the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer, the ministry and all of the new members in this House. I congratulate one of our new members, the member for Gregory, Lachie Millar, who stood in this House today and made a fantastic maiden speech. I congratulate him on his

passion for his electorate and his family. The member for Gregory followed exactly the convention for a maiden speech in this House—that is, to thank his electorate, the people who put him in this place. I would also like to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, and, through you, all of the deputy speakers.

Today gives all members in this House a right to speak on why this government does not have the confidence of Queenslanders. This 55th Parliament has no clear majority. The power to govern this state by way of supply and confidence sits with the crossbenchers. We in the LNP acknowledge we have made mistakes. On 31 January more than 100,000 Queenslanders put the LNP first. It is simple mathematics. Labor does not have the clear support of Queenslanders and therefore should not have the clear support of this House.

I turn to this motion of confidence. Before anyone in this House can make a reasoned decision, we need to look at Labor's track record in government. Should Queenslanders be subjected to the past of debt and deficit or, most horribly, the way that all previous Labor governments have ripped the backside out of the bush? The day after the election, a constituent of mine, a good old bushie, said to me, 'It's not the fact of Labor being in power that upsets me; it's the fact that they not only take everything from us in the bush, but they kick the living daylight out of us while we are down and set our regional economies back even further.' I cannot have confidence in this government, I cannot have confidence that this government will look after my electorate and I cannot have confidence that this government will work towards a better Queensland.

During previous successive Labor governments, the electorate of Nanango suffered greatly. During the terms of previous Labor governments, Nanango kept getting pushed to the bottom of the pile, which is interesting given that for many years an Independent member represented the seat. When it came to infrastructure spending, vital road upgrades were completely neglected. Today we hear that the government is looking at recruiting fewer nurses. I bet those numbers come from the bush as well and I hear that there will be a delay in delivering maternity services back to Ingham. Go figure!

In the three years that we were in government there was a return to a renewed state of economic vigour and confidence with sound policies and reasoned economic management. Most importantly, we governed for all of Queensland. History tells us that no Labor government will ever be remembered for sound economic management. No Labor government has ever been able to prove that it understood the regions and looked to the future to ensure that our children would not be saddled with massive debt. It was the Borbidge-Sheldon LNP government that left this state with a zero net debt. The Bligh-Beattie Labor government left this state with \$80 billion worth of debt. History tells us that Labor is great at selling ideologies, but when it comes to the administration of those ideologies it is simply unable to perform in the best interests of all Queenslanders.

I turn to my shadow portfolio of agriculture, fisheries and forestry. I look forward to that challenge, as I believe that the portfolio of agriculture, fisheries and forestry is one of the most important industries for the future of not only Queensland's economy but also Australia's economy. Agriculture and fresh food are vital for all people and, as such, this department should be recognised. History tells us that Labor governments do not understand its importance. I congratulate my great friend and the former minister for agriculture, the Hon. Dr John McVeigh, for the massive undertaking of re-establishing the department of agriculture after it was completely dismantled by former Labor governments. For many years under Labor, agriculture, fisheries and forestry were buried in the bowels of big super departments such as DEEDI and DNRM. They were left in the wilderness and given absolutely no direction or focus. Primary producers felt that impact and knew that their issues were of little consequence to a Labor government that had simply forgotten about them.

Primary production has and will always be a major focus and a priority for our side of the House. We pledge to double agricultural production by 2040, producing an agricultural strategy that outlines our plans for this goal. In July 2014 Dr John McVeigh held the inaugural agricultural conference and released the first ever State of Queensland agriculture report. We established industry round tables for beef, grains, dairy, horticulture and agricultural skills. This helped us work closer with industry to address the issues, work through options together and agree on actions. In contrast, up until the election Labor did not even have a policy on agriculture, fisheries and forestry, which they have taken off their title. They produced a food and fibre policy during the campaign that failed to even mention the word 'cattle'. Go figure! It is one of Queensland's biggest industries. Their fishing policy was released just days before the election itself, giving the community little time to know—

A government member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Members opposite may laugh about the agricultural industry, but I do not. It is a very important industry for this state. I will come back to the fishing policy in a moment.

When the LNP government reinstated the department of agriculture, we also committed to delivering stronger front-line services that were focused on people in the field who work directly with our primary producers. They are not sitting here in George Street; they are actually working in the bush. Those people work across all the regions and include new wild dog officers, tick control officers, crocodile protection officers, biosecurity field staff, agronomists, horticulturalists, fisheries officers and technical officers. All of that was done to help our primary producers do what they do best.

I will touch on the insensitive comments of the Minister for Agriculture in relation to the banana issue that exists in and around North Queensland. Our government passed the desperately needed new Biosecurity Act to modernise the laws. It was well overdue. The act replaced six acts to safeguard not only our agricultural businesses but also the environment and our Queensland lifestyle. Other states are now taking the lead in biosecurity. Another primary example of red-tape reduction was the common-sense changes we made to help our primary producers with regard to the vegetation management laws. After years of Big Brother looking over their shoulders, one could almost literally hear the collective sigh of relief from our farmers when self-assessable codes were introduced.

Labor's over-the-top laws had a disastrous and negative impact on our farmers. I am extremely concerned that it has again campaigned on repealing that most important change, which was made to assist this vital industry in Queensland. It would be an example of bringing in change for change's sake, just to keep the city based Greens happy. Labor's proposed changes will mean that Queensland will see a return to unnecessary and burdensome administrative regulatory requirements for landholders in the day-to-day management of their properties for no environmental gain at all. Already Labor members are trying to pull the wool over the eyes of everyone in the bush, saying that they will consult and they will listen and they will not make changes immediately. I urge industry, the crossbenchers and Mr Speaker to see through that smokescreen, because before we know it we will be back to the days when we did not even have a department of agriculture.

While speaking of the bad old days, I bring the attention of the House to comments made by the new Minister for Agriculture in relation to the live cattle sector. In just his second week in the role he confirmed that he would not support the live cattle trade. It is a desperate worry that the Queensland Minister for Agriculture can make those statements. It is a desperate worry that he does not understand that the type of stock that goes to live trade is different to the type of animal that enters the processing market. That is astonishing given the disastrous results of the former federal Labor government's live trade ban and the massive negative impact it had, not just on beef producers in North Queensland but also on beef producers all the way down to Kilcoy.

I mention the following point, as it might be interesting for the minister to read this speech: live cattle export volumes provide a definite indication of how vitally important this market is to Queensland's primary producers. So far this year, the volumes of cattle shipped out of Townsville have outstripped the volumes shipped out of Darwin for the same period—that is, January and February—and it looks like they will also beat last year's financial year volumes. This government has not and will not consult with the industry around this issue. Port Alma could yet provide another market for our beef cattle producers, especially those in the southern regions of Queensland who historically have not been able to access this market at all.

It also provides an important market for our primary producers in drought-stricken areas of Queensland. I acknowledge the many hundreds of thousands of acres of Queensland that are still drought stricken. I acknowledge the member for Gregory for the passion with which he spoke about his electorate, because from years gone past I know that this drought is a natural disaster and the people there are hurting desperately. I thank the member for inviting me out there to see it firsthand.

I turn to the issue of fisheries. Our commercial fishing industry is already at risk due to this new government. This industry is vital to the Queensland economy, but more importantly vital to our coastal towns. I note the member for Burnett is in the chamber. It is vitally important to towns like Bundaberg.

In March 2014 we announced a wide-ranging review of fisheries management. The review was a chance to modernise the way that fisheries were managed to ensure the future of the resource and the community benefits of commercial and recreational fishing in Queensland.

Those opposite have only been in government for about eight weeks and they have already attempted to close this industry down. I have heard a lot about consultation from government members. This is one industry that has not been consulted. There has been no consultation. If anyone in this House wants a prime example of how this government will ram through its policy changes saying one and doing another, one cannot go past the way they have refused to deal with the commercial fishers of Queensland.

The president of QSIA, Karen Collard, and numerous other industry groups have asked many times to meet with the minister. He has refused to meet personally with this industry group, the Queensland Seafood Industry Association. It represents the majority of commercial fishers in this state.

It beggars belief that this group is unable to meet with the minister. The suggestion was that they go to community cabinet. Everyone who wants to meet with a minister can sit on the floor at community cabinet and ask a question. Guess what? Karen Collard, the president of QSIA, has been told that because she did not get her form in by 18 March she is not able to attend the community cabinet in Rockhampton this weekend. I urge the Minister for Agriculture to meet with the industry and consult before they turn—

A government member: Townsville.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I apologise. I stand corrected. It will be in Townsville.

Mr Hinchliffe: At least you took that interjection.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am happy to take that interjection. It will be in Townsville.

Mr Costigan: It could be on the moon—meet with her.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Exactly. The contrast is stark. Our government had extensive consultation with industry. Those opposite are causing much anxiety in this industry. I plead with the minister to change his mind and agree to meet. When on radio in Rockhampton it was put to him, 'Have you spoken to commercial fishermen in that area? Have you sat down and had a meeting with them?' He replied, 'That is occurring as we speak. The department, our government officials, are at this moment engaging.' So what is he saying? Who has he actually consulted with? We hear a lot that they are going to consult, but not in this vital industry.

In the time left I need to turn to look at our education and agricultural colleges. Working alongside our plan to double agricultural production our government knew that we needed an agricultural workforce armed with the relevant skills to meet industry demands. To this end, we developed a blueprint which identifies a range of actions, including increasing awareness of agriculture as a career and ensuring we have high-quality teachers of agricultural subjects that meet the current and emerging needs of the sector.

As I have gone around the state in the last three years, I have seen that the bush is still screaming out and hurting over the closure by the previous Labor government of the great agricultural colleges at Dalby and Mareeba and the mothballing of the one in Burdekin. Our government, to the contrary, reinvigorated both the Longreach pastoral and Emerald agricultural colleges. Dr John McVeigh re-established the Toogoolawah high school in my electorate as an agricultural high school. I thank him very much for that. The students of Toogoolawah high school very much thank him as well.

For our farmers already on the ground we partnered with industry to rollout best management practice programs. We developed effective partnerships with regional NRM bodies, industry and producers to deliver BMP programs for the grazing, sugar, grains and cotton industries. I want to assure my colleagues and crossbenchers that in taking on this role I will be striving to provide our farmers and fishers with strong representation. I will continue to highlight the issues which are important to our primary producers and families.

With all of this said, there is one statement that really does confirm my lack of confidence in this government. In their policy document released in the dying days of the election campaign, Labor stated that the LNP only thinks about behind the farm gate. I have never read a more ridiculous statement in my life. That statement is highly offensive. It is offensive to the thousands of farmers and primary producers and their families who produce food each and every day. LNP members make no apology for having only the highest regard for and for considering the people behind the farm gate first and foremost. These are people who actually produce our food and fibre. These are the people who are producing some of the highest quality food and materials in the world—right here in our own backyard.

They put food on our tables and clothes on our backs. So the next time members are tucking into a fantastic steak, a pork roast or a mud crab, adding blueberries, bananas or mangoes to their fresh yoghurt, think of our primary producers who work so hard, mostly against the odds, every day to make this possible for us. These people need our support to get on with the job.

This Labor government does not have any policies that are fully costed and they do not have a clear plan. They certainly do not have any clear plan for agricultural industries. We just heard that when listening to the minister who took about 12 minutes to even mention the world agriculture. I am also extremely distressed that the Royalties for the Regions program has been cut in half because without a doubt this was one program that benefited the bush. I have no confidence in this government.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (5.57 pm): Mr Speaker, I open my address by congratulating you on your appointment as Speaker and also congratulating the Premier, the Deputy Premier and ministers on their appointments. This motion is about confidence. Confidence is something that is earned. The question before us is whether or not this government has earned that confidence.

It is interesting to note the speeches that we have heard today. I refer firstly to the Deputy Premier's speech. As always she started off very well. She asked the question: had we heard the message? She made the very good point that it was a message for both sides. The speech went downhill from there. The message from there on only seemed to be for our side. It was a speech which was very strong on preaching humility but not very good on showing humility. The situation got worse. By the time we got to the police minister's speech this afternoon all pretence of humility and any decorum had gone out the window.

I do not want to dwell on that, but I do want to say that at this time in the parliamentary cycle—and I have only been here for one cycle, but I have been watching for a long time—words are cheap. We will see whether these grand plans of decorum and cooperation actually come to pass. I hope they do. We will certainly try to make sure they do. Let us wait and see. Let us reserve judgement on that bit at least. But we cannot reserve judgement forever and so we have to make a decision about confidence or otherwise in this government.

Before I move on to that—and I take the point that the Deputy Premier made—I note that there was indeed a message for both parties. The simple message was this. Despite all the figures that have been thrown around in this House today about first preference votes, preferences, minor parties and independents, this is the only thing we can say for sure: neither side in this House got 50 per cent plus one votes in 50 per cent plus one seats. That is the only thing we can say for sure. That means the people of Queensland said they could not decide between the two major parties. That is why we are having this debate on the confidence motion today. That was what the people delivered.

There was a message in it for us, and we have taken that message and we accept it with humility. We let a lot of our supporters down. We will learn from that and we will try hard to regain their confidence and indeed the confidence of the people of Queensland. But in looking at whether we have confidence in this government, the first point I want to make is that I do not believe that the ALP is ready for government. The point to make is that they simply have not done the hard work that is necessary. That has been made clear by a number of the comments made today.

Most of the now ministers did not when they were shadow ministers take the opportunity of a briefing on what the issues were that affected their department. That is a pretty crucial thing. Anyone on their game would have done that, and it did not occur from those opposite. I think that is a significant black mark against them. They had three years to prepare themselves for government and now, as has been made clear today, they are governing on the run. Queensland does not need a work experience government and that is what it has. They did not hit the ground running; they hit the ground reviewing, and that is all that is happening.

I will go through again the list of reviews that are being carried out. I know it is long list but it is worth doing. I thank Amy Remeikis from the *Brisbane Times* who put the list together. The list is as follows: boot camps and youth justice; the Queensland greyhound industry; health targets; the closure of the Barrett centre; Queensland's biosecurity capabilities; 'fair price' for solar power; administration staff allocation in schools; research and development blueprint for agriculture; the VLAD laws; the Sentencing Advisory Council; an electrical education committee; an electrical equipment committee; the Queensland Electrical Safety Office—I just interpose that by the time all of these reviews are finished it will be very safe to turn on a light—Building Queensland; Jobs Queensland; the Great Barrier Reef task force; the Queensland Productivity Commission; as though the other ones were not good enough, establish an electrical safety commissioner; an advance Queensland panel; a red-tape-

reduction panel; an animal advisory board; a rural jobs agency; a regulatory body for the plumbing industry; the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council; residential transition for older Queenslanders; and the Queensland Plan. I can add one more because I have heard it with my own ears. The Premier has also said she is going to review the grants policy for the arts.

Mr Mander: That's how they are going to increase employment.

Mr WALKER: That is how they will increase employment. I am a reasonable bloke and I accept that any new government needs to review things, but this is so far over the top that it is not funny. It is an embarrassment for that side of the House to try to pretend that this is part of the ordinary machinery of government with which they are refining their policies. What it means is that they did not have a clue what they wanted to do with these things. These are not reviews that are finetuning or sharpening up the policies that the other side of the House went to the election with. They are starting with blank sheets of paper and starting from scratch. Queensland cannot cop that. I know from the people to whom I speak in my electorate and around the city that Queenslanders are concerned that there is going to be a significant hiatus before these matters are addressed and before action is actually taken to implement the government's program, even assuming it is one that is going to be for the benefit of Queensland. We are obviously sitting here spinning our tyres while all of these reviews take place.

The other thing that makes me hesitant to express any confidence in those on the other side of the House is the record of previous Labor governments and also this government in the time it has been in office. That record simply does not justify support. Let us look at the past record of the other side of the House in relation to the area that I now shadow in Attorney-General and justice. Let us look at something in the non-criminal area for a start. There has been a lot of talk about the criminal area and I do not want to dwell on that more than necessary.

In my own area when I practiced as a lawyer in property law, Labor for years and years tried to apply a bandaid solution on top of bandaid solution to the Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act. This is the act that affects people dealing with contracts to buy land. The Leader of the House would be very well aware of the issues involved in that. Under Labor, what we had under this act was that, if you went to sign a contract to buy land in Queensland, by law the first thing that had to be stapled on the top of the contract was a sign that said, 'Beware: do not buy land in Queensland without being very careful.' It did not have any effect on anybody who knew what the whole game was about, but it was hardly an inviting way for people to come and to enter into the economy of Queensland. That warning had to be stapled on the top and a second warning had to be stapled on the second page, and if they were in the wrong order the contract would not work. Labor failed to address that for many years—an important commercial part of what the state's economy revolves around.

Under Labor, the average workers' compensation premium rate paid by Queensland businesses increased by about 20 per cent between 2009 and 2012—from \$1.15 per \$100 in wages to \$1.42 in per \$100 in wages. That had a significant impact upon business in this state.

It has been said many times, but it needs to be said again, that Labor made lying to parliament legal to protect their mate the former minister Gordon Nuttall, who lied during a parliamentary estimates committee hearing. That occurred in this House under Labor's watch.

Labor failed to act on its own recommendations from its own inquiries into the child protection system. Over the last decade, child protection intakes have tripled, children in care have been staying there for longer periods and the budget for child protection services has more than tripled.

Labor continually failed to tackle the issue of youth crime, rather sitting back and paying lip-service to that problem while youth detention centres became 'remand lounges' rather than real reform centres for convicted offenders, and it showed in the figures. In 2012, 32 per cent of young offenders in detention had been in detention five times or more. That is a scandalous figure. We on our watch—and I will talk about this a little later—instituted boot camps as a trial which we were going to review at the end of this year to see if that was some way of breaking this dreadful cycle.

Labor was notoriously soft on crime, continuously ignoring community calls for tougher sentencing, ignoring the pleas of victims and their families in favour of the rights of the offender. My colleague the shadow minister for police has pointed out today that we are veering into that area again. The police minister, in her long interview with the *Courier-Mail* where she let her thoughts run rampant, wants to have more criminals out in the community rather than in jail. If you are a builder or a bricklayer or a gardener, she says you are probably better to be doing things out in the fresh air than being in jail. Then, in the next excerpt from this dramatic interview, it was obvious that concentrating on vicious and lawless criminal gangs was a bit too much for her and she wanted to

move the spotlight onto vicious and lawless financial planners. That was a much easier matter to deal with! I am not decrying that financial planners need to be properly regulated, but it was not the minister's place—it is not within her portfolio—to talk about it. It is a federal matter, rather than a state matter. So the confidence that we have in relation to their record is not good.

On the other hand, I think we on our side of the House have a strong record to defend. In the Attorney-General and justice area, for example, we introduced mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years—the two strikes policy. We increased the non-parole period for murder to 20 years. We introduced a non-parole period of 25 years imprisonment for murder of a police officer. We increased the non-parole period for multiple murders to 30 years. We increased the penalty for serious assault on a police officer from seven to 14 years. We introduced new minimum mandatory sentences for trafficking, supply and unlawful possession of illegal firearms. We passed laws to force criminals to explain their unexplained wealth.

We introduced the toughest anti-hooning laws in the nation. A lot of people might wonder what all the fuss is about with anti-hooning, but hooning is an important issue. In my electorate only last week, someone did a doughnut on the street and veered out of control and hit and severely injured a pedestrian on the footpath. It is something which disturbs the peace and quiet as well as the peace of mind of people in their suburbs. It was a very important, albeit basic, piece of law to get right. We also enabled a victim to read their victim impact statement before a sentencing court if the victim so wished and if it was reasonable in the circumstances. And of course we cracked down on members of organised crime groups, and this achieved a significant outcome as we all know in terms of reduced criminal activity.

I also want to speak about our arts achievements in the time we were in government. I note in passing that it is not an issue that has been raised to my knowledge in the debate today and I do not think it was raised yesterday in His Excellency's speech. It is not always something that is at the forefront of people's minds. For me as the previous arts minister and now as the shadow arts minister, it is a very important part of what our community is about. We were very pleased and proud as a government to work in this area, albeit as a government in the last term which worked not as a AAA government, as others before us have had the luxury of doing, but as one less than a AAA government due to the actions of the previous government in losing us that AAA credit rating. So it was tougher, but with less I believe we did more.

Our Arts for all Queenslanders policy made arts accessible to all Queenslanders, and that was tied up with our Boost to Touring Fund. I want to make a point about our Boost to Touring Fund. In a number of ministerial statements that I made in our last term, I was able to bring that fund to the attention of the House but I do not think people really got how important it was. I want to go back a step to my time before politics when I was chair of the Camerata of St John's, which is a string chamber orchestra. On one occasion, we were privately funded to go out on a rural and regional trip which ended at the St Paul's Anglican Church hall in Roma. It was a fantastic concert, the rafters were rattling and kids and parents were everywhere. The kids had a day being taught by the musicians and then there was a concert which everyone enjoyed. A gentleman in his mid-50s came up to the manager of the orchestra at the end of the concert and said, 'You think you've brought a classical orchestra out here to a bush church hall tonight to entertain the rural locals, don't you?' She said, 'Yes, I think that's what we've done.' He said, 'You haven't. Tonight you have fed the starving.' It was a tremendous and emotional thing to hear from that man who had a great love of classical music. He had his stack of CDs and he listened to the ABC but he had never seen a live classical performance in Roma before.

That sort of experience moved us to introduce our Boost to Touring Fund, with \$3 million to make sure that rural and regional Queenslanders got their share of good art. It is all very well for those of us who live in the south-east corner to duck down to South Bank and see the best in the world, but that does not apply if you live in Muckadilla, in Charleville, on the cape or at Burketown. This was very important. We are proud of the fact that, even with the financial constraints we had, we tripled the number of performances funded to rural and regional Queensland—from 180 performances under the last year of the previous government to over 600 performances under our watch. It was an important thing and it meant a lot to those in the bush.

At the same time, we did not ignore the important things that need to happen for artistic, cultural and tourism purposes on South Bank. Our Super Star Fund drew the best in the world to South Bank. We funded the *Romeo and Juliet* ballet for Queensland Ballet in 2014, and that *Romeo and Juliet* ballet drew the best audience the Queensland Ballet had had for over 50 years. We funded Michael Attenborough to come to the Queensland Theatre Company and perform *Macbeth*, and that

was the best audience the Queensland Theatre Company had had for a quarter of a century. It meant that Queenslanders were seeing the best in the world, but a condition of those grants was also that the internationally acclaimed person who came left a legacy. There had to be master classes and there had to be encouragement of our own artists—not just a fly-in fly-out appearance. The event that is happening at the moment is that David Lynch, the director of *Twin Peaks*, has his *Between Two Worlds* exhibition at GoMA and that is selling like hot cakes. It is great that Queenslanders are able to see art of that quality. Two things that were important for us were being exclusive to Queensland and leaving a legacy in the artistic and cultural sense.

We also instituted a plan to have all those bodies on South Bank working close together—the art gallery, the library, the theatre and the museum. All of them do great things within their own buildings, but there was a need to work better together, to coordinate programming, to open up the spaces over there and to see better performances in those areas between the buildings as well as within the buildings. We got them to sign a cultural agreement which brought that into effect. We instituted a 30-year plan for the cultural precinct. We need to plan ahead for that great asset we have there, where all of the cultural assets are located in one precinct. We are the only capital city in the country to have that and we need to look forward as to how we can continue to have the gem of everything in the one spot yet with significantly more development on that site. It is a difficult but important question for us to address.

In summary, my position is that I do not believe the government has earned confidence. I believe that this side of the House has a record to be proud of. As such, I am unable to join the confidence motion and I urge the House to vote against it.

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (6.16 pm): My final words at the end of my first incarnation in this House on 16 February 2012 were 'do not gamble on Campbell'. I will not proclaim myself to be a prophet on the basis of that one line because I know that I was not alone in my reservations about the former Premier's erratic and combative style and indeed his erratic and combative substance. However, when we come to addressing the question before the House—that is, confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government—the word 'gamble' resonates strongly. One of the primary roles of this parliament is to provide a government for the state; that is why this debate has the primacy it has today. I am confident that we can indeed have confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government, rather than the gamble that any alternative would represent. The whole question rests on balancing up where you can have confidence versus what represents a gamble. I am confident that the House will support the Premier's motion because we know the risk of the alternative.

Before I lay out some more of my arguments, I wish to place on the record my congratulations to you, Mr Speaker, on your elevation to that esteemed and honourable office. Your record in this place over the past 17 years that we have known each other, and indeed your time in this House, is a testament to your qualifications not only to hold the office but to adorn it. Equally, I wish to thank the electors of Sandgate for doing me the great honour of supporting my candidacy so strongly. It is no secret that, while I am close to being a lifelong northsider in terms of my time spent living in the northern suburbs of Brisbane, I have only lived in the Sandgate community for a couple of years. Those historic bayside suburbs that with the other newer communities make up the Sandgate electorate are rather famous for their justifiable parochialism. However, I can report that my family and I have been embraced by the local community and I will speak more during the address-in-reply on how great that community is and reflect on the support they have demonstrated for me and the Australian Labor Party. I want to thank the hundreds of locals who volunteered to support our grassroots campaign and who were determined to overturn the huge LNP majority and see a Labor government elected—and is it any wonder when we consider how the LNP treated the Sandgate electorate while in office?

Throughout the almost 12 months since I was endorsed by local Labor Party branch members to be our party's standard-bearer, I have been flooded by members of the community with examples of the arrogance of the LNP and the disregard and disrespect of our community and its values. Locally two issues stood head and shoulders above all others as symbols of how out of touch the former government was and how wrong the priorities of the LNP were. They were the attempt to close Eventide and the denuding of staff and courses at the Bracken Ridge TAFE campus.

The state's provision of residential aged care at Eventide, by the sea at Brighton, has been part of this state's proud history for almost 70 years. The local community has indeed grown in part around Eventide. I lost count of the number of local residents whom I doorknocked who told me that they had

been volunteers at Eventide—had. Unfortunately, these volunteers and the rest of the community, the staff, the relatives of residents and, most importantly of all, the residents themselves—vulnerable, aged people, very frail and very scared people—were victims of the LNP's arrogant ideology and the way it decided to impose it on the Brighton Health Campus. Under the Leader of the Opposition's watch as health minister, the edict was issued that the state would no longer have any role in the provision of aged care. We all understand the broad policy implications associated with the divisions between federal and state funding of various matters. However, this ideological position ignored the challenges of complex, high-care residents, and the order was given to get out and close the place.

Thankfully, a community campaign, primarily driven by committed family and friends of residents, embarrassed the then health minister into backtracking a little way and allowing some remaining residents to stay until the inevitable. While this was far too late for some who, under pressure, were moved and did not settle again or others whose families told me died from the fear of the prospect of being moved, that decision resulted in a nursing care unit that has become badly demoralised for both the diminishing staff, as they were made 'denecessary', to recycle a phrase of the Leader of the Opposition, and the residents. Thankfully, rather than gambling on the way in which a continuing LNP government would have ignored their continued pleas, my community has endorsed Labor's commitment to Eventide and to the future of the Brighton Health Campus, a future based on engagement with the community, not abuse and secrecy.

Secondly, the Bracken Ridge TAFE campus has been a beacon of opportunity for young northsiders for a very long time, in fact, even much longer than when I was a member of the North Point—as it was then called—TAFE Community Council at the turn of the century. I know that the members on this side of the House understand the value of TAFE in our communities, the high regard in which it has been held by local businesses and the families of those who have used it as a stepping stone to careers and trades. This regard is especially strong in the suburbs surrounding the Bracken Ridge TAFE whose residents have regarded the facilities in their midst as something of which they can be justifiably proud and which they, often through local small businesses, have contributed to developing. Under the LNP government they saw the place become a pale version of its former self. Staff and courses were cut so much that it almost seems like a ghost town. That is why I know that my community does not want to gamble on a continued LNP government who would likely be selling it off while continuing to wind down its commitment to vocational education and training. Its members voted strongly for Labor's plan to rescue TAFE, a plan to commit resources to a strengthened public provider of VET, not the continued undermining in favour of private provider mates.

My community voted strongly for a Palaszczuk Labor government. Of the 14 local electoral booths in Sandgate on 31 January I won 14; the Palaszczuk Labor team won 14. This is why I will be voting to express my confidence in the government. As I mentioned earlier, even without this clear delegation from the community that I represent, the logic is clear. The alternative to a Palaszczuk Labor government is a gamble, a chaotic risk, that our state cannot afford. The Leader of the Opposition has made contentions about the strength of the primary votes cast for the LNP on 31 January—just over a million primary votes as the Leader of the Opposition proclaims. Even if we decided to ignore the fact that this means that well over 1.5 million valid votes were cast for anyone but the LNP, it is important to understand that, as I said from the very outset, it is this parliament consisting of 89 members that will determine who forms the government of the state. I reiterate to the Leader of the Opposition: 44 is greater than 42 and with the good grace and the good sense of yourself, Mr Speaker, the stability needed to provide a confident, capable government is achieved. The alternative is a dubious one, one which claims some sort of mandate—a million-vote mandate I see—for a proposition which the LNP itself has, or so its members seem to claim, now confined to the dust bin of history, as my colleague the member for Bundamba and Minister for Police said earlier.

So what is their plan now that they have thrown Strong Choices out the door? In the absence of the Strong Choices plan, what is it? All we have heard so far in contributions is some sort of walk through the past. It has reminded me of episodes of that 1960 sci-fi series *The Time Tunnel*. There have been an awful lot of episodes that talk about the past, because I think the costumes are easier—they can dust off the speeches. The costumes are easier when they go to the past. Whenever they go to the future it turns out that they have to wear tin foil on their heads. That is what we will see opposite; whenever we start looking forward to a plan, it will be a tin foil plan: it will be made up on the run. Even then, one has to question how serious opposition members are about turning the page on the repudiated Newman government. Their speeches to this debate demonstrate that. I suspect the reality is revealed by the Leader of the Opposition's comment to the *Cairns Post* published on 4 March, 'We're bad at marketing.' So we hear that they are not repentant about the ways in which they

betrayed the trust that the state had placed in them. They do not understand that they acted in a way and were committed to a set of policies that are repugnant to modern Queenslanders. They think it is a marketing problem. No wonder the Leader of the Opposition wanted to spend \$77 million more on administration and advertising, not nurses.

Recently the member for Mansfield suggested that Labor was not ready for office. He said that we had three years to prepare. However, members of the LNP had 14 years to prepare and look where that got them. This morning the member for Clayfield told the House that the business community is desperately worried about the government. I can assure him that I have been hearing the sighs of relief in the halls of industry as business leaders realise they will be listened to and not lectured or threatened. What we have seen over the last three years is a commitment by the former government to four pillars of the Queensland economy that collectively now represent less of the Queensland economy than when it came to office. If I were someone out there in the business world, I would not want the LNP trying to help me. It is going to end badly.

Queenslanders are sick of the roller-coaster ride that we have seen over the last few years. They are sick of the Newman government's commitment to fights being picked every day and policies that ignore all sorts of evidence and outcomes. Great examples of that were the scrapping of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program—a prime example under the unfortunate leadership of the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Indeed, another one that ignored evidence and outcomes was the defunding of the AIDS Council by the Leader of the Opposition as health minister. In contrast, our modest plan, Labor's modest plan, based on realism and our commitment to retaining income-generating assets in public hands, is a plan that Queenslanders trust. We will be positive about the state's future and its economy, and that will lay a basis for growth in the economy that has sadly been missing over the last three years. We need that confidence to lay that ground work. We have a plan for growth, debt reduction and improved productivity. That is why I am confident that this House will follow the wishes of our electors when we express our support for the Palaszczuk Labor government, a government that can deliver stability, capability and commitment to sound, moderate policies for a modern Queensland. I commend the motion to the House.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.



Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Mount Coot-tha and Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with courtesy.



Hon. SJ MILES (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (7.30 pm): I rise to support the Premier's confidence motion in the new government on behalf of the people I represent in Mount Coot-tha. The voters of Mount Coot-tha expressed their confidence in this new government on 31 January, and I am pleased to be supporting their wishes here today.

Over a period of nine months in the lead-up to the election, my team and I spoke to thousands of voters. We knocked on more than 23,000 doors to hear firsthand from voters their concerns and priorities for the future of their community and the future of Queensland. In these conversations I learned of the hopes and aspirations of the people I now have the honour to represent. They told me about their personal circumstances, their work, their businesses and their families, and I was made very aware of why they intended to vote the previous government out.

Of course except for the last term, Mount Coot-tha in its current form has been a Labor seat for more than a quarter of a century, but Mount Coot-tha voters are not what is usually considered 'traditional' Labor. In fact, most of the workers' cottages of Paddington and Petrie Terrace and the university share houses of Toowong and Red Hill made famous by John Birmingham and Nick Earls have given way to educated professional families who appreciate both green spaces and a short commute to the CBD. They have raised and renovated and made their way up in the world. As a political constituency the voters of Mount Coot-tha are highly engaged. They vote with their conscious; they vote progressive. They are doctors, lawyers, public servants, teachers, actors and nurses. Some of them thought they would give the LNP a go in 2012. They just could not believe that the government they elected—for many, it was the first time they had voted LNP—set about from day one attacking them, their livelihoods and the very character of their suburbs. On 31 January they did not just vote Labor—they campaigned for Labor in a way that I have not experienced in my almost 20 years in the Australian Labor Party.

In relation to health care, I welcomed two senior doctors to the ALP and my campaign. A senior doctor's time is normally so valuable that they struggle to engage in grassroots politics, but not this campaign. The previous government's war on doctors and the ongoing attacks on our health system motivated thousands of health professionals and our community to work together to elect a government that put patient safety first. Not a single voter that I spoke to bought the then health minister's line about waiting time guarantees.

Mr WALKER: I rise to a point of order. The honourable member is now going into contentious areas, and we on this side of the House regard him as having moved outside of the conventional area.

Dr MILES: It is not my intention to be provocative, but it is very hard to describe the act that the voters I now represent took on 31 January—

Opposition members interjected.

Dr MILES: Not a single voter I spoke to bought the then health minister's line about waiting time guarantees. They all saw straight through it; I did not need to tell them. They already knew—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that the member is being interjected on, and this is against your ruling earlier this morning. I would ask you to please reiterate what you said earlier today.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, would you temper your comments, please. I call the member for Mount Coot-tha.

Dr MILES: They already knew that the LNP policy was simply to throttle outpatient appointments and to make sure that people did not know what operation they needed, so they could not be counted as needing an operation. I am proud to be part of a government that has axed that program and redirected the millions of dollars spent on self-promotion advertising towards patient care. I am also proud to be part of a government that will treat health professionals with the dignity that they preserve. We will end unfair and unreasonable individual contracts for senior medical officers and reinstate collective bargaining and unfair dismissal rights for doctors. That is the kind of government I have confidence in and it is the kind of government that the voters of Mount Coot-tha have confidence in.

It is education that triggered my political activism. As a young man, I could see how the opportunities before me were thanks to Labor's investment in education and the hard work and determination of my parents to make sure I got a good one. When it looked like I might not be able to attend university in Brisbane, it was Wayne Goss and the Labor government that stepped in and awarded me a scholarship aptly named after another great Labor Premier taken from us too young: TJ Ryan.

On 31 January, teachers and parents of school-age children expressed their confidence in Labor to prioritise our schools. For many families in my electorate, education is the most important service delivery area of government. In their busy lives, schools are the community hub in the way that they interact and organise as a community. That has certainly been my family's experience. We have been very fortunate to be well served by a fantastic local state school. Just last week I attended my son Sam's parent-teacher interview at Bardon with Mrs SK. I was so impressed with the education that he is receiving and the overall experience, and of course I am very, very proud of him.

I made a series of commitments to make our local schools better, and I know that was one of the reasons I was elected. I promised that I would deliver a new car park, playground and oval at Bardon State School. I know any parent who has had car seats covered in dried mud after a rainy day pick-up knows how overdue sealing that car park is. Parents at Petrie Terrace State School told me how frustrated they were that education services were being stifled by slow broadband and a lack of wi-fi. I committed to help them fund a major internet upgrade and to repaint their iconic mural wall, which many members may know from their trips to Suncorp Stadium. Rainworth State School said they needed cricket practice pitches, and I have promised to deliver the funds to build them. The principal at Ithaca State School spoke to me of his concerns about kids having to use the driveway to enter the school, so I have committed to deliver a proper pedestrian entrance. The P&F at St Joseph's in Bardon told me that their community hall could be better used by groups and organisations if it had a better kitchen and new chairs, and I am pleased that I will get the chance to help them do just that. The Bardon Community Kindy were looking to improve the kids' outdoor play area, and I have pledged to help fund a water playscape that I expect will be a big hit amongst the

Bardon kindy kids. When it comes to schools, one of the things most commonly expressed to me by parents is that they are worried about how effectively their kids can concentrate and learn in stifling classroom heat. Particularly during the election campaign period, with those 39 degree Brisbane days as I lobbed up on their doorsteps, I heard it a lot and, believe me, I understood. So I committed to help fund classroom air conditioning for Rainworth and Milton state schools, and I am sure this will provide an even better learning environment for those students.

A key part of the package of funding commitments Labor promised for Mount Coot-tha schools is the \$320,000 earmarked for IT. Labor has always seen the extraordinary potential opened up by advances in information technology—we are, after all, the party of the NBN—and this potential starts right in the classroom. Local schools like Toowong State School will decide how to use these grants to best meet their particular IT needs.

Providing the best possible educational opportunities is my priority, as a father as well as the member for Mount Coot-tha. Education triggered my political activism, but the issue that has sustained it now for two decades is the environment. A key part of my campaign locally and a key part of my work now as a minister is the imperative to do better to protect the Great Barrier Reef. It was apparent very early on that residents of Mount Coot-tha were concerned by the failure of the then state government to properly look after the reef. These are concerns backed up by science. The Australian Institute of Marine Science, for example, has found that coral cover on the Great Barrier Reef has declined by an astonishing 50 per cent over the past 27 years.

The Great Barrier Reef is an iconic natural wonder—a World Heritage listed area recognised for its outstanding universal value. As Queenslanders, we are custodians of this incredible living asset. But now UNESCO is considering listing its World Heritage status as ‘in danger’, and the reef itself is perilously close to being in danger. None of the voters I spoke to in Mount Coot-tha wants to be part of the generation of Queenslanders that oversees the demise of the Great Barrier Reef. The previous government was concerned about the optics—the embarrassment of an ‘in danger’ listing—but Queensland Labor took to the election a series of detailed commitments that will not just help Australia avoid an ‘in danger’ listing from UNESCO but also help prevent the reef from actually being in danger.

The greatest short-term threat to the reef is the dumping of spoil from capital dredging at ports along the reef coastline. Already, only five weeks in, the government has acted to address that threat. The greatest medium term threat to the reef is water quality. We have set aggressive targets to improve water quality and we have promised \$100 million to help reach those targets. We will convene a high-level task force with representatives from regional communities, agricultural groups, conservation organisations, industry groups and leading scientists to determine the best possible approach to water quality improvement in key catchments. And in the long term there is climate change, something the previous government refused to even acknowledge existed. Climate change is real and, by causing the ocean to warm and acidify, it poses the greatest long-term threat to the Great Barrier Reef. This is a global problem best addressed through an international agreement with binding national targets implemented through an emissions trading scheme. Queenslanders voted for a government that takes the threats to the reef seriously and is committed to real action to address those threats. My own electorate might not rely on the reef directly for jobs and economic opportunity, but across Queensland there are plenty of people who do—about 69,000 in fact. I am proud to be part of this government that puts jobs at the centre of everything we do.

Another remarkable thing about the recent election campaign was the sense of unity we saw in often disparate parts of the community. Shared experience is such a unifying force, and the Queensland community was united around the shared experience of Campbell Newman’s job cuts. Everyone was touched by it. Everyone had their own story to share, whether they had lost their own job or a family member or close friend had lost theirs. Queenslanders knew in their hearts and their heads that you do not create jobs by sacking people.

In my own campaign, people from a range of professional backgrounds came out to volunteer, often having never been politically active before—doctors, lawyers, TAFE teachers, teacher aides, paramedics, community sector workers—all motivated by their own experience of job cuts and attacks on their particular profession. Many of these people became active in the election campaign through their union. I know that the Queensland Council of Unions, Together the public sector union, the Queensland Nurses’ Union and my own union, United Voice, all made targeted efforts in the Mount Coot-tha electorate for which I am both grateful and humbled.

To represent the interests of working people in this place is a responsibility I carry with pride. My union, United Voice, has supported my political aspirations for many years now. While those opposite might see this as some kind of slur, the fact that thousands of hardworking union members have supported me to enter parliament is incredibly humbling. I will work hard to do justice to their faith in me.

Many Mount Coot-tha residents feel that too often the LNP led Brisbane City Council makes decisions in consultation with developers and not the community. They feel that the pendulum has swung too far in favour of a development-at-all-costs approach. In just the past week I have attended three packed-out community meetings on developments under consideration in my electorate. We literally cannot find community venues big enough to accommodate these meetings.

At Newmarket we have a retirement village operator wanting to knock down its existing low-density property and replace it with a high-density facility in a low-density zoned area that is ill equipped to handle the increased traffic and demand for infrastructure. This is not even to mention the impact of the proposal on the elderly residents of the village. On the old ABC site at Toowong we have a developer who wants to put a unit block on a piece of land with only one access point on to Coronation Drive, one of Queensland's most congested roads. There is something special about the character of our inner-city urban areas, with old-style Queenslanders and workers cottages. Clearly, density must grow as the population and popularity of these areas increase. But it must happen in a way which is consistent with the character and livability of our suburbs.

I am sure that all of my colleagues here today from both sides of the House will agree with me that to be elected to this place, to be entrusted by the people of Queensland to represent them in this House, is an extraordinary honour, a great privilege and a great responsibility. Every three years the people of Queensland come together to choose their leaders, and every now and then, as they did on 31 January, they peacefully and purposefully choose to change their state government. Democracy is a vibrant and rare thing not to be trifled with. If there is only one thing we have learned from the feedback of the electorate on 31 January it is that Queenslanders will not tolerate a government that is not responsive to the needs and views of the people. Queenslanders want a government that is not arrogant. They want a government that does not think it knows best and refuses to heed the advice of experts and stakeholders. They want a government that does not see electoral victory as an imprimatur to impose an extreme ideological world view on the rest of us. They want a government that is not going to pick fights with any individual or group that dares to disagree with it. Queenslanders want and deserve a government that is responsive to the people—that listens, consults, acts with reason, has a positive plan for the future and, above all, is respectful. On 31 January Queenslanders expressed their confidence in Labor to deliver that kind of government.

Premier Palaszczuk has demonstrated what is possible for a leader who acts with integrity, listens, is genuinely interested in what the community has to say and is responsive to that feedback. Under her leadership the Labor Party made history on 31 January, and I am proud to be part of a government that listens, responds and, above all, acts with integrity. That is the kind of government Queenslanders voted for and the kind of government they will get.

Mr Speaker, given your ruling this morning, can I ask the House to indulge me briefly. Given that posterity will record this as my inaugural speech I must take a brief moment to record my thanks to the great Australian Labor Party, my local branch members and supporters, my friends and my extended family. Without all of them I would not be here. Most of all, to my wife, Kim, and our three beautiful children: thank you for backing me, for bearing with me and for being with me. They are watching tonight online. I make these thanks briefly now and hope to do so more fully and cover more of the territory customarily included in an inaugural speech at some time in the future. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the member for Glass House, I recognise in the gallery Mr Don Nardella, the member for Melton and Deputy Speaker in the Victorian parliament, who is here as a guest of the member for Brisbane Central.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.49 pm): I stand in this chamber today to oppose the motion moved by the Premier. Whilst I am honoured to again represent the great electorate of Glass House, I cannot—I will not—give my support to the Palaszczuk Labor government. A number of my colleagues have already explained that in the 55th Parliament no party has a majority—none; not Labor, not the LNP. The power to choose between a Labor government and an LNP government rests not with the people of Queensland but with the crossbenches. There is no question that the LNP made mistakes. I acknowledge that. It is why so many of my friends and former colleagues no longer sit in this chamber. But I am proud of the reforms that our experienced and competent LNP team

delivered over the past three years and those policies we took to the 2015 election. We have set Queensland on a path to a better future. The question is whether I have confidence that the Palaszczuk Labor government will keep us on that path, and the answer is a resounding no.

Labor coasted through the 2015 election. It curled itself up in a ball and hoped no-one would ask it for policies or to explain the few that it actually had. Was the strategy successful? Well, perhaps. I guess it is best summed up by the introduction that Andrew Denton gave as emcee on Saturday night at the Dance for Daniel when he suggested that Premier Palaszczuk walked into the biggest surprise party of the last 100 years on Saturday, 31 January. There is no denying that Labor won 44 seats, but even my four-year-old can tell you that 44 does not equal 45 and my 10-year-old could tell you that 44 is not a majority out of 89. Did that strategy instil Queenslanders with confidence that Labor could govern this state? Again the answer is no. Why? Quite simply because of Labor's track record in government.

If I start by looking at the portfolio of energy and water supply, the people of Queensland can have no confidence in a government whose legacy of overinvestment has driven increases in power and water bills across the state. We already know the Labor Party has no plan to build the infrastructure the state needs. Let us also remember the infrastructure it built in the past. This is the party that spent \$715 million to build a dam that does not even exist. This is the party that spent \$2.6 billion on the Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme which is too expensive to operate but costs Queensland families about \$130 million a year in interest. This is the party that spent \$1.2 billion on the Tugun desalination plant which, again, is too expensive to operate but costs \$38 million a year in interest. This is the party that spent \$373 million on the Wyaralong Dam but then forgot to connect it to the water supply network. Labor is a party whose gold plating of the electricity network meant Queensland had the biggest increase in network costs over the last decade of any state. This is the party that introduced the Solar Bonus Scheme which presently makes up about six per cent of the typical household bill, even for those who do not have solar panels! This is the party that championed the carbon tax despite the Premier's own father saying that such a tax would cost Queensland jobs. This is the party that is elected without any significant plans for taking the state forward or for paying down debt.

Now that the few policies Labor did release during the campaign have come under greater scrutiny, we see just how ill informed it actually is. Its plan to merge electricity companies has been openly questioned not just by the ACCC but by many energy market experts. But what did ACCC Chair Rod Sims have to say about the proposed merger of the generators? I refer to the *Financial Review* of Friday, 20 March which quotes Rod Sims as saying—

'You've already got too much concentration in Queensland generation. To further generation concentration is a great worry. I would be deeply concerned by anything that had the potential to reduce competition between Stanwell and CS Energy ...

The article continues—

'They [the Labor government with the previous merger] turned Queensland from one of the most competitive generation sectors to the least. Queensland has the most concentrated electricity generation market of the four main electricity generation states.

Any increase in that form of concentration will obviously give greater market power and push up electricity prices. The electricity market more than others depends on competition.

But it is not just the ACCC raising these concerns. Here is what former Queensland Competition Authority regulator Joe Branigan had to say—

But reducing competition in electricity generation would increase household electricity bills by at least \$100 to \$200 a year.

He continues—

There is, of course, the risk that the merger will be blocked by the ACCC as anticompetitive.

To deal with that, Labor proposes the generators operate as separate subsidiaries under a single holding company.

But if the subsidiaries are really independent, where do efficiencies come from?

On top of that, here is what the Grattan Institute's Energy Program director Tony Wood had to say—

It is pretty concentrated as it is in Queensland and that would create a pretty significant gorilla ...

He continues—

You've actually significantly reduced competition and that would seem to be a serious backward step for the national electricity market.

And what does UBS energy analyst David Leitch say about the proposal? He says—

That's just building a bigger bureaucracy ... It's going backwards in my opinion.

How can Queenslanders have confidence in a government that has ignored the advice when it is so glaringly obvious? It is quite clear that the government does not know what it is doing and is making it up as it goes along. This much is obvious from the comments the Treasurer made when asked about this topic Friday week ago on radio. The Treasurer said—

You can't draw a proposal up for a complex merger from opposition, that's what you do when you come into government.

Steve Austin nailed it on the head with his next question—

How did you arise at the decision to come to the election with that proposal if you hadn't done the ground work to see whether it was a good idea or not or whether it would work?

And that is precisely the point: Labor has not done its homework. It has refused to listen to the teacher and now it is trying to argue the toss when it has been given a bad mark by the teacher.

There are serious questions to be raised about whether the savings identified through the merger proposal actually exist. Labor has never really released the modelling behind its \$150 million savings number. There is one simple reason for this: the numbers simply do not stack up. If Labor is so confident the figures stack up, then show us how. Release the Orion modelling that it says verifies the savings. It talks about being open and transparent. Well, put it out there. What have you got to hide? Is it that they actually show you do not achieve up-front savings, certainly not in the order of \$150 million; that savings from mergers only come from the out years? Let us look at the boards. The boards of each of the five power companies currently get paid about \$1.566 million each and every year. Let us say you bring five boards down to two boards and, best guess, you save about \$1 million a year. Well done! Only \$149 million a year to go, so where are the rest of those savings going to come from? Does the modelling actually show that if there are savings in that order the Australian Energy Regulator, the AER, will actually take those savings and return them to the people of Queensland—the electricity consumers—through lower network or supply charges? If those opposite think they can run our power generators more cheaply, then the AER will recognise that and adjust the charges those generators can pass on to consumers. What assurances are there that the Labor government can actually keep those savings, even if they are real, in the first place?

The future is not looking bright for the Treasurer. The analysts and the experts all say that he is heading towards a \$150 million budget black hole, or is he? Is he instead going to take a leaf out of his Labor predecessor Andrew Fraser's book and seek an increase in electricity prices to recoup the savings he botched in his election policy? Labor has form. On 5 February 2009 the then Treasurer wrote to his federal counterpart troubled that the AER was not going to give him enough money and demanding more. Is the member for Mulgrave going to repeat that? If he does, the *Courier-Mail* is on the money. What has the *Courier-Mail* been saying lately? It has had headlines such as 'That's a shocker', 'Labor in power fail' and 'Palaszczuk's key policy would lead to electricity bill increase'.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order. My point of order is that the member is using a prop.

Mr POWELL: I am happy to table it if the member missed the paper on 20 March. You do not want that? No, I did not think you would want that. On the same day, Friday 20 March, the editorial states—

We'll all pay price if Labor doesn't pull plug on power plan.

Again, I refer to the wonderful front page of the *Courier-Mail* during the election campaign headed 'It's the economy, stupid'. In today's *Courier-Mail* there is an article titled 'Power switch a budget blow'. That article states—

Labor's language shift casts dark shadow over household energy bills.

It goes on in pretty much the same vein as what we have been hearing recently from the member for Clayfield and others. What was, 'We won't sell assets' before the election became, 'We won't sell major assets,' or, 'We won't sell strategic assets.' Now, the Premier has changed her language from, 'We will not do anything that could cause any'—and I stress 'any'—'negative impact on any Queensland in relation to their power prices.' It is now, 'The merging of the two power generators will not lead to massive increases.' Batten down the hatches, Queensland! Here it comes again. Labor is in charge of the electricity companies. I can assure members that we will see more of the double-digit increases in electricity costs for each family. Where Labor seems to be wedded to proposals that will lead to those higher electricity prices for Queenslanders, the LNP, in government, took actions to protect consumers. We removed Labor's unnecessary electricity network reliability standards. We saved approximately \$2 billion of capital expenditure between 2015 and 2030 in preventing these infrastructure costs being reflected in higher electricity prices, saving a typical household up to \$40 per annum.

In the water side of the portfolio, the LNP introduced bulk water reforms, including the closure of the Queensland Water Commission. That produced savings of about \$80 million per year. We reduced the bulk water price path for South-East Queensland from \$83 to \$49. We commenced unprecedented electricity reform to stabilise electricity prices, including introducing legislation to introduce more electricity retail competition into South-East Queensland from 1 July. Unlike those opposite, we lobbied the federal government for the removal of the carbon tax, saving a typical household about \$170 per year—the biggest cut in electricity costs on record.

We delivered a one-off \$80 water rebate for all South-East Queensland households and continued the water rebate of up to \$120 per year for eligible pensioners and seniors. We boosted electricity concessions for pensioners and Seniors Card holders to \$321 per year. Contrary to what the member for Yeerongpilly mentioned before, we covered the shortfall in Commonwealth funding for concessions to the tune of \$50 million per year. We more than doubled funding—something that the other side would never have done, would never have had the stomach for—for the Home Energy Emergency Assistance Scheme to provide struggling householders up to \$720 if they are facing an emergency and cannot pay their electricity bills. When it comes to electricity and water charges, we were tireless in our efforts to drive down the cost of living. The proof of that will be revealed in the AER's announcement in the coming months. On the other hand, Labor appears to be doing everything in its power to drive up electricity prices for the mums and dads and families of Queensland.

I will pause for a moment and reflect on a few other things that the member for Yeerongpilly and the member for Mount Coot-tha raised in their speeches. The member for Yeerongpilly mentioned those double-digit price rises in the cost of electricity. Guess where they came from? They came from years of the Labor Party gold plating the electricity network only to see those costs, as per Andrew Fraser's letter to his federal counterpart, passed on to each and every consumer in the form of network supply charge cost increases.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Yeerongpilly. I have just listed everything that we did. The proof of that will be shown in the next price path that comes down from the AER in just over a month's time. Labor will try to take credit for that, but the smart people of Queensland will know that that came about only because of the hard work of the LNP government.

The member for Yeerongpilly mentioned schools closing. That is the ultimate in hypocrisy. In the years of the Goss, the Beattie and the Bligh governments, across the state 139 schools were closed. That is an average of seven a year. How many were closed under the three years of the LNP government? Seven—less than the equivalent number of schools closed in one year of those Labor governments. I might add that Labor closed two schools in the Premier's own seat of Inala.

The member for Yeerongpilly mentioned concessions. I mentioned that those concessions were removed by the federal government and we replaced them out of state revenue. The member for Yeerongpilly spoke about public transport. I found it rather ironic that he also mentioned that he worked for the Premier when she was the minister for transport. That means that he had oversight of fare increases of 15 per cent year on year, that he had oversight of the decline in reliability, in the decline—

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr POWELL: I thank the member for Whitsunday. He was probably the one who ordered the carriages without seats. What did we do? We provided 3,000 additional services. We halved and then actually reversed the fare increases of the former Labor government. We took to the election a commitment around duplicating the north coast rail corridor from Beerburrum to Landsborough.

I turn to the contribution of the member for Mount Coot-tha. I apologise to the member for Mount Coot-tha, but the electorate of Mount Coot-tha did not vote for Labor. Thirty-two per cent of the people of the electorate of Mount Coot-tha voted for Labor. That is less than a third and nearly 3,000 fewer primary votes than there were for the LNP's Saxon Rice. The member for Mount Coot-tha can thank Greenpeace and WWF for their biased, well-funded guerrilla campaign. It was political warfare not only for his seat but also for the government. He can also thank them for the joy that he is going to have dealing with UNESCO over the listing of the reef in danger. The member for Mount Coot-tha mentioned detailed commitments on the reef—'We are going to put \$100 million towards it over five years, but we are not exactly sure what it is going to go on.' If that is detailed, heaven help

Queensland. Queensland voted for a party with WWF and Greenpeace in its back pocket. It was interesting to see who their guests were at the official afternoon tea, too. I also heard that the member for Mount Coot-tha does not want high density. I assume that he is going to accept urban sprawl. It has to be one or the other, because you cannot say no to both.

The member for Mount Coot-tha talked about the reef in his speech. My question is: what about the other parts of the Environment portfolio? Should the people of Queensland have confidence in this government? Should the people of Cairns have confidence that this government will take seriously crocodile management in Far North Queensland? What is this government going to say to Col Sparks and his Surf Life Saving nippers? Nothing! That is confidence building! What about assurances from the Palaszczuk Labor government to the people of Gladstone Harbour? Did Labor learn from its poor management of the harbour in its previous term in government? Is the Palaszczuk Labor government going to take on board the open and transparent approach that the Newman LNP government took in setting up the Gladstone Healthy Harbour Partnership? Nothing! What commitment will the government give the painters, the cabinet-makers, the mechanics and the farmers who no longer have to fill in useless paperwork and can instead get on with creating jobs whilst still protecting the environment? Nothing! What about the people of Queensland and the staff of EHP who take environmental harm and damage seriously? Will the government retain EHP's focus on compliance and monitoring and the increased penalties and sentences, including for damage to the Great Barrier Reef, which we brought into this House and which those opposite opposed?

The member for Inala is the Premier and the Labor members sit on the government benches, but I have no confidence in them. They have no clear mandate. They have no plans. The policies they have are unclear at best or disastrous at worst. There are too many questions that I and the people of Queensland have that remain unanswered. I cannot and I will not support this motion.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (8.10 pm): I acknowledge the fact that the Premier holds a commission from His Excellency the Governor to form a government and that entitles her to seek an indication from the Queensland Legislative Assembly as to whether her administration enjoys the confidence of a majority of members here and whether that administration is capable of maintaining supply to the Crown. I rise to oppose, however, this motion of confidence moved by the Premier and seconded by the Deputy Premier. In moving a motion that seeks to have this House express its confidence in the government, the Premier and her ministers have taken on themselves the responsibility of meeting the burden of proof. The government must demonstrate why this House should have confidence in this administration. A motion of confidence, or a motion of no confidence, in a government is one of the most important debates that can take place in a parliament based on a representative democracy. In our Westminster derived parliamentary system, a government must have the confidence of the majority of MPs to remain in office. This requirement becomes particularly pertinent in a parliament where a government does not hold a majority of seats and requires the support of the crossbench to sustain it on questions at least of confidence and supply.

In this 55th Queensland Parliament, a hung parliament, we must test this question. The question for each and every member of this House at the end of this debate will be: have they been persuaded by the Premier and her ministers that they can have the confidence in this government? Have they fulfilled the responsibility of meeting the burden of proof? How do we test this question in a representative democracy? Does this Labor government fairly represent the will of the majority of Queenslanders? The answer to that question can only be no. It holds the most seats in this House, but it does not hold a majority of seats. Nor did Labor win a majority of votes at the last election. Only 37½ per cent of the people of Queensland voted Labor on 31 January 2015, as was pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition earlier in this debate. Fewer than four in 10 Queenslanders chose Labor as their first choice. That is not a vote of confidence in the policies that Labor took to the election and no fair minded person would argue that it is a mandate.

Certainly the LNP, like Labor, cannot claim to have a majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly, but what we can say is that 41.3 per cent of Queenslanders did choose the LNP as their first choice. More than one million Queenslanders chose the LNP as their first choice. More than 100,000 Queenslanders voted for the LNP than voted for Labor. Notwithstanding these facts and statistics, when the election provides us with an inconclusive result, the Westminster system sends us back here to sort it out on the floor of the Legislative Assembly.

If we cannot look to the figures we must look to the performance and the track record of Labor in government. In the area of natural resources, mines and state development the performance of this Labor government has been underwhelming, indecisive and backward looking. There has been little to fill Queenslanders with confidence, let alone convince members of this House. I note that in the

Governor's opening speech to the Queensland parliament yesterday the words 'mining' or 'resources', the words 'agriculture' or 'natural resources' did not appear at all. This is a significant and concerning oversight. I will now canvass some of the very meagre offerings from Labor that have come from a portfolio which should be one of the engine rooms of job creation in Queensland.

Since coming to office the most decisive thing that Labor has done in this portfolio is something those opposite have only fessed up to today. Our government made a decision to address a competitive disadvantage in our resources sector and lifted the ban on uranium mining in Queensland imposed by Labor in 1989. Queensland had been out of step with South Australia, the Northern Territory and, more recently, Western Australia. Queensland Labor is out of step with its colleagues in those jurisdictions and at a federal level where the former Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, led a trade mission to India talking up the prospects of Australian uranium exports. A former federal Labor resources minister, Martin Ferguson, was a strong supporter of uranium mining and, locally, Mount Isa mayor and former state MP and mines minister for the Labor Party, Tony McGrady, is a big advocate for this industry and he has been pleading with this government not to make a kneejerk, ideological decision on this issue.

But Labor's decision is already having a predictably negative impact on industry and jobs. Following Labor's confirmation that it was reimposing the ban, Areva Resources, a company that is involved in exploration in this sector, announced that it would withdraw from Queensland, taking with it the jobs and the investment. The former LNP lifted the ban accompanied by a modernised robust regulatory framework to give Queensland's regions the chance to benefit from a diversified resources sector. The Western Australian government has expressed its delight that Queensland has taken such a backward-looking decision and celebrated Western Australia's new opportunities. WA mines minister Bill Marmion has been quoted as saying Queensland Labor's decision would allow WA to capitalise on investment in the sector and encouraged industry to go west. For a government that supposedly pledged outside the House and in the Governor's speech yesterday to be all about jobs, jobs, jobs, this has already had an adverse impact on confidence in the resources sector and given an insight into what it can expect from this government in the future.

I turn now to one of the biggest opportunities that Queensland has in the resource sector: the development of the Galilee Basin. Just as the Bowen Basin has been a cornerstone of the Queensland resources sector for the last 30 years, the Galilee Basin has the potential to be a cornerstone for the next 30 years. Labor's support for the development of the Galilee Basin and the expansion of the port at Abbot Point has been inconsistent and uncertain. Coming to government, Labor has had to make up its mind to actually do something, but it has not taken long for the gloss to come off Labor's T2 announcement for Abbot Point. The real implications of the plan are beginning to sink in for the mining industry and local communities. It is now clear that Labor's plan will further delay the project and that does nothing for confidence in the region.

The Premier and the state development minister went to Townsville with a new plan to deliver this crucial project, but the reality is that this is a big step backwards for the Abbot Point project. The penny has dropped for many people in North and Central Queensland that Labor's decision to go back to the drawing board means a further unwanted delay. Labor says that it will prepare and submit another application, but it cannot say when this will happen. If Labor thinks that it has pulled the wool over the eyes of locals in Central and Northern Queensland it has another think coming. In particular, I can tell members that it has not fooled the people of Bowen.

Despite all of the confected fanfare and hype following Labor's announcement, the fact is that businesses continue to close in Bowen. Many businesses were hanging on by a thread in Bowen, desperately waiting for a positive announcement on Abbot Point and Labor's plan does not cut the mustard. The banks are looking at this announcement in the cold light of day. They have seen through Labor's political spin and they are moving to call time on businesses in Bowen that were already struggling.

What has this government done to give confidence to the agriculture sector in relation to opportunities to expand their farm businesses and increase productivity, particularly in relation to Queensland's reformed vegetation management framework? So far it has told landholders that it is business as usual. This might sound okay, but I warn regional Queenslanders and members such as the member for Mount Isa and the member for Dalrymple that I do not think that Labor is being honest about its intentions regarding the VMA. The recent press release from the natural resources minister tried to reassure landholders that it is just business as usual and promises consultation before any changes, but we also know that Labor violently oppose the sensible changes that the LNP made to the vegetation management framework in 2013. The minister's press release is designed to try to

calm down anxious farmers, but the former shadow minister for natural resources, now the police minister, has already stated that Labor will overturn the changes made by the LNP to the VMA. So we ask the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines if he is misleading rural communities and actually intends to give in to rampant lobbying and demands from the extreme greens on this issue.

I hope that the minister takes the time to read and understand the LNP's 2013 changes, including exemptions for high-value agriculture, self-assessable codes for routine activities and reversing breaches of fundamental legislative principles. The minister has promised to consult, but he needs to come clean and tell industry and individual landholders what deals have already been made with the Greens, because they remember and we remember Labor's so-called consultation on vegetation management the last time that it was in government. Once again, if Labor is supposedly all about jobs and if the minister wants to secure productivity gains, the improved administration and the reduced costs to landholders that have helped our agricultural sector, he will protect the LNP's VMA changes.

In the area of water management, the important reforms that the LNP made last year to the Water Act have been deferred by this government. The new provisions are waiting to commence. They offer more consistent, streamlined and less costly management of Queensland's water resources that job-creating industries could benefit from if only Labor would get its act together and make some decisions. These changes were strongly opposed by Labor when they were debated in the parliament. It will be interesting to see if the new Labor government has the capacity to rise above the political expediency and rhetoric that it employed in opposition, and recognise the merit and importance of these extensive reforms. I know industry and individual water entitlement holders are waiting for the benefits that those reforms will deliver.

In his contribution, the minister submitted a list of initiatives that he wanted to associate with himself. The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is expanding the drill core library at Zillmere as part of the \$30 million Future Resources Program. That was me and I got the funding from the member for Clayfield. The minister also mentioned that he had met with his counterpart from South Australia, Tom Koutsantonis, to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding the development of the Cooper Basin. That was me, too. In case any honourable members do not believe me, I table a copy of the Cooper Basin development strategy, which I released in December last year. I note that, on page 3 of the strategy, in the summary of actions and time frames, a memorandum of understanding was due to be signed between Queensland and South Australia in the first quarter of 2015. Therefore, I offer my congratulations to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. He may have stolen my homework, but at least he has handed it in on time.

Tabled paper: Department of Natural Resources and Mines: ResourcesQ Cooper Basin Industry Development Strategy [204].

As a proud North Queenslander, I have very little confidence that this new state Labor government is going to support us in the areas we need to grow our industries for economic development opportunities. In particular, North Queensland agricultural industries are concerned that Labor and the Greens have done another election preference deal that will tie them up in red tape. Labor and the Greens have a long history of making pre-election preference deals in Queensland that result in Labor governments imposing burdensome legislation on farmers. I notice the flippant comments from the member for Ashgrove earlier in this debate when she speculated about some members on this side of the House welcoming her return to the Legislative Assembly. I can tell the House that I am not one of them. I remember what the member for Ashgrove did to the people whom I represent in North Queensland when she was formerly in this place as the minister for environment. We had to struggle and cope with the red tape and the productivity losses that were caused by the legislation that she introduced with an ordinary level of consultation with people who make their living on the land.

Labor's reef policy, which was announced during the election campaign, was very short on detail, but the few things that were mentioned had all the telltale signs of a deal with the Greens. The very short time frames nominated to achieve the targets that impact on the agricultural sector strongly suggest that Labor will be enforcing restrictive and onerous regulation on agriculture in North Queensland. During the election, Labor refused to rule out achieving its targets through more regulation and red tape, which would increase costs and decrease productivity for farmers in North Queensland. In contrast, the LNP has worked cooperatively with farmers to develop best practice management plans and increase investment in research and development, which improves farming practices and increases returns.

I am quite happy for the Minister for State Development and Minister Natural Resources and Mines to keep claiming credit for the policies and the initiatives that I put in place and pursued when I was the minister for natural resources and mines. When he does so, it is recognition of the valuable reforms and achievements of the LNP government in that portfolio, of which there are many. However, when the only things that you can point to that you are actually delivering and progressing are things that were initiatives of your political opponents, you know that you have some work in front of you. When everything else that you have done is to defer, review and delay, it is a long way from a platform that people can have confidence in and that this House can have confidence in.

It was instructive that, through the course of this debate, Labor has tried to convince the House that we should have confidence in it by talking mostly about the LNP in disparaging terms. There has been no innovative or comprehensive policy agenda advanced by Labor and yet it asks this House to express confidence in it. I do not think the Premier and her ministers have met the burden of proof that they have set themselves by moving a vote of confidence in their own administration.

Ms Trad: We did. It was called an election.

Mr CRIPPS: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. Whilst I am not reflecting on her absence, earlier in my contribution I also canvassed some of the facts and the statistics that were involved in the election on 31 January. They are irrefutable. They are there in black and white. Unfortunately, the Deputy Premier did not have the benefit of listening to what I said, which was that when an election returns an inconclusive result we get sent back here to the Legislative Assembly to sort it out, and we are doing that tonight. There will be a test of confidence. As I have just said, I do not believe that, in the presentation by the Premier and her ministers of their platform that supposedly is being put forward during the course of this debate to secure the confidence of members of this Legislative Assembly, they have met the burden of proof that they have set themselves by moving a vote of confidence in their own administration. Certainly I do not have any confidence in this new Labor government and certainly I will not be supporting the motion of confidence.

 **Dr McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (8.27 pm): Firstly, I congratulate the Premier, her cabinet and her government on their appointment. Of course, I also congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your appointment. Most particularly, this evening I must rise to oppose this motion of confidence in what is quite clearly a most inexperienced Labor government. What we have before us is a fledgling Labor government with the slimmest of crossbench support. It is one that simply sees the return of some of the old faces who were responsible for past disasters under Labor, mixed with a little bit of new inexperience, all huddled together under an invisible umbrella of no real plans for the future. Let us contrast that with the LNP, which certainly acknowledges that it has made mistakes, but most notably enjoyed the larger share of the primary vote with—that is right; my colleagues have stated this key statistic earlier in the debate—41.32 per cent versus Labor's 37.5 per cent in the recent election. That primary vote was clearly based on an understanding amongst the majority of Queenslanders that the LNP's inherent experience and competence is so important for the long-term future of our great state.

The LNP's record in government was one of significant achievement in the interests of all Queenslanders. The LNP side of parliament previously delivered zero net debt for Queensland. Labor under Beattie and Bligh put us back on the track that we know so well to \$80 billion in debt. Of course, it took the LNP to again halt that slide during the last term. It was the LNP side that delivered Queensland's AAA credit rating. Labor lost it again. Cost-of-living relief was real and tangible under the LNP in terms of freezing tariffs and registration, subsidies for patient travel, savings in transport fares, significant homebuyer stamp duty savings and the removal of the dreaded carbon tax.

In facilitating industry innovation the LNP completed many initiatives. Examples include the state's first comprehensive agricultural land audit, a direction for resources and tourism and paving the way for sustainable development in the north. Of course, the LNP had in place the state's first ever assistant minister for e-government. Most particularly, the House has already noted in this debate the significant achievements of the LNP in terms of health, education and, most especially, law and order.

Labor's fanciful suggestions about their own ability to manage debt, ensure economic development and provide services throughout the state are unravelling before Queenslanders' very eyes. They are only just starting. Their two proposals, as we have heard, to reduce debt have already been shot down—the first, the amalgamation of electricity assets, by the ACCC and the second, the cancellation of overdue plans to lift the payroll tax threshold, by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Queensland advising that it would impact some 20,000 businesses causing the loss of 4,000 jobs.

Of course we know that in contrast to the LNP—a membership driven organisation made up of grassroots members across the state—Labor is driven by union bosses and factions. Labor is unable to reform its own undemocratic structure. Other examples of Labor's failures in the past abound—from ministers lying to parliament, to asset sales by the Bligh government with no reference whatsoever to Queenslanders, to the \$9 billion water grid white elephant, to an ongoing ignorance of agriculture and regional Queensland. It is for these very reasons that there can be no confidence in this fledgling Labor government.

I make mention of a couple of comments earlier in this debate, particularly from the new Minister for Agriculture. This inexperienced minister suggested that he had processes under control to deal with biosecurity threats. I would like to be on record as reminding the member for Rockhampton that in December 2012 when a cattle disease threat presented significant biosecurity challenges for this state, I invited him, as a local member, to a meeting with the beef industry in Rockhampton. He attended that meeting but he neglected to take up my invitation to attend future meetings that were held across the state and here in Brisbane.

He would do particularly well to remember that Labor cut agriculture. I can share this personal experience with him that as a former employee of the department of primary industries over 20 years ago, under the then minister, the late Mr Ed Casey, the member for Mackay, we saw a department that had a staff in the order of 6½ thousand people. It took them 20 years but they cut that department by 60 per cent to the extent that when the LNP came to power no dedicated department of agriculture existed whatsoever. We had to reinstate it.

In terms of my shadow portfolio interests of science, IT and innovation, I note that in her 2012 budget reply speech in this House the then Leader of the Opposition and now Premier uttered just a few words suggesting that Labor might need to look at research and innovation. Some 12 months later in her budget reply speech in 2013 she suggested Labor might even have to develop a new policy in this area. By 2014 she began finally to provide some brief detail on Labor's so-called Advance Queensland—an idea around a suggested package, as we understand, under a panel to be led by the Deputy Premier with what appears to be little more than some scant ideas and a handful of scholarships. What concerns me most particularly is that records indicate that under Labor in the last term their first shadow minister for science, IT and innovation made only two brief references to this House in this critical portfolio area. The second shadow minister appears to have made none whatsoever.

Queenslanders can have no confidence that this government can deliver in science, IT and innovation. They have no plan to ensure these disciplines will be used to promote economic growth and opportunity. All Labor has is the uncertainty so apparent here this evening and the remnants of political spin and numberplate ideas from the last time they were in power.

The real concern of course is that with no plan for Queensland's future Labor will undo all of Queensland's progress in these key areas in recent years or, worse still, cause other debacles like the experience of the fake Tahitian prince or the unprecedented Health payroll debacle that cost Queensland taxpayers some \$1.2 billion. With the continuing emergence of new and innovative technologies, we are at risk of being left behind in the dark ages by this inexperienced Labor government.

While Labor waits for union bosses to tell them what to do, we had a plan in place for Queensland to be Australia's most digitally interpretive state such that it would be recognised as a digital innovation hub. The LNP's achievements and plans in this area included \$457.3 million being invested in the government wireless network. It was aimed at improving communication, safety and security for Queensland's public safety agencies and emergency workers. It worked very well for the G20 and was in the process of being rolled out to South-East Queensland. But we have yet to hear from Labor on their plans for a wireless network.

Startup Queensland was designed to help build capacity within Queensland's start-up business community and entrepreneurs to build and create more high-tech companies. Accelerate Ideas was a program aimed at helping Queenslanders to demonstrate commercial viability of new or existing ideas. We delivered Collaborate to Innovate—a highly successful business to research collaboration event. GoDigitalQld provides assistance for using digital technologies, content and innovation services to boost productivity and connectivity. There was \$90 million in the Research to Reality Fund to stimulate innovation and of course research. There was \$20 million for the Best Start family literacy program giving families the information, the skills and the tools they need to support their children in the early stages of language and literacy development at home. The IT Dashboard allows all

significant projects to be tracked online for everyone to see. It remains to be seen whether this inexperienced Labor government will meet this level of public scrutiny. Of course we all know that actions speak louder than words. In stressing these achievements I have to acknowledge the efforts of former ministers Bates and Walker.

Over the years I have had the good fortune to work with numerous commercial research companies and Commonwealth research and development corporations. It is really as I have directly engaged with industry as a shadow minister for science, information technology and innovation over the last month or more that some key practical points have been made particularly clear to me. Innovation happens where investment flows freely amongst ideas and smart people. Government should properly engage information industries in terms of community and society problems that it faces to find solutions rather than frustrate those industries through red tape and delays. Collaboration in funding and supporting research and development from all sources, including philanthropy, should be prioritised. Our ICT capabilities should underpin continued development, growth and sustainability in all sectors of the Queensland economy, as does education. There is a strong need to focus on the industries of the future—be it our IT companies, biotech companies, robotics and others working in the field of agriculture, health sciences and so many others that the LNP has been focused on in recent years. These sorts of issues for the future of Queensland need dedicated attention, not as an afterthought in a wider unrelated portfolio as is the case under Labor.

As the re-elected member for Toowoomba South, I sincerely thank my constituents for representing them here once again in this chamber. I can confidently suggest to the House that the economy of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs region is one that has exciting potential for the future and one that is the envy of many parts of Australia. That has not happened overnight. It has come through long-term planning, hard work and collaborative decision-making. The LNP has worked closely with the community, with industry and with other levels of government in our region—that was so neglected by successive Labor governments in the past—to invest in the necessary infrastructure to sustain our region and to contribute to Queensland's economic growth into the future.

Whilst I certainly welcome the preliminary statements from Premier Palaszczuk suggesting that the second range crossing will proceed, the House should note that many in my community are anxious that progress will not be stymied by this government. We are anxious about other infrastructure and agreed planning arrangements that were in place and we are concerned that this inexperienced Labor government may frustrate or at least delay necessary industry development. In short, there is a lack of confidence amongst many in my electorate and my region about this government.

In conclusion, I would like to quote the federal Minister for Communications, who recently stated in parliament that 'the future is not something we should seek to proof ourselves against; it's something we should embrace'. To do so I suggest needs a long-term focus, fresh ideas and of course innovation. I also note the federal government's *2015 Intergenerational report: Australia in 2055* and the fact that it outlines the demographic challenges of an ageing population and longer life expectancies and makes it very clear that our ability to address and prepare for those challenges is compromised by any growing debt burden and the resultant inability to invest in the economic development, productivity, research and innovation for the future.

I, like so many other parents, am immensely proud of the achievements of my own children, studying as they are in the fields of law, commerce, communication, education and applied science—and they are certainly testing their father's knowledge in terms of some of the assignments that they must deal with, I can assure you. But I am proud of their achievements, and my own involvement in politics is very much about the world that I want to see them and the next generation inherit. As the member for Toowoomba South and as a shadow minister in this LNP team, I can clearly see the need for a better long-term vision for our state—one that is not burdened by political personalities and games of the day but rather recognises that we must reduce and manage government debt at levels that can sustain long-term investment in research, development and innovation.

The Labor Party has proven time and time again that it does not have such a long-term vision for the future of Queensland and it certainly cannot competently manage the state's finances. Given that we are already seeing this fledgling Labor government make it up on the run, I strongly oppose this confidence motion.

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (8.44 pm): Mr Speaker, I start by congratulating you on your appointment to that very high office of Speaker. Also, I say congratulations to the Premier, the Deputy Premier and all members of parliament. It is an immense honour for anyone to represent their electorate, no matter where they come from or whatever party they come from. Also, some members have returned after being absent for a term or so. Having expressed those well wishes, I cannot support a vote of confidence in this government. This is a government that came to power with no plan, with a legacy in office previously of disastrous stewardship of Queensland and, in terms of both my former ministerial area and now as the shadow minister for transport, particularly the now Premier Palaszczuk and her disastrous performance as then transport minister in the Bligh Labor government.

All we have to do is look at the performance of Labor in office compared to the LNP in office to see why I lack that confidence in this government going forward in areas of cost of living, for instance. In terms of motor vehicles, under Labor we saw in just four years a 30 per cent increase in car registration. Queensland became, according to the RACQ, the most expensive place to own and run a motor vehicle. In clear contrast, under the LNP we saw throughout the whole term of the LNP government a freeze on family car registration. So we had a freeze under the LNP compared to a 30 per cent increase in just four years under Labor.

In terms of public transport fares, under Labor and its then transport minister, Ms Palaszczuk, we saw an annual increase of 15 per cent every year. It was interesting to see—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr EMERSON: I take the interjection from the member for Brisbane Central, who says it was fantastic to see that 15 per cent increase. What a clear indication of what the future holds now for Queensland.

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been misrepresented by the member. I take offence and ask that he withdraw.

Mr EMERSON: I am happy to withdraw. I heard the word 'fantastic'. As I said, under Labor we had a 15 per cent fare increase every year—a policy of the then transport minister, Ms Palaszczuk. I note of course that the new member for Yeerongpilly took some pride in mentioning that he had been working for the then transport minister, Ms Palaszczuk, and obviously then would take pride in and credit for the policy of 15 per cent fare increases every year.

Mr Speaker, I make the point that, if Labor's policies had been in place over the last three years, constituents in your electorate travelling to Brisbane would have been paying an extra \$2,000 a year in public transport fares if they were Monday to Friday commuters.

Mr Rickuss: How much?

Mr EMERSON: \$2,000 more than what they paid under us. In fact, the contrast is very clear: an annual fare increase of 15 per cent year after year after year under Labor; under us an historic—for the first time in Queensland's history—statewide cut in public transport fares last year and a freeze this year. In fact, a Monday-Friday commuter travelling across our network saw a cut in public transport fares in real terms under the LNP government, as opposed to a 50 per cent increase in public transport fares under Labor.

In terms of service delivery in public transport, under Labor, under the then transport minister, Ms Palaszczuk, we saw Queensland Rail hit a three-year low in terms of reliability. Under the LNP we saw it reach the highest performance of reliability in Queensland's 150-year proud history. It was not only the best performance and on-time running, getting people to their destinations on time, in Queensland Rail's history but also the best on-time running of any metropolitan system in Australia. The contrast is very clear: under the then transport minister, Ms Palaszczuk, under Labor, we had a three-year low in terms of reliability; under the LNP, we had the best reliability in Australia and the best in Queensland Rail's history.

There were also extra services in public transport, with an additional 3,000 weekly bus and train services under the LNP government compared to when we came to office. I repeat: 3,000 additional services. What that has meant for areas such as the Gold Coast, as the member for Coomera would very well remember, is that before we came to power that service was like the 'Bombay Express' and then we introduced a 30 per cent increase in the number of peak-hour services for the Brisbane to Gold Coast route.

Ms Trad: Thank goodness for the rolling stock we ordered, Scott.

Mr EMERSON: I take the interjection from the member for South Brisbane. She mentioned rolling stock and this is a great opportunity for me to remind people about the rolling stock ordered under Labor. Can we forget the trains they ordered that could not fit through the tunnels? Can we forget the trains they ordered without seats? That is the performance of Labor—trains without seats and trains that could not go through tunnels. What we did was order new generation rolling stock, with a \$4.4 billion investment in new services and new rolling stock at half the price that Labor was paying. I can tell the House that all of those trains will have seats—unlike Labor's plan. Unlike the plan of the then transport minister, Ms Palaszczuk, we will provide seats.

Many people who take public transport regularly, as I do, will know that we now have 15-minute services in many areas across the network. We can throw away our timetables because we have increased the frequency of services. What we saw in service delivery was better reliability, better fares and affordability and more frequent services as well. So in service delivery, compared to Labor, the contrast is very, very clear. In terms of cost of living, what we saw from Labor was increased rego and increased fares. We also saw worse performances in terms of reliability, worse performances in terms of services and worse performances in terms of frequency.

Let us talk about infrastructure, because one of the major announcements of this government so far has been a 12-month infrastructure freeze. What a disastrous signal to the Queensland economy. What a disastrous signal to the construction industry. Just as the mining boom falls away and just as the gas industry goes from construction to production, what do we see? We see this government announce a 12-month infrastructure freeze. What we get from the member for South Brisbane, the now Minister for Infrastructure, is mixed messages across-the-board which create a complete lack of confidence across the industry.

Have a look at what we did in contrast to Labor on the Bruce Highway. We saw the highest spending on the Bruce Highway in its history. We had record spending on the Bruce Highway. I make the point that the now Treasurer told his local paper that state money being spent on the Bruce Highway was misspending. So all of those members here who have the Bruce Highway running through their electorates—who have that great highway for this state, that great corridor of commerce, in their electorates—need to remember what the Treasurer told his own local paper. He said that the state spending money on the Bruce Highway was misspending. That is what he told the *Cairns Post*. What an appalling message about the roads.

So we had record spending under the LNP government on the Bruce Highway and we also spent money on the Warrego Highway—that road that had been ignored for years and years and years under Labor. We did work on the Warrego Highway with the restoration of the range and the process beginning for the second range crossing. We delivered roads for Queensland. I also mention the Gateway north upgrade—it is underway, it has begun. Again, we have delivered on roads across Queensland. I make the point that the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, QTRIP, that we put in place this year was a third more than what Labor had been planning to do. I do not know why they hate spending money on roads, but clearly that was their legacy and that was their performance in office.

The minister and the member for South Brisbane mentioned Cross River Rail earlier. Let us go back to Cross River Rail because this was again one of the efforts of then transport minister Palaszczuk. What did we see in the lead-up to the 2012 election? We had a fumbling of numbers. Six weeks out from the election, she said that the cost of their project was \$8.3 billion. Three weeks out from the election, she told Steve Austin on ABC it was \$7 billion. And then three days out from the election, she said it was \$6.4 billion. What is \$2 billion over six weeks if you are a failed minister like the minister for transport was in Labor?

We all remember the now Premier had to come into this House and apologise to the House after misleading it and claiming Labor's Cross River Rail project was fully costed and funded. She had to come in and apologise because we know it was not funded. In fact, when she was a minister, she wrote to the federal government, she wrote to Infrastructure Australia, and she said, 'We want you to pay 75 per cent of the project.' What was their answer? There was no answer because they were not going to pay 75 per cent. When Labor finally came back in a downscaled project and offered us, in real terms, 25 per cent, we said no. What did Labor say? They said, 'You should accept that 25 per cent,' when they had been asking for 75 per cent.

Now they have said no to the BaT project—a project that would have delivered benefits not only in terms of rail but also in terms of bus services. Instead they have the Cross River Rail project, and it will be interesting to see what the Minister for Main Roads and member for Yeerongpilly says

about a project that will see 100 homes and businesses razed—and many of them are in his own electorate—under Labor's Cross River Rail project. That is what that project will do—it will raze 100 homes and businesses. Their plan does not deliver any benefits to bus travellers and of course their project is completely unfunded, as we saw when the now Premier had to apologise to parliament after she falsely claimed in her budget reply speech that it had been fully funded.

Let me turn to the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2. We have already seen the bungling Minister for Infrastructure come out and tell the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that they will build it before the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. She did not say how they are going to pay for it because they did not mention that in the election. She suddenly found money from nowhere—that magic pudding that many people have already mentioned. Another slice has been cut by the member for South Brisbane.

Let us not forget what happened in the first stage under Labor when they bungled the project and cost taxpayers an additional \$300 million. They bungled the business case on Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 1. Now the member for South Brisbane has said that she is going to build the next stage by the time the Commonwealth Games starts—that is what she told the paper—but she did not reveal how she was going to pay for that project. We saw her now infamous comments to *The Australian Financial Review* where she said that she will pay for it by increasing debt. That is in clear contrast to the few comments made by the now Treasurer during the election campaign when he claimed and promised he would reduce debt. Clearly, that would have been a very interesting discussion when the member for South Brisbane had to explain why she told *The Financial Review* that she was interested in increasing debt.

Another area of particular importance to me is road safety. In terms of our policies, the LNP government put in place a record Road Safety Action Plan. Last year we saw a record low road toll on the back of that plan that we put in place. That included the rollout of flashing school lights at many schools across all electorates in Queensland—something that Labor had promised year after year, government after government, that it would deliver but it never provided any. Not only did we deliver on the promise of providing 300 flashing school lights in four years, but we were on track to do it in just three years. The fact is that that record \$300 million Road Safety Action Plan has delivered. I do hope sincerely that the new government continues on that plan that is delivering results. The reality is that last year we saw 50 lives saved that otherwise would have been lost if the numbers had stayed similar to those of the previous year; it was a record low road toll. I do hope that this new government continues with that plan.

In conclusion, as I made clear earlier, I cannot support confidence in this government. It came into power with no plan. Its legacy will be a disaster for Queensland. It was significant to note that in the opening address yesterday there was not one mention of the word 'transport', not one mention of the word 'roads'. It shows what the agenda of this government is. It is not about transport; it is not about roads. It has no plan. If it did, it would have been mentioned somewhere in a 30-minute speech outlining the agenda of this government. For those reasons I cannot support this vote of confidence in the government.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Algester, the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesy reserved for such occasions.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.01 pm): It is a great honour to be the first Aboriginal woman to ever rise in this House. It is a great honour to speak tonight in support of the Premier's motion of confidence. In this debate I am speaking on behalf of the electorate of Algester, who voted overwhelmingly for a Palaszczuk Labor government on 31 January. I wish to have it recorded that I intend to seek out an opportunity to share the reasons I am in this place, my personal story and the story of my electorate during the address-in-reply at a later time during this sitting of parliament. So in this debate I am speaking predominantly in relation to this confidence motion.

Let me begin by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which we gather, the Turrbal and the Yugerra peoples. In doing so, may I acknowledge all of our elders: those who have passed and those who are still with us guiding us into the future. Let me also take this opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your historic election as Speaker of the House. I have every confidence that you will provide firm and fair guidance in this place regardless of what challenges may arise over the next three years. May I also congratulate all honourable members on their election or re-election to this place.

It is a great honour to rise tonight to speak in support of this confidence motion. In doing so, I would like to firstly thank the electors of Algester for the confidence that they have shown in me. Algester is made up of diverse and vibrant communities with tremendous local spirit and it is my honour to represent them here in this place. Mr Speaker, as you know, being chosen by your local community to represent them in the state's parliament is an incredible act of trust, and I thank the people of my electorate for putting their trust in me and putting their trust in the Labor Party. It was a choice made by electors in each and every one of the 89 electorates across the state on 31 January. I am pleased to say that the change of representation that occurred in Algester was repeated again and again across the state and in enough of those 89 electorates that we were available to form a new government that will govern for all Queenslanders.

It was a mammoth turnaround from the previous election. The 2012 election saw the Liberal National Party, led by Campbell Newman and his leadership team, many of whom we still see opposite, swept into power with the same momentum that saw it swept back out just three years later. That turnaround in electoral fortunes was something unexpected by many, no doubt including those opposite. With such a majority, many commentators believed that a change of government was impossible. In my own electorate of Algester I personally spoke to thousands of people from across my community throughout the campaign, either on their doorstep or over their phone. Over and over I heard stories of concern about the direction the former government had taken us, and a change of government was something people in my electorate were very eager for. I heard stories like those from Louise from Parkinson who shared her own personal experience as a nurse, concerned that patient-nurse ratios in our hospitals were running at dangerous levels; or David from Forest Lake and Alan from Boronia Heights who had been made redundant from their jobs and had been tirelessly searching for over 12 months with no luck for something to help support their families. The stress and frustration described by these men was something I sadly heard many more times across the electorate. There was also the story of Rhonda, a single mother from Algester, who was struggling to meet the increasing pressures of just getting her children fed, sheltered, clothed and educated; or John, a young school leaver, who wanted to start a career in the community services sector but could not afford the skyrocketing TAFE fees for the course he needed to complete.

On 31 January, the people of Algester resoundingly rejected the direction of the former government. Instead, they voted for fairness in the workplace. They voted for rescuing TAFE and improving vocational education and training. They voted for a stronger democracy and an accountable government. They voted for teachers in our classrooms, a focus on patient safety and protecting the Great Barrier Reef and they voted for a sensible, measured economic policy that does not sell the family silverware for a short-term sugar hit.

Since the election I have been honoured to have been made the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation. Both portfolios are ones that can have a real impact on the lives of Queenslanders and I am looking forward to the challenges of each. I have a clear vision for Housing. I want to see it return to its natural place as a human or social service rather than just a transactional or contractual arrangement. There are few things more fundamental to someone's wellbeing and ability to contribute to society than having a roof over their head—something for which my family was very grateful during the early years of my mum's and dad's marriage. To have the option of the availability of public housing to support our family allowed us to have access to education and good jobs and provided the ability to raise a family. I think it is too easy to lose sight of that when everything is reduced to numbers on a spreadsheet. For example, in 2012 one of the first acts of the previous government was to remove all funding to the Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service. This left tenants in my own electorate and many people whom I knew from across the state without an independent body to provide advice and support services in an area where disputes can be complex, confusing and intimidating. The Palaszczuk Labor government is establishing a fund of up to \$20 million over four years to make sure that tenants in both the public and private sectors have access to independent support, information and advocacy services.

Another important commitment for which many in my electorate and in the social housing sector have called and about which they have continued to talk to me during the first months in government is the undertaking of a review of the public housing system to ensure that fairness is reinstated into the system. This will look at a range of issues such as what income is assessed when rents are calculated and what conditions are placed on tenants. A key part of that will be the temporary absences policy, which restricted the movements of public housing tenants and limited their leave to four weeks a year. I do not personally support people leaving their public housing dwellings for extended periods without a legitimate reason. However, in most cases there are

legitimate claims for people to go away. In opposition, we were contacted by many distraught and concerned public housing tenants. For example, there was an elderly couple, aged 80 and 90 years old, who wanted to go overseas for the very last time to see their family and say goodbye. They had scrimped and saved for years for the trip. When they did the right thing, like so many people do, and told the department that they would be away for six weeks, they were told that under that particular policy they could only go away for four weeks and that if they were away any longer, they may not have a house to come back to.

More broadly, I want to make sure that we are exploring innovative ways to work with the community sector to reinvigorate housing and in doing so genuinely consulting with all stakeholders. We need to ensure that there is the right model of housing available to meet the changing needs of Queenslanders into the future.

It is not just the social housing sector that has raised concerns with me in the last few months. In May last year the former government amended the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2002 in relation to the installation of water meters. The industry conducted a hard-fought campaign against allowing unlicensed people to install water meters—David, one of my own constituents, was one of those people who took up the fight with many of his colleagues—but unfortunately, they were not listened to. Together with my cabinet colleague the Minister for Energy and Water Supply, the Hon. Mark Bailey, we are now working with our departments to address this issue.

Late last year the previous government disbanded the Plumbing Industry Council. An industry performs at its best if it operates within a legislative and regulatory framework reflecting the highest standards. As part of restoring high standards to the plumbing industry, we are re-establishing a dedicated plumbing industry regulatory body within the Queensland Building and Construction Commission.

We are a government that listens, and in recent meetings industry stakeholders have told me that, with the transfer of the former Plumbing Industry Council's role to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission, there have been some positive improvements. Plumbers tell me that having a one-stop shop for all of their licensing requirements is much more efficient. They also appreciate being able to call the QBCC 24 hours a day, seven days a week. As a government, we will work with industry stakeholders and the QBCC to restore the Plumbing Industry Council, while at the same time retaining all of the improvements that plumbers are currently experiencing. Action to implement this important commitment has now commenced and will be completed in the months ahead.

The Premier has made it clear that job creation is the top priority of her government, and I think that science and innovation is one of the keys to that. We have all heard it said that the jobs that will be available to our children and grandchildren will be in areas that we cannot even imagine today. One of our key election commitments is the Advance Queensland policy. It is a comprehensive plan to help Queensland attract and retain the best and brightest minds and build our reputation as a knowledge based economy. These programs are specifically designed to drive research and innovation in Queensland, particularly in areas where our state already has a competitive advantage such as: medicine and biotechnology; agriculture and agribusiness; advantaged food technologies and processing; engineering, particularly mining technology and water management; and clean energy production and storage, particularly renewables and biorefining. A specific focus for research will be the ongoing protection of the Great Barrier Reef, acknowledging the importance and value of the reef to Queensland. Not only will this research help protect one of the great wonders of the world, but it will also help protect the tens of thousands of workers who rely on the reef for their weekly pay packets.

The \$50 million Advance Queensland package has a range of initiatives such as establishing a Knowledge Transport Partnership Program and providing a three-year payroll tax holiday to new companies established in Queensland as a result of Advance Queensland research programs. The centrepiece of the package is the Advance Queensland research fellowships. Up to 100 postdoctoral research fellowships will be awarded in Labor's first term with the focus on those target areas I listed earlier. There are four components to these research fellowships: Advance Queensland innovation fellowships; Advance Queensland women's fellowships; Advance Queensland regional fellowships; and Advance Queensland Indigenous fellowships. Each of these components target areas where we have room to improve our performance as a state. The innovation fellowships will be focused on developing links between industry and researchers to target research that will help stimulate

economic growth and jobs. It has been well documented that for a range of reasons women are underrepresented in academic research, particularly at senior levels. To help address this underrepresentation, women's fellowships will be offered through Advance Queensland.

As we all know, Queensland is one of the most decentralised states in Australia, yet our regional cities are home to a number of world-class universities engaged in groundbreaking research. Our regional fellowships will help ensure that the capacity of our regional universities remains strong. Finally, we will also deliver a number of Indigenous fellowships. Indigenous researchers are also underrepresented among the ranks of postdoctoral researchers. The Indigenous fellowships will be offered specifically to researchers who identify as Indigenous and who are in the early stages of their careers. Preferences will be given to Indigenous researchers who have graduated from Queensland universities and/or high schools.

These fellowships not only target four important areas, but they will also be delivered in an innovative way. In each case, the majority of the funding for the fellowships will come from the Queensland government, but they will also utilise a cooperative arrangement with both universities and industry partners also contributing funding. The fellowships program will be supported by several other Advance Queensland initiatives, including: awarding 20 Advance Queensland university scholarships to postgraduate students each year to encourage women, Indigenous students and those from low socioeconomic areas to pursue a master's degree in specific fields of study; setting aside \$1 million for the Advance Queensland Women's Academic fund, which will provide a funding source for female postdoctoral researchers to help them advance their careers; reviewing the teaching of STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—subjects, giving particular consideration to creating a squad of science champions in schools by improving links between schools and research facilities.

Of course, business development is an important part of effective research and development, and that was the focus of one of our other key election policies. Under the Working Queensland plan, the government will establish a Business Development Fund of up to \$40 million over four years under a co-investment model. The aim is to provide critical seed investment for emerging industries, including niche marketing, to support the creation of the high tech jobs of the future. The fund will help Queensland's best and brightest make their ideas and innovations a commercial reality.

The fact is that it is the Labor side of politics in Queensland that has consistently delivered the support provided to science, research and innovation. Previous investments included putting in place key research infrastructure as part of Labor's aim to create and support a knowledge economy in Queensland—measures like supporting the construction of the Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland, the Translational Research Institute, the Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation at the Queensland University of Technology and the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute. In fact, between 1998 and 2012 the number of scientists in Queensland more than doubled to over 18,000. During the same period 44 research institutes were built. It is this level of commitment to science and innovation that has been somewhat absent for the last three years and that Queensland will see a return to under the Palaszczuk government.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's focus is squarely on jobs. More people in secure jobs mean a resilient economy and greater business confidence. Job security is the bedrock on which economies grow. People will not spend if they are afraid of losing their jobs, and investors will not invest if people are not spending. We have a comprehensive jobs plan to support economic growth and employment with \$652 million in investment over four years which includes: \$50 million for Advance Queensland; \$40 million for the business development fund policies that I have spoken about; \$200 million for the Building our Regions fund to deliver vitally needed infrastructure in regional areas; \$34 million as part of our Rescuing TAFE policy to improve training and to provide skills for young people who need to find work; reinstating the Skilling Queenslanders for Work employment programs to support 32,000 Queenslanders back into jobs; our Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program to support education and computational science and business development and to support stay-at-home parents to develop home based businesses; payroll tax rebates for employers who hire apprentices and trainees; a Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council to focus on the areas of regulation that are of most concern to business; and a commitment that 10 per cent of workers on major government projects are apprentices and trainees, including projects delivered by government owned corporations.

We know that we face some big challenges in turning the economy around, but securing jobs—not only for people in my electorate of Algester, but for all Queenslanders—is where it starts, because that is how we build confidence. Although I will seek an opportunity to speak at greater length on

topics expected in a maiden speech, let me take just a moment to thank my family, my extended family, my community, the Labor Party and my union for all of their support during the election campaign.

Mostly, let me thank the people of Algester who on 31 January placed their confidence in me and in the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is why I am speaking in support of this confidence motion tonight. This government has been given the confidence of the people of Queensland. It deserves the confidence of this parliament.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (9.20 pm): Mr Speaker, I start by congratulating you on your appointment to the role of Speaker. I also extend my congratulations to the Premier, the cabinet and every single member of the 55th Parliament of Queensland. However, as I rise to speak on the motion before the House, I wish to make it clear that I will not—I cannot—support a motion of confidence in this government.

As we commence the 55th Parliament and acknowledge that no party has a majority in its own right, it is fitting to ponder the impact that our decisions will have on developing legislation that will support Queenslanders into the future. The LNP had properly costed, detailed plans to reduce Labor's debt and lower the cost of living. Despite this, we failed to bring people with us and have paid the political price.

After some 20 years in power, Labor was a broken record and the song was always the same: broken promises, higher taxes and charges, mismanagement, arrogance and waste. Who could forget the \$9 billion water grid and the white elephant in my electorate called a desalination plant? A lot of other names were given to it which I probably should not use in this House. It has caused a lot of grief and heartache for home owners and residents alike.

After three years in opposition, Labor is offering nothing new. An absence of policies and a lack of economic vision are proof that it is still out of touch and out of ideas. The former Leader of the Opposition has brought the Labor wreckers back—some of the same old tired team that gave Queensland an \$80 billion debt and a Health payroll debacle, some of the same people who sat around the cabinet table and sold off Queensland's assets, the people's assets: the Premier herself and ministers Pitt, Dick and Jones—a fine bunch of specimens, all guilty of selling off the farm without taking the people with them.

Between 2006 and 2011 Labor sold or leased 15 of Queensland's assets starting with Allgas Energy in 2006, then Sun Gas, Energex Sun Retail and Powerdirect in 2007. Golden Casket and Mackay and Cairns airports were next, and in 2010 came QR National, Forestry Plantations Queensland and the Port of Brisbane. Labor sold all of those assets and still created an \$80 billion debt. It offloaded three of them in 2010 in a fire sale, despite telling voters in 2009 that it would not. The woman who is now Premier of this state was a willing participant in this whole sneaky deal.

The motion of confidence in the Palaszczuk government should be a timely reminder to the people of Queensland of what lies ahead. A reduced ministry with many inexperienced MPs selected because of their factional—read 'union'—allegiances and uncertainty amongst departments means that Queensland's economy and business confidence could grind to a halt.

The new Treasurer has said that his approach will be no frills, no chaos, steady as she goes. More like 'she no goes' or, more aptly, the emperor's new clothes. He further states that this Labor government is about restoring the confidence in jobs to the point where, he says, 'you're going to be sick of hearing about jobs, jobs, jobs'. I bet we will—all talk and no action! We are already seeing job opportunities squandered. In the *Courier-Mail* of 16 March, the editorial, titled 'Open debate needed on uranium mining', states—

The solution will be in creating an environment that the private sector feels confident to invest in.

There is that word again: confidence. The editorial continues—

... what Queensland needs right now—as always—are leaders willing to at least explore economic options rather than shutting down proposals for ideological reasons before even having the discussion.

It continues—

If an open debate ... is good enough for Mr Weatherill—

in South Australia—

who has previously opposed yellowcake mining—why isn't it for Queensland?

Paul Williams continues this argument in the *Courier* on Tuesday, 17 March with regard to the Queensland Labor government reinstating the ban on uranium mining without consultation or any inquiry, saying—

... it suggests Left-aligned unions now control Labor—the very impression a new minority government wants to avoid.

Government members interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: Not my words—words of the editorial. Honourable members, this government has not yet worked out that a capital works freeze actually equals a jobs freeze. Governments do not create jobs; private enterprise does. But Labor does not get it. It has a track record of suffocating our small businesses under 92,000 pages of red tape that the LNP was vigorously reducing. Many LNP members have run their own businesses—owned them or worked in them—and we know that they are the backbone of Queensland's economy.

We on this side of the House know that Labor does not like small businesses. Now it wants to crush medium and small sized businesses by further refusing to unilaterally lift the payroll tax threshold, a move seen as a solid incentive to grow jobs by peak industry body CCIQ. It estimates that 20,000 businesses will be impacted and 4,000 Queensland jobs lost as a result.

Former state MP and ALP state secretary Evan Moorhead is further evidence that Labor's jobs policy is based primarily upon increasing the Public Service when he says that Labor would grow jobs by creating 6,500 new Public Service jobs. There was no mention of small business, some 400,000 of them—the employers of 50 per cent of private sector workers. We all know, though, what sort of job Evan Moorhead is trying to grow for himself, don't we? A new job as a senator in the federal sphere. That is the Labor way: work your way through the unions and get internal party promotions; do not bother with the real world. And so much for supporting the sisterhood. I understand that one of the new female MPs and now minister has lent her written support to Mr Watts, over sitting MP Jan McLucas, because they are in the same faction. How can Queenslanders have confidence in a party that espouses one philosophy yet kowtows to the union controlled factions at every turn?

Inexperience was well and truly on show last week when the Treasurer was exposed by the federal watchdog ACCC's Rod Sims for trying to foist a plan to merge power generators as Labor's key budgetary platform on to the good folk of Queensland. Other energy market analysts including the Grattan Institute's Tony Wood, UBS's David Leitch and economist Joe Branigan also expressed valued and well-opined concerns. Labelled in last Friday's *Courier-Mail* editorial as 'regressive elements of its hastily cobbled-together economics-lite election campaign platform', this immature, flawed plan proves that Labor either did not do its homework or ignored the advice of those learned specialists. I suggest that both were the case. Despite repeated warnings that its proposal had the potential to send power prices soaring by creating a megagenerator with huge pricing power in a market that was already sensitive, Labor persisted. But it has form in this area, and Queenslanders should never forget. I reiterate the comments of the shadow Treasurer and member for Surfers Paradise last week, when he said—

If the merger thought bubble doesn't come off, then Curtis Pitt is going to have to find savings from elsewhere to keep his promise to pay down debt.

I remind honourable members that it was the Bligh government that originally merged CS Energy, Tarong Energy and Stanwell Corporation in 2011 as well as flogged off a raft of Queensland's assets with complete disregard for the owners of those assets: the people of Queensland.

Treasurer Pitt says that confidence is the key. He wants to broaden the microeconomic focus of the government beyond the four-pillars strategy championed by Newman. Now, that is innovative!

Labor had all its eggs in one basket—the mining basket—and, as former Treasurer Tim Nicholls said, we did inherit a basket case. Immediately we went about restoring pride and hope in Queensland's future prosperity after years of hoodwinking and spending like drunken sailors under successive Labor governments. Public commentary about this new inexperienced government has been far from complimentary. The editorial in the *Sunday Mail* on 8 February was headlined 'Keep sight of the big picture' and it sends a warning. It says—

We are a society that is addicted to instant gratification. Long term thinking is the domain of the Chinese. As a result we run the risk of putting off the big monetary decisions today at the expense of tomorrow.

The editorial states that the LNP inherited an \$80 billion debt and wanted to pay a large percentage of it off by leasing assets, saving Queensland \$4 billion a year in interest payments. It made sense. It said—

Why blow \$4 billion a year when that money could be used to build hospitals, schools and fund extra police, paramedics, teachers, nurses, even bureaucrats?

These are not my words but the editorial in the *Sunday Mail*. It continues—

Mr Rickuss: That's the point: it's in their DNA!

Mrs STUCKEY: I agree. I take that interjection; it is in their DNA. The editorial from the *Sunday Mail* continues—

A report released this week showed that privatising public assets actually cuts power bills. So much for the claim that it would create economic Armageddon for consumers.

It continues—

Newman also set about reforming the bloated public service and stopping the rorts in the hospital system. Not in my backyard screamed the unions and health workers who had become accustomed to the largesse of sucking off the public teat.

Instead voters have opted for higher payroll tax, stamp duty and car registration. Where else will the money come from?

Government members interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: That is a quote from the *Sunday Mail*, so do not verbal me. Alice Gorman in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on 10 February—invest in the real world—said that the state's business community is nervous as it waits for the announcement of a new government 'with good reason'. The article states—

The state's business sector is firing. Property prices are rising, clearance rates are strong, tourism is buoyant and small business has reported a return of confidence.

Ask anyone running a business about life before the LNP ... won office in 2012 and they'll tell you it was gruelling.

Peter Yared from the Gold Coast Central Chamber of Commerce says—

What the city needs to ensure a buoyant future is a supportive government, not one that sees business as a cash cow to be milked dry.

The LNP government recognised our \$23 billion tourism industry as one of the four economic pillars of our great state and worked closely in partnership with industry and local governments to refresh and reinvigorate our iconic tourism branding after years of neglect from successive Labor governments. Now Labor says it is going to focus on more than four pillars. Considering it totally neglected tourism, and small business for that matter, this new revelation is hardly delivering confidence to operators in those sectors and neither it should, with plans afoot to tear down ecotourism opportunities and stifle bold new projects.

Queenslanders should look at what Labor did to tourism, not what it says it will do now it finds itself in power with no vision, no long-term plans and an inexperienced team—a team that the Premier wants to protect from rigorous questioning and debate for as long as possible. How can Queenslanders have confidence in a government that does not want parliament to sit? The calendar for the remainder of the year is questionably light on according to senior political editor Steve Wardill. In the *Courier-Mail* on Saturday, 14 March he commented that Labor has 'inexplicably delayed' the first question time. He says that Labor has shown signs of manipulating the parliamentary calendar to its advantage and no explanation was given to the people of Queensland why parliament is not sitting the following week. There were only 27 normal sitting days in 2015, yet the LNP scheduled 30 normal sitting days in its first year despite not commencing the 54th Parliament until May. How can voters have any confidence in a Premier and a government that wants to hide? On Wednesday, 18 March we were sent advice that, if the parliament sits past 4 pm on Thursday—which we obviously have—its first sitting day, then we will sit again on Friday. How can Queenslanders feel confident in a government that had to be embarrassed into sitting an extra day? Let us take a look at Labor's priorities for Queensland, with changing Labour Day back to May at the top of the list. How many jobs, jobs, jobs does changing Labour Day back create? Then it said that it would wind back some of the LNP's successful VLAD laws, thereby giving our dedicated police officers a real slap in the face.

But Labor's policy entitled Growth for Tourism Guarantee is light on detail and big on rhetoric. It appears to be an impulsive cut and paste of a number of industry wish list items interspersed with a few of the LNP initiatives—a hastily put together document without any underlying strategy, but why should this surprise us? Take a look at how many questions Labor asked me in hundreds of question

times during the 54th Parliament. In 2012 I was asked two and in 2013 I was asked four but none of them related to my direct responsibilities as tourism minister and in 2014 it was zero. That is right: a whole year out from an election and not a single question. I used to sit there waiting and hoping in question time, but Labor just was not interested in tourism for the three years of the 54th Parliament and I do not believe that it is yet.

Labor is playing catch-up and it has a long way to go. Let us compare Labor's flimsy tourism guarantee to the LNP's whole-of-government approach, DestinationQ strategy, based on collaboration through partnerships with industry, and our strategy was working. Figures released by the ABS and reported in the media only last Friday show a jump of 20,000 new jobs in the tourism related sectors of accommodation and food services for 2014, growing from 58,000 to 78,000 under the LNP. This increase is a fitting finale to an exceptional year for our tourism industry. Overnight visitation increased to 20.1 million over the past two years, \$49.5 million in new money was invested in Tourism and Events Queensland over the past two financial years and \$82.5 million was spent on international and domestic marketing campaigns.

Our strong commercial partnerships will benefit the industry in coming years such as the Queensland government's three-year deal with Qantas and recently announced \$6 million agreement with Flight Centre. Our annual DestinationQ forums in a short space of time became recognised as Queensland's premier industry and government event. Attendance over the two days and industry reports from seven or more ministers were praised by bodies such as the Tourism and Transport Forum as leading practice for other states to follow. Under the LNP the Tourism Cabinet Committee was a key component of our strategy along with the annual DestinationQ Forum, the Aviation Attraction Investment Fund and the Tourism Investment Attraction Unit. What will happen to these successful and popular initiatives? We heard from the minister this morning that Labor will increase funding to the LNP's aviation investment fund. She obviously was not aware that the \$8 million fund still had plenty in it. Just throwing a few more bucks at it does not automatically bring new customers.

Labor promised to create a tourism cabinet subcommittee. Who will be on this? When will it be formed? We have not heard a peep from the minister on this, yet she had the perfect opportunity this morning to put on record her support for Queensland's tourism industry and show some genuine interest but instead she left five minutes of her speaking time on the clock. Labor promised \$40 million for events funding over four years; we promised \$60 million plus \$20 million for roadside signage and safety measures. But I do remind the new minister that there is more to tourism than events, important as they are, which is why the LNP merged the two into one superentity.

Initiatives like Destination Success, a landmark 20-year plan for tourism and shared long-term vision, were fashioned from discussions at DestinationQ forums. Close consultation with all 13 regional tourism organisations saw completion of their 20-year destination tourism plans. Our ecotourism plan made our national parks more accessible, and I commend former Minister Dickson for this, and we were seeing significant investment in new ecotourism ventures. I want to take a moment to thank everyone who worked so hard to make DestinationQ work: my personal staff; the departmental staff in Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games; Tourism and Events Queensland; QTIC; the RTOs and thousands of operators across Queensland. I sought and took their advice on many occasions these past three years. Over in the Sport portfolio, what of the fantastic Get in the Game initiative that was embraced by young and old across Queensland? The Get Started, Get Going and Get Playing initiatives, worth \$48 million over three years, really promoted healthy lifestyles for all our communities. What will happen to this? In fact, the Minister for Sport and Racing did not even mention anything about those aspects of his portfolio in his 20-minute speech.

Politics sank to a new low at this recent state election. I witnessed Greens volunteers on a number of booths in the Currumbin electorate telling voters their vote would not count unless all boxes were marked. They were told their vote would be invalid, which is completely untrue. Do Labor members condone this unscrupulous behaviour? How many are sitting in this House today because innocent voters were told blatant untruths on polling booths, thereby altering the outcome in some electorates?

How can Queenslanders have any confidence in a government that has reduced sitting days, hiding new ministers from scrutiny, showing that it has no plans for Queensland's economic future and instead playing politics by tinkering with a handful of get-even LNP reversals? It is a quarter of a year—94 days—since the election before the first sitting week. That is appalling.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, before calling the honourable member for Burdekin I remind all members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I also inform members that the member for Burdekin's parties are in our public gallery for this occasion.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (9.40 pm): Mr Speaker, I commence my address tonight by congratulating you on your appointment. I also congratulate the Premier, her executive team and the ministers on their appointment. I am deeply honoured and humbled to have been elected as the member for Burdekin and I am mindful of the trust and faith put in me by the wonderful people who live in this electorate to be their representative in the 55th Parliament of Queensland.

My journey here today started in the cane fields of Bundaberg where I grew up. My family has retained that connection to this day with sugar cane and cattle. You could say that my character was shaped by working and living in a rural environment where the ability to work hard all day without complaint was the yardstick by which you were measured. At various times throughout my life I have been a lucerne farmer, a grazier, a yard builder and a contract musterer. So my connection with the land has never left me.

I spent 25 years in the Queensland Police Service, living and working throughout regional and rural Queensland, finishing as the officer in charge of Townsville Police Station, one of the largest 24-hour stations in Queensland. It is in the Police Service that I started to specialise in disaster management. My specialisation was further developed when I was an area director with Emergency Management Queensland, which allowed me to play a key role in some of Queensland's largest disasters. It was during my time in the Queensland Police Service that I realised that I wanted a role that allowed me to shape the future, to provide opportunities and growth for our communities and a more secure future for our children.

I successfully contested the 2008 local government elections and I liken my time as a councillor and deputy mayor with Townsville City Council as an apprenticeship for this role. It was during this time that I truly began to appreciate the faith and trust placed in elected representatives by the community and the expectation to deliver results. This appreciation was further enhanced in my most recent role as regional manager for Palm Island, where I was responsible for the delivery of the job services and school attendance contracts on behalf of the Australian government. Our achievement in raising the school attendance level on Palm Island from 60 per cent to 85 per cent is one that I am inordinately proud of and is indicative of the staff's dedication to walk forward with their community.

Through my diversity of careers I have gained a passion for community safety, educating our children and giving people a fair go. I am not about handouts; I am about giving people a hand up. Those fundamental principles of hard work, equality and mateship serve as a constant reminder to me of what it means to be an Australian. During the campaign I knocked on the doors of many hardworking, decent and honest people throughout the Burdekin electorate—people on whose back this great country was built. We owe it to them to provide hope and opportunity.

There is no other electorate in Queensland like Burdekin. The diversity and opportunities that exist in this electorate are second to none. I want to take some time to run through some of those industries and opportunities. The Burdekin electorate stretches from the southern suburbs of Townsville to Mount Coolon in the south-west and incorporates the towns of Ayr, Home Hill, Bowen and Collinsville.

The Burdekin electorate incorporates the largest military base in Australia, Lavarack Barracks, which is home to some 3,500 personnel and a major contributor to the Townsville economy. Sun Metals Corporation's zinc refinery, Glencore's Townsville copper refinery and the JBS abattoir at Stuart collectively employ 1,060 employees and are a vital component of the northern end of the electorate. When you couple this facility with an additional abattoir planned for construction at Calcium west of Townsville, creating some 300 to 450 jobs upon completion, and a proposed large scale cattle export facility nearby to be delivered by Wellards, you see that the beef sector has a bright future in this area. The 4,900-hectare Townsville State Development area at Stuart on the southern outskirts of the city is poised to become the industrial hub of the city, creating up to 2,000 jobs by 2027. The announcement last week by Glencore to lodge an application with Townsville City Council to develop 81 hectares of this land was indeed welcome news.

The Australian Institute of Marine Science, located south of Townsville, is Australia's tropical marine research agency and is responsible for generating and transferring knowledge to support the sustainable use and protection of tropical marine environments. The institute's focus on tropical regions is a response to a growing need for high-quality science to support Australia's maritime

industries and also to support the protection of environmental assets such as the Great Barrier Reef, Ningaloo Reef and our coastal ecosystem. The institute has three research programs, each internationally recognised for their innovative, world-class scientific and technological research. The institute is home to the National Sea Simulator. With a budget of \$33 million and a staff of 210, the institute is a major contributor to the region.

The Burdekin electorate also has the Kakadu of Queensland in the Cromarty-Clevedon Wetlands at Wongaloo Regional Park, which is located some 50 kilometres south of Townsville. This hidden gem features the only remaining lowland rainforest in Australia and has long been recognised as a critical wildlife, waterfowl and flora habitat for numerous local and migratory species. It is my vision to secure the ongoing development of this park and to market it as both a tourism destination and educational habitat for our schoolchildren.

When we talk about the Burdekin electorate we immediately conjure up images of the rolling cane fields that are the foundation blocks of the Burdekin. The Burdekin is the largest sugar-producing area in Australia, with the Burdekin Falls Dam providing much needed water for irrigation throughout the district. In 2014, a total of 8.06 million tonnes of cane was crushed at Wilmar's four Burdekin mills. Based on early estimates, the 2015 crop is expected to be more than 8.2 million tonnes. Yes, the Burdekin is the largest sugar-producing area in Australia. However, our cane farmers are facing a bleak and uncertain future with rising electricity and water costs, sugar marketing issues and insurance premiums having a significant impact on the industry.

As you move further south you enter the horticultural areas of Bowen-Gumlu. This region contributes more than \$400 million to the \$9 billion Australian horticulture sector. It is the largest winter-growing region in Australia and employs around 3,200 skilled and unskilled workers each year. Amazingly, during the months of September and October each year this region produces 90 per cent of the tomatoes and 95 per cent of the capsicums for all of Australia.

A growing industry in the electorate is the production of rice. With its climate and secure access to water, the Burdekin region is regarded as one of the most promising rice-growing areas outside of the Riverina. There are now two crops per year—a dry season and a wet season crop—with average yields of eight tonnes per hectare. At present, there is 280 hectares under rice in the Burdekin, with plans for a significant expansion to 900 hectares in the coming year. It is anticipated that the mill at Brandon in the Burdekin will process 14,000 tonnes of rice for the 2016 year, which is a truly great achievement for this industry.

The Burdekin has an established aquaculture industry, with Pacific Reef Fisheries comprising two sites, one at Ayr and one at Guthalungra. The industry is set to expand in the Burdekin, with plans for export to the South-East Asian market. Pacific Reef Fisheries is now capable of growing over 1,000 tonnes of premium black tiger prawns and North Queensland cobia annually.

The Burdekin electorate is unique in that it contains a mix of coal, metals and coal seam gas. There are a number of mines in the electorate, including two QCoal owned coalmines, Sonoma Mine and Cows Mine, with Drake Mine processing using existing infrastructure at Sonoma; the Collinsville Coal Mine owned by Glencore; and the Evolution goldmine at Mount Carlton.

There are 993 full-time employees, not including contractors, directly employed by the sector, with flow-on contributions of \$186 million in the Burdekin electorate, including the creation of some 2,340 full-time positions. Importantly, only 0.2 per cent land disturbance is noted in the electorate because of mining. There is massive potential in the resources sector and if we are fair dinkum about growing our economy and providing jobs in this state we need to work with the mining companies to continue to grow this industry. We all know that the creation of jobs in Queensland is a priority and I cannot stress how important it is for the future of towns like Bowen and Collinsville that projects such as the redevelopment of the Abbot Point Coal Terminal and proposed developments in the adjacent Galilee Basin go ahead. The people who live in these towns are hurting. I am witnessing businesses closing daily and a growing line of people seeking help at the local Neighbourhood Centre. If we do not do something soon I fear there will be a mass exodus of residents from these communities, which would be devastating for the region. The people who live in these areas have turned to the government for help and I for one will not let them down.

So what is my vision for the electorate? I could best sum it up by saying 'just add water'. No, it is not ready-mix cement, but a reference to the opportunities that exist in the Burdekin electorate due to both the current supply and potential opportunities for water storage. Of course we are home to the mighty Burdekin Falls Dam and the benefits that brings to the area in terms of agriculture, but what if I were to say that we could double that area. We have one of the best dam locations in Australia in

terms of the Urannah Dam. It ticks all the boxes in terms of approvals, has a storage capacity of 150 million megalitres, covers a land area one quarter of the size of the Burdekin Falls Dam and is encompassed within a single land holding. The water from this facility could potentially irrigate 30,000 hectares of land around Collinsville, provide water for new mine developments in the Bowen and Galilee basins and a top-up capacity for the Burdekin Falls Dam. The second part of that is the Elliott Main Channel, which would utilise water from the Burdekin Falls Dam to irrigate land from Home Hill to Bowen and, importantly, provide water for the Abbot Point State Development Area. Can members imagine the agricultural production, jobs and boost to the Queensland economy that these projects would deliver. As I said, 'just add water'.

In terms of major projects for my electorate, I would like to see the completion of the upgrades to the Bruce Highway that were identified by the Bruce Highway Transport Advisory Committee. A new bridge across the Haughton River and a second bridge crossing over the Burdekin are seen as imperative. The Bruce Highway is the artery that keeps the north alive, particularly during times of disaster, and it is vital we prioritise these projects to ensure that we keep that artery open. I would also like to see Stuart Drive in Townsville upgraded and a second bridge constructed across the Ross River to ease the growing traffic congestion and complete that missing link in this road.

We all know about the dilemma facing Queenslanders in terms of electricity prices and it is pleasing to see RATCH-Australia Corporation's plans for a 42 megawatt solar PV project coming to fruition, with an additional 36 megawatt facility proposed for installation on an adjoining property at Collinsville. On the subject of power, it is my submission that the only logical place for a new base load power station in North Queensland is Collinsville. The infrastructure is in place, all environmental approvals have been finalised, the site is located adjacent to a coalmine and, most importantly, the people of Collinsville want it.

Queensland needs jobs and what I am offering here today is a solution to the dilemma that currently faces us. With the right political will, a healthy dose of vision and some good old-fashioned hard work the mighty Burdekin electorate can go a long way to solving the jobs crisis in Queensland. We need courageous and visionary decisions, free of influence from the radical elements in our community, to ensure our future prosperity. I am here to tell members that we are ready to go. I have a clear focus on productivity, job growth and sustainable development, particularly in North Queensland and our regional areas such as the Burdekin. Now is not the time to baulk or ponder the next move; it is time to deliver, to make the tough decisions and create the opportunities that take us forward.

My election as the member for Burdekin would not have been possible without the support and guidance of some key people. I want to thank my campaign team headed up by Jim Gist; the former member for Burdekin, Rosemary Menkens, and her husband Ray; Jane McNamara and all those volunteers and branch members who helped in some way in getting me elected. I also want to thank my three brothers, Rodney, Greg and Steven and their families and my former work colleagues for their belief and support. Finally and most importantly I want to thank my beautiful partner, Kim, and my children, Jack, Molly, Rachel and Jonathan. Their inspiration is what drives me to make a difference. Kim's level-headedness, support and undying belief in me during the campaign is the reason I am standing here today. I dedicate the next three years to the people of the Burdekin electorate; to advancing their aspirations and delivering those projects and services that will truly make a difference, not only to their lives but to the lives of their children. In short, I want the Burdekin electorate to be all it can be and to create a better future for us all.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (9.55 pm): I rise to speak on the motion before the House. Can I first congratulate the Speaker on his role and all new members. It is a great honour to represent your constituents and take your place in this House. I thank the people of Mount Ommaney for re-electing me. The question posed today is about confidence. According to the Webster's dictionary it means a feeling or a belief that you can do something well or succeed at something. The Oxford dictionary shows the definition of confidence as the feeling of belief that one can have faith in or rely on someone or something. I have considered these definitions over several days now and each time I contemplate how these definitions apply to those across the chamber and this government. As the Oxford dictionary states, the feeling of belief that one can have faith in or rely on someone or something is the definition of confidence. If the last few weeks of the Labor government are anything to go by, with its dozen backflips, poorly executed policy changes and a void of any vision, then the answer is no, I have no confidence in this government.

What I am confident of is that this government is about self-interest before the interest of Queenslanders. We all know the boys are back in town and it is the unions running George Street. One only has to look at how the ministry was picked.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs SMITH: There he is sitting there, the member for Kallangur. But how was the ministry chosen? It was chosen from the factions: three from here, five from there. There was absolutely no thought given to suitability let alone capability. That in itself is concerning.

After three years in opposition the big policy announcement was to move Labour Day back to May. From a small business perspective, three public holidays so close together hurts cash flow and productivity. I know many people in my electorate of Mount Ommaney were happy to move the day to October, from schoolteachers to administration workers and, of course, the small business owners. Mount Ommaney has over 3,000 small businesses. The feedback I received was that it makes sense to have public holidays spread out over the year and Labour Day is the logical choice to move to the later part of the year as it aligns with that of other states. Moving the Queen's Birthday to October does not address the productivity or cash flow issues that small businesses face. I hear this government talk about jobs, jobs, jobs and yet this policy will not create a job.

I am confident that this Labor government has no clue or credibility when it comes to reading a balance sheet or reading a P&L. As I look across the chamber, I see the same faces, the same people, who were responsible for the \$80 billion debt that Queensland is facing; the \$1.2 billion Health payroll debacle that wasted taxpayers' money; the \$9 billion water grid—or the white elephant, as the people of Currumbin more commonly know it as; and the waste levy. That is just for starters. I heard the Leader of the House talk about being a friend of business. I can say firsthand that that is not what I experienced under the previous Labor government. As I have said, we had the little gem, the waste levy tax, that slugged small businesses and was introduced by the previous Labor government.

Mrs Stuckey: Wasn't that Kate Jones?

Mrs SMITH: It could have been the recycled minister; absolutely. Under a previous government, we were paying higher workers compensation premiums and there was much unnecessary red tape. I hear all the stories that they are telling us about what is happening, but in reality probably we should be speaking to the real people who are running this parliament, that is, the union bosses.

Who can forget Steve Austin's interview with the now Treasurer on 4 March 2013? Let us have a little walk down memory lane. The interview went something like this: Steve Austin said to the new Treasurer, 'So you're telling me that as far as the opposition is concerned we could pay down debt, not sell any assets or infrastructure?' The now Treasurer, Curtis Pitt, said, 'Correct.' Steve Austin asked, 'But how? How do you arrive at that conclusion?' Curtis Pitt said—wait for it—'By being patient.' As a former business owner, that does not give me a lot of confidence. In fact, in the business world that answer would not cut it with the banks and the creditors. Can members imagine a creditor ringing up and saying, 'You are out of trading terms by 60 days,' and you reply, 'Be patient.' Hardly a good boost for business!

In contrast, in just three years the LNP government can look at a proud record of achievements. Locally in Mount Ommaney we saw the reopening of public palliative-care beds at Canossa, which the previous government closed down; the delivery of two new ambulances; the record amount of money spent in our schools to fix the maintenance backlog and to focus on improving literacy and numeracy for our students; 12 extra front-line police and—guess what—a noticeable reduction in crime; public transport reforms that improved reliability and the historic fare reduction making transport costs more affordable, thanks to the former minister who did a wonderful job in transport.

Let me share a famous quote from tennis legend Arthur Ashe. Arthur once said that one important key to success is confidence and an important key to confidence is preparation. How pertinent is that and how terribly lacking is the Labor Party when it comes to preparation? Thought bubbles come to mind and those catchy slogans, but nothing of substance.

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs SMITH: That is not a slogan. It has no strategy, no preparation and no plan, yet the government wants us to support a motion of confidence in it. What is also troubling and concerning is the fact that I am confident that this Labor government will go back to a welfare mentality, a refocus

on the handout and not a hand up, which, to me, is the worst form of oppression. On this side of the chamber we unashamedly encourage economic participation, active involvement in helping to determine and strengthen one's own future, and a vested interest in betterment through understanding and working together to build capacity and develop solutions. The portfolio of cultural diversity is one that requires a hand up and not a handout. Sadly, based on its track record this government knows no other way.

I have spoken about the strong enthusiasm of members on this side of the House for economic participation. Economic participation brings jobs and security. It helps grow much greater community participation relative to those individuals and families who are involved in the betterment of their own personal situations. It also increases the delivery to Indigenous communities of better home and landownership, as well as the continued identification and growth of emerging businesses, including agricropping, aquaculture and tourism, which the previous minister, the honourable Glen Elmes, was very passionate about. In 2014 the LNP government handed over the first community controlled health organisation at Yarrabah. That was a first in Queensland, delivered inside of three years, and heavily involving community participation. The Labor Party could not achieve that in 14 years of government. Under the LNP government, we transferred to the Aboriginal people on Cape York ownership of 241,638 hectares of land in 2012-13, followed by another 38,070 hectares in 2014-15. Those handovers were supported by aid in setting up land management agreements and the investigation of rural enterprise opportunities and potential tourism aspects that would bring community benefits.

I am hoping the amazing work done by the LNP government in regards to land tenure will be recognised. In partnership with the former minister for natural resources and mines, we developed a freeholding option to provide home ownership and business opportunities in the Indigenous communities. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Land (Providing Freehold) Act 2014 has commenced and a trial of the freeholding process is about to commence in five council areas. Improved housing and development opportunities for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote areas by finalising land-use planning schemes, negotiating native title compliance where required, completing and registering road network plans for all mainland remote communities and four Torres Strait communities, issuing leases for social housing under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and making available fully serviced lots, including both infill and subdivisional lots, all exceeded targets in just three years.

Am I confident that the Labor government will work to develop and include a whole-of-government plan to boost employment levels of cultural diversity for Queensland? No, I am not! They need only to look at the action plan and cultural diversity plan implemented by this side of the chamber, which set out a range of initiatives to boost employment and employment participation. Perhaps this is jargon to those opposite, but providing practical solutions actually achieved real results. I am very confident that this government has no plan, no vision, no financial credentials—

Mr Costigan: No idea.

Mrs SMITH: I take that interjection. It is simply about unwinding the previous LNP government's work and I think that is purely out of spite. I have to say that I do not have confidence in this government and so I strongly oppose the motion.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Before calling the honourable member for Waterford, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with courtesy, as reserved for such occasions.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.08 pm): Mr Speaker, I start by congratulating you on your election to such a pivotal role in this House. It is a pleasure to be supporting this motion. As this is the first time I have spoken in this place, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to elders past, present and future. In the address-in-reply debate I will be speaking about my personal story and what has motivated me to run for parliament and represent my community of Waterford. I will use that opportunity to thank members of my family and my community for their support. However, in this debate I am pleased to put on record why the Palaszczuk government is a government for all Queenslanders and why my community of Waterford will thrive under this Labor government.

We are a government who is listening to Queenslanders and taking action on their concerns. The Palaszczuk government has the commitment and drive to improve the lives of everyone in the community, to bring Queensland together and to deliver real change. I stand here as a proud member of the Logan community. I am proud and immensely privileged to represent the people of Waterford. I thank the residents of Waterford for their support and for the confidence they have placed in me.

Logan, and Waterford in particular, is a rich and diverse community which is a microcosm of urban life in Queensland. Any changes in economic and social policy by government are felt first in the Logan community. Any change in the government's direction has a direct impact on the people who live in Beenleigh, Meadowbrook, Bethania, Waterford, Waterford West, Loganlea, Tanah Merah, Loganholme, Slacks Creek, Edens Landing, Kingston, Holmview and Logan Reserve. People whose stories I heard every day on the campaign trail.

In the lead-up to 31 January, when my team and I doorknocked over 9,000 homes in these suburbs and phoned another 5,000 households, Waterford residents were acutely aware of the government they had and the government they wanted. The residents of Logan have a very well developed radar that cuts through politicians' spin and sees it for what it really is. Waterford locals were telling me that what Campbell Newman was telling them was not the reality of life in Logan. The cost of living had not gone down, they did not feel safer in their homes, they knew family and friends who were still waiting for lifesaving surgery, they could not find work and, worst of all, their government was not listening.

On the night of the election and for days after commentators kept expressing surprise at the size of the swing and the polling figures. But that is not the message I received as I talked to thousands of local families. The people of Waterford knew what they were doing at the ballot box and they wanted to be heard. They told me that they had been badly misled by the Newman government and did not want another three years. What they wanted was a government that would listen.

For many Waterford residents they voted LNP for the first time in 2012. That decision had been hard for them, but I do understand their reasons. In 2012 people in Logan were telling me that they were angry about the sale of assets and wanted a fresh start. That is what the LNP promised them. Campbell Newman promised that the cost of living would come down, job creation would go up, there would be more teachers and smaller class sizes, front-line services would be strengthened and the Public Service had nothing to fear.

Logan residents hoped that a Newman government would deliver. Unfortunately, after the election the LNP started junking promises. Job creation projects were jettisoned, schools were sold, nurses and doctors were sacked, our TAFEs were gutted and community groups were gagged from speaking out about government decisions or their funding would disappear. So while the LNP government was picking fights people in Waterford were struggling day to day with reduced front-line services and no way to get their message heard.

I saw firsthand the impact of these cuts through my work at the Beenleigh Neighbourhood Centre and the Logan Women's Health and Wellbeing Centre and as secretary of the Centre Against Sexual Violence in Logan. This experience drives me every day to achieve better outcomes for women and their families—women brave enough to speak out about mistreatment and violence.

The impact of the LNP government's policies was a constant theme whenever I doorknocked people's homes in Waterford. There was Jon in the Woodlands Estate who lost his job after cuts to mental health or Mike and Linda, my neighbours in Bethania, whose daughter was sacked as part of the Public Service cuts. Jerome, a pharmacist whom I met at pre-poll, voted Labor because he was concerned about the cuts in health services which affected his business. Rachel at Loganlea supported Labor's plan to reduce youth unemployment because so many of her friends could not find work. There was Gina in Tanah Merah who was struggling with the increased costs of home care after she suffered a stroke which left her with limited use of her left arm and leg.

Working locally I also had the opportunity to work with the most dedicated local midwives at the Logan Hospital. These midwives were so concerned about the closure of our community midwifery clinics, they spoke out about the LNP's cuts and ran an incredibly successful community campaign to raise the issue with the public. When the issue appeared in the local paper, the LNP simply attacked the Nurses' Union for having the temerity to raise the issue. This shoot-the-messenger reaction was part and parcel of the LNP government's method of operation.

While at the same time LNP ministers were opening infrastructure projects funded and started under the previous Labor government, they were rushing ahead with their only major building project—Newman's tower of power; a purpose-built office building to house the Premier and all his 18 ministers at 1 William Street, Brisbane. At the same time services were being cut in my community of Waterford Premier Newman and his ministers were eagerly reviewing the plans for their plush new offices.

Another theme that came up time and time again when I spoke to locals at community events was the lack of accountability and integrity in the last government. Many locals, colleagues and community organisations raised with me their concerns about a government who raised donation disclosure limits, overreached on legislative reforms, failed to consult on judicial appointments and cut the rights of working people.

In Meadowbrook I doorknocked Abbas Ahmed, the principal at Waterford Law, and he told me, like many of his colleagues, he was concerned about the attacks on the judiciary, the dismantling of the independence of the corruption watchdog and the general disrespect for the legal profession. Anyone who spoke out against the former government was criticised. All of this shows a complete disdain for longstanding Westminster conventions.

As a practicing solicitor with a firm representing working Queenslanders with a strong reputation for protecting their rights, I had the immense privilege to work with the salaried medical officers representatives on the 'Keep our doctors' campaign—a campaign that those members opposite might remember. The campaign came about to fight the unfair doctors contracts being pushed on these senior medical officers by the former LNP government. These doctors took a strong stand against the government because they were determined to protect their patients and they had had enough of not being listened to. This was yet another example of the arrogance of the entire LNP government, not just Campbell Newman. And yet the LNP and political commentators were still surprised at the size of the swing on 31 January.

While the attitude of the LNP government certainly had an impact on the election result, people should not discount the calm, measured approach the Labor Party took during the campaign. It was not flashy but it touched on all the important issues that people in Waterford had raised with me. They wanted more nurses, teachers and other front-line services so they could be confident that their families had access to the best services when and where they needed them.

I am so proud to be part of a Labor government that will employ an additional 2,500 teachers across Queensland as well as more guidance officers to provide much needed support and career advice. In Waterford that means that Marsden high, Loganlea high and Beenleigh high will all get extra teachers and our kids will get the one-on-one attention they deserve.

I am proud that a Labor government will reinstate 70 nursing positions in my region. I am proud that a Labor government will keep our assets in our hands and use the proceeds to pay down debt responsibly. As Queensland's Minister for Youth I am proud that a Labor government has a plan to reduce youth unemployment by investing in our TAFEs and creating secure jobs for the future.

In Logan, youth employment is running at 16 per cent. During the election campaign I met a young student Daniel Wood, a Loganlea resident who wants to become a teacher aide. Under the Newman government's TAFE changes, the fees for this course increased fourfold to \$3,500, putting it well beyond Daniel's reach. Labor's reinvestment in TAFE means that Daniel will once more be able to realise his dream like thousands of young people in Logan. There were stories like this right across Queensland—we listened and now we are acting.

I am proud that a Labor government will also reinstate Skilling Queenslanders for Work because it delivered. According to a study by Deloitte Access Economics, this employment and training program generated billions of dollars in revenue and paid for itself within 12 months. It helped people find work, particularly the most disadvantaged in our community. Why the LNP decided to axe this successful program is beyond belief and another example of their campaign to axe anything that was linked to Labor.

I am also extremely proud to be the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, the Minister for Child Safety and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs in the Palaszczuk government. Let me be clear about my title—communities, women and youth. And who is my counterpart shadow minister for women? Well the LNP does not have one. Maybe if they had a shadow minister for women they may have thought twice about hosting their International Women's Day event this year at a men's only club. This is to be expected from an opposition that saw fit to have only two women ministers in the

previous government and now five women in their 18-member shadow cabinet. In contrast, I am so proud to sit around a cabinet table with a majority of women, led by a woman Premier and woman Deputy Premier. It is a first for Queensland and a first for Australia too—and together we have hit the ground running.

I was so proud to work alongside my colleagues in our first few weeks in office as we supported our communities to recover from Tropical Cyclone Marcia. Premier Palaszczuk and my cabinet colleagues were there on the ground within hours of the cyclone passing and we responded as quickly as we could. After visiting the devastated areas I was moved by the tenacity and resilience of the residents who had lost everything and the genuine compassion shown by those who came to support their unfortunate friends and neighbours.

Whilst in Biloela I met some inspiring women from the Queensland Rural, Regional and Remote Women's Network. They teamed up with Baked Relief and Givit to cook and distribute food for their neighbours, friends, workers and local families, even though many of them had been personally affected. It was an honour to meet them and hear their stories firsthand, and it drove home to me the importance of our recovery efforts in Central Queensland.

I would like to thank the hundreds of community recovery workers, both within government and working with our NGO partners, for doing an amazing job under very trying conditions. Many of these workers work in other departments across government and leave their families to travel to these areas, to put up their hand as ready reservists to support these communities rebuild their lives.

I would also like to put on record my thanks and pay tribute to the local members in the affected regions who worked day and night to support their community: the member for Keppel, Brittany Lauga; the member for Rockhampton, Minister Bill Byrne; and the member for Mirani, Jim Pearce. It was so impressive to see how the community came together to support each other in any way they could. I know many people appreciated the Lions Club running a sausage sizzle to feed the community and other local restaurants providing free meals for affected families.

During the election campaign Labor committed to continuing the child safety reform agenda as outlined in the Carmody report on child protection. I am determined to improve the early intervention and prevention services to ensure families and children get the support they need to stop them from entering the formal child protection system. I am especially committed to doing everything possible to reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids in care.

The Carmody report provides a 10-year plan for improvements to the child protection system and builds on the work before it by successive Labor governments. While early intervention and prevention is a key area to strengthen, we cannot forget our commitment and funding for the more than 8,600 children and young people who are currently in out-of-home care. Since becoming the minister responsible for child safety, I have had the pleasure of meeting with some of our fantastic foster and kinship carers. I launched Foster and Kinship Care Week at the foster care conference in Toowoomba this year and was proud to be surrounded by such wonderful people providing such a vital service. The work they do to care for some of our most vulnerable children cannot be forgotten. I look forward to the challenges that lay ahead and I will continue to meet with and listen to those families, carers, children and young people and the workforce that supports them to make sure these reforms stay on track.

One of the key issues I want to focus on in my role as Minister for Communities and Minister for Women is domestic and family violence. If there is one thing I want to be remembered for it is being part of a government that took on the insidious crime of domestic violence. Alarming, there are 180 incidents of domestic violence reported every day in Queensland. That is one every eight minutes. It is my goal that by the end of this term there are far fewer women living in fear, and I want to make sure there are more places for women and children to go when they reach out for help.

Dame Quentin Bryce and her task force has given us the road map to achieve that aim. It is a powerful, insightful report and everyone who contributed to the task force's work should be congratulated. The Palaszczuk government is currently working on a detailed response to the *Not now, not ever* report, and I look forward to working with the Premier and my ministerial colleagues in developing a plan to wipe out domestic violence. My work with the Centre Against Sexual Violence in Logan has shown me how this problem reverberates through our society and I know that everyone has been touched by it in some way. Domestic and family violence just cannot be allowed to continue as it has. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us.

I am also committed to restoring the importance of multiculturalism and valuing the role of our more than 220 different cultures here in Queensland. Again, I want to listen to their views. Already I have participated in numerous events as part of my role as Minister for Multicultural Affairs—Harmony Day, Lunar New Year and I had the pleasure of hosting the Georgian Ambassador and his wife on their recent visit to Queensland. These are just some of the examples of the cultural celebrations I have enjoyed.

But it is not just about the celebrations. Our multicultural communities must be acknowledged and supported by government. Many different cultural communities live and work in my own community of Logan—in fact we have over 200 different cultural groups in the community—and their role in growing a better Queensland should be recognised. That is why the Palaszczuk government is committed to a multicultural recognition bill and charter—to recognise and explicitly confirm the important role these cultures play in building a better Queensland and to set out a plan to address the unique issues that face these communities.

This is a key point of difference between our side and the LNP members opposite. We want to hold a meaningful conversation with all Queenslanders. We have to build on the trust that Queenslanders have placed in the Palaszczuk government. The trust is fragile and has to be constantly reinforced by our actions. We are not afraid of the things that community groups have to say. We want to hear their ideas and their feedback. That is why one of our first acts upon coming into government was to remove the appalling gag clause imposed upon NGOs by the previous government—a government so arrogant that they not only did not listen to the community but also prevented community groups from speaking out and advocating on behalf of the very members they are trying to represent.

The Palaszczuk government recognises the important link between advocacy and service improvement, and we are ready to hear the views of everyone in our community. The relief amongst the community sector is apparent. Everywhere I go I am told that the sector is enthusiastic that they are now to be consulted and listened to. I am proud to be a member of a government that will listen and act, and I wholeheartedly support this confidence motion.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (10.28 pm): I would like to start my contribution by thanking the good people of Aspley for placing their trust in me to represent them over the next three years. It is a great privilege to serve as a member of parliament and even more so when you serve in government which brings with it tremendous responsibilities—which is why this process today is so very important. That is why we acknowledge that the recent election delivered a message—which we must learn from—as we move forward to separate those things the public did not want, or like, from those that helped our state get back on track. It also means though on our side that we need to balance the message sent to us on the one hand and a parliament with a minority government on the other. We must put Queensland's interests first and foremost, serve Queenslanders well and deal with issues important to them by listening with empathy and by being consistent in our words, decisions and actions. We must also recognise that, given the fine balance in this place, there are lessons for all of us.

The question we are being asked today is whether the House has confidence in the newly appointed Queensland Labor government. I cannot support the confidence motion because history has a loud voice. There were things we got wrong, but in my view we got many things right. Just three years ago, there were many things that Labor got wrong and I am not really sure they have properly acknowledged that. Labor left Queensland with an \$80 billion debt. In contrast, the LNP government ended the slide into further debt and got Queensland back on track. Labor lost Queensland's AAA credit rating and added \$200 million to Queensland's yearly interest bill. Labor increased the burden on taxpayers; the LNP slashed red tape.

Queenslanders will never forget the Health payroll debacle and they will not forget ambulance ramping. We will not forget the \$9 billion water grid white elephant, the rusting desal plants, the dams without pipes and the pipes without dams. The Bligh government said 'no asset sales' before an election and then lost the trust of people with asset sales after the election. Queensland is hearing the same promise by the current Labor government, as they move away from 'no asset sales' to 'strategic' and 'major assets'.

That brings us to today. The Labor opposition did not have a plan and now in government they are scrambling to put together a plan. They have had a few thought bubbles but there are many unanswered questions about how they will grow the economy and how they propose to pay down debt. They still have not told people how they are going to fund anything. Without a plan, we must

ensure that Labor's more recent history is not allowed to repeat itself. The new Treasurer has said that they have now had the chance to look behind the curtains, but without a plan will they be hiding behind the curtains in the future?

It could be said that some of the most challenging areas for government are in human services. Beyond that core responsibility of defending our community, strong financial management and driving our economy, that one key part of government is looking after our most vulnerable. Child protection, disability services and the community services are amongst those. There is much energy, goodwill and dedication by staff at the front line who do their work in order to make life better for the marginalised, the disaffected and the vulnerable. Partnerships between government and the non-government sector genuinely seek to make a difference in the lives of people dealing with significant challenges. I am very proud of the work undertaken over the last three years working to this aspiration.

In the first 100 days of the LNP government we implemented the most comprehensive review of the child protection system here in Queensland. We did not have the luxury of taking our time and dragging our heels because we knew Queensland children and families were struggling and needed better services. The system needed a reboot and it needed it urgently. The inquiry presented us with 121 recommendations to completely overhaul the child protection system. The LNP government accepted all of these, with six in principle, and they were backed up with a record \$406 million over five years because we knew something had to change. The system was not coping and our kids deserved better. But whilst this massive injection was needed, money alone was not going to fix the problem. It required commitment to change the structure of the system in order that this investment reached the right people at the right time in the right place. We knew that the state could no longer afford to throw taxpayers' money at a system that was failing children and families.

Having just heard the contribution by the minister, the member for Waterford, I think it is really important to give her a bit of a history lesson and a bit of context about the Labor Party and their contribution in the child protection system. The sector had been continually telling the previous Labor government that change was urgently needed. The child protection data supported that and the recommendations from the commission of inquiry confirmed that the system had become overburdened and unsustainable. I noticed in the Governor's speech yesterday that there was no mention of the child protection system, although the minister would have us believe that that is one of her top priorities. It is pretty clear why that was not in the speech by the Governor yesterday, and that is because Labor's legacy in this very important area is very underwhelming.

During the election campaign, they referenced their record on increased funding for child protection services. What they failed to tell Queenslanders is that they had to increase spending on child protection each year for no other reason than to prop up their overburdened and unsustainable system because the majority of resources were targeted at the tertiary end when they had been told on numerous occasions—and they knew it—that it needed to be directed at family supports.

I have listened to the contributions of those opposite talking about how they will be listening and how they will be consulting. But how can Queenslanders trust this new government when they oversaw a broken system—one they created and presided over—when the sector was telling them what needed to be done and they simply did not listen? They spent—while increasing public debt—on a system that was not providing better outcomes for children and families. It is not a proud record when a government refuses to acknowledge that their policies resulted in record numbers of children in care, when the right policies could have built capacity in families to keep children safely at home. So it is very hard to have confidence when that is Labor's legacy, but I do commend to the minister a plan to correct the past mistakes—and that is the LNP plan which is starting to yield results.

The child protection reforms by the LNP government are the most important reforms that have ever been undertaken to bring Queensland into a contemporary child protection era. Families must be seen as the lifeblood of our communities and when they struggle there must be the right services available for them to help. That is where our focus lay. We responded to considerable input from experts and the community and we are very pleased with this track record of reform. I will be watching very closely, given the minister's remarks, to see that the Labor government shows that ongoing commitment to this very important reform because Labor has no mandate for any alternative plan and we simply cannot risk a repeat of their previous 2004 efforts in reforming a system that went terribly askew.

One of the elements of the reform program very dear to my heart was our initiative to continue support to young people leaving care until they were 21 years of age. I remind the House that Labor's approach was to let these young people go without any continued support behind them. As parents, we do not kick our kids out when they are 18; we continue to provide the support and connections that they need until they build confidence and until they can live independently.

The post-care support never happened under a Labor government. It took the LNP, in consultation with young people and the sector, to properly deliver on the best interests of young people leaving care. In our second year in government, we decreased the number of children admitted to out-of-home care by almost 10 per cent and we reduced the total number of children subject to ongoing departmental intervention. I am very proud of this result when you consider the upward trajectory of the number of children coming into care under successive Labor governments. In that same one-year period, we had over 300 more carer families than we did when Labor was last in government. Foster carers and kinship carers were leaving the department in droves because the system was not supporting them and they felt undervalued.

By the end of our term we had reduced the average case load of our very hard and committed child safety officers to around 19 and this was set to reduce even further—something Labor had struggled to do and could never deliver on in over a decade in government. There are many other reforms as a result of the Carmody inquiry, important reforms—reforms that we embraced, reforms that we were committed to delivering. I very much look forward to scrutinising the efforts of the new minister.

I turn my comments to the Disability portfolio. People with a disability and their families and their carers are very optimistic about the opportunities that the NDIS will offer and how it will improve their future. The LNP government was working very hard to get Queensland ready for the transition to the scheme in July 2016. We entered into a heads of agreement with the former federal Labor government and backed it up with an extra \$868 million over five years, the biggest single investment in disability services this state has ever seen. Negotiations were progressing well with the current federal government on a bilateral agreement. We established the NDIS Planning and Implementation Group comprising all stakeholder groups and we negotiated an MOU with the National Disability Insurance Agency for the first tranche of NDIA staff to be located here in Queensland—some in Brisbane and some in Townsville—to work with the department, the sector and participants and their families to prepare for this very important transition. The NDIA was very pleased with the progress that Queensland was making in its preparations and offered no concerns about Queensland not hosting a trial. In fact, Queensland has been in a unique position to learn from the trials in the other jurisdictions. Rather than focusing on one particular cohort or on one geographic location, we were able to look at our state in a holistic sense because of our very decentralised nature so that we could be well placed for the transition.

Mr Speaker, as you know, I am very passionate about the NDIS and the delivery of the NDIS here in Queensland. However, I do hold concerns that, with only 15 months to go, any change to the current program could possibly jeopardise the successful transition that is planned for July 2016. This would be of grave concern—very much so—to the disability sector but, more importantly, to people with a disability and their families and carers. Of course, whilst we were not hosting a trial, much work was being done to align with the principles of the NDIS, in particular, the Your Life Your Choice trial which allows people with a disability to exercise choice and control over the disability services that they wish to access. Choice and control is central to the aspirations of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Over the last 10 years there have been lots of opportunities for successive Labor governments to provide this option for people with a disability in Queensland who had individualised funding, but they chose not to. It took an LNP government to make this happen. We will be watching very, very closely to see how the Labor government continues the good work already underway in Queensland for the NDIS because there is no time to waste. People with a disability need to be assured that the NDIS will start to roll out in the agreed time frame. I would also be interested to see if the new minister continues with the Elderly Parent Carer Innovation trial. I understand that she may have visited one of the sites recently, so she will have seen firsthand—

Mrs Frecklington: In Nanango.

Ms DAVIS: In Nanango?

Mrs Frecklington: She came to my electorate.

Ms DAVIS:—to see the really great work and the outcomes.

Mrs Frecklington: She came to my electorate?

Ms DAVIS: Is that right?

Mrs Frecklington: No, I don't know.

Ms DAVIS: I do know that one site was visited. I do not know the location. What I do know is that the new minister would certainly have seen what a difference that was going to make in the life of young people and certainly ease the very great burden of our elderly parent carers who struggle on a daily basis to deal with the real concerns about what will happen to their adult child with a disability when they are no longer here or no longer able to care for their child.

In addition to the LNP's work that I have just outlined to improve the lives of people with a disability, another terrific outcome that we achieved was to significantly reduce the waiting times for disability assessments and supports and particularly reduce the wait list for over 4,000 people waiting to access aids and equipment to make their lives much more accessible. That is 4,000 more people with a disability who are no longer languishing on a wait list created by the former Labor government.

I was pleased to hear the comments about domestic and family violence from the minister, but again I think a little history lesson is in order. Anyone who heard that contribution would think that the minister and her government established the Premier's task force. Of course, we do know that it was the LNP government that established that task force. We knew that building on our Make the call campaign, we needed to look more broadly at the issue of domestic and family violence because, whilst crime statistics across the state were gradually going down, the sad reality was that domestic and family violence incidents were increasing.

Now the Labor government is the custodian of that report. That includes 140 recommendations. I can assure honourable members that this opposition and the people of Queensland will be waiting to see what recommendations the Labor government will accept, how they implement them and how they will be funded. I look forward to learning how the committee that was referred to yesterday in the Governor's speech will progress because we really do need desperately these reforms to roll out. It will be incumbent on the government to give the report the consideration that it deserves and, importantly, ensure that any future funding in response to the recommendations does not raid already earmarked resources, including the \$49 million earmarked for domestic and family violence specifically under the Carmody reforms.

Our non-government partners do wonderful work helping some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. It was one of the great pleasures in my time as minister and also as a member of parliament to be able to interact with these wonderful community organisations. I do hope that the minister continues with our Caring for our Community grants because the recipients of those small grants right across Queensland were able to invest in computers, fridges and other items. This provided a much easier task for them so they did not have to fundraise as much to get on with the front-line work of helping people in the community, which is what they wanted to do.

We are debating a motion tonight. It is a confidence motion. I cannot support this confidence motion. This government has no plan. It is making its way as it goes. I cannot support a government that does not have a plan.



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (10.48 pm): I also take the opportunity to acknowledge all the new members and all the returning members in the House. We all know that we have plenty to do and we look forward to the challenges. Welcome.

I rise to contribute to the debate on the confidence motion because Queensland is seeing Labor for what it really stands for and not for what was said during the election campaign. We now see a government that has plans to establish almost as many task forces and committees as it has sitting days for this 2015 parliamentary year. At last count, the number of reviews and panels that the Labor Party had pledged to Queenslanders it would establish totalled of 28.

We have also heard many times that there would be consultation before major legislative changes, but I suspect—and this has been raised with me in my electorate—that this does not include items like funding cuts to health projects in the bush, good policy reversal, the destruction of the seafood industry and the destruction of the agricultural industry in areas around Bundaberg and the hundreds of jobs that are in jeopardy. With all these talkfests, Queenslanders want to know what legislation will be debated, and of course it is important that this is set out quickly.

I do acknowledge that today we have finally heard some interesting policy announcements that will frame the legislative debate as we go forward. There are many Queenslanders who are asking for debate in relation to the Labor Party's promise not to sell assets and the instructions to the

Attorney-General to scrap the LNP government's mandatory laws against criminal gangs. These and many more policies were heavily exploited during the campaign. We heard very little from them prior to the election and now after some two months we see a dark and familiar trend emerging from the past failings of Queensland Labor. The same policies that failed Queenslanders the last time are now being rolled out and trumpeted. Yes, members, it is clear that Labor is selling assets after telling Queenslanders prior to the election that Queenslanders do not want their assets sold. But true to form, off we go and the 'for sale' signs are going up. We heard great words of wisdom and a commitment to Queenslanders from the Treasurer who said, 'Labor will pay down debt with no asset sales' and 'Labor could start to pay down debt this year if elected.' But true to form, five days later we have another broken promise and we have not even established a government. Unfortunately, we have seen a \$30 million announcement today that, predictably, will make waiting times worse.

In one of the Australian Labor Party's greatest policy failures in Australian history in relation to the live cattle industry—and I am glad that the minister is in the House—we heard the minister talking down the sector and making several statements that has left those in the bush very concerned. It proves that nothing has changed. I acknowledge that there were some misquoted statements here tonight, but I think it is important that we take that strategy forward and have it acknowledged. I do want to take some time to speak about the fishing industry, and it has already been raised here this evening. These are food producers, Minister, who are extremely disappointed and worried about the proposed regulation which was not discussed with Queenslanders. The Labor government is proposing to introduce net-free zones from Cairns, Mackay and Yeppoon to the Fitzroy River delta in order to purportedly deal with fishing related tourism in the regions. It has not been asked for and it is not what Queenslanders are telling us they need. It is interesting that the word 'consultation' appears in the document. I have read it with interest. When you are refusing to meet with those stakeholders, Minister, it is interesting—

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr BENNETT: No, we are all good, Bill. We are happy to go there, Minister. At meetings in Rockhampton the industry was told that the deal is done. We all know that commercial fishing has almost been annihilated under the previous Labor government, but the former LNP government gave them a reprieve. These are small business people, mums and dads, who have struggled financially ever since losing their ability to diversify the industry. Commercial fishermen are food producers who make seafood available for the 90 per cent of the population who cannot catch their own, and I think that is important. There are solutions, and I think we can do that without the arbitrary process of shutting down the whole sector. We are condemning Queenslanders to eating seafood out of the sewers of South-East Asia, and now that we are coming up to Easter I do not think that is an acceptable outcome.

Mr Byrne: What nonsense!

Mr BENNETT: I hear you over there, Minister. The ALP is big on slogans like 'we are listening'. As you know, there was absolutely no consultation on this subject with the commercial fishing sector. For two weeks we have been trying to drag those opposite to the table, but to no avail. For the business sector in Queensland, confidence has reached an all-time low. Queenslanders did not ask for or expect a major infrastructure freeze. There were some great projects in the system which now all await the verdict of a government fixated on a political get-square.

In Childers we have seen a major health project cut from those who need it most. We have been advised that 10 social service jobs are to be terminated from our community at the end of this financial year. These are front-line services for those in need as a result of natural disasters.

Government members interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I am happy to take that interjection. I am happy to talk to you about this. These are the facts. I previously mentioned the brutal proposal to destroy the seafood industry. Cutting jobs was something that those opposite used extensively during the 54th Parliament and during the 2015 election campaign, and within a week of the election we had this government also sacking senior public servants. We could talk about hypocrisy and raising standards, and of course the Labor candidate for Lytton, who is now working for an investment corporation, is an important point.

While Queensland flounders under Labor's legacy of debt and deceit, we have seen the huge issue of the Labour Day public holiday dealt with in record time. I congratulate those opposite, because my electorate thinks it is wonderful that the most important issue has been sorted.

Government members interjected.

Mr BENNETT: I acknowledge the new Minister for the Environment, the Hon. Steven Miles. For too long environmental success was measured by how much red tape and legislation governments could produce instead of by the delivery of real outcomes that protect the environment. Three years ago Labor was failing to manage the Gladstone Harbour development and supported the dumping of 38 million tonnes of dredge material in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. Labor poorly managed this process and our national parks, and of course we saw them overrun with pests and weeds.

I note that the crocodile management plans that were introduced are under review. I would just remind the House that we listened to the concerns of Queenslanders in North Queensland and worked with local councils and key stakeholders to come up with location-specific plans to get the balance right between public safety and the conservation of crocodiles.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr BENNETT: Is that the interjection? Well done. We scaled back Labor's plans for dredging at Abbot Point by 90 per cent. We are going forward and we want to see those outcomes. This is about Queensland and it needs to be above politics. We delivered on practical community based environmental issues like Everyone's Environment grants, which has seen 100,000 trees planted, 61,000 kilograms of rubbish collected and 74,000 hectares of land restored. We have invested in programs to eradicate pests and weeds, sensibly managing wildlife habitat, protecting and enhancing national parks and improving agricultural practices to improve water quality, especially in Great Barrier Reef catchments.

In my own electorate of Burnett there are amazing results being achieved on farms in relation to fertiliser and pesticide reduction, with an 80 per cent reduction being recognised and a 20 per cent increase in yield. These farms on the Burnett River are setting a great example for healthy waterway management—something that I hope we can share with the minister. The Best Management Practice programs developed with the cane and grazing industries in Queensland to protect the Great Barrier Reef are having results. These initiatives are from the same farmers who are very worried about some of the government's agenda for the bush.

In responding to the Queensland Plan, this side of the House announced that it would release the Environmental Action Plan to guide the government's environmental agenda from 2020. The Environmental Action Plan's 43 initiatives would deliver on two of the Queensland Plan's targets. Queensland has the best balance of environmental protection and economic development in Australia and Queensland is recognised as a world leader in environmental management and protection. These key proposals should be the centrepiece of the government's plan to improve Queensland's environment and deliver balanced environmental outcomes at a lower cost. Some of those include eReefs, which is the product of a partnership with the privately run Great Barrier Reef Foundation. EReef computer simulations would report on water quality and predictive modelling to inform management responses to pollutant loads affecting the Great Barrier Reef.

The Waterway Health report card expansion would provide continued funding for the Gladstone Healthy Harbour partnership as well as support for the establishment of new report card partnerships for the Mackay-Whitsunday region, Townsville and Cairns. The Catchment Partnerships program would develop a statewide framework for consistent regional catchment strategies to achieve water quality objectives to treat the causes of degraded water through a whole-of-catchment approach. This program includes a pilot in South-East Queensland which will focus on preventing gullies and riverbanks from eroding, replanting riverbank vegetation and working with farmers to implement improved land management processes with oversight through a river improvement trust to protect drinking water security and improve the Moreton Bay area.

The Centre of Excellence for Environmental Modelling and Data Access would drive efficiency in the industry and economic development through greatly improved data access and the opening up of rich datasets which are contained in environmental impact statements. The centre will be a partnership between the Queensland government, the CSIRO and universities, bringing together leading scientists and innovative technologies. It will create decision-making tools to measure cumulative environmental impacts. Environmental performance reporting systems are essential to meet both the Queensland Plan's legislative requirements and to assess progress in achieving Queensland's environmental goals and to provide an evidence base for environmental priorities.

I agree that creating climate resilient regions is important. The response to the Queensland Plan announced the development of a partnership driven Queensland climate adaptation strategy. A key initiative of the adaptation strategy will involve working with local governments to address climate impacts such as heatwaves, bushfires, sea level rise and severe weather events that we know and have come to live with in Queensland.

The Private Land Conservation Program, which is already running, is about engaging with private landowners, who currently deliver the management of a third of Queensland's 12 million hectares of protected area estate. It will allow for the significant private conservation arrangements under the current NatureAssist election commitment to be maintained and increased.

While reflecting on what has been said by those opposite, I note for the interest of the House and the concern of those who really want the Great Barrier Reef to be protected that it was again stated yesterday that the government is to invest—I am happy to provide further information on this—some \$100 million over five years on a task force for Great Barrier Reef protection. While the funding is welcome, we are already putting in \$35 million annually. It seems to me to be a cut. The one thing that disturbs me is that \$10 million a year is being syphoned off to pay for the unworkable net buyback of the fishing policy proposal. That is clearly identified, and I think it is quite disingenuous.

I know that the honourable the minister has a genuine passion for the portfolio he has been entrusted with and I hope there can be some influence asserted to achieve good policy outcomes and to maintain and enhance real protection mechanisms for all Queenslanders. If things are allowed to return to the way they were in 2012 we will see a return of Labor ignoring real protection for the environment and instead creating large bureaucracies. Unfortunately, Labor measured environmental protection in pages of legislation when it needs to be measured in outcomes.

Under Labor, the spin for Greens preferences became more important than ensuring our environment is protected and properly maintained for future generations. Labor repeatedly puts politics before scientifically based decisions. The implementation of environmental protection measures was ad hoc and hijacked by vocal interest groups. For example, the green zones in the Moreton Bay Marine Park lacked any defined scientific basis for its boundaries, resulting in widespread community concern. In terms of the protection of wildlife such as vulnerable koalas, Labor relied on flawed management and allowed the degradation of a lot of habitat, something we are happy to have invested a lot of time in over the past three years.

The Auditor-General found that 17 per cent of protected areas had management plans. Labor failed to meet its own legal requirements and claimed that management plans would take 30 years to put in place. The waste strategy was actually just a big tax. It was a cash grab from a broke government that increased the cost of living for Queenslanders.

Of course, no-one was accountable. This meant that the previous minister for environment hid behind out-of-control monolith departments like the former department of environment and resource management, DERM. Under Labor, heritage protection was an afterthought. Now, for the first time in a long time, Queensland's unique heritage values are recognised in the ministerial and departmental portfolio name and are a key aspect of the minister's responsibility. I know that we can do better.

In conclusion, many Queenslanders and I had great hopes and aspirations for our state. However, we are seeing clearly a government with no clear policy framework or even a plan to guide or manage the state during these important and trying times. Queenslanders and I have no confidence in this government.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Mundingburra, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (11.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Premier's motion of confidence in the Palaszczuk government. I start by acknowledging the Turrbal and Jagera people, the traditional owners of the land north and south of our beautiful river. I thank the elders past and present and acknowledge that this land continues to be sacred to them.

I would like to take this opportunity to speak to the motion of confidence, leaving my own personal story and thanks to my family and friends to my speech on the address-in-reply. First, may I congratulate Mr Speaker on his appointment.

Compared to many of my esteemed colleagues in this House I am fairly new to the world of politics. I have, however, been told on good authority that my work in early education and my skills in dealing with tantrums, children not listening or sharing and inappropriate behaviour holds me in good stead for my political career.

What led me to give up my career as an early childhood educator and run for political office was seeing the way the previous LNP government treated Queenslanders. In my electorate of Mundingburra, what I saw over the past three years was a great divide between the LNP government

and the people it was elected to represent. What I saw in my community was suffering because of the loss of jobs resulting from economic uncertainty that was the trademark of the previous government. What I saw in my community were people who were never consulted about radical changes that were being thrust upon them. Even worse, I saw that my community's thoughts and views were blatantly ignored by a government that did not want to listen. It is for that reason I could not stand idly by and watch this continue. On 31 January the voters of Mundingburra did not stand idly by either. They rejected the LNP government's approach of governing by stealth and put their confidence in the stable, consensus-building approach offered by the Palaszczuk government.

I am honoured to stand in this House as the member for Mundingburra and Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. I proudly take up the baton as Labor Minister for Disability Services from previous Labor ministers the current Premier and Treasurer. It is a very exciting time to be disability services minister, with the monumental level of change that is taking place with the rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland from July next year.

The NDIS is a prime example of the leadership shown by Labor determination. The NDIS shows the power of real leadership. Queenslanders with disability and the broader disability sector can have confidence in this government, that we will work closely with them to ensure the transition to the NDIS is as seamless as possible. I have already met with a number of groups including Queensland disability advisory councils, UnitingCare Community, Queenslanders with Disability Network and other advocacy groups. I look forward to the coming months when I will meet with many more of these important champions including the families and individuals who live with disability.

The NDIS is the most significant investment in social welfare since Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam established Medicare in 1975. Labor governments have always been the real reformers, because we take the people with us on that journey. Nationally, investment in the NDIS will total more than \$22 billion by 2019-20. For Queenslanders this will mean an additional 13,000 jobs by 2019. Queenslanders can have faith and confidence that for this Labor government the most important and exciting facet of NDIS is the human face of the scheme and the level of change that it will mean for people with disability. The number of Queenslanders receiving disability supports is expected to double to 97,000 by 2019. Choice is one of the underpinning principles of the NDIS that this government is deeply committed to. The NDIS will empower people with a disability with the dignity to make choices about their own lives.

The Palaszczuk government will keep its election commitment to continue to offer accommodation support and respite services to its existing clients with high and complex needs. This means that, unlike the Newman government, we will keep our promise and will not force almost 1,000 people and their families to abandon the service provider they may have used for years for another service.

Importantly, hundreds of disability services staff working across accommodation support and respite services will be able to continue in their current roles under their existing conditions. I recently visited one of the accommodation support and respite services in Townsville and the pride that radiated from the young woman who lived there spoke volumes as she escorted me around her house. It was her home—the place where she is able to make decisions about what she wants to do. A necessary aspect of the NDIS will be the expansion and development of a disability workforce through a range of programs and training. This government is well on its way to implementing a vital component of this—the vocational educational and training investment plan. That is the difference: Labor invests in our future by investing in jobs and training and by investing in our community.

To ensure a smooth transition, this government has been on the front foot working with the Commonwealth government and the National Disability Insurance Agency to negotiate and finalise the bilateral agreement between Queensland and the Commonwealth. The bilateral agreement is crucial in the NDIS process because it is the document that will outline how the NDIS will be rolled out, providing certainty to Queenslanders. Queenslanders have been contributing to the NDIS Medicare levy since 1 July 2014. People with disability in Queensland are entitled to full and fair access to their share of the NDIS levy to ensure a smooth transition into the scheme. Meanwhile, preparations for the NDIS are underway in the community. Workshops, seminars, one-on-one meetings and other activities are giving people with disability, their family and carers the right information to help them make the choices and to take control of their support services. Considerable preparedness activity with the sector, including work to help small rural and remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities develop local approaches, is gaining momentum.

Sadly, the previous LNP government played politics with the NDIS. The best preparedness activity would have been to have had an NDIS trial site in Queensland. Every state and territory in this country is running an NDIS trial site except Queensland. Other state leaders, most from the conservative side of politics, recognised an NDIS trial was an opportunity to make sure that the full rollout of the scheme was as efficient as possible. When the federal government announced a billion dollars in 2012 for the NDIS, every other state and territory made people with a disability a priority and allocated their share to the trial. Sadly, the previous LNP government did not make people with a disability a priority and Queensland missed the boat. That is why we made an election commitment in opposition to establish a launch for the NDIS and why I am now working with the department to keep that commitment. This government believes that the establishment of a launch to test the process for participants in a Queensland context will ensure a more streamlined and effective transition into the NDIS. This government is equally focused on delivering and improving disability and community care services in Queensland in the lead-up to the NDIS. Our commitment is to an inclusive Queensland where people—all people—are participants in all aspects of community life.

I also stand before honourable members as the Minister for Seniors. The Palaszczuk government appreciates what our seniors have contributed, and continue to contribute, to the development of our state and the richness of our communities. As the only child of ageing parents I understand that while there are challenges for some older Queenslanders I also know their contribution to the state makes them some of Queensland's most valuable assets. This government will not sell out our seniors. I have started working with my cabinet colleagues and their departments on our seniors commitments for a one-stop shop for government information for seniors and the establishment of an advisory task force for residential transition for aging Queenslanders. I have already met with a number of seniors organisations and have personally given them my commitment to work with them to create age-friendly communities, responding to an ageing population and helping to address economic concerns. The Palaszczuk government will invest in Queensland's seniors so that their wealth of knowledge and expertise continues to be valued.

I am a North Queenslander by choice and I am very proud to be the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, honouring the commitment the Premier made in Townsville during the election campaign. The North Queensland that my family and I chose to live in already has great industry diversity with construction, manufacturing, mining services, tourism, agriculture and education and training. Unlike the previous LNP government, this government is taking the north seriously. Unfortunately, North Queensland felt the full force of the LNP's cruel, heartless cuts and was largely ignored. Under the LNP government, unemployment in my home town of Townsville grew to 8.5 per cent and youth unemployment is an appalling 17.4 per cent. The Palaszczuk government wants to see North Queensland flourish, with local business and industry prospering and creating jobs while our assets stay in government hands. This government recognises the fantastic opportunities for North Queensland, including opportunities to work with Asia and the development of the agricultural, education, tropical medicine and tourism sectors. This is about creating highly skilled, highly paid jobs into the future—the jobs that I want for my children, their friends and their children in years to come.

The Palaszczuk government will reopen the North Queensland office of the government in Townsville, an office that was closed by the previous government. This small but significant government presence in the north was established and maintained by successive Labor governments for 14 years until the Newman government packed up shop and retreated down south. Paul Keating once said that when you change the government you change the country. The people of Queensland chose to change the government and this Palaszczuk government will work hard every day to change our state for the better. My portfolio may seem disparate to some, but I know what connects the people of North Queensland, people with disability and our seniors. The previous LNP government did not rate them and did not listen to them. I can guarantee that this government will be very different. I commend the motion of confidence in the Palaszczuk government to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (11.17 pm): Mr Speaker, in rising to speak this evening, I wish to start by congratulating you on your appointment as Speaker and of course pass on my congratulations to all those gathered here in our parliament and to the Premier and her team. However, today I rise to speak against the confidence motion because I simply cannot endorse a government that was not endorsed by all Queenslanders. The LNP has accepted the fact that voters were unhappy with some of our choices over the last three years and that those decisions resulted in the loss of many former LNP seats. However, in sending a message to our party, those voters also sent a very clear message to the Labor Party. Voters deliberately did not rush back to the Labor Party

as their first preference to lead Queensland. Their memory is not as short as the new Premier and her colleagues would like to believe. Queenslanders remember when their government could not pay their Health workers. They remember how the erratic spending and unjustified borrowing of consecutive Labor governments lost us our AAA credit rating. They also remember the dishonesty of the Bligh government's asset sales. Labor's decimation at the 2012 poll was no accident. However, the minority Labor government we see before us today is exactly that—an accident.

The LNP led the primary vote in 51 of the state's 89 seats and received the largest share of the primary vote. Labor won just 37 per cent of the primary vote. Sixty three per cent of Queenslanders voted for someone else. Only one party received more than one million votes and that was the LNP. Yet Labor is here to govern with a primary vote of just 37 per cent.

In my electorate of Southport, the primary vote for me and the LNP was, in fact, almost 3,000 votes greater than that for the ALP. I want to thank the people of Southport for their re-endorsement and support for my re-election as their voice and representative in the Queensland parliament. That is 3,000 more votes despite the army of Labor/union staffers who were sent from the Northern Territory and Sydney to work on the prepoll and on the polling booths and to line up with all of their green mates out at Arundel to create the ruckus that they did and to put out the signs about asset sales and 'Save the Broadwater' and all the other issues with which they quite deliberately set out to mislead the people of Southport. And what a fiasco that was. The large corflutes, the theatre—all of it. Despite all of that, I was still able to hold that seat by some 3,000 votes. I am very proud and pleased with the support that the people of Southport have shown by supporting my re-election.

Labor does not have the clear support of Queenslanders. That is why it should not receive the support of this House. Our state needs and deserves better than a chaotic, inexperienced minority government. During the campaign the Labor Party offered very little in the way of policies and election promises and hardly presented itself as a credible alternative. The Labor Party's only two initiatives, cancelling overdue plans to increase the payroll tax threshold and amalgamating electricity assets, have been slammed by industry groups and the ACCC. The Palaszczuk government is yet to outline its plans to tackle the state's excessive debt without breaking its only major election platform of no asset sales.

The LNP had prioritised fiscal repair and Queensland was beginning to reap the rewards of controlled government spending and efficiency. So where are we headed now that Labor is back at the helm? The business community is worried about the impact of a huge machinery-of-government change with the reduction in ministries and portfolios. After the Governor's announcement yesterday that Labor will wind back WorkCover concessions for business, I am sure that business is even more concerned. Labor's proposed wind back will lead only to massive unsustainable increases in WorkCover premiums, job losses and real hardship for many of our state's small business owners and operators.

Families are also worried that rebates provided for water and electricity bills will disappear. Potential home owners are wondering if their new property will cost an extra \$7,000 if Labor again removes the principal place of residence concession. On the Gold Coast, families in my electorate are wondering how long it will take for the bikies to flock back. It is not just families who are concerned about that. The prosperity and growth of our tourism industry and thousands of jobs all hang in the balance if Labor waters down the VLAD laws and the LNP's strong actions in dealing with criminal gangs. How any member can stand here today and support this confidence motion just astounds me. Queensland has anything but confidence in this new Labor government.

I was very honoured to have been asked by our leader and member for Southern Downs, Lawrence Springborg, to join the shadow cabinet taking on the portfolio responsibilities of housing and public works. Since my appointment, I have already made contact with more than 800 stakeholders, industry groups and service providers across the state. I have already conducted many meetings here in Brisbane, Central Queensland and Townsville. I can assure the House that many of those people with whom I have already met around the state are extremely anxious about the change of government and any potential watering down of front-line services and the red- and green-tape-reduction reforms that have been brought about these past three years since the 2012 election.

When the Newman government came to office, the public housing system was losing \$140 million a year and 30,000 households were languishing on the waiting list. The building and construction sector was drowning in red tape and taxpayers were forking out billions of dollars to fund inefficient procurement strategies. In our first two years, the LNP reduced the public housing wait list

by 37 per cent to below 19,000 households. The former housing minister and member for Everton, Tim Mander, provided real leadership to the sector and has been praised universally by the many stakeholders I have had the pleasure of meeting with this past month.

Our Homelessness-to-Housing Strategy had as its aim to halve homelessness in Queensland by 2020. The plan contains bricks-and-mortar initiatives together with a complete overhaul of the client intake system to ensure that people received the help they needed. We launched a Housing 2020 Strategy to deliver a flexible, efficient and responsive housing system featuring a stronger role for non-government providers and a broader range of options to help low-income families into sustainable accommodation. The Housing 2020 plan was developed to deliver an additional 12,000 homes and see up to 90 per cent of social housing managed by those not-for-profit housing organisations, which are better able to provide the support services of many high-need tenants. An audit of underoccupancy of the state's social housing stock revealed more than 1,600 undeclared occupants who were paying no rent and costing taxpayers millions of dollars each year. That is the type of inefficiency that the previous Labor government had allowed to build up in our social housing system. I dare say that I suspect that this new Labor government will do no better than its predecessor in managing the social needs of our vast state and our state's fragile finances. The additional income identified as a result of that audit will help the department fund the construction of more homes and better maintain existing social housing stock.

The Logan Renewal Initiative, Queensland's biggest social housing revitalisation, will boost the supply of social and affordable dwellings in Logan and drive urban renewal in high-density social housing estates. Since April 2012, 442 new houses have been built in Indigenous communities, with more than 78 to be built or construction completed in the current financial year.

I could go on, but I want to turn also to the state in which we found the planning and development systems of Queensland when we came to government in 2012. We had a development industry and a construction industry that was largely crippled by red tape and green tape and onerous approval processes. We had chaos as the industry ran the gauntlet of up to 14 different departments to seek approvals from state government agencies, incurring months and months of delays and imposing on the industry incredible holding costs, driving up the cost of construction, driving up the cost of building homes, with the obvious flow-on of having a huge impact on housing affordability.

Earlier we heard the former minister for child safety, communities and disabilities talk about some of the reforms that our government led with respect to child safety. And what a significant process of reform we have had the privilege of leading. We inherited an unsustainable protection system that saw costs escalating by hundreds of millions of dollars. We saw the level of intake and the number of children coming into foster care and going through multiple placement increasing at rates of up to 30 per cent per annum with no real plan to address that increase. It is a real pleasure to be able to stand in the House tonight and reflect on the achievements of our government as we sought to address that situation. We have seen a significant slowdown in the number of children coming into state care. In that respect we have seen costs starting to stabilise but, more importantly, we have seen a move away from the tertiary end of the system and huge focus on real programs and real initiatives to address the needs of children and families long before they come into the child protection system.

Apart from that, we have also seen significant reforms in respect of child protection and a great deal of work done in some of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Far North Queensland, where we all know that there are significant challenges. My concern is if the incoming government will work hard to continue to build on those reforms and build on the achievements of the Carmody inquiry.

In relation to child protection, I refer to the reforms that we were able to lead in respect of the way that repeat offender paedophiles were dealt with and new laws that were brought in with respect to child grooming and the dealing of dangerous drugs to minors.

There is a whole raft of reforms that flow off the back of the three years of the Newman government. I want to touch on some of the planning reforms. I hope that the new minister for planning and development, the Deputy Premier, will continue to build on some of the great work of the former Deputy Premier, Mr Jeff Seeney, as he sought to get the development industry of Queensland going. What an amazing two years it has been as we have dealt with many of the delays in government through the creation of SARA, the State Assessment Referral Agency, collapsing the onerous process of up to 14 departments into a single source of information and giving that particular area the ability to work with industry right across the state to get things moving. We have seen in the

past 12 months thousands of applications lodged through SARA. We have seen hundreds and hundreds of assessment manager decisions issued. We have seen well over a thousand referral agency responses issued to get the construction and development industry of Queensland moving. We have seen thousands of pre-lodgement advice meetings conducted. SARA, by all accounts, has been an absolutely roaring success, winning the top award from the Planning Institute of Australia here in Queensland and then taking out the national award last year.

I also hope that the incoming government will continue to work and build on the achievements of our government in respect of getting the development systems moving, the reforms of the Planning and Development Act and, of course, building on some of the initiatives that we have undertaken in terms of bringing about sustainable infrastructure charges that actually provide opportunity for real affordability and make housing more affordable and more attractive for people to develop right across the state of Queensland.

Then there are the achievements that have come through the establishment of Economic Development Queensland and the subsequent priority development areas that have been declared. I am very proud of the fact that the Southport Priority Development Area has been such a success. I was pleased to read the latest account from Gold Coast City Council just the other day in terms of the number of projects that have been approved. Some \$2.47 billion of new projects have been approved in the electorate of Southport, projects like a new eight-storey high-rise apartment building in Lenneberg Street; projects in Meron Street, White Street and Norman Street; a number of significant projects that have been able to go ahead because of the new declaration as a priority development area in Scarborough Street and Garden Street; other approvals in Nind Street and down on Brighton Parade; discussion and dialogue going on about a potential \$1 billion development at the Star of the Sea site; a 70-storey mixed use tower in Marine Parade; another 30-storey tower in Suter and Garden streets; and another 70-storey tower already approved in Rawlins and Nerang streets. These are just some of the great achievements that have been facilitated by the reforms of our government in our attempts and our passion to really get things moving.

I am also concerned about the incoming government and some of the dialogue that I have heard around the VLAD reforms. I am very concerned about what Labor is going to do in relation to crime. In the last few years on the Gold Coast we have seen a significant improvement in relation to crime statistics. We have seen robberies down 18 per cent across-the-board. We have seen a drop in break and enters: in some areas up to 43 per cent but across-the-board of 30 per cent. We have seen assault and serious assault decline some 15 per cent to 20 per cent in the last two years. General theft is also significantly down. We have also been able to fund two permanent police choppers for the state, something that the previous government promised for many years but for some reason never got around to providing. That has been a significant difference. We have heard the rhetoric from the other side of the House about creating more front-line jobs, but our government actually got on with it: 760 more police across Queensland and a special crime unit on the Gold Coast which those opposite have set out to dismantle and get rid of.

I want to know what Labor is going to do about the health system. What I have seen on the Gold Coast and what we have seen across the state is a reduction in waiting lists and no more dental waiting list. We have seen reductions in the time spent waiting in the emergency department in our hospitals. On the Gold Coast we have seen Health spending increase under the LNP government by some 17 per cent in the last two years; more than \$400 million a year in increased spending each year over the last two years providing better services for Gold Coasters. We have seen the best elective surgery wait times in Australia reduce down to 27 days and long wait surgery wait times down from an average of 185 days some two or three years ago to 51 days.

I wonder what Labor will do about asset sales. Didn't we get beaten up during the election over asset sales? Let us talk about the incoming government's record on asset sales. I note that in 2009 the Treasurer and Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Curtis Pitt, voted to sell Forestry Plantations Queensland and the Port of Brisbane, the tolling rights to Queensland Motorways, the Abbot Point coal terminal and Queensland Rail's coal transport business. I note also that the Premier voted on significant asset sales in 2006 and then again in 2009, selling off Sun Retail—Energex's retail electricity business—Sun Gas, Allgas Distribution, Powerdirect—Ergon's retail electricity business—Gas Pipeline Assets, gas merchant Enertrade and wind energy assets. I note also that the member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller, was here in 2009 and 2006 and she voted to support all of those asset sales, the very same ones that the Premier and the Treasurer of today voted to support. The hypocrisy of this government is absolutely breathtaking. I note that our new Minister for Health, Cameron Dick, the member for Woodridge, was here in 2009 also and he voted to sell off significant

assets across the state, again without a mandate. Who could forget our wonderful Kate Jones, the Minister for Education and member for Ashgrove. She also was here in 2006 and 2009 and she supported the sale of all those assets. The hypocrisy of this incoming government is absolutely breathtaking. I will be voting with my colleagues on this side of the House against the motion today because this government is not a choice made by voters; it is a choice made by the member for Nicklin and I do not believe that that gives Labor the mandate that they have so arrogantly claimed. This evening we heard a great lecture on arrogance from the member for Bundamba. The behaviour of this side of the House has been anything but.

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (11.37 pm): I rise to speak on this confidence motion. I would like to start by congratulating the new Premier. I sincerely wish her and her team well in this term. I would also like to express my appreciation of the more considered manner the new LNP leader has assumed in taking up his role. I also wish him well. I also recognise the honour that I have of being back in this House representing a part of the state I have a close affinity with. I have a great deal of indebtedness to those people in that area. I hope to use this new position in government to repay that debt while serving the state.

Katter's Australian Party may be a small and insignificant portion of the parliament, but it should be understood that in the 2012 election, with some financial resources we applied in that election, running in 76 seats, we took over 11 per cent of the statewide vote, over 13 per cent in those seats we ran in. That is about 280,000 voters. When we had a fair shake at it, many Queenslanders looked at us and said 'we like what you are saying'. We take very seriously that people like what we said in that election and we have carried that through. As part of the process in this hung parliament we tried to capture a list of those priorities that we think tap into the current issues that we have now and that are aligned with the values that those 280,000 people voted for. We presented that to both major parties as forming a critical part of our negotiations.

The hung parliament has delivered to our small party an opportunity to have a powerful role in the parliament. With this comes the burden of delivering on some of the issues that we represent. We must maintain this position while, at the same time, adhering to the values of our party. We exist because we have a profound belief that there is a desperate need for representation in forgotten sectors of the community, namely rural and regional areas. In those areas, people are desperately seeking signs of hope from government and want to know what it will be spending on industry-building infrastructure to give our economy the adrenalin shot it needs. They are sick of hearing about past mismanagement of the economy. They accept that the large debt is there, but they want to know how it will be turned around. People want jobs. They need to know that the government is going to aggressively create industries so that they will have jobs at the end of it.

The KAP has a role in this parliament to ensure that those opportunities, particularly in the regional and rural areas, are aggressively pursued and we are heavily obligated to follow that imperative. For us to show a strong sign of support to any party in this House by voting in favour of a confidence motion, we require a significant buy-in on those priority issues that we have compiled and that we feel are critical for the survival of rural and regional Queensland. To date, the government has not demonstrated a strong commitment to those issues that we consider vital and, therefore, we would be doing a disservice to our electorates and our party supporters if we supported this confidence motion in the absence of some strong sign of commitment to those issues. Nonetheless, that must be balanced against the fact that this is a new government and we believe there is still time for a commitment of some form to occur. This is a work in progress. We believe there is still an opportunity to move forward with this government. On that basis, it deserves to be given a go by not voting against this motion. Voting against the motion is unjustified given that there are areas where we believe we can make significant progress with this government in this early stage.

In this vein, I acknowledge the recent announcement of the copper smelter extensions in Mount Isa, which also will be of great benefit to the people involved in the Townsville copper refinery. That is a big boost for us and it is a strong and positive sign for my electorate. However, it is balanced against the recent commentary on uranium mining, which is something that I have a problem with. While there are some good strong positive signs from the government, there also will be things that we object to from time to time and members will hear from us on those. We will be strong in our objection to anything that contrasts or comprises the integrity of our rural and regional areas, which are facing the most dire challenges at the moment. In this term of the parliament, the KAP will not be interested in unnecessarily indulging in mischief to undermine the government. However, we do have an agenda and we will need to progress that agenda in the best interests of Queensland and we are prepared to do that ruthlessly in order to get an outcome.

The government deserves the right to govern and I think Queenslanders expect it to be supported, provided it recognises the issues rural and regional Queensland is suffering and is prepared to take affirmative action to arrest that. Our party has some cost-effective initiatives to present to the parliament and we will work hard with government so that they are delivered. It is my hope that the government will have continued engagement with the member for Dalrymple and I to deliver on some of those vital issues. I envisage that that will be necessary with some of the policies that we advocate as they will be good for Queensland, although a lot of the things that we are advocating do not much affect our electorates at all.

Firstly, this parliament needs to deliver for the ethanol and biofuels industries. It is a disgrace that we do not have an ethanol mandate when 62 other countries do and we need it more than ever. At the moment in Queensland we need jobs and industry and this is something that will cost the taxpayers of Queensland nothing. Right now, at the stroke of a pen, a mandate on ethanol will create thousands of jobs. Four bills on a mandate have been introduced into this parliament and supported by both sides, but we have always failed to deliver it. Ethanol comes at nil cost to the Queensland taxpayer. A 10 per cent mandate will reduce tailpipe emissions from vehicles by 30 per cent. It will create a floor price in the sorghum and sugarcane industries, reduce carbon emissions and create at least some fuel security. As things are at the moment, within 10 years we are bound to have zero security. We produce only 10 per cent of our fuel and that 10 per cent will be gone in another 10 years, so a mandate will provide at least some fuel security. Importantly, it will create Queensland jobs from nothing and tax revenue where taxes are paid at the point of production. At the moment, 90 per cent of our fuel comes from Singapore where it is produced. The only cost will be to the fuel companies, which will not like it, but it is this parliament's job to make it happen. People are screaming for jobs, the sugar industry is on its knees and sorghum farmers are crying out for help. Frankly, if we cannot deliver it in this parliament then none of us are fit to be here.

Secondly, I will talk about a gas reserve policy. In the past five years there have been some monumental shifts in the gas industry. Unfortunately, the North West Queensland Mineral Province has been left high and dry. In good times, that mineral province pumps out up to \$300 million in royalties. Those royalties could disappear in the future unless we have some sort of mechanism that delivers gas to the mines in that area. A lot of people would not be aware that the north-west is one of the only significant electricity markets in Australia that is isolated. We are not connected to the national electricity grid. We are 100 per cent reliant on gas. Some of the mines have been quoted a price that is three to four times what they are paying now, that is, three to four times the cost of energy into the future. I do not think too many mines can afford that. As I said, \$300 million in royalties coming out of that region could stop if we do not do anything. This is a big issue. It is a burning issue for the state and the government. Unfortunately, it is not a pretty issue, but it needs to be dealt with.

Regional roads mean so much more than the bitumen that is laid out. Investing in regional roads will address the fact that in rural communities local councils are on their knees. Recently I spoke to a local councillor who is also a road contractor. He said that the majority of road contractors in town are about to sell their machinery because there is no work. We need to bear in mind that most of the local councils in my region are the biggest employers in town, so if the council is not employing there is barely any employment in the town at all. With the cattle industry in the situation it has been in for the past two years, and it will be the same this year, there will be no employment at all in many of those towns. In the past couple of years those towns have already been brought to their knees, but road funding is their saviour. Road funding improves competitiveness in the regions, because better roads improve the transportation of freight and cattle throughout the country, while giving people jobs and stimulating the economy. Roads will be the salvation of those communities. I welcome the increase of \$60 million in TIDS funding, but there needs to be a greater strategic effort in those areas or some of those communities will cease to exist in the future.

The next thing I will talk about is water allocations. If the government is looking for cost-effective solutions to create industry and opportunities, it should look at water allocations in the Flinders and Gilbert systems. We keep talking about developing Northern Australia. In that area, we do not have to clear any trees. We have natural open black soil plains along the Flinders River and other major river systems. About 4,000 megalitres a year runs down into the ocean from the Flinders and at the moment barely a drop is taken out for farming. Recent reports from the CSIRO indicate that some 300,000 megalitres can be extracted and it must be made available. That can be done at minimal cost. There is no infrastructure to be built; there are no dams needed or anything like that. Farmers should be able to take water. Little farmers and cattle graziers are struggling or are on the

brink of bankruptcy, but we can let them have a go at irrigation, which can lead to bigger things and will cost us nothing. It is low hanging fruit for the government and it is where we can make huge advancements while reinvigorating agriculture along the way. Agriculture itself is suffering, and I will address that issue shortly. This is a very cost-effective way to stimulate the economy. In my area, towns such as Hughenden, Richmond and Julia Creek could become like Emerald or St George. Ten or 20 jobs on one extra farm would mean so much to a little town and may stop it from going backwards.

The next issue is the Galilee Basin. Over the last couple of years we have heard about the Carmichael mine. A lot of effort was put in by the previous government to make the Galilee Basin happen. It was enormously frustrating that they were going to build a \$5 billion traffic tunnel in Brisbane. The barrier to the development of the Galilee Basin is that a \$2.5 billion railway line needs to be built. This needs to happen because we need jobs. If the barrier is a railway line, then build it. Something needs to happen in the Galilee Basin. I ran into a friend of mine the other week who is a cattle grazier in the area. He said, 'Something needs to happen. I have not rented my house for a year. All my friends are out of work in Emerald. I am a cattle grazier from there, but I recognise that we need mining. We are all desperate for jobs.'

The next thing that needs to be addressed is the rural crisis that is engulfing all of Western Queensland. It extends beyond the boundaries of my electorate. I could labour members with story upon story of heartbreak out there. Everyone in my electorate seems to be so resilient. They were doing it tough two or three years ago. When I talk to them now, they say, 'We are travelling all right.' I would hate to be living by the standards that they set themselves. They will keep persevering.

Unfortunately, time is running out for them with the banks. There are a lot of people facing big problems with the banks. The most recent MLA study of the northern beef cattle analysis 2013 revealed that before the cost of finance a lot of these places are viable. That means that rural debt is the issue. This problem was made more acute by the live export ban and the drought but it existed before then. It is a structural problem that needs to be addressed at a policy level with a structural solution. Throwing a bit of drought assistance money at the problem will not solve anything.

What is needed is a reconstruction board and an industry development bank like we used to have in Queensland. It ended up being self-funding. In fact, it ended up making money for the government. It was there as a safety net for the industries out there. I am sure a lot of people in this House will have an image of generational farmers who inherited properties and drive around in large LandCruisers. I can tell members that that is not the case. There are a lot of people with threadbare clothes, who cannot afford to send their kids to school, who are crying to me on the phone because they have had to bring their kids home to work on the property and feed starving cattle. It is very grim.

If members want a barometer of that, they should walk through any of the towns in my electorate and go into the newsagent or the grocery store and see how their takings have been in the last few years. It is very grim. If no action is taken it is going to get worse. We need a significant effort from this government in that area. The most cost-effective way we can do that is with an industry bank.

I would like to make some comments on the economy. The most value I can add to this debate tonight is to point out that Queensland is desperately crying out for productive infrastructure, not populist infrastructure. I refer to an article where Ken Henry, the former Treasury secretary 'accused governments of lacking courage to make infrastructure investment decisions based on rigorous financial analysis, claiming they instead pander to special interests'. It went on to say—

Governments were too reluctant to finance projects using public debt ... 'In many cases, it makes perfectly good sense for public debt to be raised to invest in public infrastructure.'

Debt is okay if it is offset against good industry developing infrastructure. One issue I have spoken a lot about recently is the Hann Highway. The Hann Highway keeps getting considered on the basis of the numbers of vehicles that use that road. It is a false way of looking at it. It would save eight hours on a trip to Sydney and Melbourne. The \$400 million-plus output of bananas produced in the Cairns area could get to the major markets of Sydney and Melbourne eight hours earlier. It would be an enormous competitive advantage to take that route. It would take a number of trucks off the Bruce Highway and therefore save on maintenance costs there and would get the bananas to market earlier.

If this upgrade occurred the big operators like Mackays bananas would be able to expand their operations because they would be more competitive because they would get their product to market eight hours earlier. They would get flood-free access to Melbourne. It has been said that the most it would cost is \$89 million. If the local councils did the work it would be done cheaper.

That would be a good infrastructure spend. I am sure there are many more examples outside my electorate. That is the one that I will throw out there for discussion. There are good opportunities for the government to invest. If the public could see money deliberately being spent outside the large population areas—that is, we are not building tunnels anymore; we are going to build strategic roads in industry areas—I think that would be just the signal people in Queensland and indeed in Brisbane need. When they see this government spending money in strategic areas they would know they are for real. They would know they are about rebuilding Queensland and not about buying votes.

That is the signal the people of Queensland want right now. They do not want any bells and whistles. They do not want any more tunnels. They are sick of governments trying to buy their vote. They do not want soft infrastructure. They want to know there is a government building hard infrastructure that will build industry.

I hope the independent body being set up to analyse investments over \$50 million is functional in that space. It is desperately needed. We are all aware that all too often money is spent in the wrong places. People out there are sick of it. They get sick of politicians and they switch off. There is too much of it. I think they are begging for a government to come along and deliberately spend money where there is no population but where it is a good strategic spend.

I hear a lot in the media about certainty and the fact that it is terribly messy in parliament now. I embrace it. I think it is terrific that we have even numbers. I think that has been endorsed by others in the House. We are going to have good competition for ideas. I am not here to create mischief. I am here to present good ideas and arguments in parliament. I am happy for some to be rejected, but they should be assessed on their merits. We put some good bills into the last parliament but they were shut down purely because we put them forward. They were cost effective. We introduced the fair milk mark bill and the ethanol bill. They got shut down for political reasons.

I welcome that things are tighter now. Ideas will be assessed on their merits. I think it ensures the longevity of legislation we pass in this House beyond the term of this parliament. I am sure that there will be a lot of things that were rammed home by the last government that we will repeal because we did not agree with them, they did not make sense and we did not feel they were in the best interests of Queensland. The competition we have in the House is a good thing for Queensland. I will be proud to be a part of it.

To finish, we are a separate party for a reason. We are very protective of that status. I acknowledge that we do not exist in a political vacuum. We have to deal with the government of the day. We will try very hard to interact and involve ourselves with the government to contribute to outcomes for our electorates and for Queensland. We will be very active in trying to develop a strong working relationship with this government. I hope we can do that. There are things that we feel very strongly about that we want to deliver for Queensland. We think that will be good for government as well. I am sure that in the same way we can work with the opposition. Once again, I congratulate the Premier on her success and look forward to working with her for the betterment of Queensland.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (11.57 pm): It is a great honour to be elected to the 55th Parliament of Queensland. I acknowledge you, Mr Speaker, on your election as Speaker. It is a very proud moment for you. I congratulate all the new members. I heard some of the maiden speeches. They were very passionate. It is a special moment because there are only 89 members of parliament. A lot of people try to get here year in year out but you are one of them—congratulations. I can remember when I was first elected. I thought it was a dream.

This election saw the Newman government come crashing down from a massive majority of 78 seats to 42. The people of Queensland have spoken loudly and are telling politicians that, if you are arrogant and go against the will of the people and those who elected you, they will boot you out. This was evident in the 2012 election when the Beattie-Bligh government was reduced to seven seats because of years of a big majority, arrogance and asset sales. So determined were Queenslanders for a change that even the union movement campaigned against the Labor Party.

Sadly, the Newman government learnt nothing from the Beattie-Bligh era but advanced further with mass sackings, cutbacks, closures and legislation against opposition; declaring war on doctors, unions, public servants and motorbike riders; appointing their own government-friendly CMC; and smashing through electoral funding laws that were designed to boost the LNP's electoral chances—to

name just a few. The Newman government will go down in history as probably the most arrogant government of all time. But it is sad that the LNP is still under an illusion and blames everyone else for losing government. I commend the member for South Brisbane, who acknowledged that the Labor Party deserved what they got in the 2012 election, but not the LNP—they are still frothing at the mouth. Rather than soul searching, they are still looking for revenge and blame.

Returning to the election, after it was clear that both parties could not govern in their own right, the member for Mount Isa and I were continually asked and scrutinised as to which political party we would side with, and we presented our 27 policies to both parties. I would like to stress that those policies were not just about lobbying for the needs in our electorate but were for the benefit of not only rural and regional Queensland but also Queensland. I want to talk about just a few of them.

One of our policies was to have an inquiry into the increase in electricity prices. Mr Speaker, if you cast your mind back to 2007, the Labor Party and the Liberal Party both agreed to privatise the retail arm of the energy sector. We were told that from that time electricity prices would decrease because of competition; they tripled. Only last year Peter Beattie came out and said that the greatest mistake he ever made was privatising the retail arm because he could not believe how greedy the corporates were. The LNP government went about doing exactly the same thing. They were out there looking to sell our energy, our poles and wires, and our power stations—the whole lot. I am very glad that the people of Queensland have spoken and booted them out because, as I said, they were one of the most arrogant governments of all time and the people of Queensland did not want asset sales from the beginning. So one of our policies that we presented to the parties was to have an inquiry into the massive increase in electricity prices, because the last thing we want is pensioners having to negotiate with multinationals over their power bills.

Another of our policies was to mandate 10 per cent ethanol. We are buying \$22 billion in fuel from the Middle East. All we are saying is that Queenslanders should produce 10 per cent of that. That is not much to ask. We introduced a bill in the last parliament but it got thrown out of course. But that bill was the same as the LNP's bill that they had introduced the year before and the year before that. They tried to get it passed by the Labor Party but it was rejected and they accused the Labor Party. So we introduced the same bill when the LNP were in government and they rejected it as well. What we are talking about here is not only jobs for Queensland but also having clean air and clean fuel and likewise helping to reduce electricity prices.

Another of our policies was to upgrade the Gregory Development Road. The reason we included this is that after Cyclone Larry politicians flew in and promised an inland highway because the Bruce Highway was cut off for nearly two weeks. The upgrade of the Gregory Development Road was an opportunity for transport and tourists—everyone—to use that access route in times of mass flooding. Not only that; it would be good for relieving traffic congestion on the Bruce Highway. It would save spending money on the Bruce Highway but it would also provide an alternative access route which would breathe life into those country towns. This was one of the policies that we were negotiating. It would create jobs for rural Queensland and benefit rural areas, but when it floods or when there is a cyclone everyone would have another access route to use.

Another of our policies was to prioritise government tenders for locals—and I acknowledge and appreciate that the government is doing this. Previously we have had government tenders for roadworks—you name it—and Western Australian companies were awarded the tenders for that work in Charters Towers, and likewise on the Atherton Tablelands, when we had local contractors and machines laying idle. I commend the government for taking the decision to prioritise government tenders.

Another of our policies was to do with the railway line in the Galilee Basin. It is very simple. In the past we built our own railway lines and the mining companies used them. So they paid us royalties and likewise the transport haulage costs and that money would go back to the state. When we privatised Queensland Rail, \$1.7 billion a year in profit was going back to the state. If we build the railway line in the Galilee Basin, we will own it. We can then give other mining companies the opportunity to tap into and use that railway track. So we will get royalties but we will also get the rail transport haulage costs and that money will go back to the state. That would not only benefit us but also create jobs and open up the Galilee Basin.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr KNUTH: You wanted to give \$500 million to the Indian company; is that right? It is about jobs and money going back to the state. You can build your tunnels. You can build your Premier's precinct over there with that money. But at the same time you are creating about 27,000 jobs. These were some of the policies that we put up to both parties.

As the seats were declared for the 55th Parliament, it was clear that the Labor Party would govern with the support of the Independent member for Nicklin, the Speaker of the House. We, the KAP, were not forced to side with either party—and it must be made clear that our electorates voted for us as their representatives because of our party policies and our independence. We, first and foremost, represent the issues of those people who elected us. We are not Liberals. We are not Labor. We are a separate party but we are determined to stand up for those that both parties have rejected in the past. We are not here to side with the ALP or the LNP. We are not remotely interested in party politics.

We believe that it is too early to give a vote of confidence to the government at this stage as, like the member for Mount Isa said, there are many issues that need to be addressed, particularly in rural and regional Queensland. One is the fair milk mark to ensure that farmers are paid a fair price. Another is fair funding for rural and regional Queensland. Then there is security of land tenure; the upgrade of the inland highway, as I talked about; an inquiry into the massive increase in electricity prices; mandating ethanol; and a commitment and assurance that rural and regional Queensland do not become the forgotten ones.

But we are very committed to working with this government in this parliament, to working for the good of Queensland and for the good of our electorates. Yesterday I indicated on ABC Radio that I was optimistic for this term of parliament and that this state had needed this hung parliament. We needed the hung parliament to get back to basics. We needed to get back to having robust debate and not to having legislation that communities do not want rammed through the parliament, particularly at the bidding of large corporate interests. This new parliament now provides the opportunity for two-minute speeches in prime time to raise issues that are important to the people in our electorates so they can see what we are doing—that we are out there fighting for them and not hidden away so they do not get the opportunity to see what is happening. That is what this new parliament is doing.

While I have indicated that it is too early to give a vote of confidence to the government at this stage, I would like to acknowledge the government's goodwill and gesture to work with us. I appreciate the fact that since the election two ministers have visited my electorate already to talk to constituents about issues that are important to them. Have you ever heard of such a thing?

What I want to say now is important and needs to be heard. In the previous government, there was only one genuine minister, John McVeigh, who visited my electorate over a three-year period—just one. All of those others who came to my electorate hurled abuse and even threatened my constituents with 'If you don't vote for the LNP, you'll get nothing.' That is the reason why they were booted out and that is why I am glad we have a hung parliament at this moment. I hope we have good governance because that is what I want to see.

I note that in his speech tonight the member for Hinchinbrook said that I should be concerned that Labor has not yet introduced vegetation laws and that this will hurt landowners. I can assure my constituents that if laws that do impact upon them are introduced we will be taking on the government and we will be fighting to protect landowners. I am also keen to work with this government to remove some of the member for Hinchinbrook's antirural amendments that removed a landowner's objection and notification rights to big mining developments and laws that give the Coordinator-General the supreme power over environmental objection rights to landowners, as well as restoring stockyards, dams and bores under the provision of restricted land.

Queenslanders have been belted around for too long. I believe that this hung parliament was what was needed to whoa and steady things up. I want to reiterate that we are not here to side with the ALP or the LNP, and my electorate put a vote of confidence in me because of that reason. Like we said, we believe it is too early to give a vote of confidence in this government at this stage. However, we are determined to work with this government as there are many issues that have been spelt out that need to be addressed in rural and regional Queensland. Mr Speaker, I inform the House that we will be abstaining from the vote on the motion of confidence.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (12.11 am): Mr Speaker, it is such an honour to stand and support the motion of confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government and to do so in a parliament over which you preside. I congratulate you on your appointment to this honourable position, and I know that you will be a wonderful steward of everything we do in this House. I am extremely humbled to be standing here as the newly elected member for Bulimba. I thank the people of the Bulimba electorate for putting their faith in me again. It is a community that I love, and I promise them that I will always work hard to represent their views and that I will always do my best to make sure their voice is heard.

The people of Queensland sent the strongest message possible at the last state election about what they thought was important. I believe they told us quite clearly that they did not like asset sales, that they wanted to restore the cuts to funding of front-line health and education services, that they were sick of the economy being talked down and of decade-high unemployment figures, and that they wanted a plan to address debt and encourage jobs growth. They were fearful about what might happen to our precious Great Barrier Reef and they felt really strongly that we had lost integrity and accountability in government decision-making. The people of the Bulimba electorate raised all of these and other issues many times with me during the election campaign, and I would like to refer to some of those further on in this speech.

However, there were two things that came up most frequently across the literally thousands of conversations I had with voters over the campaign and which in fact dominated all of those conversations. These are linked to the words of the Governor in his opening speech yesterday when he said, 'Just as important as what a government does is how it does it.' I believe the people of Queensland told us that, regardless of the issue—whether it is asset sales, schools, hospital waiting lists or anything else—they want and they expect to be listened to by government, and that regardless of the issue they want and they expect to be respected by government. I heard it time and time again on the doorstep, over the phones, at community meetings and on street stalls. While I heard that need and that expectation expressed so strongly, at the same time it was really clear to me that listening and respect were just not part of the LNP government's agenda. In fact, it was exactly the opposite.

If you were a nurse run off your feet regularly doing double and triple shifts but lucky enough to still have a job after the other 1,800 nurses had been sacked, no-one was listening to you when you said you were concerned about patient safety. If you were an ambo working 12 hours or more in a shift saving people's lives, you certainly did not feel respected when you had to fight to retain your meal allowance. If you were one of the 24,000 public servants sacked by the Newman government, your Premier implied that you had been sacked because you were lazy or because you were part of the B-team or because you did not actually do a real job. If you were a judge defending the separation of powers, you were doing it because you were in an ivory tower. If you were a doctor in the public hospital system in the middle of the 'keep our doctors' pay dispute defending your right to make the most appropriate treatment decisions for your patients, your Premier said you were just stacking on a turn because you wanted more money. If you were a lawyer protesting against the attack on workers compensation laws, you were just the driver of a very expensive car—which is clearly an insult but I am not sure why. If you were a community group funded by the LNP government advocating on behalf of your clients, he said you were treacherous and he cut your funding.

It simply was not possible to express your opinions or concerns to the LNP government. It was not possible to have a voice. I believe this is why the Premier's strong statements about listening and adopting a consultative approach to decision-making have been so warmly welcomed across Queensland. It is why I went to the people of Bulimba at the state election promising that I would be part of a political party which counted the restoration of respect for each other and respect for the community as a great priority.

Underpinning this, the community wants and needs us to have a plan for Queensland, and this is exactly what the Palaszczuk Labor government has for them. My local community is telling me that they trust our Premier. They know she has a plan and that without turning their world upside down she is going to diligently and methodically work her way through that plan. This government has been unequivocal about the fact that jobs and the economy are a key focus for that plan. The Premier has signalled this in so many different ways. This morning she referred to the fact that the very first cabinet meeting of this government placed jobs and the economy fair and square on the agenda. One of the first actions of the Premier and Treasurer upon winning government was to meet with industry peak bodies to talk to them about how government and the private sector can work together to restore confidence in the economy and build our resilience. I remember the Treasurer stressing how important that close working relationship with the private sector would be. He said at the time that when employers are confident then more jobs are created and more money is invested in our state. Some of the state's biggest businesses are in the Bulimba electorate, and I know that a number of them have been heartened and relieved to hear that they finally have a government which is talking up our economy.

Although the LNP would like to paint it otherwise, it is there for all to see that Labor went to the election with clear intentions on how our economic plan could be achieved—by paying down debt without selling income-producing assets, by retaining assets and the \$2 billion annual revenue stream

of government owned corporations, and by reducing by \$12 billion over the next decade the \$46 billion general government debt. We committed to: providing \$200 million for the Building our Regions fund to deliver vitally needed infrastructure in regional areas; developing a \$40 million Business Development Fund to turn ideas into commercial realities to create jobs; allocating \$50 million for Advance Queensland to reinvigorate research, science and innovation to help create the well-paid knowledge based jobs of the future; establishing Jobs Queensland, a new roundtable body to advise on workforce needs; and ensuring that 10 per cent of workers on major government projects are apprentices and trainees, including projects delivered by government owned corporations. The government has already begun to implement its promise to provide a 25 per cent tax rebate for employers hiring apprentices and trainees.

One of the promises that is dear to my heart and that of many in the Bulimba electorate is the Skilling Queenslanders for Work employment program for which the government has promised \$240 million to support 32,000 Queenslanders back into jobs. This program, aimed at assisting those who are underutilised and underemployed, was initially established by the Bligh Labor government and we in the Bulimba electorate loved it. So many of our local organisations such as the Bulimba Uniting Church and the Morningside and Cannon Hill schools of the arts benefited enormously from it. They were delighted to see that the people who were working to improve their facilities were going to graduate with skills that would equip them with opportunities for long-term work. As has already been mentioned in the House today by a number of government speakers, an independent assessment by Deloitte Access Economics showed that, for every dollar invested in this program by the government, the program returned \$8 to the economy. Its axing by the LNP government was inexplicable unless one might be churlish enough to suggest that it did so just because it was a Labor initiative. I personally am so excited about the opportunities the reintroduction of this program provides and for the partnerships it will create with local business and community organisations in my electorate.

I am also personally delighted with the government's commitment of \$34 million as part of our rescuing TAFE policy to improve training and to provide the skills that young people need to find work. Regardless of how they choose to pursue them, our young people must have pathways to future work, and the TAFE system has always been critical to providing those pathways. Sadly, over the last three years, the ability of our young people to access training through TAFE has been eroded. We all want our kids to feel hopeful for the future, but with the massive hikes in fees implemented with little or no notice to parents and students, the closing down of TAFE colleges and the emasculation of the TAFE workforce, over the last 12 months parent after parent has come to me in despair about what opportunities there would now not be for their children. I will never, ever forget the story of one of my constituents whose severely autistic son had been attending a TAFE course in basic literacy and numeracy, a course that was finally making a difference for this young man. However, between one semester and the next and with no notice, the course fee went up from \$160 to \$1,060 which made it simply unaffordable for this family. So that was the end of that for him. Can honourable members imagine the desolation of a family already stressed about how they can manage their son's future?

The Palaszczuk government's plan for TAFE will mean new TAFE positions, training schemes for emerging industries, more student support and foundation courses for disadvantaged learners. It will also mean hope for our young people. What were the other priorities that the people of my community conveyed to me? Education was front and centre. We all know that if we do not get education right then we do not get much else right. I was very pleased to receive a significant number of responses to a survey that I sent out across the electorate last year asking locals what they thought were the important things for government to consider about education. Without a doubt, the strongest message was one of enormous respect for teachers and other school staff, but also the importance of providing as much support as possible to those teachers and to our kids. It was a message I took great pains to pass on to local teachers. I had been so conscious of how important it is that they know how much they are valued by the community. It is why I was delighted with our government's commitment to employing 2,500 new teachers, including specialist teachers, so they could improve student-teacher ratios and keep pace with population growth. I am really grateful that Balmoral State High School and Seven Hills State School are going to specifically benefit from that initiative.

Just as we are showing our support for teachers, so too our government is recognising the importance of supporting our hardworking nurses. Not a week has gone past in the last year when I have not met a local nurse struggling with the demands of his or her job in an environment where staff numbers have been drastically cut. As I said before, some are regularly working double and triple shifts and are so concerned about patient safety. Our nurses deserve the greatest respect and this

government's plan to employ 1,000 graduate nurses and 400 additional nurses in our public hospitals will send a message that we understand their concerns and that we are committed to better service standards.

I am so proud of my local community and the passion they show when something comes along that might threaten our local services and/or our quality of life. With the unswerving education of Nigel Gibson and his helpers, we jumped up and down in the thousands when the LNP government wanted to sell off the oval at Balmoral State High School and we won. When they wanted to sell off Monte Carlo Caravan Park and put at risk the future and wellbeing of almost 200 vulnerable tenants, we jumped up and down and we won. The people of my community have made very clear what they think about asset sales, and the Palaszczuk Labor government has made a strong and clear commitment about that.

When the LNP government wanted to cut our 212 bus services in Seven Hills-Norman Park, we jumped up and down and we won. We jumped up and down about it again when it was under threat through the planned competitive tendering processes of Brisbane City Council bus services. It was very clear to me in that process that, even if people happen to agree with privatisation as a general principle, they most certainly draw the line at privatising public transport. They see the privatisation of public transport as a matter of social justice. The people of Seven Hills and Norman Park clearly understood that it would mean higher fares and a reduction of services and they were not having a bar of it. After working alongside the magnificent Rail, Tram and Bus Union with our local community, I was proud to be part of Labor's announcement that we would maintain Brisbane Transport as a vertically owned public provider of public transport.

Our community is equally concerned and passionate about overdevelopment in our area. Locals have shown that they do not take kindly to anything untoward on that front either. We are an inner-city electorate and we accept that increased density is a reality for us. However, we already face significant problems with the issues that arise from that increased density. I understand that we are the only area within a five-kilometre radius of the city for which it takes an hour or longer to get to the city in peak hour traffic—a trip that takes five to 10 minutes on the weekend. Traffic congestion is a huge issue, as is parking, the provision of good public transport to deal with our needs into the future and the maintaining of our wonderful quality of life. These are matters that must be addressed.

However, it is the lack of say in the development that occurs around them that local residents have been especially unhappy about. This has become an increasing concern as people have become aware that this is the outcome of the Brisbane City Council's city plan. When the Planning and Development Bill was introduced into this parliament at the end of last year, the people of Bulimba were very clear about how much of a say the LNP really thought they should have, and that was zilch, zero, nothing. The LNP went the other way, actually proposing in that bill that a developer could have the right to put a development application over a person's property without their even knowing about it. Do we think people felt respected by that move? Absolutely not!

I know that the Great Barrier Reef is of huge importance to the people of the Bulimba electorate. I was very proud to go to the election promoting Labor's plan for the reef, a plan that was welcomed by major environmental groups such as The Wilderness Society, the Maritime Conservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund. The plan promised \$100 million to protect the reef and the \$6 billion and 60,000 jobs it contributes to the economy. It was hugely important that we promised not to dump dredge spoil in the World Heritage area.

Under the previous LNP government, dredge spoil was to be dumped in the wetlands and the UNESCO World Heritage Committee was about to declare the reef in danger in 2015. We are still not out of the woods on that one, but I know that the Minister for Environment has already begun preparation, in consultation with the federal government and other key stakeholders, of the 2050 long-term sustainability plan for the reef—a plan which aims to address UNESCO concerns. Not everyone knows or understands the scientific imperatives around the management of the reef, nor can everyone have an in-depth and detailed discussion about the underlying issues. However, everyone has a place for the Great Barrier Reef in their hearts and it would have been a travesty if it had been led to destruction.

The LNP is saying a lot about the number of seats they won. What they are not talking about is the number of seats they lost. It was not just a couple; they lost 36 seats in one term. For most of us, a rebuttal like that would cause the deepest of soul searching, and that is exactly the process the Labor Party went through after the 2012 election. However, if voters could hear the speeches of the members opposite today, they would be dismayed. If voters could hear all this talk about who got the

most primary votes, voters did not really mean to vote them out, the voters got it wrong, no-one can understand how Labor got in, 44 is not 45, the result was someone else's fault, bad things happened six years ago, they would be dismayed that, even after passing such resounding judgement on the LNP, that party still does not get the message.

They would surely wonder at the lack of mention of 'he who cannot be named', Campbell Newman, who was most certainly the architect of their downfall. It is as if he did not exist. I have the greatest admiration for the nine members who represented the Labor Party in the 54th Parliament: the Premier and member for Inala, the members for South Brisbane, Mulgrave, Bundamba, Rockhampton, Redcliffe and Stafford, and the former members for Mackay and Woodridge. They were intrepid and brave, they were humble and they listened. They laid the groundwork for Labor to earn the support of the Queensland people in the 55th Parliament. I have the greatest faith in our Premier to lead the government that Queenslanders want. She has taken her plan to the people and so gained their confidence that in one term they were willing to add 35 more Labor members to her team and place her in a position—with your support, Mr Speaker—to assume government. The people always get it right. It is with great pleasure that, as one of the members they elected, I support this confidence motion on their behalf.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.30 am): I rise to speak to the confidence motion and emphatically endorse the principles outlined by the Leader of the Opposition in opposing a vote of confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government. The Labor Party has become the Bradbury government of Australian politics, securing government in Queensland with just 37½ per cent of the primary vote in Queensland—3.8 per cent less than the primary vote for the LNP. Many times in the Bjelke-Petersen era of Queensland politics the Labor Party regaled what a gerrymander it was that the National Party coalition could rule with just 37½ per cent of the Queensland vote. How the worm has turned.

In a politically cynical and desperate ploy, the Labor Party sacrificed all its principles to siphon preferences from the Greens, the Katter party, the Palmer party and from any other source it could do dirty deals with to steal government in Queensland from a dedicated LNP government which was concentrating on fixing Queensland's Labor induced fiscal pains from the past and not falling victim to the populist politics of spending tomorrow's inheritance today. This is after categorically stating, 'No, no, no deals,' during the election. It certainly feels like a deal, it certainly looks like a deal and it certainly smells like a deal to the Queensland public, so perhaps Labor could clarify to Queenslanders when a deal is not a deal. Sadly, albeit not unexpectedly, the abandonment of their own Terry Mackenroth inspired 'just vote 1' policy to suit their own political expediency so they could backdoor their way into ministerial leather worked on an unsuspecting Queensland public, and we have returned to the bad old days of a Labor government in Queensland with no financial ability, no financial responsibility and no vision for the future of Queensland other than a media grab for the six o'clock news.

That clueless collection of clots includes recycled ministers from the previous Beattie-Bligh Labor government—it would be the member for Sandgate who came back—who drove Queensland into its parlous state as the highest debt ratio state in Australia to fund their ill-conceived, failed fiscal planning misadventures on behalf of the Queensland public. Who could forget such classics as the Health payroll debacle turning a \$6 million IT upgrade into a \$1,200 million bottomless pit fiasco that was probably only surpassed in stupidity by paying Labor's fake Tahitian prince \$16 million of Queensland taxpayers' funds in order to fund his lifestyle. I am not even going to delve into the realms of the too ridiculous to recount adventures of the rogue Labor employed Dr Jayant Patel and the damage he did to the Bundaberg community and the standing of the medical fraternity under Labor's watch. Labor's idiocy contrasts sharply in this area with LNP's practicality with the nation's first ever wait time guarantee which delivered on-time elective surgery, removed the 60,000-plus long dental patient waiting list and improved Queensland's health system to be the best in Australia. It is a far cry from what the LNP inherited in 2012 from the former Labor Queensland Health life support system, with this accidental Premier receiving a health system in which Labor could target outcomes already lower than what was being achieved.

What about the money wasted on the Labor inspired ineffective drought measures inflicted on Queenslanders because Labor failed to adequately plan for Queensland's increased demand for water by cancelling the Wolffdene Dam. What about Labor's lunacy with crazy white elephant schemes such as the Currumbin desalination plant, which is still sitting there today in idle mode after costing Queenslanders \$1,200 million. Not to mention the \$2,800 million recycled water piping for

Brisbane that could not get enough users to make it viable and the half a billion dollar Dreamtime exercise of the Mary River Dam, when they did not bother to ask their federal Labor counterparts until Peter Garrett knocked the proposal on the head.

The same bunch of mind-numbing clueless union hacks that brought you these logic-defying stunts are back in charge of the asylum, even though several of them have moved to what they and their union backers consider are safer seats in case the Queensland electorate wakes up to how incompetent they are sooner rather than later at the next general election. This is a clueless collection of hand-picked union clots. The only nous required to do their jobs in parliament is to put their hand up when the union bosses tell them to—a process already begun with the movement of the Labour Day public holiday at union bosses' demands.

There is a price to pay for them slavishly succumbing to the union bribery of bankrolling and staffing the Labor Party's political campaign, and that price will be union affiliated work-only practices. This ill equipped Labor government will then bring out the axe to job creation programs, abandon the payroll threshold tax increase and remove support from 8,000 small businesses. That will be the death knell for many jobs in Queensland, particularly in the mining sector which Queensland has been so heavily reliant upon for the past 15 years—a sector already concerned by Labor's lack of clear policy and historical antimining decisions. This comes from a blatant political populist chant of 'jobs, jobs, jobs' for the Queensland public—an obvious media grab ploy that unfortunately succeeded for the Labor Party—which has since backflipped into 'doubt, doubt, doubt' for projects already approved by the committed and successful LNP government. Obviously this clueless Labor government has no plan or vision for the future of our great state and is simply making it up as they go along—hardly a recipe for success.

A classic example of the clueless Labor government highlighting their inexperience, incompetence and substandard practices comes from the voice of the ACCC shooting down their power amalgamation proposal—a proposal that would open the Queensland public to electricity price increases and benefit only their union puppeteers. This regurgitation from the Beattie-Bligh era clearly shows that union bosses are already pulling the strings. It was this 'revolutionary' idea that the Beattie-Bligh government proposed as a method to deliver lower power prices, and we all know what a falsehood that Labor Party sham turned out to be. The silence from union bosses on one subject is deafening, however, after another Olympic gymnast-level Labor backflip on their promises to 'pay down debt with no asset sales'. It is now 'pay down debt with no major or strategic asset sales'. Can this be seen as trustworthy by the Queensland public, or is this another clear example of the hand-picked union clowns succumbing to union demands? This follows another favourite union—sorry, I meant Labor—tactic of talking down the economy, which is not an encouraging prospect for the cattle industry, which was ignored in its latest communication where it failed to mention cattle at all and then talked down the live export trade.

How can we have confidence in a government starring former Bligh heavyweight ministers Annastacia Palaszczuk, Curtis Pitt, Kate Jones, Stirling Hinchliffe, Cameron Dick and recycled, rejected former Bligh government members Jimmy Pearce, Grace Grace, Di Farmer and Mark Ryan, when it was the Beattie-Bligh government that tipped Queenslanders into a desperate black hole of Labor inspired debt—a debt that lost Queensland's AAA credit rating and costs Queenslanders millions of dollars more in interest repayments per annum.

These same financial planning gurus are back in charge of Queensland's future, and they collectively make Storm Financial planners look like John Maynard Keynes! Hold on, Queenslanders, for the toughest rollercoaster ride you may ever face as world resource prices put further downward pressure on a Queensland economy being driven by P-plate drivers with no business experience and not a care in the world about the difficulties confronting business operations, from small to large businesses, right across Queensland.

The only answer these union directed puppets opposite can supply for the 'jobs, jobs, jobs' mantra is for Queensland taxpayers to pay for them, to put their Labor-voting mates into well-paid, cushy, unproductive Public Service jobs that they will create which are not really necessary but will give them better job numbers at Queensland taxpayers' expense. Will the Premier commit to not increasing Queensland's Public Service numbers to hide the real effect of her job-stopping, Green-vote-garnishing stranglehold on private sector job-creating enterprise?

Of particular concern from my Gold Coast perspective is the touted winding back of the LNP's criminal outlaw bikie gang legislation which would bring bikies back to the Gold Coast and ensconce their bikie mates back in the Gold Coast community. The police say that those laws are working. The

statistics and the crime busts say that they are working. So how can we have confidence in a government that want to tear apart successful, effective legislation just because they were not the ones who introduced those laws to Queensland? Those opposite certainly voted for this legislation in this parliament and now, because of political expediency and some pressure from their union masters, they are prepared to destroy good lawmaking, particularly effective on the Gold Coast, to soothe their faceless, string-pulling associates to the detriment of all Queenslanders.

How can we have confidence in a government so tricky and self-serving that it put out a parliamentary sitting dates calendar with no opportunity for the opposition to ask questions of ministers until 94 days, or a tick over three months, after the election date? Are they hiding from scrutiny, are they afraid of their ministers' capacity to provide answers to legitimate opposition questions or are they just plain arrogant in their defiance of parliamentary process and convention? It was the opposition's recognition of this unfortunate ploy that forced the government to add another sitting day tomorrow to the calendar, and that is what this opposition will continue to do. To borrow an old federal party slogan, we will be keeping the Bs honest.

Mr Speaker, this finely balanced 55th Parliament is very much in your hands, and I wish you the wisdom of Solomon as you guide Queensland's premier decision-making body on its rocky and unknown journey. The good folk of Mermaid Beach, who returned my representation to this House with a greatly appreciated substantial margin, would undoubtedly direct me to vote 'no' on any motion of confidence in a Palaszczuk Labor government, and I will accord with their wishes wholeheartedly.

In closing, the legitimacy of this government will depend, as the Governor requested, on this House providing confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government by the recorded vote of all 89 members. Every member's vote will be a crucial and deliberate indicator of whether this government has the right to govern the direction of Queensland's important future and wellbeing. In such a delicately placed divide in this House, if any one member fails the ideals of propriety, accountability, morality and community expectation of a member of parliament in the future, this vote of confidence may well be negated by the behaviour of that member. Mr Speaker, I look forward to your rigid and firm direction in these matters.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (12.43 am): Mr Speaker, I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your appointment. I assure you, I am not doing my Terry Mackenroth impersonation. Before I speak in detail to this motion, I congratulate all members in the chamber who won their seats and have the privilege of representing their respective electorates in the 55th Parliament. I again sincerely thank the people of the Chatsworth electorate for placing their faith in me to represent them in this place. It is a true privilege and it is one that I indeed cherish. I also acknowledge the valuable contribution made by defeated and retiring members from the 54th Parliament. One does not realise how much of a privilege it is to serve in this hallowed chamber until one no longer has that opportunity and privilege.

How blessed are we all to be living in the greatest state within the greatest nation on earth, where we can have a transference of political power, with the result hanging in the balance for a couple of weeks, and still have an orderly and peaceful transition? Some may say that the greatest winner from the recent state election was the way in which our constitutional model fulfilled its purpose flawlessly.

The old political adage that 'oppositions don't win government; governments lose government' can be no better illustrated than by the recent state election result. Given the enormity of the Newman government win in 2012, there was potential to stay in office for at least two to three terms. That we on this side of the chamber exhausted all of our political capital when sitting on the government side of the chamber in just 34 months compels me to apologise to the one million-plus supporters who voted for the LNP at the most recent election. Equally deserving of an apology are the unknown number of swinging voters who were unable to find it within their hearts and minds to support us on this occasion. We let many people down but, given the current composition of this 55th Parliament, we are far from down and out, even if my voice makes it sound like it!

Labor's primary vote on 31 January was 37.47 per cent—less than the LNP's primary vote of 41.23 per cent. Labor was the first choice of 983,000 Queenslanders, but the LNP was the first choice of 1,084,000 Queenslanders. Today in Queensland the LNP is the only party with more than a million votes, but Labor is governing with a primary vote of less than 37.5 per cent.

Regardless of the extraordinary circumstances the recent state election delivered, the Labor Party won and now has the privilege of forming a minority government. To deny this obvious fact is churlish and insults the intelligence of voters when people say that they have no mandate to govern.

Simply put, the 'vote every square' tactic adopted by the Labor Party campaign team proved effective given there was a mood in the electorate to send the Newman government a message. Many political commentators and armchair experts will continue to ruminate as to what went wrong. The simple fact is that all of us on this side of the chamber need to take responsibility for the result, learn from our mistakes, desist wallowing in self-pity and get on with the job.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the 51 Liberal National Party candidates across the state who on 31 January 2015 won the primary vote in their respective electorates. The Labor Party won the election, but that does not mean we should have confidence in its ability to offer the people of Queensland good governance, which I will address. Propped up by an unholy alliance of Far Left preferences and Independent kingmakers, Labor's minority government is a veritable house of cards and deserves sustained criticism and scrutiny. Such a critique will occupy the remainder of my allocated speaking time this morning.

The statewide primary vote to the Greens political party was a low of eight per cent and, yet again, it won zero seats in the House. Yet the current of Greens preferences was strong enough to drown the voice of the majority and deliver Labor 44 seats and, ultimately, minority government. An analysis of the facts can see that a key feature of the 2015 election was the preference flows. The ABC's renowned election analyst, Antony Green, had some insights to offer here. In 2009, 39 per cent of Greens preferences in 71 electorates flowed to Labor. In 2012, when the Greens political party fielded just 33 candidates, 43 per cent of preferences flowed to Labor. This year we have seen a 20 per cent increase in Greens preference flows to Labor, propping up Labor's primary vote in nine key seats.

In Barron River, Labor's candidate earned just 39 per cent of the primary vote but walked away with a two-party preferred result of 53 per cent. Similarly in Brisbane Central, the new member scraped just 37 per cent of the primary vote but won the seat with a three per cent margin. In Bundaberg, Labor polled marginally better, with a primary vote of 40 per cent, but still needed the Greens political party to carry the current member over the line, to a margin of 1.16 per cent.

The drawn-out ballot for Ferny Grove was crystal clear on primaries, with Labor polling at just 38 per cent to the LNP's Dale Shuttleworth's 45 per cent and yet after weeks of agonising counts and recounts Labor again fell over the line with a margin of less than one per cent. The electorate of Maryborough follows this pattern. Just 25 per cent of residents voted for the Labor Party yet the member who now represents 100 per cent of them is absolutely held to ransom by Greens preferences. It goes on and on. The electorate of Mount Coot-tha suffered a similar fate. Less than a third of voters were interested in what Labor's then candidate was selling and now 100 per cent of Mount Coot-tha will have to pay for it. Mundingburra, Pumicestone and Springwood saw much tighter primary vote results, with the Liberal National Party's vote higher than any other party. Labor's victories in these three key seats are also propped up by preference deals. Now, that is confidence! After a decade in which the number of voters nominating preferences has declined consistently, this trend was reversed in the last election. As Antony Green wrote following the election, Labor, its unions and the Greens political party had everything to gain by recommending lists of preferences on the how-to-vote cards in most electorates. These preference recommendations have been the difference between Labor winning the 2015 election and the Liberal National Party being returned.

Queensland's new Premier, Premier Palaszczuk, was elected on the promise of governing for all of Queensland. But as we can see from these preference flows, Queensland Labor is held to ransom by Greens preferences. Queensland Labor does not govern for all of Queensland. Queensland Labor governs for the Greens political party. Premier Palaszczuk was elected on the promise of governing for all of Queensland. This promise lasted only until deliberations for cabinet positions commenced. I am sure all members in this chamber value Queensland's proud democratic traditions and were appalled to read the *Courier-Mail's* headline in early February that heralded the entry of United Voice union boss Gary Bullock to the forefront of our political scene. This kingmaker of Queensland Labor reportedly hand picked more than half of the current ministry. Queensland Labor does not govern for all of Queensland. Queensland Labor governs for trade union bosses. To support this point, it was there for all to see only 24 hours ago on the Speaker's Green with the large number of union heavyweights who were naturally invited to partake in the celebrations.

Premier Palaszczuk was elected on the promise of governing for all of Queensland. The Palaszczuk government has to date signalled only mild interest in upholding the Liberal National Party's strong stance on law and order and condemnation of criminal gangs, promising nothing more than a review. Actions in the coming months will indeed speak louder than words. Time will tell. Premier Palaszczuk was elected on the promise of governing for all of Queensland. However, as I

survey the members opposite, I could be stepping back in time. Little good can be said about Queensland Labor, save for its commitment to recycling. Not content with the damage wrought during the Beattie-Bligh years, like economic wrecking balls Labor has recycled candidates and family dynasties have swung back into power. The Hon. Kate Jones is not a new face, and we have seen the member for Woodridge before. Former senator Mark Furner has jumped ship from the state's representative in the federal Senate to this state House, and the list goes on and on. Di Farmer, Jim Pearce, Mark Ryan, Grace Grace, Stirling Hinchliffe—all failed members of the disastrous Beattie-Bligh years recycled back into our parliament. Now, doesn't that truly inspire confidence in this new administration? I think not! Members opposite may fool themselves, but it is clear to the Queensland public: Queensland Labor does not govern for all of Queensland. Queensland Labor governs for Queensland Labor.

As I have articulated, Queensland Labor is held to ransom by vested interests and fringe parties. Our new Labor government has no plan for Queensland bar one—to protect its own political interests, not the interests of Queensland. This government will do anything to cling to power. It is akin to watching a remake of the old comedy movie *Weekend at Bernie's*. Labor members could be catatonic in a closet, but they will be propped up, stitched up and brought into the chamber in a desperate bid to cling to office. It took less than a month for this government to backflip on its opposition to asset sales, using tired semantics to find wiggle room in its core election promise. The backroom spin doctors have begun to water down the political narrative in a Svengali-like manner. As I tweeted in a recent post, all assets are equal. Some assets are more equal—insert 'strategic/major'—than others, and so the Labor hypocrisy begins.

Queensland Labor will say and do anything to win and hold power. It was elected without a plan for our great state. It ran a small target strategy with a leader at the time who smiled and waved to everyone, capitalising upon our perceived arrogance. It ran a very smart campaign whereas we did not. We did not remind voters of how hopeless and incompetent the former Bligh government was. Whilst you need to focus on the future—that is true enough—in politics you always need to highlight the key differences and remind voters of the past. Why would we have any confidence in this government when many of the economic tyros who put us on the path of exponential debt spiral are now back in this chamber on the back of Greens preferences?

Every one of our members in this House will spend every hour of their time on these benches subjecting this minority government to unrelenting scrutiny, as we should do. We should act in a responsible manner to hold the government to account and adopt a pragmatic and sensible approach to opposition as espoused by Menzies—in other words, do not oppose just for the sake of opposing. If the government introduces legislation which is good for the state and our wonderful citizens deserve it, we should support it. There will inevitably be policy areas of ideological difference, and this is where we should highlight these distinctions and offer ourselves as a genuine political alternative at the next state election. The worst mistake we could make as an opposition is to think that all we need to do is wait over the next six to 12 months for an inevitable return to the government side of the chamber given the hopeless and inept form of those now in government. We need to be a hardworking opposition, listen to our key stakeholders, regain the trust of our support base, campaign vigorously in three years time and earn the right to occupy the other side of the chamber. Nothing in life worth having should come easily, and politics is indeed no different.

We may have failed to remind Queenslanders of the Health payroll debacle, of pipes without dams, dams without pipes, 15 per cent annual public transport fare increases, Tahitian princes and thought-bubble desalination plants. I could go on and on, but in the interests of time I will not. This government does not govern with the support of the majority of Queenslanders and this government does not govern for Queensland. This government governs for the Greens political party and trade union bosses. This government governs for Queensland Labor. Within 24 hours of the last state election, the old Labor firm comprising former state members was seen getting in the lift up to level 15 in the Executive Building. Who is really calling the shots here? How could I honestly support this motion of confidence in this minority government?

A cursory glance of many of Labor members' past backgrounds and limited life experiences viewed through the prism of trade union movement and the green movement have failed to equip them with the skill sets to govern responsibly. It is a fact that Labor lost our AAA credit rating, adding approximately \$200 million to Queensland's yearly interest bill. Ultimately, the state must recover its AAA credit rating which was lost by the former Bligh Labor government through massive increases in debt. The two new Labor initiatives are amalgamating electricity assets to save \$150 million and cancelling overdue plans to lift the payroll tax threshold to save \$250 million. The first initiative is

already being recanted and under fire from the ACCC, which states that disproportionate power will be awarded to the new electricity generating entity and that power prices will increase as a result. In response, the new Treasurer indicated immediately that the state could change its plans, accepting the consequent impact on its promised efforts to reduce debt. That is not a particularly confident start.

It is worth noting that the second initiative is also under direct criticism from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland and others. CCIQ estimates that 20,000 businesses will be impacted and 4,000 Queensland jobs will be lost as a result. Measures such as these are a direct disincentive to business and it will stifle and stunt economic growth and will also tend to undermine growth in revenue to government. I simply cannot support this motion. As Abraham Lincoln famously said, a house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure.

Mr COSTIGAN (Whitsunday—LNP) (12.58 am): This morning I rise to make a contribution not only as the returning member for Whitsunday but also in my new role as shadow assistant minister to the opposition leader for North Queensland. Firstly, Mr Speaker, I extend my congratulations to you on your election to the high office of Speaker and wish you well in Queensland's 55th Parliament. I also take the opportunity to congratulate all MPs, whether they are new MPs or returning MPs from the government side, the opposition side or in fact the crossbenches.

We all know that the election has been run and won. While we certainly respect the will of the people, there is no doubt in my mind and that of countless Queenslanders that this new state Labor government has no clear mandate. Put simply, there is no confidence in this new government, which is largely made up of recycled parliamentarians and Nevilles. I thought the Nevilles were on the *Footy Show*. That was a long time ago.

Why is there no confidence? Because they are deadset making it up as they go along. There is no plan. They have come in here as an accidental government. Of course, that is after they sent Queensland all bar broke the last time they were in office. Just have a look at what they have said in relation to asset sales before this year's election. Less than two months ago, Labor categorically said that there would be no asset sales. Days after the election—and we heard it from the manager of opposition business just a while ago—Queenslanders heard the news that they are not selling major or strategic assets. I am confused and I am sure the people of Queensland are confused.

Our schools must not be very strategic, because Labor has a record of selling them. We have heard that in this debate already. Just ask the good people of Mount Charlton in the rural heartland of my electorate. The school there was shut down by the former Labor government. That came after consultation Labor style: they invite the locals to a meeting, tell them what is happening, tell them to suck eggs and shut the place down. To this day the closure of that school is a sore point for the people in that community.

There are people in communities right across Queensland who can relate to that story. Since the election, we have heard a deafening silence from the union bosses in relation to asset sales. Right up until polling day the green ants, as I call them—the rent-a-crowd from the unions—were running here, running there, running everywhere. Forrest Gump, eat your heart out! We could not miss them. Where are they now? Where is GetUp!? Where is Stephen Smyth, the big-noting, knuckle-busting boss of the CFMEU in Mackay?

Mr Bleijie: Stewie Traill.

Mr COSTIGAN: And on they go. He thought he was in pretty good form, giving us a good old spray at Mackay Airport a few weeks ago. As he walked off to the luggage carousel he gave us a good old spray. That is fair enough. Each to their own. But I might add that this is the same Mackay Airport that a former Labor government sold off. That is right: it sold it off—

Mr Rickuss: Andrew Fraser grew up there.

Mr COSTIGAN: Absolutely. Regrettably, from the electorate of Whitsunday. So try telling that to the people of Proserpine. I take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. The former government sold off the Mackay Airport, sold off the Cairns Airport, sold off Queensland Rail, the export coal terminals, our state forests, sport and recreation centres and on it went. The Mackay Airport is not just any old airport; it is located in the middle of the biggest regional economy of the north. Of course, the only way the city that I represent was going to get a new base hospital was by, guess what? Selling the airport. The sad thing is that there are nurses now at the hospital who have to walk a mile to their cars. Do members know why? Because Labor sold the land so there was no possible expansion for car parking.

An opposition member: Sold the car park.

Mr COSTIGAN: Yes. Absolutely disgraceful. No planning. No brains. These union bosses have disappeared. Who knows where they are. Maybe they are catching up with Craig Thompson and company in the lead-up to the New South Wales state election this Saturday.

I congratulate the new Premier, but at the same time I go back to her mantra of jobs, jobs and more jobs. With respect, Premier, do not just talk a good game; you need to play one as well. This new Labor administration has no commitment to a jobs target. As we heard this morning from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, all we hear is reviews, reviews and more reviews. There are more reviews than there are on Broadway. That is all we hear. I think there are nearly 30 of them. Where are the jobs for the good people of North Queensland, Far North Queensland, Central Queensland and our western communities?

What is the government going to be doing to speed up the much awaited, much anticipated expansion of Abbot Point? I ask my colleagues: do you trust this mob to deliver the much needed port expansion at Abbot Point?

Opposition members: No.

Mr COSTIGAN: Do you reckon the people of North Queensland trust them?

Ms Trad: Yes.

Mr COSTIGAN: It is early in the morning. The minister was next. Do we trust the new minister to get the job done? No, we do not. That is also the consensus of locals in the Mackay-Whitsunday region. The Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, my good friend the new member for Burdekin and I started off on another listening tour of the north. We have taken our medicine. We are listening to the people. We have been listening to local people—people like Stephen Darwen from the Bowen Collinsville Enterprise organisation and Bruce Hedditch from the Bowen Chamber of Commerce. We have been up in that part of the world, listening to people at the coalface—people like long-time Bowen publican Barry Allen. His words will be ringing in the ears of the member for Burdekin. Last week on St Patrick's Day Barry Allen, who has spent 55 years in the pub game in Bowen, said that he has never seen it so bad in Bowen.

Bowen is not the only town that is suffering. During this debate we have heard various members say that there are a lot of communities, not just on the coast but west of the divide, that are struggling. The people in those communities want to know what the government is going to do for jobs. Can it quantify it? I have heard these concerns from people at chambers of commerce in Mackay and Airlie Beach—people such as Mark Beale, Tim Miles and Kylie Porter from Mackay and Tony Caruso from the Resource Industry Network. We have been listening to people from the master builders association such as Malcolm Hull. The Leader of the Opposition has been out there, leading from the front, listening to people from all walks of life, from all communities, from all community organisations—

Ms Trad: Did you google it?

Mr COSTIGAN: We do not have to google it. We have it up here. The member opposite might need some little lapdog to print out who they have to see when they go to the north. Guess what: the member for Hinchinbrook, the member for Burdekin and I do not need a little lapdog to give us the little sheet of paper to tell us about who to go to see or who to ring up. In places like Bowen, confidence is rock bottom.

A government member: You should go on *X Factor*.

Mr COSTIGAN: Bowen is the town that services the port of Abbot Point. I am not going back to television just yet. I am here to serve the people of Whitsunday and, indeed, North Queensland. Remember, it was the former Labor government that wanted to put Abbot Point on steroids. We all remember its grand plan—metaphorically speaking, of course. It wanted to dump 38 million cubic metres of dredge spoil in the water—dump it on Nemo, dump it on Dory, dump it on them all. All the little kids would have been crying. We stopped it before the 2012 election. Our government did not get much credit for that. There was enough dredge spoil to fill Suncorp Stadium 80 times over. We moved to get the dredge spoil put on terra firma—on land adjacent to these so-called wetlands. The member for Burdekin knows about those wetlands. The members opposite should ask some of the locals about it. In the eyes of some locals—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: Absolutely man-made for the benefit of a few local blokes who wanted to go duck shooting. It is not Kakadu.

Ms Trad: And this is not the Gettysburg Address.

Mr COSTIGAN: The member should just worry about getting up to North Queensland and doing something for the north. I congratulate my good friend and northern neighbour the member for Burdekin on his recent election. Last week, it was a pleasure to join him, the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to conduct a tour of the Mackay-Whitsunday region. There is no doubt that the people who live between Mackay and Townsville are not holding their breath with this government when it comes to making Abbot Point go to that next level, or indeed the development of the Galilee Basin. I have to say that what this bloke did in Bowen, which is the epicentre, was no mean feat. The town is traditionally a Labor stronghold, but he won every booth. This town has been represented by Labor MPs, Liberal MPs, National MPs, One Nation, Independents and even a communist. So I say well done to the member for Burdekin in standing up for the people of Bowen and North Queensland.

As I said, it is not just the people of Bowen who are hurting. People in country towns on the coast and west of the divide and in the outback are also hurting. In relation to the latter area, late last year I was out in western Queensland and saw the effects of that catastrophic drought that is really hurting people. It was Labor that killed off the possibility of exporting uranium to the world. In doing so it has dashed the hopes—

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: They need to start listening to the people. Mr Speaker, today I caught up with one of your predecessors, a former Labor minister and now the Mayor of the City of Mount Isa. Members can imagine what Tony McGrady thinks of some of the people over there. There is no doubt that he does not rate them on this issue.

There are a few members over there who know exactly what I am talking about. Tony McGrady calls a spade a spade. There are people on both sides of the House who would accept that. He is of the view that the people in the party that he stood for have got it wrong in relation to this issue. That is coming from someone who was there before you, Mr Speaker.

We all remember Labor's appalling record on agriculture; strangling our farmers and graziers with red and green tape. As has been noted before in this debate, it was the former Labor government that dumbed down the former great Department of Primary Industries. There are still many cockies who lament that. I make the point that in relation to these super portfolios people are coming to me saying it is a joke. Of course it is a joke. The portfolio of agriculture has been packaged up with sport and recreation. Talk about agriculture going to the dogs! It is very disappointing for the man on the land. Before the election I went looking for the agriculture policy of the Australian Labor Party. It was like looking for Harold Holt. I could not find it. I searched high and low and I could not find it. Maybe we can get something emailed from one of the Deputy Premier's little gofers.

I do not have any confidence in this government. This side of the House has no confidence in this government. The people of Queensland have no faith and no confidence in this government. I will sum up by saying that we on this side of the House will hold this new government to account every day of the week starting with question time later this morning in this place, a question time those opposite tried to avoid. It has only come about because of the pressure applied by this LNP opposition. I strongly oppose the motion because the day I have some confidence in this Labor government is the day I walk on the moon.

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (1.11 am): I rise to support the motion of confidence in the Palaszczuk government. However, I wish to firstly place on record how proud and honoured I am to be once again representing the electorate of Brisbane Central as a state member of parliament and thank the residents for their support. I want to also warmly congratulate the member for Nicklin on his elevation to the position of Speaker in this 55th Parliament, marking the first time in a century that an Independent member has held such an honoured role. Having served on previous parliamentary committees with the honourable member I know that he will rise to the occasion.

This will be a significant week in the history of Queensland politics, not only because we now have both a female Labor Premier and Deputy Premier, to whom I offer my heartfelt congratulations, and have elected an Independent Speaker, but also because I believe Queenslanders have found a new confidence in this Labor government and in this parliament as we strive to deliver the highest standards of integrity, accountability and trust. Mr Speaker, I look forward to working with you in my position as Deputy Speaker to achieve this outcome and I also congratulate the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition and my fellow parliamentary colleagues.

This does not mean that there will not be robust debate or robust exchange of ideas and policies in this House as the Palaszczuk government gets on with the business of delivering on its election commitments. However, unlike the previous three years, this Labor government will listen, will be a more consultative and engaging government and the people of Queensland can have confidence that we will not continue the combative style of government practiced by those opposite that they witnessed and rejected.

Recently Kevin O'Leary turned 100. He is Australia's longest serving ALP branch member with 85 years of membership. He said, 'I know we never squib a fight. Never have. Never will.' After the devastating loss of the 2012 election Labor did not lie down and wallow in self-pity but set about, under the leadership of the Premier, regrouping and rebuilding our great party and we did not squib the challenge, fighting hard to win back the seats we lost in 2012. I believe the Premier recently compared the election win to climbing Mount Everest, a gruelling task but one that was achieved by a steady, measured and responsible approach to good government. I believe the people of Queensland can have confidence that the Palaszczuk government will not continue to govern in the combative space occupied by those opposite. We will not be picking fights for the sake of picking fights.

When I decided to run again for the seat of Brisbane Central I was asked why. It is really interesting that the member for Kawana has not stopped speaking since I rose, yet during the last six months where was the member for Kawana? Hidden away somewhere, I think. Apart from the obvious fact that I have a passion for politics, the area where I live and working with people, my main motivating factor was the actions of the previous government. I just could not sit back and do nothing. No-one was immune. Lawyers, the judiciary, nurses, doctors, public servants, fires, community organisations, workers, unions—haven't we heard about that tonight?—respected institutions, peak councils, corruption fighters, the list goes on, were all on the receiving end of the wrath of the previous government. It was almost like they could not help themselves as they stumbled on, out of control on power due to their huge majority, thinking they were invincible. I had faith that the people of Queensland would not continue to support the actions of the previous government and I was not disappointed.

During the campaign many issues and concerns were raised by residents, businesses and community organisations and I was overwhelmed by their feelings of helplessness. They clearly did not like what was happening in their neighbourhoods, their suburbs and their state and were keen to hear of alternative policies and plans. During the past three years I was very proud to work for the Queensland Nurses Union, the largest union in the state, and saw firsthand the devastating effect on 1,800 nurses and midwives and their families who lost their jobs following the job cuts in front-line services in health. They clearly were not happy and felt let down with the payroll debacle. However, they felt totally betrayed by the job cuts that were intentional and totally opposite to what had been promised by the previous government prior to the 2012 election to increase the number of nurses and revitalise front-line services. They were told they had nothing to fear yet they were asked time and time again to do more with less. I welcome this government's policy to employ more nurses and midwives and for the first time to legislate nursing ratios to ensure the quality care and safety of patients. Queenslanders can feel confident that this government will deliver on the additional 4,000 nursing jobs for graduates over four years, 400 new nursing positions to ensure safe workloads and patient care and restore front-line services axed by the previous government.

Job cuts in the Public Service, education and health services totalling around 24,000 jobs lost occurred with no apparent strategy, no long-term vision and with no empathy for the careers destroyed and the workers and their families who were affected. Not only did workers lose their jobs, many were forced to apply for jobs that were well below the levels that they were currently occupying just to keep a position in the government. This occurred regardless of how many years of service they had in the Public Service which resulted in many workers ending up doing the same job with the same responsibilities but on lower levels of pay. In fact, on election day I had one such public servant in the exact position I have just described handing out Labor how-to-vote cards with me.

I look forward to working towards creating local jobs and am confident that this government's commitment to jobs through its employment programs will deliver the jobs now and into the future. We must do all we can to reduce the unemployment rate—currently standing at 6.5 per cent—left by those opposite. In delivering on our commitment for additional apprentices and trainees this government will also restore TAFE as a leading provider of vocational education in Queensland and revive our solar industry creating the jobs of the future. It was truly unbelievable that Queensland, the Sunshine State, had no solar policy.

Queenslanders can feel confident that this government will not sell our assets, but will use the profits that they generate to pay down debt in an economically responsible manner. The Not4Sale campaign did an excellent job in running a campaign that was in tune with the people of Queensland, who were not fooled that the leasing of assets for 100 years was not equal to a sale.

Since being elected I have met with most of my school representatives. They are passionate about education and know only too well that a good education is a key for the future of children and the future of the state. Although there are many issues regarding inner-city schools, particularly regarding being landlocked in an area that is fast growing, they can be confident that the Palaszczuk government will listen to their needs in an open consultative transparent manner, unlike their recent experiences in dealing with the previous government. I welcome Labor's commitment to recruit 2,500 teachers into state schools across Queensland to help reduce class sizes and restore the front-line education services cut by the LNP. Of course, they welcome a plan to allow teachers to continue doing what they do best, that is, teaching our children, where excellent teachers will be given the classifications they deserve.

My electorate can also have confidence that this Labor government will listen to school communities when it comes to the needs of local schools in a growing area. It beggars belief that, with all the apartments that are being built in the Brisbane Central electorate, a school was closed. The oldest school in Queensland, the Fortitude Valley State School, had survived over 150 years, yet it was not able to survive one term of an LNP government. Bad public education policy needs to be reviewed and I look forward to working with the new education minister, Kate Jones, regarding the process for addressing the mistakes of the previous government.

Workers can have confidence that this Labor government will restore the balance in industrial relations in this state from an LNP IR policy based on fear and intimidation and reducing the industrial rights of workers and their unions to an industrial relations platform based on cooperation and respect. Employment protections for government workers will be restored. The Palaszczuk government will also restore common law workers compensation rights for workers who are injured at work through no fault of their own. Common law rights for injured workers had been a cornerstone entitlement under this state's workers compensation system for decades, yet did not survive one term of an LNP government.

I welcome Labour Day, fondly referred to as May Day, being rightly returned to May in 2016. In this state Labour Day had been celebrated in May since 1891 in a tradition spanning 120 years, yet it did not survive one term of an LNP government. If ever a clear example was needed of how unnecessarily vindictive and disrespectful the previous LNP government was, changing Labour Day for no good reason speaks volumes. The people of Queensland can have confidence that a Palaszczuk government will not throw away long-held traditions simply to score a cheap political point or because of a desire to somehow get even with the union movement for supporting Labor governments.

This brings me to the issue of Labor delivering on its commitments to the LGBT community. I believe that members of the LGBT community living in Brisbane Central have more confidence that this government will restore funding and review the rights stripped away by the previous government. I very much look forward to working with members of the LGBT community to deliver on all our commitments.

Overdevelopment and the problems it brings, such as parking and traffic issues, is an issue that is very relevant to the voters in Brisbane Central. This issue was raised with me time and time again. Many residents were deeply concerned that the LNP government, together with the current LNP Brisbane City Council administration, appeared addicted to development. There does not seem to be a development that is not approved or that they do not like, including an acoustic wall in the middle of Fortitude Valley that has greatly impacted on the units next door, which are now shadowed by an enormous 10-metre-high wall that is inches away from people's balconies, in what can only be described as a New York style development at its worst. Residents are greatly concerned that development approvals are given regardless of what is next door, the character of the suburb or how they will impact on the buildings adjacent. Those decisions are causing much angst in my electorate. I look forward to working with the Deputy Premier to address planning issues in my electorate, with the aim of bringing back a balanced approach, restoring residents' rights and respecting the surrounding buildings and character of our suburbs.

As the member for Brisbane Central, which contains one of our largest entertainment precincts, I look forward to working with the Attorney-General, the community and all stakeholders to achieve a balanced approach to liquor licensing and to address alcohol fuelled violence.

The community services area, whose members were concerned about the funding cuts they had experienced and their feelings of helplessness, can have confidence that Labor will honour our commitments such as to refund the Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Service, the demise of which left Queensland as the only state in Australia without a free dedicated tenancy advisory program. I know that in my electorate the loss of that service had a detrimental effect on homelessness. TAAS's much-needed services were funded by the interest earned from the \$700 million in tenants' bonds collected since its commencement by the National's Premier Mike Ahern in 1988, but it could not survive one term of an LNP government.

The Palaszczuk government will deliver on its commitment to protect the Great Barrier Reef for future generations and will legislate to ban the dumping of dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef heritage area. No ifs, no buts: we must do all we can to save the reef and only a Labor government has the confidence of the people to do so.

I also welcome our plan to address the scourge of domestic violence. Queenslanders can have confidence that the Palaszczuk government will implement the findings of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence, headed by Dame Quentin Bryce.

In summary, I am proud to support the Premier's motion, I am proud to be once again representing the people of Brisbane Central and I am proud that they were smart enough to eject he who could not be named, the previous premier of Queensland, Campbell Newman. A Palaszczuk government will keep our assets, restore front-line jobs and services in health and education, protect our most precious resource the Great Barrier Reef, and create the local jobs and training places needed in this great state. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (1.26 am): As everyone else has—although I do so as the representative of a neighbouring electorate to yours—Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your elevation to the very high post of Speaker of the parliament. I also congratulate the Premier and her ministers on their elevation.

Of course, I wish to speak against the motion that is before the House tonight, because it implies that the election that was held on 31 January was normal in the sense that the electors of Queensland have embraced a new government with a suite of policy ideas to drive the state into the future. Nothing could be further from the truth. This government really is a policy-free zone. This government has snuck into power. It said nothing. It never put its head above the parapet to make sure that it was engaging with the community. As a result, it was able to sneak into power. I do wish it well, because over the next three years this parliament will be on a knife edge. We all have to strap ourselves in for what is going to be a pretty exciting ride, assuming, of course, that the current arrangements last three years or something even close to that. As the opposition leader has already mentioned in relation to this minority Labor government, this parliament is only a heartbeat away from a by-election and a possible change of government.

I acknowledge the two members of the Katter's Australian Party. I wish them the best in the pivotal role that they will play in the life of the 55th Parliament.

Confidence means that a person has a belief that another individual or group is up to a certain task; that they have the necessary ability, capacity, integrity and determination to do what is required of them competently. The dictionary defines confidence as 'full trust; belief in the powers, trustworthiness or reliability of a person or thing'. My opinion of the Palaszczuk Labor government certainly does not fit that definition nor does it enjoy my confidence.

Labor was not even in power for about two minutes before it broke its first promise. During the campaign the Premier promised many times that she would not enter into an agreement with minor parties or Independents to form government. We can see how long that lasted. When the now Premier made that promise she probably thought it was a pretty safe bet that she would never really have to make that decision. When it came down to a choice between power and principle she went for power.

I do not believe that this Premier and her government have what is needed to address the challenges and to capitalise on the opportunities that face Queensland in the 21st century. During the election campaign Labor said as little as possible, it made itself a small target and it sought power without policies.

Confidence is something that you earn. The Palaszczuk administration did not do or say anything for three years in opposition or during the election campaign to earn anyone's confidence. This was reflected in the voting results where the LNP secured the greatest number of primary votes in 51 of the 89 electorates. Across the state only one in three people cast a primary vote for Labor, meaning two-thirds of people voted for someone other than Labor as their preferred government. In my own seat of Noosa, for a second time Labor ran a distant third behind the dysfunctional Greens party.

That is not a mandate. The Premier knows she sits in that seat today only by a stroke of good fortune and with the support of the member for Nicklin. There is no reason why anyone should have confidence in this accidental Labor administration. It is a mixture of inexperience and recycled ministers from the Bligh and Beattie governments which built up a debt approaching \$80 billion and cost this state its AAA credit rating. That is not a record to be proud of nor one which should instill confidence in anyone about the capacity of this administration to give the state the direction and leadership it needs and deserves.

It was an LNP government that ended the slide into debt. We are now faced with a government that has no policy and, more importantly, has no will to tackle the debt crisis that will leave Queensland increasingly exposed in comparison to other states in the Commonwealth.

It was not only the economy that Labor could not be trusted with. In fact, their record showed they could not be trusted with anything much at all. They made a fuss about asset sales and leases during the election campaign, but in Queensland it was the Bligh government that was the trailblazer as far as asset sales are concerned.

Across the chamber we have a bevy of ministers from that government who were party to the deception and sat around the cabinet table and every time asset sales came up they said, 'Not a problem; we will sell that.' They are still here. Now we have a minority government which claims to be against asset sales. But I wonder for how long.

The similarity between this administration and the Bligh asset sellers is too close for anyone to feel confident that the Labor election pledge opposing asset sales will stand the test of time. Already the Deputy Premier has tried to muddy the waters by claiming that there was some fine print attached to the categorical statement that a Labor government will not sell state assets.

Members may remember seeing the Premier on television night after night after night—see the way my hands are working—saying, 'I will not sell your assets.' Now we are talking about doing exactly that. Even during the New South Wales election campaign we have seen past and current federal Labor leaders come out in recent weeks in support of asset sales, yet the Queensland version of Labor opposes it—apparently. That is why they found it politically expedient during the election campaign. It was not a well-considered, thought through strategy, just base political opportunism to win votes and curry favour with their Labor master.

Labor's whole election campaign was built around saying as little as possible hoping voters would feel sorry for them and hand them back a few seats. No-one, least of all the now Premier and her senior team, expected Labor to engender sufficient sympathy to actually win government. They are where they are now thanks to a sympathy or protest vote not because of any strategic or policy work that they did. They are the great political overachievers.

The focus of Labor's campaign was to increase their numbers sufficiently to mount a campaign for the next election. Their eyes were firmly on 2018 as their chance to return to power. They were as shocked as anyone when just sufficient Queenslanders voted for Labor and their bedmates, the Greens, to be able to form a minority government.

Once the shock settled and the union leaders had stopped rubbing their hands together with glee, with the increased political power they now have, the newly elected Premier had to begin retrofitting a transition to government strategy that did not exist. They had trouble convincing themselves that they were ready to govern let alone the people of Queensland. Already there is fear that a confused and incapable government will spread dysfunction and cripple the economy.

During the election campaign their aim was to make themselves the smallest possible target and hope no-one noticed. One significant policy they did announce—no asset sales—did not even last to the first sitting of this new parliament. The Deputy Premier was hardly in her office when she announced that no asset sales did not really mean no asset sales. It is a bit like core and non-core promises.

Another of the very few commitments Labor, under pressure from the unions, made was that it would establish a special fund to address the apparent longstanding historical issue of the need for compensation for wages stolen by Indigenous Queenslanders. Whereas opposing asset leasing was political opportunism, we heard tonight the Treasurer, whom I have a great deal of respect for, get up and espouse this policy which had been around for about 12 months. One of the unions was out there pushing this along and bang, presto, it is now policy.

It was the previous Labor government which the member for Inala was a part of which ended the stolen wages process. If Labor now believes that there are outstanding claims for stolen wages what an admission of its own failure to address the issue when in government. The now Treasurer was the minister in the previous Labor government before they shut down the process.

I say that in my three years as minister I found no evidence of it at all. It is just another example of Labor going back to the past because they have no plan for the future. Where will Labor get the promised \$21 million to establish this vague new fund? Will they take it from the perpetual trust which was established from the excess funds allocated to the stolen wages process which is now used to provide scholarships for Indigenous students from remote Queensland communities to complete years 11 and 12 at high school? This year more than 1,200 young Indigenous people are at school, getting a good education because of that process.

I note that they have also started to undo many of the improvements made by the Newman government to the way cultural diversity is supported and promoted in Queensland. A media release last week announced that the annual cultural diversity awards have been pared back, which does not bode well for the other initiatives introduced during the past three years for people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

It was strategic when I looked at the new award categories. The first categories that went were awards and categories that belonged to people in regional Queensland. That was the first lot that went. The wording of the awards presented to the new minister was almost exactly the same as what was put in front of me before the election and I told the department to go back and try again. I am here to tell the minister that they are having her on.

A media release last week announced that annual cultural diversity awards had been pared back. Now that the former Labor minister for this area is now the Premier, the member for Inala might just be able to get enough support for the multicultural recognition bill that the minister mentioned in her speech before. It is interesting to have a look at that.

If we go back prior to 2012 we know that the Labor government was around for something like 14 years. For 14 years they had an opportunity to introduce such a bill. They did that. They did that towards the end of that term. They were so excited about doing something about it. It took them 14 years. But guess what? The election is called and the bill falls off the shelf. What happened in the last parliament? In the last parliament it resurrected itself as a private member's bill. By the time—

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr ELMES: Well, guess what? We had already done anything worthwhile to do with that particular bill. We dealt with that in the appropriate way. Then when I was looking for just some skerrick of policy during the election campaign, guess what? There it is—it has popped up again. So that bill has come and gone over three parliaments and now we will have to deal with it in this particular one.

Ms Fentiman: I look forward to the debate.

Mr ELMES: I look forward to the debate too—I really, really do. It is also telling that one of their first official actions was to announce that the Labour Day public holiday would be moved back from October to early May. I was counting the days and there was not much announced. But they got to 45 days. The first big announcement was made after 45 days of being in government: 'We are going to move the holiday back to May.' That was government on the run. There was nothing about debt or education or health but the delivery of a core promise which shows just how in step they are with the union movement and how out of step they are with the rest of the Queensland community. That is what their union masters wanted and that is what they got.

While cabinet was considering the marginal issue of public holiday dates, it was ignoring the bigger issues of how to balance the budget when its thinking is constrained by 20th century economics. The people and businesses of Queensland deserve better than what they are getting from this state government. When the member for Inala gains the title of 'former Premier Palaszczuk', to be replaced by her ambitious deputy, the people and businesses of Queensland will be worse off.

What the people of Queensland should be most worried about is not the absence of policies from this new government but the fact that its ministers are puppets whose strings are being pulled by union thugs and spivs from across the river.

Mr Speaker, I understand that you have indicated your support of confidence in the Palaszczuk government. That is your decision. For Queensland's sake, I hope that your trust is well placed. It will be the people of Queensland and the good governance of our great state which will suffer if it is not. I oppose the motion.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (1.41 am): I rise this morning to speak against the confidence motion that has been moved by the Premier and to support the Leader of the Opposition and my LNP colleagues in our lack of confidence in this Palaszczuk Labor government. At the outset I acknowledge and thank the good people of my electorate of Broadwater. It is with their support that I am able to stand in this House, be their loyal servant and hold this government to account. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your ascension to the chair and I also extend my congratulations to the Premier and her cabinet on her commission and their appointments.

Courtesies aside, however, I cannot in good conscience support a government whose members are simply marionettes with their strings pulled by all-powerful union and factional leaders. I cannot support a government that comes into power with no clear mandate from the people of Queensland, with no imprimatur for their journey. This is a government that comes into this House with no clear plan other than denial of Labor debt and Labor inefficiency and a plan to increase the cost of living and power prices. I cannot support a government that is already betraying the people of Queensland.

As the youngest woman ever elected in Queensland, I feel a great responsibility to my generation and the next, as well as all Queenslanders, to plot a sustainable and prudent course for our future, to plan for Queensland's future infrastructure, economic growth and job creation. That is why we need a team with a plan for economic growth and prosperity, a plan for job-creating infrastructure and a plan for investment in our schools and hospitals, and a plan to keep criminal gangs off our streets so that Queensland is the safest place to live, work and raise a family.

The contrast between the LNP and the Labor Party is stark. On the one hand you have a competent LNP team and on the other an inexperienced Labor team with no plan. The distinction between an experienced team and a tyro cabinet is clear for all Queenslanders to see. That is why the LNP received more than one million votes—the only party in this election to have done so. The Premier comes into this House claiming a mandate. The reality is that she has no clear mandate. She has no clear majority. More than 60 per cent of Queenslanders voted against the member for Inala and her party. She seeks the confidence of this House today not because she has the confidence of Queenslanders but because she has negotiated a commitment from one individual.

We fully acknowledge that we made mistakes in our term in government and we must accept the consequences. There are lessons to be learned. However, make no mistake about it: our government was a good government. It was a government which undoubtedly improved the outlook for Queensland and Queenslanders. That is why the LNP led the primary vote in 51 of 89 seats and received the largest share of the primary vote.

My electorate of Broadwater was well served by the LNP government and I will fight doggedly to ensure that vital funding continues. There are many significant local achievements of which I am incredibly proud—indeed, there are far too many to mention. But there is one that I am incredibly proud of and it was incredibly significant—that is, the establishment of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority, and its establishment in 2012 was not lost on me. But the reality is that Labor has betrayed the Gold Coast and the jewel in our crown, the Broadwater, time and time again.

For the benefit of new members and my LNP colleagues who have not had the pleasure of having their ears chewed off during one of my many passionate declarations about the Broadwater, it is the sandy mouth of an estuarine river system. Sand comes north from the Clarence River system and, despite the revolutionary sand bypass system put in place by the Bjelke-Petersen government, it settles at high tide, necessitating constant and regular dredging. Since its first iteration a Broadwater or waterways authority has always been supported by the LNP and its predecessor parties and it has always been destroyed by the Left of Queensland politics. I have neither faith nor confidence that the Labor Party will continue to properly fund and support the Gold Coast Waterways Authority and its vital works, particularly its dredging program.

In the same vein, I also have incredibly significant concerns about Labor's plans for fisheries in this state. I thank the former minister, the honourable member for Toowoomba South, and the shadow minister, the honourable member for Nanango, for their commitment to understanding the concerns of both recreational and commercial fishers on the Gold Coast. Denis O'Connell, a former mayor of the Gold Coast and a life member of the QSIA, has told me of the concerns many of our hardworking commercial fishermen on the Gold Coast have. He talks of the hardworking families who are concerned that Labor want to stop them from being able to do their job and provide good, local seafood to Queenslanders and our visitors.

Mr Speaker, I am of the view that education is the greatest gift you can give a child. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition can be incredibly proud of the reforms that he instituted in Queensland schools. Many times I would be approached by my local principals and parents who would speak of just how appreciative they were for the significant reforms that we saw in education. The honourable member for Surfers Paradise can also be justifiably proud of the Education Accord and its success. Where Labor seeks to consult only with the Teachers' Union, the LNP sought to hear from principals, teachers, parents and many other stakeholders. That Labor does not believe education is important enough to warrant a stand-alone portfolio which is the sole focus of one minister speaks volumes of the stead in which they hold education.

It is concerning that the last time Labor had a minister solely responsible for education he could not fix broken windows or toilets that would not flush. Even more concerning is that this man is now responsible for our hospitals and ensuring that patients receive the treatment they need. It comes as no surprise then that he refuses to honour our guarantee of on-time surgery to patients, rather setting an arbitrary goal for himself that he will try really, really hard to achieve. Quite frankly, I think those of us on this side of the House will be impressed if he actually remembers to pay the nurses this time!

Mr Speaker, my home town of the Gold Coast sent a strong message on 31 January: it was one in support of our government's strong laws to take on criminal gangs. The Labor Party would have us go back to a world where innocent shoppers are caught in gang crossfire; to a world where families enjoying dinner in Broadbeach are caught in the middle of brawls; and to a world where our hardworking men and women in blue, who put their lives on the line to keep us safe, are forced to defend their own stations against incursions and to stop criminal gang members from storming police stations. The Gold Coast spoke, and they want a government that will keep them safe, that will keep their families safe. But it is not just about protecting Gold Coasters; it is about ensuring that local small businesses are protected from extortion rackets, that drugs are off our streets so that schoolies revelling in the promise of their future can enjoy their celebrations safely and so that tourists can continue to visit our city and support the vital tourism industry that, alongside small business, is at the heart of Queensland's second largest city's economy.

The Labor Party come into this House and they talk about jobs, but I hear nothing about the job-creating infrastructure projects that many communities across Queensland, particularly in regional Queensland need. Labor is failing Queensland.

Labor has no plan for future infrastructure; it just has a plan for a planning bureaucracy. The LNP is committed to job-creating infrastructure on the Gold Coast, such as funding toward the upgrade of exit 54 and the extension of the light rail to Helensvale. The reality is that Labor's commitment is to let the CFMEU develop its plan. Speaking of transport, the Premier's legacy is one of significant increases in public transport fares so I am curious to know what imposts the Deputy Premier will place on public transport users. Our government worked incredibly hard to halve the increases which rest at the feet of Labor, and I am proud to have been a member of a government that delivered Queensland's first ever reduction in public transport fares.

I am incredibly proud to call the Gold Coast home, and I look forward to our city hosting the 2018 Commonwealth Games. It is a fantastic opportunity for our city to show its wares to the world—from our beautiful hinterland to the golden sand on our amazing beaches. The honourable member for Currumbin worked hard to ensure that Gold Coast businesses and workers were able to take advantage of the many amazing opportunities, and I know the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, alongside our other Gold Coast colleagues, will be a loud and proud advocate for our city and to the contributions that our businesses and people can make as we race toward the opening ceremony. Unlike the minister, who herself is an inner-city Brisbaneite, our Gold Coast team knows what advocacy is needed to advance the cause of our great city. I just hope that by the time the opening ceremony rolls around the minister knows how to say 'Coombabah'.

I feel safe in the knowledge that Labor are economic illiterates but their mistruths and economic voodooism continue to astound me. They claim that the government has a plan to reduce government debt. Mr Speaker, with all due respect, I think that pigs will fly through this chamber doing the cancan and singing from a hymn book before Labor learns the basic tenets of sound economic theory. It is simple: you cannot spend more than you earn, monopolies do not mean lower power prices and eventually the credit card bill catches up with you.

The Treasurer thinks we need to be patient when it comes to paying down debt. I am not sure, but I am pretty sure that neither Standard & Poor's nor Moody's will take into account whether or not the member for Mulgrave has had a cup a tea, a Bex and a good lie down when considering their next rating. As disturbing as this image may be, the Treasurer and Labor will take a wrecking ball to the Queensland economy as Miley Cyrus took a wrecking ball to good music. While I may be a fan of Taylor Swift, I am just not sure I can take her advice to 'shake it off'.

The Premier and other ministers have spoken of the Palaszczuk government's plans to retrospectively change electoral donation laws in this state. In 2007 the now Premier herself said—

It is a fundamental legal principle that legislation should not adversely affect citizens' rights and liberties or, conversely, impose obligations in a retrospective manner.

In 2012 she said that the retrospective removal of existing rights, such as the right and freedom to political expression, was a breach of fundamental legislative principles. As we often used to say in this House, Mr Speaker, how do you spell hypocrisy? A-L-P.

This government have claimed that they will embark on an extensive legislative program—so extensive that until they were recently shamed into adding another sitting day for tomorrow they had announced more inquiries than sitting days for the calendar year. As my good friend the honourable member for Mansfield highlighted earlier, this is a sign that Labor do not have a clue and they are not ready for government.

Finally, I cannot let an earlier comment go unanswered. I am proud to be a woman in a party that believes in a meritocracy and I welcome the member for Nanango's appointment to the agriculture, fisheries and forestry portfolio—the first woman to serve in this policy area in opposition or government. But I am disappointed by the attitude of the Minister for Women. The member for Waterford claims to be pro quota, yet she, alongside the Deputy Premier, is actively working to see a man preselected over a sitting female senator. More disappointing, however, is that she thinks it is okay to use an International Women's Day function to attack other women. I genuinely ask the Minister for Women this question: what message do you think this sends to young women, when senior people in this state use an occasion that seeks to celebrate female achievement and participation in politics to attack other women? The hypocrisy which mars her foray into gender politics does all women a great disservice and she should be ashamed.

The Labor Party talk about messages on election day. Well, the message for them is very clear: more people voted for the LNP than voted for the Labor Party. I do not have confidence in the Palaszczuk government because they do not have confidence in Queensland. I cannot and will not be a rubber stamp for a union controlled Labor government in this state. Failing to plan is planning to fail. Labor failed Queensland during the Beattie and Bligh years and they will fail Queensland again. I am proud to stand with my colleagues on this side of the chamber to oppose the confidence motion, and if those opposite are actually interested in good government in Queensland they would do the same.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (1.54 am): I rise to speak against the motion of confidence in the Labor government moved by the Premier. Firstly, Mr Speaker, let me congratulate you on your role and I look forward to fairness and impartiality in this House during the course of this term. On 31 January 2015, the residents of my electorate spoke loudly and clearly about which party they wanted to form government in this state. Whether it was in the suburbs of Robina and Reedy Creek, the hinterland areas of Mudgeeraba and Tallai, the rolling hills of Lower Beechmont and the Numinbah Valley or all the communities in between, the message they sent on election day was clear—they wanted the LNP to lead this state for another three years.

I do, however, acknowledge the concerns raised with me after doorknocking 7,500 homes myself, and I can honestly say that I never stopped listening to my residents and they rewarded me with re-election for the third time. They wanted a local member who was strong and who would continue to take our community forward and represent their local interests. They wanted to keep a government that made progress in areas like health, education, law and order and the cost of living. They wanted a mature, considered government with clear policies to take this state forward. What

they got instead was a Labor government with no clear mandate. They now have a parliament where no party has a majority and the new Labor government's power to pass legislation and govern for Queenslanders is drawn from the crossbenches.

When they went to the polls, Mudgeeraba locals had just experienced three years of competent, stable government. Their businesses had grown as confidence had been restored and more staff were employed, boosting the local economy. Their streets were safer than ever as crime and antisocial behaviour had been tackled head-on in our local community. Their children's schools were better funded and their maintenance backlogs had finally been addressed. Their hospitals were greatly improved and urgent patients were finally seen on time. As a result, the Labor Party, which has now formed government in Queensland, received only 27.7 per cent of the primary vote in my electorate. On primary votes, 70 per cent of my constituents made it known that the Labor Party was not their first choice to form government in this state.

My residents have once again put their trust in me and I would be remiss if I did not stand up for them in this House and speak against this motion of confidence. Residents of my electorate are rightfully concerned about what lies ahead for their families, their businesses, the cost of living, their children's schools, their hospitals and the overall governance of their state. My residents are concerned about Queensland's debt. While Mudgeeraba locals had seen an LNP government working calmly and methodically to reduce debt and our interest bill, they now have a Labor government who have refused to rule out increasing the debt to fund their spending programs. Their concerns are well founded, as while the LNP side of parliament delivered zero net debt for Queensland under the Borbidge government, the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments put us back on track to \$80 billion in debt.

It was the former LNP government that put us back on track to reducing debt after the Labor Party's spending spree lost our state its AAA credit rating, adding \$200 million to Queensland's yearly interest bill. My constituents know that only the LNP has put forward a credible plan to reduce debt and recover the AAA credit rating without asset sales. I know that after our efforts to pay down debt and reduce the cost of living and the cost of doing business, small businesses in my electorate were finally getting the confidence they needed to expand and to employ more staff. In my electorate of Mudgeeraba, the unemployment rate fell from 4.5 per cent to 4.1 per cent. That confidence is now in jeopardy, as these businesses have now been left in the dark as they wonder whether this government will take us back to the bad old days of debt and deficit.

My residents are concerned for their cost of living and their ability to provide for their families. Mudgeeraba locals had just seen a government work determinedly for three years to reduce their cost of living and improve their economy. They know that, while the Labor Party will increase the government burden on taxpayers, it is an LNP government which worked to reduce their cost of living and debt. We saved Mudgeeraba households an average of \$120 each by freezing the domestic electricity tariff in 2012-13, while ensuring everyone pays the same price for electricity through subsidies worth more than \$622 million this financial year. We saved them \$80 by delivering a one-off water rebate in 2012-13. We saved car owners \$85 over three years when we froze car registration costs. We saved commuters up to \$529 per year through public transport reforms, while producing savings for regional users of public transport as well.

We saved homebuyers up to \$7,175 each when the LNP government reinstated the principal-place-of-residence concessional rate of stamp duty. We assisted the sick when the LNP doubled the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme for accommodation and travel. The removal of the carbon tax by our federal LNP colleagues saved the average Mudgeeraba household around \$170. With the Labor Party's record for increasing the cost of living through policy failures like the \$9 billion water grid fiasco or the Tugun desalination plant, which continues to rust away, my residents are concerned about whether their cost of living will increase under this government. Mudgeeraba residents are concerned they will not have access to the improved health care that they had under the LNP. For three years under an LNP government my residents saw improvements in their health care after we worked to reduce waiting lists, provide better care and ensure urgent patients were seen on time.

On polling day people in Mudgeeraba voted for an LNP government, which was moving to introduce Australia's first on time surgery guarantee. It meant that if someone's local hospital could not provide treatment within the medically recommended time, they would be offered the next available appointment in a public or private hospital somewhere in the state at no cost. Instead, they now have a Labor government which has already scrapped the LNP's wait time guarantee and set interim surgery targets which have already been reached or exceeded under the former government. This means residents of my electorate will miss out on getting their elective surgery on time. The

Labor government has put the wishes of union bosses before the interests of Mudgeeraba locals and scrapped this great program solely because it was an LNP initiative. Despite doctors and patients supporting the wait time guarantee, once again politics has come first for the Labor Party.

My residents are concerned for the future of their children's schools. For three years under the LNP, residents of my electorate saw their schools improving with bigger budgets, more resources, better programs and more localised control for principals and P&C associations. In my electorate \$8.5 million in funding and better facilities was delivered to our schools as well as an additional \$2.8 million to get them prepared for the transition of year 7 into high school. Merrimac State High School was given independent public school status of which they are very proud while we delivered an additional 64 prep teacher aide hours for our local schools. Principals were breathing a collective sigh of relief as they were able to introduce local solutions to local problems rather than having these initiatives run by bureaucrats in Brisbane. Residents voted decisively for a continuation of the LNP's education policies but now concerns have been raised that the Labor Party has no plan to build the 443 extra classrooms that Queensland needs every year for the next 10 years to cater for expected growth. During the election the Labor Party did not make any commitment to deliver the extra schools our state needs and residents of my electorate are now asking whether this government is fit to manage our education system into the future.

My residents are concerned our local area may not receive the better roads it needs for the growing population. Under the LNP, my electorate saw substantial progress in delivering significant infrastructure projects for our local roads. My electorate supported even more infrastructure spending to reduce traffic for local motorists. We launched massive upgrades of significant state roads and the M1 has now been widened all the way from exit 73 to exit 82 and roads like Worongary Road have had their unsafe sections rebuilt or resealed. They are rightfully concerned that this government has now cast doubt over whether essential infrastructure projects which would improve our local area and create jobs will be delivered. With the Labor government pledging to review infrastructure spending, residents of my electorate now have to wait a year while the new government figures out what its plan is. They are concerned that much needed, common-sense upgrades which would have been delivered under an LNP government, like the upgrade of the Gooding Drive roundabout, may no longer be delivered and will instead be tied up in bureaucratic review processes.

Residents of Mudgeeraba voted for an LNP government that would continue to deliver safer local streets and ensure that our police are well equipped to protect them and their families, and they are now concerned progress will be undone. In my electorate, under the LNP, we delivered more police and a new police helicopter for our local area and saw a crackdown on graffiti, hooning, antisocial behaviour and criminal motorcycle gangs. In response to shocking incidents not far from the homes of my constituents involving criminal motorcycle gang members, we passed legislation to tackle outlaw motorcycle gangs and the criminal enterprises that they ran, making our streets safer for local families and making them more secure.

I had a bikie clubhouse in my electorate; I had the Nomad outlaw motorcycle gang clubhouse. They used to hang out on the verandah at Wallaby Bob's at Mudgeeraba on a Saturday and Sunday. Local families were too frightened to go there anymore. They are not there anymore. Members in this House would remember—and even those who have returned in this term of parliament—that two criminal motorcycle gang members had a shootout at Robina shopping centre. That woman was also from my electorate. During the election campaign while I was sitting in my backyard having a cup of tea early in the morning, the police helicopter was hovering around my home. Then I found out that Task Force Maxima had actually raided a house six doors down from mine. It was a Hells Angels criminal motorcycle gang member. Task Force Maxima raided the house and took out a million dollars of drugs, guns and flak jackets—six doors down from me. I am very, very pleased that we brought in these laws on the Gold Coast. I appreciate that not everyone in Queensland had the same issue that we did. Certainly people in my electorate feel a lot safer than they did previously. Even today in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* there was an article about a Reedy Creek home invasion by a member of the Black Uhlans—Reedy Creek is where I live—and he was convicted of that home invasion today.

Those clubhouses in my electorate were shut down and offenders were finally being given the sentences they deserve, much to the relief of local residents. Organised crime, which for too long had been running rife on Gold Coast streets, was finally being addressed and local residents certainly could sleep easier at night. Unfortunately, we have already seen comments from the Labor government about these laws and consideration of lighter sentences to save space in jails. Bikies are also now making a reappearance on the Gold Coast, with a massive poker run earlier this month in an obvious show of defiance to demonstrate they do not take this new government seriously. The

Labor Party has always been unclear about whether it agrees with criminal motorcycle gangs and the problems that they pose for our community. First it supported our tough laws, then it promised to repeal them, then it promised on the eve of the election to instead launch a review.

I hope that this government takes into consideration the views of the many people who live on the Gold Coast who have had to deal with this scourge for many, many years. We have finally cleaned up our streets. As I said, Labor has always seemed to have a softer approach to crime and community safety, and this government still has not decided whether it thinks bikies are a problem or not. When they cast their vote, my constituents did not agree that Labor members are fit to administer our state's justice system and still do not know whether the progress we have made to address local crime will be undone. Most significantly, my constituents are concerned this government, with its limited policy platform and lack of a clear mandate, will not govern in their interests or be as open and accountable as was mooted during the election campaign. The LNP government was open and upfront about its plan to take Queensland forward. My constituents are still concerned that they do not have confidence in the Labor government. Unlike those opposite, residents of my electorate understand that the state's finances must be repaired and our debt must be paid down. While the LNP has obviously since rethought its policy platform following the formation of the Labor government, it was clear that the voters of my electorate did not register widespread dissatisfaction with our proposals and were encouraged by our honest and frank approach. In contrast, the Labor government's campaign manifesto of policies was grossly inadequate, and voters of my electorate continue to have no clear indication of what Labor will do in power. The Labor Party has wasted no time in backflipping and mixing words on its one clear election promise: not to sell assets.

Throughout the election campaign, I lost count of the number of times the Labor Party promised Queenslanders and residents of my electorate that it would not sell assets and misleadingly told them that the LNP's plan for leasing some assets amounted to asset sales. Since coming to power, the Labor Party has changed its mind on a key election promise and said it is now only selling 'non-strategic' assets, a catch-all term no doubt designed to let it sell whatever they want, whenever they want, without a mandate, under the dubious 'non-strategic' banner. Residents are rightfully concerned about the implications this will have on the confidence in Queensland and what the Labor Party plans to sell. Not only that, but my constituents are concerned about the culture the Labor Party will bring to the government of Queensland, and whether we will go back to the bad old days of union officials and backroom figures wielding undue influence on policy.

The modern Labor Party is one in which the power of union bosses is supreme, and rank-and-file members are given a more limited voice. Residents of my electorate want open and accountable government, but simply do not have the confidence in the Labor Party to provide that. Since they cast their votes, my constituents have seen the Labor Party go back on their promise not to enter into agreements with minor parties and Independents to form government.

The memory of my constituents, with broken promise after broken promise, is instinctively cast back to Labor's last term in government. They remember the \$1.25 billion Health payroll debacle, which saw their local nurses paid wrongly or not at all. They remember the last time that union bosses ruled and the implications to the economy and employment conditions—not to mention the culture of governance in our state. Most importantly, they remember the assets sales initiated by the Bligh government when the new Premier was a cabinet minister and the way they were ignored by a government which sold assets without a mandate. The new Premier played a key role in the sale of Queensland transport assets, and residents are rightly concerned about which non-strategic assets will be sold.

The concerns of local residents in my electorate are shared by Queenslanders throughout the state, with the LNP having received 41.3 per cent of the primary vote to the Labor Party's 37.5. Despite the Labor Party having been able to form minority government with the support of an Independent member, it remains indisputable that more Queenslanders voted for the Liberal National Party than the Labor Party at the most recent election. The Labor government is in government not because this was the will of Queenslanders, but because it was the will of the crossbench. There can be no doubt that this government flopped over the line without the clear support of Queenslanders and after dishonest scare campaigns during the state election aided by union figures.

It is clear that the role of the LNP opposition in holding this Labor Party government to account will be crucial to the governance of Queensland over the next three years. We will seek to ensure that the over one million Queenslanders who voted for the LNP are represented in this parliament, and it will be my role to ensure that my electorate, which voted decisively for the LNP party, is represented and that the concerns of residents are addressed no matter who is in government. It will be my role to

ensure that their local issues are not ignored or dismissed, as this Labor government scrambled together a plan for Queenslanders without the clear support of the majority of Queenslanders. It will be my role to ensure that, with all of their concerns about this government and its lack of a plan or clear mandate, my constituents will still have a local member fighting for them. Mudgeeraba's residents have made it clear that they do not have confidence in the Labor Party to form government, and that is why I oppose this motion of confidence on their behalf.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (2.11 am): Mr Speaker, I have waited a long time to address this House again. It is good to be back. I rise to speak in support of the motion.

Mr Elmes: About three years, I would say.

Mr RYAN: About that time. Mr Speaker, may I start by congratulating you on your election to the high office of Speaker of this 55th Queensland Parliament. I know you will distinguish yourself in that role, and after speaking with your family at the garden party on Wednesday I know how proud they are of this achievement. Congratulations. May I also sincerely thank the people of the Morayfield state electorate for allowing me the great honour of representing them in this House. I will say more about my most sincere gratitude to the people of the Morayfield state electorate at a future time. It was once said—

Those of you that sit high should never forget who put you there. It doesn't matter who is up if no-one is looking up to you. You can't be a leader if nobody is following you and whoever the people raise up, the people can tear down.

The previous Newman LNP government did not just take the people of Queensland for granted: they misled Queenslanders. They broke their 2012 election contract with Queensland. Rather than fighting for Queenslanders, they fought against them and at every opportunity picked fights with everybody they came across. In every respect the LNP let Queenslanders down. The previous LNP government forgot the people who put them on the treasury benches, and quite rightly the people tore them down.

The 2015 Queensland state election was a referendum on what Queenslanders wanted their state to look like. It was a referendum on whether Queenslanders wanted their government to fight for them rather than to pick fights with them. The people of Queensland could choose the LNP's approach to governing—austerity, limiting government participation in the economy, hubris, arrogance, broken promises, lack of accountability and transparency, undermining the integrity of our judicial and parliamentary institutions and conflict—or they could choose the better way proposed by Anastacia Palaszczuk and Labor.

This better way of governing would end the fights; restore accountability, transparency and integrity to our democracy; embrace partnerships between government, business and community; create jobs and job opportunities, especially for young Queenslanders; invest in front-line services; and deliver good, fair, stable and compassionate government for Queenslanders. In the Morayfield state electorate and throughout our state, Queenslanders chose that better way. Queenslanders chose Labor. In the Morayfield state electorate, voters chose Labor's better way because the LNP's approach to governing was taking our community backwards.

The Caboolture region bore the brunt of the LNP's austerity agenda. Many local people were directly affected by the massive Public Service job cuts. During the election campaign I met with many local people who were affected by that program of job cuts and job destruction. I met with nurses who had lost their jobs at the Caboolture Hospital; I met with public servants who were forced to leave their jobs for no reason; I met with young people who could not find work and their parents who were at pains to help their kids find work; and I met with local businesspeople who were facing financial ruin because the policies of the former LNP government had destroyed confidence in our local economy. It should come as no surprise to the House that the unemployment rate in the Caboolture region was one of the highest unemployment rates in Queensland and the youth unemployment rate was one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Australia. At one point, the youth unemployment rate in the Caboolture region hit a record high of almost 20 per cent. The LNP directly contributed to this situation through its policies, and decisive action is now needed to correct it.

That is why I am pleased to hear that a Palaszczuk Labor government will reinstate the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and introduce a ready for work scheme for young people. Labor will also provide new and additional opportunities for our young people to undertake a traineeship or apprenticeship by reintroducing the 125 per cent payroll tax rebate for employers engaging trainees or apprentices and requiring government owned corporations to ensure that 10 per cent of all workers on major projects are apprentices and trainees.

Labor has been, and always will be, the party of jobs. Only Labor is truly committed to job creation. Whilst the task ahead may be tough, Labor's plan to work with business and our community will create jobs and provide greater employment opportunities for the people of the Caboolture region and the people of Queensland. The people of Queensland and the people of the Morayfield state electorate need a Labor government. The Newman LNP government did not miss the Morayfield state electorate when it swung its axe at public infrastructure projects and services. But the former government did not just make local infrastructure projects disappear: under their stewardship of the treasury benches they also made local bus services disappear; tenancy advice services vanished; job services like Skilling Solutions Queensland were wiped; and even funding for adult literacy centres was withdrawn. There were many other services which experienced a similar fate in the Caboolture region. These services made a big difference to people's lives. These services helped people. These services were the difference between someone being homeless and someone having a roof over their heads, or the difference between someone being able to read and get a job or having to forever struggle. Those cuts were nasty and brutish. Thank goodness that, in respect of some of those services, those cuts will now only be short.

As further proof of Labor's commitment to jobs and providing the services that our community so desperately needs, Labor will employ more nurses at our local hospital to keep patients safe and more teachers to reduce class sizes. On top of this, Labor will also restore workers' rights, ensure workplace safety is a priority once again and again allow workers to seek common law compensation for injuries suffered at work through no fault of their own.

Labor in government will also take decisive action on saving the Great Barrier Reef and protecting our wonderful Queensland environment. Where the LNP presided over the largest increase in land clearing in almost a decade and got into a fight with an ice-cream company over their impetus in protecting the Great Barrier Reef, Labor has a clear plan to protect Queensland's natural environment for today and for tomorrow.

Labor will also restore transparency, accountability and integrity to government, will listen to Queenslanders and key stakeholders and will adopt a consultative and consensus approach to policy development. In an interview with the ABC's Leigh Sales on 28 January, heroic corruption fighter Tony Fitzgerald said in response to a question about the Newman LNP government's performance—

As Goss had set a new high standard, they probably set a new low standard.

Where the LNP fell well short of the high standards of transparency, accountability and integrity demanded and expected in parliamentary democracies, Labor's commitment to restoring respect for the Queensland parliament, shining a light on political donations, reinstating the independence of Queensland's anti-corruption watchdog and robust parliamentary oversight of it, and ensuring that the government always makes decisions in the public interest are more reasons this House must support the motion that we have confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government. I say that because only a Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to those high standards of transparency, accountability and integrity essential to a healthy democracy and economy.

On every count the LNP failed to live up to its promises. The LNP broke its contract with Queenslanders. If you cannot keep your promises, how can this House ever have confidence in your ability to govern? How can anyone ever have confidence in your ability to govern, full stop?

The decision for members of this House in this debate is between a Palaszczuk Labor government with an economic plan to pay down general government debt without asset sales and an LNP opposition that was forced into junking its short-sighted program of unwanted and unnecessary fire sale of some of Queensland's most profitable public assets—a program that was absolutely rejected by the people of Queensland.

The opposition's plan for Queensland is like Mother Hubbard's cupboard: it is bare. It is devoid of any substance. Just as the shop owner is constantly reminded that the customer is always right, similarly participants in the political process should accept the decisions made at the ballot box by the electorate. In other words, the voters are always right. I hope that members of this House respect that.

At the 2015 Queensland state election many Queenslanders voted for a better way with Labor. Many Queenslanders voted for a Labor government. All members must remind themselves that Queenslanders elected a parliament in which the Australian Labor Party holds the greatest number of seats and a parliament in which the Australian Labor Party has commitments of support from the majority of members of this House on motions of confidence.

The message of the 2015 Queensland state election is clear: voters want a government that will end the fights; restore accountability, transparency and integrity to our democracy; embrace partnerships between government, business and community; create jobs and job opportunities; invest in front-line services; and deliver good, fair, stable and compassionate government for all Queenslanders.

The voters wanted a change at the 2015 Queensland state election, and a change is what they voted for. It is for all of these reasons that the only choice members of this House have is to vote in favour of the motion before the House, to vote in favour of the motion that we have confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government. I commend the motion to the House and encourage all members to support the motion.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (2.24 am): Mr Speaker, I congratulate you on your election as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. It is an honour to hold the office. As one who has previously served this parliament on the Panel of Temporary Speakers, I understand the importance of the role the Speaker plays in this chamber of debate and examination.

The election of 31 January 2015 produced a hung parliament. No party has a majority. But the LNP team has no confidence in the Labor government, and I have no confidence in the Labor government and will be voting against this motion.

I thank the over one million Queenslanders who voted for the LNP for their support—over 100,000 more than voted for Labor. I especially thank the people of the Beaudesert electorate for electing me as their representative for a second time. I was re-elected to support an LNP government that improved services locally and across Queensland, such as restored services at the Beaudesert Hospital and the expanded government services in Boonah, Beaudesert, Jimboomba and Tamborine Mountain; invested in infrastructure such as the Beaudesert town bypass; kept government finances under control; kept taxes and the cost of living down; and enabled businesses to have the confidence to invest, employ and grow jobs for the future.

I have no confidence in government by a party that has a firm track record of neglecting the communities of the Beaudesert electorate. For years Beaudesert fought to have its hospital properly resourced and funded by recurrent funding to provide maternity and other services. The LNP delivered for Beaudesert, particularly the Leader of the Opposition.

Services and investment in the Fassifern area were cut by Labor in the Goss years, the Beattie years and the Bligh years, and the LNP invested in better services and community facilities, in our local hospitals and schools to improve the services on offer, such as the Queensland government customer service centre in Boonah.

The LNP delivered precious additional police resources across Queensland and across the growing Beaudesert electorate after years of neglect by a Labor Party that simply did not allocate sufficient resources for our community. Keeping our community safe is a primary role of government, and Labor's track record in government and recent equivocation in relation to criminal motorcycle gang laws represent a serious dereliction of that duty. These laws are working to keep our communities safe, are being replicated across the nation and should not be repealed. They should be retained. I cannot support a government that seeks to wind back measures like this. You only have to look at election results across the region most impacted by bikies, my neighbours on the Gold Coast, to see that those communities most impacted by criminal motorcycle gangs support the LNP's stance. Gold Coasters have seen how these laws work and how they have cleaned up the coast, and the LNP retained every seat on the coast.

I represent a region that sees thousands of recreational motorcyclists pass through it on a weekly basis. The LNP's laws have not resulted in harassed motorcyclists being constantly pulled over by police. Businesses have not seen trade drop in Canungra or Boonah or any of the other places in the Scenic Rim along the trails. On the contrary, the numbers grow because recreational motorcyclists can now ride without fear of intimidation or harassment by criminals—a terrific outcome for them and for the whole of Queensland.

Only 37 per cent of Queenslanders voted for Labor. In my electorate, only 29 per cent voted for Labor. This government has no clear mandate, but I recognise the fact that it holds more seats than the LNP and is forming government because of the Premier's first broken promise, where she entered into a deal with the member for Nicklin after emphatically promising no deals with minor parties or Independents.

History tells us that Labor will spend more than it earns and put the balance on the credit card. It did it last time. It spent the last three years in denial about the impact that debt and the resultant interest costs have on the cost of living for Queenslanders, not to mention the ability of the state to invest in new infrastructure, and now it is shaping up to pick up where it left off. The LNP has brought spending under control through disciplined, prudent management of public finances. Disciplined spending and prudence are two things you can never associate with the Labor Party or any Labor government. The last time Labor ran a surplus at the Commonwealth level was in 1989, I believe. Even in 2008, after the coalition left a surplus of \$20 billion, Kevin Rudd and Labor did not run a surplus. Debt and deficit are in Labor's DNA. It lost our AAA credit rating, costing Queenslanders millions of dollars more each year as a result. It has a 'debt reduction plan' that involves spending the proceeds of government owned corporations on debt repayment as well as on government services.

We have heard the Treasurer state many times that state debt is only around \$46 billion because the debt of GOCs should not count. That is simply not true. The ratings agencies count the debt of GOCs and, until Labor's \$80 billion debt is reduced, they will not give us back our AAA credit rating. I ask the Treasurer: if debt of GOCs should not count, why should the revenue from those same GOCs be counted as revenue to reduce debt or fund services? Once again Labor wants to have it both ways: to have its cake and eat it too—just the way it has always been—and the people of Queensland will pick up the bill. People in my electorate want business to grow and for government to keep a lid on spending and taxes so both consumers and businesses have the confidence to invest and spend. We need to invest in skilling Queenslanders—skilling our workforce—particularly for younger Queenslanders. But, more importantly, we need to have businesses that will employ people with skills and businesses that have the confidence to not just take on trainees or apprentices with a government incentive but confidence to keep them on in the long term.

The LNP has runs on the board for delivering cost savings to Queensland's households and businesses, not increasing the cost burden like Labor did in its last term of government. Tonight other members have spoken about the cost savings for households and for businesses that the LNP implemented in its last term of government such as the stamp duty concession introduced by our government where home owners will save up to \$7,000 for their principal place of residence concession. Our federal colleagues removed the carbon tax on Queensland electricity tariffs, saving average households about \$170 per year. I know many small businesses in my electorate, primary producers and otherwise, that are saving a lot more due to the actions of our federal government in removing the carbon tax. The LNP helped families with the cost of supporting the sick when it doubled the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme for accommodation and travel, and we were working on reducing the cost of water for South-East Queensland residents through implementing the \$80 one-off rebate and by also implementing cost savings across the state owned water bodies which are expected to see reductions in water prices across South-East Queensland in the next financial year beginning on 1 July this year.

But who can forget the mess that Labor presided over in the electricity sector—from Beattie's privatisation of the retail arm of electricity to the massive gold-plating projects undertaken by Energex, Ergon and Powerlink over the past five years, all signed off and approved by the Labor Treasurer of the previous Labor government, Andrew Fraser, who I believe asked for Ergon, Energex and Powerlink to be able to charge more for electricity so they could pay more back to the government? The damage inflicted on our state's economy by the economic incompetence of Labor is still felt, none more so than by the primary producers of our state including many in my electorate who struggle under increasing irrigation electricity costs. The LNP retained specific irrigation tariffs, but the damage caused by Labor through its complete mismanagement of electricity is impossible to overstate. Remember, the Premier sat in the Labor caucus when all of this occurred. The Minister for Education sat in the Labor caucus when all of this occurred, and there could be a few others who sat in there too. They bear responsibility for it all and a responsibility to fix it now. As I said, our LNP colleagues in the federal government have removed the carbon tax, bringing some relief, but more needs to be done.

I do not have confidence that the Labor government has a plan to reduce debt, to grow business confidence or to deal with electricity and other cost-of-living issues. Two key initiatives that were presented by Labor during the campaign to enable it to claim it would reduce debt by \$5.4 billion over six years and \$12 billion over 10 years are unravelling. In recent days we have seen the ACCC attacking the Labor Party's plan to merge our power producers. It claimed it would save \$150 million by merging those producers, but the ACCC has said that it would actually put up the price of power because of reduced competition. Therefore, we have seen that idea being recoiled from pretty quickly.

The other initiative relates to payroll tax and cancelling plans to lift the threshold for payroll tax where it is implemented. Payroll tax is a tax on jobs and I know that there are a number of small businesses—I will call them large small businesses—in my electorate who pay payroll tax and they know that it is a tax on jobs. Businesses across the state need to have tax relief from payroll tax, not just where they are taking on trainees but in general because they pay enough tax. This policy of the Labor Party has come under direct criticism from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and others. They estimate that 20,000 businesses will be impacted and 4,000 jobs lost as a result. The way to create jobs is to enable businesses to grow jobs—sustainable jobs—through economic activity, not through direct government intervention and subsidies into those sectors. We need to reduce the tax burden on businesses and reducing payroll tax, as the LNP had proposed to do by lifting the thresholds over a number of years, is a great step forward. We do have the highest payroll tax threshold in Australia, but that does not mean that we should not aim to make it even better for businesses in this state.

Today the ALP is a party that is completely dominated by the trade union movement. In 2008 the LNP was created by members. When all of us here seek preselection, we are selected by members of our branches who sign up to our party, support our party and hand out cards on election day. They volunteer their time and their effort and, in some cases, their blood and their sweat in order to further what they believe in. There have been proposals for reform in the Labor Party so that grassroots members are given more of a say in preselections and in other matters. In fact, there have been proposals where perhaps 50 per cent of the say could be given to grassroots branch members about preselections which were rejected by the Labor Party and today rank-and-file members get just one vote in three in the Labor Party. Union bosses count for two votes in every three at a time when trade union membership in Queensland and across Australia is dwindling and—

Mr Costigan: Heading south!

Mr KRAUSE: It is heading south; that is right, member for Whitsunday. At a time when trade union membership is dwindling and represents the lowest proportion of workers at just about any time in history, two in three votes in the Labor Party are represented by the union movement.

Government members interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: There has been a complete failure by the Leader of the Labor Party to reform that party, and I note that I have generated some interest from the benches opposite. It is fantastic to see that they are all still awake. Today we have the spectre of the factions dealing with not only who is preselected in the Labor Party but also who becomes ministers in the Queensland government. That is not the type of Queensland that we should be living in and certainly not the type of government that Queensland should have at this point in time.

My electorate does not want this Labor government. Labor has no plan for businesses to grow jobs, to keep the state's finances in balance or to improve the bottom line for Queenslanders by keeping taxes lower and reducing government spending and waste. That is just not in Labor's DNA. I will be voting against this motion to express the lack of confidence in Labor of the Beaudesert electorate.

In summing up I must point out that there have been a number of debacles of the Labor government in terms of health and other issues over the years. The issue that crystallises in my mind the neglect of the Labor Party of my electorate is a comment that was attributed to my Labor opponent during the campaign. She was asked a very simple question as to whether the Labor Party would commit to retaining restored services at the Beaudesert Hospital if it came to office. Her response more or less was, 'Well, who knows what tomorrow will bring.' I think that that is very reflective of the attitude that the government of today has towards the whole of the Beaudesert electorate and also the state—that is, who knows what tomorrow will bring. It has no clear plan and I have no confidence in this government.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (2.39 am): Mr Speaker, firstly, I would like to congratulate you on attaining the position of Speaker of the Queensland parliament. I rise to express my lack of support for this motion of confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government. This is a government that has no idea and no plans for the future of this great state. Simply put, Queenslanders are being kept in the dark and that is not good enough.

Thanks to this Labor government, the Sunshine Coast is a region that is now in limbo. Its future is unclear and that is extremely disappointing for the people of the Sunshine Coast. How can we have confidence in a government when, to date, its only action for the Sunshine Coast is to remove a critical piece of road structure for the region? I ask the Premier to make her position clear for the

people of the Sunshine Coast. What is the Labor government's plan for the Sunshine Coast as it moves forward? What is the Labor government's plan for the Mooloolah River interchange? This is a critical piece of infrastructure that will link the people of the Sunshine Coast to the new private hospital at Kawana. This is an upgrade to the Sunshine Coast Motorway that is needed desperately. When this road is built, it will save lives. When the Sunshine Coast University Public Hospital opens in 2016, it will offer a range of new and expanded free public health services. It will also be supported by specialist staff who will care for patients with life-threatening conditions. If patients are delayed when travelling to this hospital owing to the inadequate road network, precious lives could be lost. I have written to the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade requesting an update on the Mooloolah River interchange. Currently, I am awaiting a reply.

On 13 March the front page of the *Sunshine Coast Daily* stated, 'Labor axes \$440 million road plans'. This headline was followed on 18 March by an article with the headline, 'Interchange axing upsets Coast leaders'. The article states—

Mayor Mark Jamieson and the Sunshine Coast's peak business organisation have criticised the new State Government's decision to axe the \$440 million Mooloolah River Interchange.

Sunshine Coast Business Council chairwoman Sandy Zubrinich said she was concerned 'minimal, if any, attempts had been made to strike up a dialogue with the Mayor ... and local community'.

...

Councillor Jamieson said the interchange upgrade was identified as one of the council's top 10 priorities to candidates prior to the state election.

...

'In failing to invest in our region, we need to consider what kind of message the government is sending to the private sector and what this means for the future of the Coast,' she said.

'Losing such a critical piece of infrastructure has the potential to negatively influence our investment prospects and, by extension, the growth of the Sunshine Coast economy.'

Those are direct quotes from the Sunshine Coast Business Council. We cannot ignore the fact that the upgrades are also needed desperately to alleviate traffic issues on the Sunshine Coast Motorway, particularly at the Mountain Creek interchange. The weaving on and off this motorway at this junction is incredibly dangerous and has gone on for far too long. The MRI upgrade would have put a stop to the daily near misses and actual accidents. Can the Labor government outline how it can justify taking away this critical project with no alternative, no replacement and no ideas of its own?

The people of the Sunshine Coast have also been left wondering about the much needed upgrade to the Sunshine Coast rail line. Prior to the election the LNP committed to duplicate the rail line from Beerwah to Landsborough. It also listened to the people of the Sunshine Coast. Now, this project to ease rail congestion, add more services and to get more people home faster has been relegated to no man's land. What is the government's plan for this project?

Let us face it: Labor's track record for leading this great state certainly is not promising. The last time a Labor government led Queensland it lost Queensland's AAA credit rating. Queensland was the only state to lose its AAA credit rating. In the process, the former Labor government raked up \$80 billion in debt. If that does not demonstrate how Labor is incompetent at handling the state's finances, I do know what will.

But wait, there is still more. What about the health planning fiasco identified by the independent report that found that a 2006 Labor election commitment to build three new hospitals at a cost of \$2.87 billion blew out by 77 per cent and ended up costing \$5.08 billion? No-one could forget the infamous payroll scandal and blunder that cost Queenslanders \$1.25 billion. That is \$1.25 billion that could have gone towards critical medical equipment, research, saving lives. It was Labor that allowed the fake Tahitian prince to squander Queensland Health dollars. The LNP government was able to recoup lost funds through the sale of the assets acquired fraudulently by the fake Tahitian prince and ensure that the proceeds were returned directly to the Health budget where they could be well used. It was a Labor government that wasted and mismanaged Queensland dollars that meant that critical health services just did not happen.

The Traveston Dam-Mary Valley fiasco is another of Labor's monumental failures. The former Labor government wasted hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayers' funds to clear the way for a dam that would never be built, which left a terrible legacy of disrupted families, businesses and

communities. There is the mothballed Tugun desalination plant, at a cost of \$1.2 billion. What about the \$350 million that was spent on the Wyaralong Dam, which Labor decided not to connect to the South East Queensland Water Grid—another bungle by the Labor government.

We cannot forget Labor's failures in our national parks. Let us remember the egg on the former Labor government's face. Upon being appointed the minister for national parks in 2012, I exposed another of the former Labor government's failures—wasted spending on projects. I discovered that it had commissioned an exorbitantly expensive piece of artwork in a remote part of the Conondale National Park near Kenilworth. Dubbed the Strangler Cairn, the 30-tonne collection of rock, shaped into an egg, cost more than \$680,000 to build. That cost included the cost of helicopters lifting rocks into an inaccessible area. It was unbelievable. A fig tree planted at the top of the rocks will completely cover the egg when it has grown. The entire project was a completely cracked thought bubble of the former Labor government. If it were not such an outrageous waste of money, it would be laughable.

Labor placed this pile of artfully arranged rock on an offshoot of a 50-kilometre walking track that takes experienced bushwalkers four days to cover. Not content with the natural beauty of our national parks, the former Labor government spent well over half a million dollars of taxpayers' funds on an international artist to enhance a remote area with art that is designed to eventually disappear. That shows just how far that former Labor government was removed from reality.

I do not know how anyone could justify spending almost \$700,000 on a pile of rock. In 2012, 2,250 people had seen it since it was built. Furthermore, the fig tree inside the rock was designed to envelop the artwork completely as it grew. When the idea was first floated, Labor rejected a submission from native artists to create artwork for the area. Instead, the former Labor government chose to spend \$330,000 to commission an international artist who specialises in creating works that will eventually be destroyed by the surrounding environment.

Because the rugged area they decided to place the sculpture in could be accessed only on foot, a further \$50,000 was spent on heli lifting the rocks for the project. As with so many ludicrous schemes from Labor, there was absolutely no serious business plan in place to ensure any sort of value for money, just a lack of common sense and no regard for the use of taxpayers' money.

In comparison the LNP state government worked collaboratively with tourism operators across Queensland to cut red tape and create the right environment for an ecotourism industry to flourish. But it does not stop there. Another bungled project that was undertaken by Labor was the Mamu Rainforest Canopy Walkway. In 2012, figures were brought to my attention showing that the \$10 million Bligh-era tourist attraction was losing \$300,000 a year. The former Labor government spent \$10 million on the Mamu Rainforest Canopy Walkway in Wooroonooran, which is 150 kilometres south of Cairns. But since it opened in 2008, it has never turned a profit and operated at a loss of some \$330,000 last financial year.

This development was never financially viable. The former Labor government ploughed ahead and built a state-of-the-art walkway in the middle of a rainforest using \$10 million of taxpayers' money. After discovering this Labor bungle, I worked with the local tourism industry and traditional owners to salvage the walkway. A local couple, Mark and Judy Evans, began operating the ecotourism attraction and have used their impressive track record and extensive local knowledge to transform the walkway into a must-see attraction.

The LNP government understood that our natural environment is our greatest advantage. It also understood that a great way to draw investment and grow visitor numbers was by bringing in commercial management—something Labor will never understand. This was a win-win for all involved. It was a shame that the former Labor government could not see the potential and come up with a viable solution on its own.

Time after time, with a Labor government we see the same scenario played out—botched schemes, a lack of credible business cases, a lack of common sense and no regard for the use of taxpayers' money. An audit of national parks conducted in 2010 identified that 98 of the 576 protected areas had parks management plans.

Instead of finding a solution, Labor continued to lock up land, often with very little conservation value, with no plans for the land's management. The Labor government needs to ensure that our beautiful natural parks are available for all Queenslanders to enjoy and are protected into the future. In 2012 in my capacity as sports minister I had to step in and stop a planned \$6.1 million Winter Olympic ski jump training facility from being built at Brisbane's Sleeman Sports Complex, after finding the project buried in the former Labor government's pile of debt. The former Labor government had approved the 36-metre high 10-metre wide development complete with hydraulics and purpose built

lifts at the Sleeman Sports Complex using the centre's new 50-metre swimming pool as the landing area. The fact that a Winter Olympic training venue was considered a priority at a time when 96 per cent of Labor government capital spending programs were being sourced through debt is simply beyond belief. I had no hesitation in cancelling this project which was approved and progressed using some of the most financially unsound reasoning that I have ever seen. With no credible business case to speak of and no tangible usage agreement, all this scheme would have achieved was to put a brand new pool off limits to actual swimmers. According to what little information was available, potential usage indicates that very few elite athletes would have used this training facility. Although the former Labor state government was required to contribute \$2.6 million to build the facility, with the balance from the Commonwealth, it would have been responsible for 100 per cent of the ongoing management and maintenance cost for this complex piece of infrastructure. What the former government proposed to build was a hugely expensive 10-storey high structure to rival any winter sports training facility in the southern hemisphere. This was a luxury item that the people of Queensland could neither afford nor need when the state was facing such dire economic circumstances. I am still baffled as to how this ill-conceived and inappropriate project was ever progressed let alone paid for with Queensland taxes. But that is a Labor government for you. It is happy to spend the taxpayers' dollars even on the most bizarre of items.

The Queensland racing industry, employing 30,000 people, was also left in disarray. The LNP government worked to re-establish confidence and integrity in an industry that had been brought to its knees under a Labor government that was effectively asleep at the wheel. Racing is worth hundreds of millions of dollars to Queensland's economy and was being run as someone's own private empire under Labor's lead. Country racing was also left to stagnate under the previous Labor government. After seeing firsthand how additional regional race meetings benefited regional Queensland, I can only hope our industry continues to thrive and is not taken back to the dark ages. I am sure that Minister Byrne will look after it. Some of those who have let these things go on are now sitting across the room. The old band is back together and they will soon be singing the same old melody for Queensland whether we like it or not. Queensland taxpayers will be paying for the former Labor government's incompetence for years to come and now they are back at the helm with a Premier who cannot even tell the difference between a sale and a lease. Let us not even bother asking the GST rate—or perhaps do it over a cup of coffee. It is truly concerning. The people of Queensland cannot forget that it was the Labor government that left this state in such a bad financial position, wasting billions of taxpayers' dollars on bungled projects like the health payroll fiasco, the \$9 billion water grid white elephant, the desalination plant, the fake Tahitian prince, the Traveston Dam crossing, asset sales by the Bligh government and, of course, the rule of the Labor Party by union bosses. The former Labor government misled Queensland about selling the state's assets and has done so again. I urge the Queensland Premier to please define strategic and non-strategic assets to the people of Queensland. What is she planning to sell? Queenslanders deserve to know. Let's face it though, there are just too many questions that are going unanswered. A state cannot be run this way. Labor does not have the clear support of Queenslanders and should not receive the support of this House. This is a government that has no plan, no idea and no clear mandate to lead the state. That is why the people of Queensland should have no confidence in this government.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.53 am): Mr Speaker, first might I congratulate you on your appointment to the office of Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the other ministers on their appointment and, in fact, all members of this House. It is a great honour to serve and represent the people of Queensland. However, I cannot support this motion. I have no confidence in this government and even less confidence that Labor will represent the interests of my electorate.

I would like to thank my electorate for showing its confidence in me: 14,999 people voted for me at the election and 14,064 voted for Kerry Shine, Labor's candidate at the election. Before I come to that, I would just like to reiterate some of the words the member for Hinchinbrook spoke earlier. Labor does not have a clear mandate to take government and it has to come back to this chamber and the numbers have to be tested on the floor.

A government member: That's why we're here.

Mr WATTS: Absolutely that is why we are here. That is exactly why we are having this debate. I will be one who will be opposing this motion. I might just for a moment talk about the seat of Nicklin. I would bring to the attention of the people of this House that in the seat of Nicklin 16 per cent of the people voted for Labor; 31 per cent voted for the LNP. It is interesting that they will be depending on

that 16 per cent to be in charge of this state. I would like to acknowledge and make sure that I am very clear on this: the LNP did make mistakes and we are now in this position because the people of Queensland have held us accountable for those mistakes.

Many members here have discussed state matters. I will concentrate on my electorate to explain why I will not be supporting this motion. I will focus on my electorate and its point of view and why I do not have any confidence in this government. Since 1974 there have been 15 elections in my electorate. Five times the Labor candidate has been returned, three times the Liberal candidate, five times the National candidate and twice the LNP candidate. The Hon. Kerry Shine, a former member in this place, has offered himself on seven occasions to the electorate. He won on four of those occasions and lost on three. In 2015 Kerry won 12 booths and I won 12 booths. Clearly the electorate has an affinity for both parties. It has always been a swinging seat. I want to make it very clear that Kerry is a well-respected member of the Labor Party in my electorate. He was a well-respected local member and he fought to represent that electorate. Between 1998 and 2006 he had achieved an 18½ per cent swing to him over that period of time. That was an 18½ per cent swing to a Labor member who was by this time a representative of Western Queensland for the Premier and also a cabinet minister and yet the Labor government delivered absolutely nothing for our electorate, nothing west of the range. The Labor government had absolutely no interest in delivering the range crossing, the most important issue to Western Queensland—none at all. It needs to be very clear that I can never have confidence in a Labor government because the Labor government has completely neglected my electorate even when it had a local member there who had achieved an 18.5 per cent swing to him. The second range crossing is not on their agenda.

I have written to several members, including the Premier of the current government, and as yet I have not received a reply. I have to say that that is very concerning for the people of my electorate. They have very little confidence because history tells them that Labor will ignore them. They have very little confidence that the time line will be met. They have very little confidence that the 1,800 jobs that will be created by this piece of infrastructure will be delivered on time and even less confidence that it will be delivered on budget. The people of Highfields had been screaming out for a school for a long time. Several members of the Labor Party had visited Highfields and talked about a school. That is exactly what they did: they talked about it and talked about it and talked about it.

A government member interjected.

Mr WATTS: I take the interjection. They did buy the land, that is quite correct. A week after we announced that we would buy the land in 2009 they were embarrassed into announcing that they would buy the land. If the member wants to interject he needs to get his time lines correct. Those opposite were embarrassed into having to buy the land.

The land was bought, but can members guess what happened next for the people of Highfields? Every day, 1,200 kids still had to travel by bus for over an hour each way to and from town, because for three years absolutely nothing happened with that block of land. Yet again nothing was delivered for the people of my electorate. There was talk, the minister came up and people discussed it. There were lots of conversations, but nothing was delivered. I promised that the LNP would deliver something at Highfields. We said we would deliver a school. Can members guess what happened in the 34 months that we were in power? The school was designed, it was built and it was delivered on time and on budget. It is the LNP way to say what you are going to do, to do what you have said you will do and to do it on time and on budget.

The people of my electorate have voted me into this place to represent them and they could not possibly want me to show any confidence in a Labor government that has a history of ignoring them repeatedly. Even worse, it has ignored the people of Western Queensland and everybody living west of the divide through its total neglect of the Toowoomba second range crossing and, of course, the Warrego Highway more generally.

I know the hour is getting late, but I will take a couple of moments to talk about a couple of state issues. In my electorate many people have come up to me and asked, 'What does this \$80 billion worth of debt really mean? What does the loss of the AAA credit rating really mean?' Government gets its money from one source, that is, the people it represents. It means that a Labor government spent our children's tax. Our children will have to pay back this bill if we do not bring some good governance to this state and some financial rigour to the accounts. I am very concerned about some of the promises and announcements that I have heard, because I do not see the financial figures adding up. I am very worried and concerned that people do not understand the difference between a profit and loss and a balance sheet; that they do not understand that you cannot spend something off both the profit and the loss columns, from both sides of your balance sheet, and count it

three times. I am very concerned about that. Ultimately, that \$80 billion debt is our children's tax that Labor spent. While it was spending our children's tax, it delivered nothing to my electorate. So how could anybody in my electorate have confidence in a Labor government?

In the brief time that I have represented my electorate, with the help of the ministers and the LNP government we delivered an 18 per cent increase in health spending; three new high schools were approved, one was built and constructed and two were expanded; the second range crossing was announced with a commitment of \$320 million of state government money and the potential creation of 1,800 jobs; and a \$74 million electrical upgrade has allowed the expansion of Grand Central Shopping Centre, which will become a major regional shopping centre that will deliver 1,000 retail jobs when it opens, as well as many jobs during its construction. I note that many of the CFMEU members who travel to my electorate to work on that project campaigned very hard to make sure that I was not elected.

We delivered \$45 million for flood mitigation on the CBD ring-road upgrade, which was another commitment made and another road that will open very soon. That road and the flood works release the inner-city rail land, which is another project that I and others chased very hard so that we could deliver inner-city renewal to the electorate. It is a wonderful 10-hectare site that now forms part of a priority development area. I encourage the Deputy Premier to come and look at the old rail shed. It is in need of some money and the parkland will need some money to provide the catalytic infrastructure to be able to get this project underway. The revenue that can be generated from the construction and the jobs that the project has the opportunity to create should be something very interesting for the Deputy Premier to look at.

As I represent the people of Toowoomba North, of course I cannot have any confidence in a Labor government that has completely ignored my electorate. Even when one of its own was sitting at the cabinet table and had achieved an 18.5 per cent swing, it totally ignored my electorate. What chance does my electorate have now under this government? I have no confidence in this government whatsoever.



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (3.05 am), in reply: First and foremost, I thank all members who have participated in this debate. It has been a long but very important debate, because it is about expressing a vote of confidence in the Palaszczuk Labor government. I reflect back some four months ago to a speech that I made in this House, from where the Leader of the Opposition now sits. It is a great reminder of what we were talking about at the end of last year, just prior to the election campaign. The first and most important point was the impact caused by the LNP government's sacking of some 24,000 people in this state. As I travelled the length and breadth of this state, I met people who had been sacked by those sitting opposite. People have told me how much that hurt them and their families, and how it caused them great pain and distress as they were not able to pay their bills.

The speech also reminded me of the time when the member for Mermaid Beach failed to provide the Integrity Commissioner's advice in relation to the cable car project. That is a fundamental tenet of integrity and accountability in this state, but the member for Mermaid Beach failed to provide that advice to the House.

I talked about the massive waste of taxpayer's money, which was being utilised on a Strong Choices campaign that was being conducted by the then arrogant LNP government. The architect of that Strong Choices campaign, the former Treasurer, still sits opposite in this House. Hopefully, the former Treasurer will be able to outline to this House how much taxpayer's money was actually utilised in relation to that campaign.

In the speech I made at the end of last year, I spoke about the secret money deal that the LNP did in relation to the railway line that was to be built in the Galilee Basin. It was a secret deal; how much was going to be spent was never conveyed to taxpayers.

At that time I talked about how, following the 2012 election, Labor had learnt its lesson. I said that we had learnt our lesson and we had listened to the electorate very carefully. Mr Speaker, you and other members of the House may recall that I apologised to Queenslanders for that breach of trust. Have we heard any apology from those opposite?

Government members: No!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Has there been any apology from those opposite about what happened at the recent election campaign? I reflect on the fact that when the Newman government was elected it promised to govern with humility, dignity and grace. Over the past three years, did we see any humility, dignity or grace? We did not see one bit of humility, dignity or grace!

I commented on the fact that there had been massive cuts to TAFE at that time. I said that our health system had been gutted by the then LNP government. Who was the architect of the cuts to the health system? The fourth in line to become Premier, the former health minister, who is now sitting in the chair as the Leader of the Opposition.

I said to Queenslanders at that time that there was a better way for our state to be run—away from the arrogance and away from the dishonesty. There was a better way for Queensland to run. At the election Queenslanders voted for that better way. Before the last election I also talked about the values of the Labor Party that I had heard from Gough Whitlam and had heard from Wayne Goss—values of equality, fairness and opportunity. They are the values that this government will work hard to achieve each and every day for the people of Queensland—the people that we represent. In fact, it would be nice to see if perhaps all honourable members could aspire to those values.

This parliament needs to operate in a better way. What we saw over the last three years was a complete and utter disgrace—the sacking of parliamentary committees, the changing of the estimates committee timetable to suit those opposite, the lack of accountability and taking away the independence of the anti-corruption watchdog in this state. Integrity and accountability will remain central to my government as we move forward.

I would like to thank all of my ministers who have participated in this confidence motion today. My ministers have demonstrated that they are passionate about their portfolios, they are across their portfolio issues and they are engaging with stakeholders. When I speak to stakeholders they tell me one thing: this is the highest level of engagement that they have ever seen from a government. This government is prepared to listen. The previous government turned its back on Queenslanders. This government will stand up for Queenslanders right across this state.

My deputy talked clearly about the task we had when we went to the last election. Let me remind honourable members so they all have a clear idea of what happened during the course of the election campaign. When Labor was reduced to seven members after the previous election we sat over there in that little section. There were seven of us who sat there and held the former LNP government to account each and every day. We saw the biggest electoral turnaround in political history. After a by-election we saw the election of the member for Redcliffe. After the next by-election we saw the election of the member for Stafford. They received swings of some 17 per cent and 20 per cent. Then there were nine of us sitting over there in that little section.

There were 78 members of the LNP. They went right around the government side to that little section. LNP members should ask themselves: how did it come to this? I will tell members how. Because they were arrogant and out of touch. There were two words missing from the speeches in the debate from those opposite. Those two words were Campbell Newman.

It was a Campbell Newman led government, but there was a Campbell Newman ministry. The majority of that ministry is sitting opposite. The majority of that ministry will be held to account for what they did to Queensland over the last three years. They are still sitting in here. After the election they said that the Strong Choices plan was gone. The architect of the Strong Choices campaign is there. The member for Clayfield is still in this parliament.

They come in here today and talk about Labor not having a plan. I have never heard anything so ridiculous in my life. Those opposite have no plan. They have absolutely nothing. The only thing in concrete they had to offer to Katter party members in the letter the Leader of the Opposition wrote to them was that they would use part of Labor's plan to deliver their commitments if they were to form government with the Katter party.

What I say to members of the opposition, now that they have all the resources of the opposition—they are going to be the most well resourced opposition in Australia; I can hear those words coming back to me—is that the challenge for them is to be humble, as this government will be humble. The challenge for the LNP is to show Queenslanders that it is different. I doubt that that can happen.

This debate is a motion of confidence in this government. I am absolutely honoured to lead a government with caucus members who have worked so hard over the last three years to earn their right to sit in this place. We are a good team. We are a team that have fought hard, stood up for our communities and are passionate. I know that we will represent our communities to best of our capabilities in this House.

We will see a different style of government. The government that I lead will be a government of consensus. What do I mean by a government of consensus? We will not be rushing through urgent legislation like we saw over the last three years. There will be a proper committee process. We will listen to stakeholders. We will talk to stakeholders. We will talk to the people of Queensland and take Queenslanders with us in this journey.

I will have to make tough decisions along the way. I do not shy away from that responsibility. But I know that I have a team that will work hard and stand up for their communities and represent everybody in their electorates in this House.

In conclusion, this House is the people's house. We should never forget that. It is a privilege to be here. We should treat this House with the respect that it deserves. I commend the motion to the House.

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

AYES, 44:

ALP, 44—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Pyne, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

NOES, 42:

LNP, 42—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, McVeigh, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Resolved in the affirmative.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



Mr HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.22 am): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Friday, 27 March 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT



Mr HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.22 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3.23 am (Friday).

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, McVeigh, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams