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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 6 May 2015

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WEDNESDAY, 6 MAY 2015

The Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 pm.

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

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.01 pm): I wish to clarify to the House a statement I made yesterday in respect of Tower Holdings and the Queensland State Secretary of the Australian Labor Party, Mr Evan Moorhead.

Yesterday I stated that I had no knowledge of Mr Moorhead's contact with any member of the Great Keppel Island Resort. My chief of staff advised me yesterday that Mr Moorhead had contacted him last week and that he thought, in turn, had advised me of the fact in passing. I have no recollection of that. Prior to my statements in the House, I have never spoken to Mr Moorhead about this issue.

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.02 pm): Yesterday in this House during matters of public interest the member for Clayfield claimed—

... the Gold Coast cruise ship terminal, cancelled without a word of discussion with the proponents of the project, just a flat-out refusal—'No, we don't even want to talk to you.'

My department has met with the ASF Consortium four times since we came to office. I personally met with the ASF Consortium in the company of the DG of my department, Mr David Edwards, and the process probity adviser, Mr Zoran Matovic, to discuss the Broadwater IRD and the government's public commitment in respect of Wave Break Island and the Broadwater. Among the four departmental-level meetings has been an initial meeting on 30 April 2015 to commence discussions under probity on a possible agreed alternative project by the consortium.

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.02 pm): I rise to correct the record and acknowledge that the study on the Bribe Island Bridge corridor has been publicly released on the Transport and Main Roads website. My statement to the House on 27 March 2015 that said such study had not been made public was incorrect and I apologise to the House for this error.

The corridor study, which makes reference to targeted consultation with government bodies, was placed on the website. However, I stand by my statement that public consultation has not occurred and I commit to stand up for my electorate on this matter.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER**: I understand that school captains and teachers from Emmanuel College in the electorate of Mudgeeraba are in attendance in the public gallery at the moment.

APPOINTMENTS

Panel of Temporary Speakers

 **Mr SPEAKER**: Honourable members, in accordance with standing order 11 I advise that, in addition to those appointments announced on 26 March 2015, I have also appointed the following members to the Panel of Temporary Speakers: Mr Glen Elmes, the member for Noosa; Miss Verity Barton, the member for Broadwater; and Mr Michael Hart, the member for Burleigh.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Motor Neurone Disease National Awareness Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that Motor Neurone Disease National Awareness Week began on 3 May and continues until 9 May. The Motor Neurone Disease Association of Queensland has invited members to show their support for those affected by wearing a blue cornflower pin on their lapel.

Motor Neurone Disease Australia has adopted the blue cornflower as a symbol of hope for people living with this disease. I advise members that, as a dedication to all mothers who have been affected by motor neurone disease, the Story Bridge will be lit in cornflower blue on Mother's Day this Sunday, 10 May.

PETITIONS

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

M1, Noise Levels

Ms Stuckey, from 23 petitioners, requesting the House to take action to reduce the impacts of road noise levels along the M1 between Southbound Exits 93 and 95 [\[360\]](#).

New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project

Mrs Frecklington, from 1,250 petitioners, requesting the House to support the continuation of the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project [\[361\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

MEMBERS' PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Hervey Bay (Mr Sorensen)—

[362](#) Non-conforming petition relating to the need to rectify various safety and traffic issues on Elizabeth Street, Hervey Bay

Member for Burdekin (Mr Last)—

[363](#) Non-conforming petition relating to the sentencing of Jodie Marie Viero on her plea of guilty to a charge of Perverting the Course of Justice in relation to the death of Sarahjane Downer

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.06 pm): Mr Speaker, tonight, along with the Leader of the Opposition, I will attend the Brisbane annual candle-lighting vigil where we honour the memory of victims of domestic violence. We will light candles for the 15 Queenslanders who have been killed by their partners or former partners in the 12 months since last year's vigil.

Each week one or more Australian women are killed by a violent partner, husband or father. These statistics are horrifying. As a community and a government, we say, 'No more.' As a community and a government, we must not despair but be driven to act to take a stand against violence. As a community and a government, we need to make violence against women and children totally unacceptable in our society.

Last month, domestic violence was discussed by all the Premiers at COAG and this issue is now on the national agenda. The leaders agreed on the need for a national domestic violence order scheme so that a protection order in one state would apply across the country. At COAG, all states also agreed to support a national advertising campaign. Queensland will contribute \$30 million towards this.

The Queensland government is investing \$49 million over five years in new domestic and family violence services to support child and family reforms and address service gaps. This money is committed from the response to the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry. My

government is currently reviewing the 140 recommendations of the domestic violence task force report titled, *Not now, not ever* to develop a long-term strategy to reduce domestic violence. The head of the task force, Dame Quentin Bryce, will be attending a special parliamentary breakfast this Friday that I will host. I will detail for community leaders how we can make a difference together.

My government is committed to forging strong partnerships with the community and organisations dedicated to helping women in need such as DVConnect. This morning, I visited DVConnect's crisis call centre to announce an extra \$1.5 million in funding over two years to boost its ability to take crisis calls. This extra funding will ensure women's cries for help will literally be heard, that there will be enough staff on hand at DVConnect to take their calls. When I arrived at DVConnect at 10.30 this morning, they had already received some 100 calls. Some days they will receive up to 300 a day—300 calls for help a day. This is another number that could drive us to despair, but it could also be a sign that more women know that there is help available. It is another number that I will have in mind tonight when I attend the candlelight vigil.

Tonight, as I light the candle for the lives lost, I vow that my government is committed to real and lasting change. When it comes to domestic and family violence we can and we will remain vigilant.

Tourism Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.08 pm): Yesterday at a signing ceremony at Parliament House it was my great pleasure to announce that Jetstar is launching new direct flights from China to the Gold Coast. I was joined by my tourism minister, Kate Jones. This will send Gold Coast tourism soaring.

From September there will be two flights a week from the Gold Coast to Wuhan. These flights potentially generate some \$53 million in visitor expenditure, supporting tourism, small business and jobs. China is already Queensland's largest international market by visitor expenditure. Gold Coast Tourism says that Chinese visitors spent \$591 million in the year to September 2014. This important new Jetstar service will open that market further and ensure long-term growth into the future. Importantly, this is yet another announcement showing that my door is open to business and business is knocking.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They don't like it, Mr Speaker. I would like to congratulate Jetstar on this decision and thank the Gold Coast City Council, Gold Coast Tourism, Tourism and Events Queensland, and Gold Coast Airport for attracting the Wanda Group's investment in the region. There will be even more aviation announcements in the months ahead; more signs of confidence in my government and in Queensland as a place to live, work, visit and invest.

Townsville, Community Cabinet

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.10 pm): In March my government held its first community cabinet event in Townsville. Today I am pleased to be able to inform the House that it was a major success. The Townsville community cabinet held on 29 and 30 March gave my government the important opportunity to meet with community members, local organisations and business leaders during formal and informal deputations to discuss the issues which matter to the local community.

This community cabinet also saw the successful reinstatement of a public forum. This was met with an enthusiastic response from the people of Townsville who welcomed the opportunity to ask us questions. I do not think that seemed to happen much under the former LNP government. I do not think the Premier at the time wanted to take questions from the public.

Ms Trad: Spontaneous questions.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Spontaneous questions. Our visit was made all the more rewarding with opportunities to further engage with the Townsville community at a reception hosted by the mayor.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will wait for the member for Nanango to be quiet.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, I do not need your assistance. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, I would ask you to respect the chair or you might be invited to take a short walk under standing order 253A. It is up to you. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My cabinet colleagues and I were also joined by the Townsville business community and community organisations at a breakfast hosted by Townsville Enterprise where we discussed the importance of job creation for Queensland and the Townsville region.

Today I can announce formally to the House that my government will be holding our second community cabinet in Rockhampton on Sunday, 24 May and visiting Yeppoon on Monday, 25 May. Our government is committed to supporting Central Queensland and this two-day event will provide an opportunity for locals to meet with ministers and heads of government departments to discuss the issues affecting their local community. In particular, I am looking forward to seeing how this resilient community is recovering after Tropical Cyclone Marcia and speaking directly with members of the community about their ideas on how we can further help with their recovery efforts.

We know there is work to be done in this region and my government is eager to give the community the extra support they need to rebuild their lives, their businesses and their local area. I encourage community members, organisations and businesses to come along and have their say by participating in the open forum or by requesting a formal deputation. Further information and deputation request forms for the community cabinet event can be found on the Queensland government website.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.13 pm): I too would like to take this opportunity to update the House on the Queensland government's efforts to address domestic and family violence. Given my own history working with services supporting women experiencing violence, I am passionate about this issue and determined that our government will make a difference to tackle this problem. The additional \$1.5 million announced for DVConnect by the Premier this morning will employ extra staff, specialist counsellors and help assist with travel and accommodation costs for women and their children fleeing domestic and family violence. That is on top of the \$3.17 million this fantastic service is already receiving this financial year.

According to the report by the special task force led by Dame Quentin Bryce, domestic and family violence costs the Queensland economy around \$3 billion every year. This shows the significance of this issue to the broader community, not to mention the horrific human cost. About 181 reports of domestic and family violence incidents go to Queensland police every day and more go unreported. We are working on a whole-of-government plan and response to the 140 recommendations in the Bryce report and it is important that we do that.

Shockingly, Queensland has been the only jurisdiction without a domestic violence strategy. This is totally unacceptable given the importance of this issue. But we are also acting immediately. We have committed to two additional shelters in Townsville and Brisbane—the first new shelters in Queensland in over 20 years. I also recently announced \$17 million for new services in communities, including Townsville, Toowoomba, Pine Rivers, Redcliffe, Goodna, Ipswich, the Sunshine Coast and parts of Brisbane. This included \$2.3 million over three years for the Working Against Violence Support Service, or WAVSS, in my electorate of Logan to help them set up a new service in the Redlands where there have previously been no support services available. Our new Trust Your Instinct campaign urges anyone who suspects someone they know is being abused to trust their instinct and call DVConnect. We are working hard to get the Trust Your Instinct message out in communities across Queensland and I urge members to publicise this campaign in your own communities and via social media. Increased awareness of these issues is playing a part in the rising demand for services, so it is vital when we encourage people to trust their instincts that they have the services they need. Only by bringing this issue out from behind closed doors can we progress towards eliminating domestic and family violence.

Train-Stabling Facilities

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (2.16 pm): The Palaszczuk government is committed to planning for our future and creating jobs for Queenslanders. Today I am

pleased to inform the House that the Palaszczuk government has appointed Leighton as contractor to build four new train-stabling facilities at Woombye, Banyo, Elimbah and Robina. These new stabling facilities will house 75 new trains that are due to be delivered from mid next year under the New Generation Rolling Stock Project.

It is not only great news for train commuters, with more services to come on line from mid next year, but it is also great news for the local construction industry. At the peak of the project this \$116 million stabling contract is expected to create 700 construction and manufacturing jobs and source 85 per cent of its materials from local suppliers. This is in addition to 514 full-time direct jobs and 1,500 indirect local jobs which are already being created through the New Generation Rolling Stock Project. The New Generation Rolling Stock Project is set to increase the rail network's passenger train capacity by more than 30 per cent, but it needs to be matched with appropriate stabling capacity.

The stabling project will be delivered by early 2017 and provide the required capacity to support a significant and much needed increase in passenger trains and services. By providing additional rail stabling in more strategic locations, Queensland Rail's network will also operate more efficiently, improving services and reducing costs. The Palaszczuk government has a strong economic development agenda that will put Queensland on course for long-term sustainable growth and we look forward to working with business and industry to achieve this growth.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.18 pm): Today I have doubly good news for Queensland. Queensland's exporters are doing our state proud and our retail trade figures are the best in the nation. ABS retail trade data out today shows Queensland recorded the strongest real turnover growth in any mainland state in the March quarter of 1.9 per cent. This is a great result and a very encouraging sign that Queenslanders are growing more confident about our economy under the Palaszczuk government. This is in stark contrast to last year when Queensland recorded the weakest retail trade growth in the nation under the LNP. In fact, it is the single strongest result since the March quarter 2012, the last three months under the previous Labor government. This increased consumer confidence will also boost business confidence.

I am pleased to report that our exporters had a bumper March quarter. According to ABS data released this week, for the March quarter 2015 Queensland's overseas merchandise exports rose 10.8 per cent. Merchandise exports were up \$11.4 billion compared to the same time last year and in the 12 months to March the total value of our merchandise exports topped \$45.2 billion. The export figures are one of our best news stories, yet they do not always get the credit they deserve. Those industries rarely grab the headlines, but they are a crucial cog in Queensland's strengthening economy. They provide thousands of Queenslanders with jobs and employment opportunities, particularly in the regions. They earn us valuable export dollars and, of course, they help to pay for our schools, roads and hospitals, and long may that continue.

Queensland's export growth is being driven by a rise in exports of meat, coal and, for the third month, LNG. LNG exports from the Port of Gladstone commenced in early January 2015, with \$328 million exported in the March quarter and there is a whole lot more to come. This is an outstanding success for one of our newest export industries; an industry that was, of course, developed and nurtured under previous Labor governments. Queensland's LNG exports are expected to ramp up over the next year and a half as all three projects become fully operational.

Queensland's coal exports also rose 4.1 per cent over the year to \$6.2 billion in the March quarter 2015. However, the good news does not end there. Over the year to the March quarter, Queensland meat exports rose 26.8 per cent. Meanwhile, Queensland minerals exports rose 3.2 per cent over the year, reaching \$1.9 billion in the March quarter. That growth is being driven by strong aluminium exports and our crop exporters are also coming to the party. Exports in this category were up by 23.6 per cent, driven by rises in grain sorghum and chickpea shipments in the March quarter.

Of course, the job of Queensland's exporters is being made easier by important new infrastructure, which includes the new berth 8 at the Port of Townsville. The new berth 8 represents an \$85 million vote of confidence in North Queensland. It allows access for more and larger ships, while creating capacity for future growth at the Port of Townsville. It also adds to the Port of Townsville's export capability. It is yet another sign of Labor's commitment to economic development and to jobs in this state.

Outpatient Waiting Lists

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.21 pm): Since coming to government, we have announced a number of initial steps to start tackling the significant number of outpatient long waits. On Monday, the government announced that we will provide \$30 million to address the waiting list for an outpatient appointment with an ear, nose and throat specialist. I was pleased to make this announcement at the Logan Hospital with the Premier, the member for Waterford and the member for Logan. The \$30 million funding will allow a large number of long-wait ear, nose and throat patients to receive their outpatient appointment and any required follow-up treatment by 30 June 2017. As at 1 January 2015, there were around 14,000 children and adults who had been waiting longer than clinically recommended for an outpatient appointment with an ear, nose and throat specialist. Of those 14,000 patients, more than 4,500 had waited longer than two years. The \$30 million is being made available for front-line services from existing resources and will ensure that people on the waiting list are seen quicker.

Monday's announcement follows our announcement in March of an extra \$30 million for hospital and health services. This additional funding for front-line services was made available from existing resources and will deliver additional services by 30 June this year. Across Queensland, this funding will deliver more than 10,000 additional specialist outpatient appointments, more than 5,000 additional endoscopies and more than 2,000 additional inpatient procedures. I have been open and honest in saying that this extra funding will not be sufficient to fix the backlog of patients waiting longer than clinically recommended for an outpatient appointment—the people who, for the member for Southern Downs, did not exist. However, it is a start on what is a substantial problem.

When this government came into office we found that waiting lists for hospitals included 100,000 people left in the waiting room by the member for Southern Downs. That is the legacy of the member for Southern Downs as health minister. He left more than 100,000 Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment. Queensland has not only a growing population but also an ageing one, and we can expect more call on the resources of the health system in the future. This is a serious issue that deserves a serious response. It certainly deserves far more than a wait-time gimmick devised by those opposite, which was all talk and no action. As proof of this, that program provided \$77 million for bureaucracy and advertising over three years, but not one cent for hospital and health services. It was a program that employed spin doctors, rather than medical doctors.

In contrast to those members opposite, we will take a genuine and balanced approach to waiting lists. I cannot change what happened in the past, but there is enormous capacity for innovation in our health system and I intend to drive that innovation. I know it is essential that we listen to the dedicated men and women who work in our health system as we put together a genuine approach to tackling long waits in the system. That is why last week I convened a wait-time summit to bring together around 30 people from our hospitals and the broader health system and from all parts of—

Mr Springborg: Did you read the briefing notes from the department?

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! We will listen to the minister in silence.

Mr DICK: I can assure the member for Southern Downs that I read a lot of incoming government briefs, and I will be saying more on that later on. The summit allowed me to hear firsthand from health professionals who deal with waiting lists on a daily basis. Participants included chairs and chief executives of hospital and health services, GPs, surgeons, specialist physicians, nurses and allied health workers. This is a government that is not afraid to listen. Over the course of more than three hours of discussions, they raised a broad range of issues in relation to wait times. Those included issues relating to a GP's referral of a patient to a specialist for an outpatient appointment, the processes within hospitals once they receive a referral from a GP and the way the GP and the hospital communicates with the patient and with each other. Those issues will require further exploration and we will continue the discussions with participants over the coming weeks.

Managing specialist outpatient appointments, diagnostic testing and treatment lists in our public hospitals will always remain a challenge, but as I said at the outset it is a serious issue and one that deserves serious consideration. We will not go for gimmicks such as a worthless guarantee. The guarantee that I give to this House is that this government will take a genuine and balanced approach to waiting lists and we will work with health professionals as we put together that approach.

Educational Facilities

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.26 pm): The Palaszczuk government understands that quality education requires quality educational facilities and that is why we are continuing to invest in better schools. Right now, we have 44 major school building projects under construction or about to get under way, supporting 1,150 jobs throughout Queensland. I am happy to report to the House that since being sworn in as the Minister for Education, I have opened—

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, one moment. Member for Caloundra! I call the minister.

Ms JONES: Since being sworn in as the Minister for Education, I have opened more than \$51.9 million worth of new buildings, the majority of which were delivering on Labor's commitment to transition year 7 to high school. We are getting on with the job. We are building new classrooms, libraries, technology centres, sports halls, tuckshops and playgrounds. We are building a new indoor sports hall at the Mirani State High School. Those important facilities will help make a great school even better. At MacGregor State School we are building new classrooms with an investment of \$7 million. That project is supporting local jobs and will be completed in the next financial year. At Brisbane State High School, in the electorate of the honourable Deputy Premier, more than \$41 million in upgrades are under way, delivering more than 100 jobs. At Currumbin Valley State School we are delivering a \$3.4 million project to construct more classrooms, which means additional construction jobs on the Gold Coast.

We know that, because of the LNP's capital works black hole into the future and its ill-conceived PPP deal, we will face funding challenges. The former minister failed to deliver any additional funding in the capital works budget, despite the high up-front capital costs of the PPP deal. Now, thanks to the member for Surfers Paradise and the LNP, we face a situation where more than one-third of the capital works budget has to fund this deal.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.28 pm): I am thrilled to be able to update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to training, skills and jobs for Queenslanders. I know that this news will also be welcomed by the people from the electorate of the Leader of the Opposition and electorates of all members in this chamber. During the last sitting, I confirmed the government was implementing our Working Queensland commitment, which is our blueprint for generating jobs and tackling unemployment. I am pleased to be able to update the House that since then the Premier and I have announced the rollout of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. On Friday last week, I announced the opening of applications for the first funding round.

In 2015-16, \$60 million will be available under Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which will provide skills, training and jobs for up to 8,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders. That is part of the Queensland government's commitment to investing \$240 million over the next four years to fund local programs that support young and long-term unemployed Queenslanders—programs that give people the skills to work.

The new scope for Skilling Queenslanders for Work builds on its previous success—success that was highlighted by an independent evaluation undertaken by Deloitte Access Economics, success that delivered real skills for Queenslanders. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative has a new look, ensuring an integrated approach to employer engagement strategies, skills development and job creation opportunities. Tailored, community based support will be offered to young people, mature age job seekers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people with disabilities and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds alongside strategies to assist people who are underutilised or underemployed.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is characterised by clearly defined target groups, voluntary participation, individual pathways and an integrated mix of assistance and strong support for participants. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is supported by a statewide regional network, working closely with community organisations and local employers to determine local skills and entry level industry and labour needs.

I have been excited about the huge level of interest in the program from community organisations, not-for-profit organisations and registered training organisations. Information sessions have been organised in communities to make sure organisations, large and small, have the information they need to apply through the open process.

According to registration numbers and taking into account those who have already attended an information session, it is expected that more than 1,105 people will have attended information sessions across the state. Please bear in mind that these are only the people who have registered to attend. I am advised that most sessions to date have been booked out and have had many additional unregistered participants attend.

Sessions are being held across South-East Queensland, with several sessions already having been held across the north and south sides of Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich, Moreton, the Gold Coast and Toowoomba. They are also being held in provincial and regional communities, including Roma, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Mount Isa and Cairns.

This government is serious about job creation right across the state. We are delivering on our commitment to support Queenslanders into the workforce by empowering them with the training and skills they need to get back on their feet and into the workforce.

Banana Industry, Biosecurity



Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (2.31 pm): I rise today to update the House on the current status of the government's response to the discovery of tropical race 4 in North Queensland. Tropical race 4 is recognised as the most serious biosecurity threat to the banana industry in Australia and has had devastating impacts worldwide. It has now been detected on two commercial banana farms in North Queensland.

The detection of the disease in two geographically separated banana-growing regions makes it likely that the disease is widespread and detection of further infected properties can be expected. Further surveillance is still needed to confirm this and it is still likely to be a number of months, perhaps spring, before the extent of this initial outbreak is known. The Premier and I have visited Tully and met with affected growers and grower organisations, including the Banana Growers' Council, and key other representatives. I have also toured Mareeba and Innisfail with the industry.

The government's response team now numbers around 90, including scientific researchers, biosecurity experts and horticulture specialists. So far the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has invested in excess of \$2 million on the response, which includes immediate measures and long-term strategies to contain and control the spread of the disease. Our goal is to continue to control and contain this disease as long as possible to allow time for the industry to make the necessary adjustments to their operations in a Panama disease environment.

I can inform the House that industry and Biosecurity Queensland were able to establish a series of strict quarantine protocols that allowed for properties impacted by Panama to harvest and trade. This work commenced last week. To support the long-term recovery and transition of the industry, the Premier has established a joint industry, community and government task force to consider the social and economic consequences arising from the identification of Panama disease tropical race 4 in Queensland.

In response to a request from the Australian Banana Growers' Council, the Queensland government is providing \$300,000 to hire specialist biosecurity advisers for ABGC to support North Queensland growers in protecting their farms from Panama disease. Minister Barnaby Joyce has written to me in a letter received yesterday informing me that the Australian government is providing matching funds for this project.

I had hoped to meet with Mr Joyce and the Deputy Premier in Rockhampton this week to discuss ongoing joint support for the Panama response while they were attending Beef Week. However, as we all know from yesterday, the opposition did not support pairing arrangements for this important international event. It was another opportunity lost for Queensland. Nonetheless, I will be writing to Minister Joyce shortly in order to bring to a conclusion outstanding matters of immediate relief for growers impacted by Panama disease as well as discuss long-term biosecurity efforts.

Finally, I take this opportunity to remind everyone that tropical race 4 does not have an impact on the edibility of bananas and that people should continue to eat them. They are completely safe.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (2.35 pm): Much has been said in recent times about electricity prices for Queenslanders. We know that many households and businesses have been doing it tough over the last three years. That is why we are rolling out another key election commitment by establishing an independent Queensland Productivity Commission.

Its first task is to conduct a public inquiry into electricity prices in Queensland. Independent experts will conduct this inquiry by means of an open and transparent process, which will be informed by extensive public consultation. To enable the commission to do its job effectively, a decision has been made to defer for 12 months the previous LNP government's rushed laws to deregulate retail electricity prices in South-East Queensland. This way, input can be sought from the community, businesses, industry and key stakeholders so that the final deregulation model achieves the best possible outcome for Queenslanders.

We will have stronger consumer protection measures in place from 1 July to ease the financial burden on households and small businesses. Our decision has been welcomed by National Seniors, the Queensland Consumer Association and the Queensland Council of Social Service—all strong advocates for vulnerable Queenslanders. Ultimately, we want to ensure that they have the protection they need when times are tough. The Productivity Commission will be asked to deliver an interim report, with a focus on retail deregulation.

The recent draft report from the Australian Energy Regulator has reined in the power price hikes that Queenslanders were subjected to in recent years. That report flags no more double-digit price hikes that saw the average bill rise by 43 per cent when the price of electricity in Queensland went from well below the national average to well above it under the previous government. This is welcome relief for households and for small businesses across the state.

In terms of prices for householders, the draft report by the regulator signals that the average annual electricity bill may reduce by \$34, or 1.8 per cent, in the next financial year. This draft determination by the Australian Energy Regulator reinforces the importance of keeping public assets in public hands.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra, I would ask you to desist. Your interjections are not being taken by the minister. I call the minister.

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Caloundra.

Mr BAILEY: This draft determination by the Australian Energy Regulator reinforces the importance of keeping public assets in public hands. If these crucial public assets ended up in private ownership, the results would have been bad for Queenslanders' electricity bills and for their jobs. Our aim with the Productivity Commission and the deferral of deregulation is to draw on the advice of the experts and listen to the community, industry and stakeholders so that together we can achieve an outcome that is in everyone's best interests.

Wright, Mr KW

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.38 pm): I rise to advise the House of the death of the former member for Rockhampton and Rockhampton South, Keith Wright, on 13 January 2015.

UTILITIES, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Report

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (2.38 pm): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 1 of the Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee, titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 October 2014 and 25 November 2014*. This report covers the portfolio subordinate legislation tabled in October and November 2014 and considered by the committee. The subordinate legislation has disallowance dates of 6 May 2015 and 3 June 2015. The committee did not identify any issues regarding consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Utilities, Science and Innovation Committee: Report No. 1—Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 October and 25 November 2014 [[364](#)].

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Office of the Information Commissioner, Report

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (2.39 pm): As chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I lay upon the table of the House report No. 3 of 2014-15 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly by the Office of the Information Commissioner, titled *Compliance review—Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service: review of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service's compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)*. The report is not a report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. However, under the Right to Information Act 2009 and the Information Privacy Act 2009, I am required to table the report on the Information Commissioner's behalf. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Office of the Information Commissioner: Compliance Review—Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service: Review of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service's compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld) [365].

HEALTH AND AMBULANCE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Report

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.40 pm): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 1 of the Health and Ambulance Services Committee. This report covers subordinate legislation tabled between 10 September 2014 and 25 March 2015 considered by the committee. The committee did not identify any significant issues regarding consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Health and Ambulance Services Committee: Report No. 1—Subordinate legislation tabled between 10 September 2014 and 25 March 2015 [366].

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Crime and Corruption Commission, Documents

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.41 pm): In accordance with section 4.7(4) of the Police Service Administration Act, I table a letter from the Acting Chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission enclosing a letter from the Police Commissioner which attaches a certified copy of the *Register of reports and recommendations to the police minister, ministerial directions and tabled ministerial reasons 2014*. The register records that during 2014 no reports, recommendations, ministerial directions or tabled reasons qualified for inclusion in the register. The Acting Chairperson of the CCC furnished the register without further comment.

Tabled paper: Certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations made to the Police Minister, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2014, dated 20 January 2015, together with a covering letter, dated 20 January 2015, from Mr I Stewart, Commissioner, Queensland Police Service, to Dr K Levy, Acting Chairperson, Crime and Corruption Commission, and a covering letter, dated 31 January 2015, from the Acting Chairperson, Crime and Corruption Commission, to Mr S Davies, Chair, Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee [367].

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.41 pm): In accordance with section 363(5) of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, I table a letter from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner enclosing the *Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*. The report relates to the parliamentary commissioner's inspection of the CCC surveillance device warrant records from 10 April 2014 to 2 December 2014. Full details of the parliamentary commissioner's inspection and findings are set out in the report. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, dated December 2014 [368].

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Report

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.42 pm): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 1 of the Finance and Administration Committee. This report covers the portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 29 August 2014 and 26 March 2015 considered by the committee. The committee did not identify any issues regarding consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 1—Portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 29 August 2014 and 26 March 2015 [[369](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Ethanol Mandate

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.43 pm): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. Supports an ethanol mandate in fuel;
2. Instructs the government to form an implementation board to:
 - (a) consult stakeholders and consumers;
 - (b) determine preferred levels for ethanol content in fuel sold in Queensland;
 - (c) consider potential impacts on consumers and any appropriate protections; and
 - (d) determine time frames for the introduction of those mandated ethanol levels; and
3. Requires the implementation board to report back to the parliament by no later than 30 October 2015.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.44 pm): Today is the first day of the Palaszczuk-Gordon government. In parliament last night the Premier and the Labor Party categorically welcomed the member for Cook back into the fold after a faux process which had gone on for some five weeks where they were pretending with absolute mock indignation that they were revolted by the conduct of the member for Cook over that particular period of time. They welcomed the member for Cook back into their fold with absolute gusto.

Over the last 24 to 48 hours we have had the Premier turning an absolute blind eye to the actions of her own members and her own ministers in the way that they have been embracing the member for Cook. The circumstances of backslapping, the circumstances of camaraderie, the circumstances of empathy, the circumstances of the many effusive handshakes that go beyond politeness indicate that these members of parliament on the other side in this place are certainly not standing on principle.

This Premier only recently promised new standards in this place. Last night we saw the government's true standards in this place when they repudiated an opportunity not to accept the vote of somebody whose actions the Premier said she was revolted by. The circumstance of that motion was very much about not providing a strategic advantage to one side or the other because one side or the other expressing a similar position of principle would have been able to cancel out the honourable member for Cook's vote. But the government faulted. The government talks about ethics. The government talks about accountability. But when it comes time to practise ethics and accountability, it is all about their own position and it is all about the Premier's job.

I think it would be very convenient for this parliament to know whether those processes of putting the coterie of people around the member for Cook that we have seen from Labor members opposite come with the endorsement of the Premier. They cannot have it both ways. They cannot on the one hand say that the member for Cook is not suitable to be in this parliament and should actually resign his seat in this parliament yet on the other hand, when it comes to expressing a matter of principle, say that they are very, very happy to accept his vote. That is precisely what we saw yesterday in this parliament from members of the Labor Party. This is absolutely contrary as well to the type of process that we saw when there were question marks over the former member for

Redcliffe. When the former member for Redcliffe was suspended from the LNP, the LNP made it very, very clear that we were not prepared to accept his vote, and indeed the only time he voted in the parliament after that was with Labor and they never repudiated his vote.

Tropical Cyclone Marcia

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.47 pm): On Friday, 20 February 2015, category 5 Tropical Cyclone Marcia crossed the Central Queensland coast near Shoalwater Bay. The cyclone intensified rapidly into a category 5 cyclone within 48 hours of it forming. I am pleased to report that the community is recovering well. However, we do still need the support of our federal government in activating category D assistance to provide the much needed financial assistance for our region. I urge Prime Minister Tony Abbott to sign off on category D funding.

Over 60,000 homes were left without power and almost 3,000 people requested assistance from the SES. Significant structural damage occurred, with a number of houses having roofs blown off. The loss of power for several days and the subsequent loss of food and stock in the days after the cyclone had an impact on residents, businesses and community infrastructure across the region.

I took a helicopter flight with Mayor Bill Ludwig and Inspector Kev Gutheridge after the cyclone in order to reach out to some of our region's most remote communities. We were greeted by Pat McQuaide and several other residents at Stockyard Point who took us on a tour of the small remote community to show us the damage from the cyclone. Pat explained that the community had only managed to chainsaw 1.8 kilometres of the 18-kilometre road in one day. Stunned, I asked if it would be a problem that residents may not be able to get out for what may be in excess of a week. Pat smiled and quickly brushed off my comments. 'She'll be right, mate,' he said. We talk about resilience after natural disasters and this is a prime example of it.

I thank the Premier and ministers who visited the region multiple times after the cyclone and I know Central Queenslanders appreciated the visit of His Excellency the Hon. Paul de Jersey the Governor who also visited the region several times.

The social and economic impacts from the cyclone are serious. The impacts on residents, businesses and community organisations of all shapes and sizes are real, especially the community of Byfield including its residents and businesses: the Keppel Bay Sailing Club, which is one of the Capricorn Coast's largest employers; the Nerimbera Football Club, one of the country's oldest sporting clubs, at 105 years of age, which had its clubhouse destroyed; Cooberrie Park Wildlife Sanctuary, which suffered significant damage; primary producers, such as Errol Vass whose macadamia farm at Bondoola was devastated, pineapple growers, other graziers and various nurseries; and the Teys and JBS meat-processing plants in North Rockhampton which both suffered damage that delayed reopening.

From here it is onwards and upwards for Central Queensland. We will never forget the damage and pain caused by Tropical Cyclone Marcia, but I know that we will grow as a stronger community—a brighter, more united community than ever before.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Livingston, Mr J

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.50 pm): Yesterday the Andrews Labor government released its first Victorian state budget. It is fair to say it was a budget in the finest traditions of the Labor Party. The forecast surpluses bequeathed to them by the former coalition government have been almost halved. They are relying on huge growth in future tax receipts to deliver on their surplus promise. State taxes are up by more than \$1.1 billion. They have no plan to build the infrastructure the state needs, and they have loosened the reins on employee expenses, which are set to jump 7.6 per cent next year.

It is also fair to say that the Victorian budget serves as an example of what we can expect to see when the Palaszczuk government hands down its first budget in July. Queensland Labor went into the last election promising to pay down debt, to deliver surpluses and not to increase taxes, but one only has to look at the past to know what is coming. The previous Labor government set Queensland on the path to more than \$85 billion in debt. Taxes per person almost doubled under Labor as car registration went through the roof. Home owners were slugged with increased property taxes and public transport users were slugged with 15 per cent year-on-year fare increases. From 2005-06 onwards expenditure grew at almost double the rate of revenue. Employee expenses, the largest component of government expenses, grew at an average rate of 8.6 per cent per annum over the decade to 2011-12.

We restricted government expenses growth to just 0.1 per cent in our first two years in office. We were able to set the budget back on the path to surplus despite revenue writedowns totalling almost \$6 billion. We left office forecasting three fiscal surpluses—real surpluses over the next three years which the current Treasurer committed to delivering during the election campaign. But I am concerned the good work done by the LNP is going to be unwound by a government that owes too much to its union masters. That is obviously what we are seeing happen in Victoria. We simply do not have the fiscal capacity to see the same thing happen here.

The latest midyear update from Queensland Treasury predicts employee expenses growth of 3.7 per cent from 2013-14 to 2017-18. My fear is that the Premier and Treasurer, who said they had a budget strategy that would allow them to deliver a promised surplus and pay down debt, will not have the ticker, ability or discipline to deliver.

In the time left available to me, I want to make a condolence statement for the former principal of Kirwan State High School. John Livingston passed away last night. He was a giant of education in this state. He was principal of Kirwan State High, which is an outstanding school, for nearly 30 years. I join with the member for Thuringowa, and I am sure all people in Education Queensland, to acknowledge John. He was diagnosed with brain cancer only a few months ago, just after we had a principal round table at Thuringowa State High. Within a month of that round table he was diagnosed. He had been in a hospice recently. I want to pass on to his family the condolences of the opposition and all of the community of education in Queensland.

Murrumba Electorate, Severe Weather Event

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (2.53 pm): I wish to draw to the attention of the House the flood events of Friday, 1 May in the seat of Murrumba and the subsequent disaster recovery efforts by the Palaszczuk government. As we know, five lives were tragically lost in this storm. It was calculated to be a one-in-2,000-year rain event. The Moreton Bay council area received up to 380 millimetres worth of rain and 277 millimetres in three hours. It is a record-breaking amount.

In Murrumba, the areas of Deception Bay, Rothwell and Mango Hill backing on to the saltwater creek catchment were inundated by waters that I calculate were between 80 centimetres to one metre above the Q100 line. How many places had water through them? I have heard reports that 100 had water through them and that fire services have inspected up to 300 houses for damage.

I walked down Major Street in Deception Bay on Saturday and I saw that every single house on either side had between 30 centimetres of water and 1.5 metres of water through them—every single one. Residents said that the water came up in a torrent within 15 to 20 minutes. It was a torrent and they had no time to save anything. Every house lost everything. In the face of this devastating flood, I am truly thankful to the efforts of the state government and the Moreton Bay Regional Council. I have seen many floods during my 12 years on council, but it is the coordination of the disaster relief at a cabinet level by this government that will stand out in my mind.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk came to see us on Major Street on Sunday. She announced immediate hardship assistance grants of \$180 per person or \$900 per family. Jo-Ann Miller, the police and emergency services minister, came out on Saturday, listened carefully to local residents and immediately liaised with the police and her cabinet colleagues Kate Jones and Minister Dick. The Deception Bay SES was there in numbers within one hour. Jackie Trad, as Minister for Planning, was in immediate contact listening to the concerns of the community raised through me. As we know, yesterday she announced an independent investigation of the possible effects of works associated with the Moreton Bay Rail Link.

After a call to Minister Shannon Fentiman, we had a team of community recovery workers from the department of community services on the ground within two hours. The Minister for Education, Kate Jones, has authorised relief payments by local principals to affected students who have lost school uniforms, shoes, books, iPads, everything. Minister Mark Bailey has reopened Operation Energise, where unpaid and voluntary ETU members and employees of electricity generators will check the electrical safety of connections in flood affected houses.

I fully appreciate the cooperation of the Moreton Bay Regional Council. It arranged for food vouchers from local Subway owners. It opened up the recovery centre on Morris Road and placed 60 skips next to flood affected properties. I am so proud of the resilience and tenacity of my local residents as they face this debilitating disaster, and I am proud to be a member of this Palaszczuk government that has acted so promptly and professionally with such a high degree of coordination. We will keep on working on this long process of recovery.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (2.56 pm): Yesterday in the House I raised as a matter of significant public interest this clueless Labor administration's failure to provide for jobs and growth and failure to build the infrastructure that our growing state needs. I reflected on the low level of business confidence in this government and the reasons why that might be. I reflected on their failure to have a plan to build infrastructure and their failure to fund that infrastructure. I also reflected on their tendency to turn a blind eye to their union mates who shut down job-creating projects throughout the state and their failure after three months to put together a board for their only real infrastructure policy, Building Queensland. Their only appointment was to appoint someone I appointed to head Projects Queensland, Mr David Quinn. We have an infrastructure minister who reportedly did not even ask for funding for specific projects throughout the state. She did not even ask for the money to deliver it. In fact, we have an infrastructure minister who seems only able to say something when she is either axing a project or claiming credit for a project that the LNP started.

We saw that today with the infrastructure minister, the Deputy Premier, trying so carefully not to mention the 75 new cars being delivered as a result of the LNP's PP project including the stabling project. The only projects that this government has approved are projects that were well underway by the LNP government.

Let us have a look at what the Treasurer said. Mr Pitt in his media release on Friday said, 'The Palaszczuk government was pressing ahead with a series of major projects including the Toowoomba second range crossing.' Who started that one off?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The LNP. The government wireless network—who made that happen after 10 years?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The LNP. New generation rolling stock—who made that happen after a long time?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Exactly right. What about Queensland schools? He claims the Queensland schools PPP, but the education minister thinks it is a dreadful project. He likes it; she doesn't. That project is worth \$1.3 billion. Who started that project off? The LNP. Who started the Queens Wharf development? The LNP. The Commonwealth Games venues? The LNP. The stabling for the railways? The LNP. He then goes on to say, 'We have already approved these projects—Yeerongpilly green.' The Deputy Premier yesterday claimed credit for it. Who called it in and who announced it? The LNP. Pacific View Estate, stuck in the doldrums under the Labor Party, was called in by us. The Beaudesert bypass was funded by us. The Coomera interchange, announced on the second day of the election campaign by me, is claimed by the Labor Party. Truly!

Then the Treasurer, in his own words on Friday on Channel 7 news, struggled to name any private projects he wants to go ahead. He said, 'I'm not the infrastructure minister so I haven't got those to hand and I'm also not Brisbane based.' This Treasurer does not know what his own government is going to deliver. This is a clueless government.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, member for Clayfield. You have certainly enlivened the chamber.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (2.59 pm): My question without notice is to the Premier. In this domestic violence awareness month, less than three months after the release of the *Not now, not ever* report, I refer to comments about domestic violence made by the Premier this morning, and I quote the Premier: 'What we do know is that sometimes background circumstances do need to be taken into account.' Will the Premier explain what possible 'background circumstances' there are that can excuse or mitigate or can be taken into account in the case of domestic violence?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. As I stated this morning, domestic violence is a very serious issue. We recently had the landmark Dame Quentin Bryce report handed down which had numerous recommendations and my government is now in the process of carefully considering those issues. This month is also Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. Just this morning I was very pleased to join my Minister for Communities, Shannon Fentiman, as we went to DVConnect to announce additional funding to help those women in need—with \$1.5 million targeted to help those people in need.

As I mentioned earlier as well in my ministerial statement, I will be joined tonight in a bipartisan manner with the Leader of the Opposition when we go to attend the annual candlelight vigil. In fact Di was just saying this morning when we were out there that she was so pleased to hear that both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition were attending that she was going to pass that on to other states so that other states could also take that approach to domestic violence. We know it is an issue that touches many people across our state but we also know that we can do more in terms of making sure that people from multicultural backgrounds have interpreters and making sure that they can get the help they need. My government is 100 per cent committed.

The other issue I raised very clearly earlier—and I will continue to talk about this, just as I did at COAG—is the very fundamental need to look at having a specialised domestic violence court. When I personally spoke to Rosie Batty, her story touched my heart. I spoke to her at length about how she felt let down by the system, about how she felt let down going from court to court. So I think something we can do here as a government is put in place a specialised domestic violence court to deal with these issues. I also made it very clear that I would be taking that issue to the Cabinet Budget Review Committee in the lead-up to this budget. It is good to see the Leader of the Opposition coming along tonight to the candlelight vigil.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is good to see all of the members here—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He does not want to talk about domestic violence?

Mr STEVENS: The question was clearly in relation to what circumstances would mitigate domestic violence. Mr Speaker, under standing order 118, could you please keep the Premier relevant to the question?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I believe I have answered the question. This is a very important month.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not want to hear what the government is doing about it. Where are the suggestions from those opposite? Where are the suggestions from those opposite about what particular recommendations they would like to see the government implement as part of Quentin Bryce's landmark report? I have raised this issue at the national level. I have raised this issue on the national stage at COAG. I am yet to hear from the opposition about that.

Electricity Industry, Workforce

Mr SPRINGBORG: My question without notice is to the Minister for Energy and Water Supply. I refer the minister to his media statement on the weekend which said, 'The Palaszczuk government is resolutely committed to protecting the jobs of front-line workers in the state's power industry.' Can the minister clearly define a front-line worker in the electricity industry and how many industry employees do not fall under this definition?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for his question. The first thing when it comes to protecting front-line services is to keep public assets in public hands. That is what we went to the people with, and only three months ago the opposition leader was promising to privatise the energy sector—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the minister is not taking your interjections. We will listen to him in silence please.

Mr BAILEY: Only three months ago, the opposition leader was promising as a senior member of the Newman LNP government to privatise the energy sector in this state. That is something that Queenslanders rejected outright at the election. Mr Speaker, you would think he might have listened to the Queensland people at this point. I see that he sent the member for Glass House and the member for Burnett out to visit a few Ergon depots, pretending that they support jobs in the energy sector. However, did they visit the Ergon depots when the workers were there? No.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I draw your attention to standing order 118 and ask you not to debate the issue but to make sure your answer is relevant, please.

Mr BAILEY: We are committed to front-line jobs in the energy sector, and that is why we went to the election with the promise that we would not privatise, as the LNP promised under Strong Choices, that we would protect front-line services, that there would be no forced redundancies in terms of that and that we would merge some of the energy companies. We will work through that process in a cooperative and inclusive manner in a way that includes all stakeholders—unlike the previous government who refused to talk to the representatives of workers in this state and attacked them mercilessly. We will work with all of our stakeholders and we will protect front-line services in this state. For the Leader of the Opposition to come to this place—

Mr SPRINGBORG: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I draw your attention to your previous rulings and also the standing orders. My question was very specifically about asking the minister to define a front-line electricity industry worker and how many people in the industry are not categorised as front-line electricity workers. It was very clear. I am happy for the minister's self-indulgence as long as he answers that first.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. I call the minister and remind you of the importance of relevance under standing order 118.

Mr BAILEY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. We are committed to having a reliable energy sector with front-line staff to cover this state. That is our commitment to Queenslanders. We are committed to that—but we have the opposition pretending we are not when we are working with all of our stakeholders in that regard and when we have got a policy to protect front-line services. This is a question that the opposition leader might have liked to have considered in the last three years as he cut front-line services all over this state.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I think you are straying away from answering the question. I will call the member for Bulimba.

Federal Budget, Concessions for Pensioners

Ms FARMER: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier advise the House on the status of federal funding for Queensland pensioners' concessions ahead of next week's federal budget?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Bulimba for her very important question because we know how important it is for pensioners in our state to get those flow-on impacts of those concessions. If we look back at the former LNP government, we saw a huge cut announced by the former premier, Campbell Newman, to pensioner concessions in this state. We only have to go to that previous budget which the former treasurer, the member for Clayfield, presided over. Who did that budget hurt the most? The pensioners of this state. It hurt the pensioners and we must do everything we can to make sure that does not happen again. This issue is so important that I believe Tony Abbott can show some leadership right here, right now and reinstate those pensioner concessions. Why should the state have to pick up the burden of what has been, in the past, the sole responsibility of the federal government to provide that funding to the states across Australia?

I recall that after that last budget there was a pensioner outcry that the out-of-touch former LNP government, the government that did not listen, could hurt the most vulnerable of people in our society. Do not forget the former treasurer was going full steam ahead with that announcement. He went to the QCOSS breakfast and announced to everybody that those concessions would be cut. Then there was a bit of a backflip after I went out to Inala with members of my team and spoke to the pensioners. There was outrage that such a government, the former LNP government, could make a decision to hurt the most vulnerable in our community.

I am very pleased to announce today that I have formed an alliance with some other current premiers across Australia. The Premier of South Australia, Jay Weatherill, and the Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, and I have written to the Prime Minister asking him, as an act of good faith, to reinstate the money for the pensioner concessions in the federal budget. This is the right thing to do.

It should never have been ripped out in the first place. If Tony Abbott has a heart, he will listen to what the Labor premiers are standing up for in Australia. It is the Labor premiers who are standing up to Tony Abbott and saying, 'Enough is enough.' It is the Labor premiers who are standing up to Tony Abbott and saying, 'Do not hurt the most vulnerable in our society. Do not hurt our pensioners.' I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the Premiers of South Australia, Victoria and Queensland to the Prime Minister, Hon. Tony Abbott, regarding Commonwealth government funding for concessions [370].

Queensland Economy

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. I ask the Treasurer: will he advise the House of the measures he is implementing to put Queensland on the path back to a AAA credit rating? Will he guarantee that Queensland will not be downgraded further in the future?

Mr PITT: I thank the honourable member for the question. The member may wish to see what our fiscal strategy looks like—but he probably did not care too much about our fiscal strategy before the election. What was made very clear prior to the election—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. I know we are excited.

Mr PITT: It must be the late afternoon start, Mr Speaker, I do not know.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, please continue to be heard in silence.

Mr PITT: Those on that side would have noticed something if they had taken the time to read any of our documents—which they did not do because they totally believed, very arrogantly, that they were going to waltz back into government. That is what they thought. They left a whole bunch of things lying around the place, just like a bunch of tenants who have left the house and did not expect to get evicted. That is exactly what has happened. There are all sorts of things lying around. We picked things up, we pulled things out from behind the curtains in the Treasury. I am very much looking forward to delivering the first budget of the Palaszczuk Labor government on 14 July.

When we start talking about what may happen in terms of ratings agencies and any particular points around potential downgrades, obviously we have seen some other downgrades that have happened in recent times and other people put on notice. We know that we will be presenting a very, very comprehensive plan about what we will be doing to deliver on our fiscal strategy. That fiscal strategy talked about delivering \$5.4 billion of general government sector debt pay-down over six years. In terms of our 10-year debt plan, it was to deliver \$12 billion. I will explain again for the member for Surfers Paradise exactly what that was about. That was about ensuring that we kept our assets in public hands and making them work more efficiently and effectively for us. That is an important point here. This is about something that we have; we have the dividends of those businesses. Why? We still own them. Those opposite would have had no dividends. This is the question that the former treasurer—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr PITT: Hang on, the pretend shadow Treasurer wants to talk about this because he clearly did not get the job that he wanted.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Clayfield, your interjections are not being taken. I call the Treasurer.

Mr PITT: Thank you for your protection, Mr Speaker. The wannabe shadow Treasurer, who obviously was trying to delay—he delayed his audition because he clearly tried to take his three-minuter from this morning to use this opportunity to really go in there and go hard. I am a bit worried about what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is now saying to the member for Clayfield. The member for Clayfield must feel absolutely terrible about what the shadow Treasurer has just said, because he has referred to a terrible situation in which he tried to blame Labor for the figures that were in the member's own midyear review brought down by the former treasurer. He talks about employee expenses growth being forecast at 3.7 per cent. Whose forecast was it?

Mr Nicholls: We are saying: what are you going to do? Are you going to match it?

Mr PITT: It was their forecast when in office. I do not think he has actually got a handle on it just yet. Quite clearly, we will be bringing down the budget in July and telling Queenslanders what we have done in terms of our assets and retaining them in public hands.

In answer to the member for Clayfield, he does not get it. He tried to hoodwink everyone by changing the metrics and going to fiscal surpluses. We will be delivering an operating surplus and we will be bringing this forward. That is exactly what was spelled out in our plan to Queenslanders before the election.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PITT: They just do not like it, Mr Speaker. However, they did not quite get the numbers.

Cape York, Environment

Mr PYNE: My question is to the Premier. Premier, can you advise what your government is doing to protect Cape York conservation values and our precious environment in Queensland?

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order. The use of the word 'you' is not acceptable in the parliament.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, would you like to rephrase the question without using the word 'you'.

Mr PYNE: Can the Premier advise the House what your government is doing to protect Cape York conservation values and our precious environment in Queensland?

Mr SPEAKER: For the member's guidance, it should be, 'what is the government doing'.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I would like to thank the member for Cairns for a very important question in relation to Cape York and also the environment generally across Queensland. Of course, my government is committed to the \$100 million over four years for protecting the Great Barrier Reef. We know what that means for tourism and we know what that means for jobs right across our state. The member for Cairns represents a beautiful region, a beautiful part of Queensland, and one that will benefit immensely from our Great Barrier Reef being protected by this Palaszczuk Labor government.

It has come to my attention, however, that some serious issues have come to light in the media in relation to some land clearing of our precious resources on Cape York. What is even more alarming is that the reports are indicating that this may have been done during caretaker provisions without the opposition being informed at the time. I understand that some 31,800 hectares of land on Cape York was given approval for clearing. This is absolutely disgraceful. The member who would have been presiding over that administration, I am advised, was the member for Callide. So today I would like the member for Callide to explain why he gave approval for the clearing of 31,800 hectares of land on Cape York.

Mr CRIPPS: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, will the Premier commit to tabling any documents she has in her possession that support her assertion that the approval of the development application was in contravention of caretaker provisions?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, for Hinchinbrook, you are out of order in simply rising to make a statement. If you want to move a motion, you are free to move a motion. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The government will be investigating. That is my commitment to the people of Queensland. We will be investigating this issue because I believe the people of Queensland need to know the truth. They need to know the truth about what the former LNP government did in relation to the clearing of 31,800 hectares. What else did they do? We know the member for Clayfield spent \$70 million of taxpayers' money on the Strong Choices campaign, don't we? It is quite obvious that they do not want us to find anything, but slowly, slowly it is coming out and the people of Queensland will learn the truth. They are up to their eyes in it. The member for Clayfield—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please come back to answering the question. You are provoking the opposition, which I do not think is what we want.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, they are provoking me!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Is this as good as it gets?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have 17 seconds. You can either speak or resume your seat; which do you choose?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will keep going, Mr Speaker.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I love this. This is better than me asking questions at estimates. Mr Speaker, in conclusion can I say that we will be investigating. We will find out the truth, and the people of Queensland will know the mess and the incompetence—

(Time expired)

Business Confidence

Mr NICHOLLS: Premier, is this inquiry No. 42 or 43? My question is to the Premier. Premier, since the election of the state Labor government, business conditions in Queensland have plunged to their lowest level in a decade. The most recent CCIQ Pulse survey of Business Conditions states that—

Businesses point to the Queensland Government's change of policy direction and hesitation with approving major infrastructure projects a cause for concern.

Apart from announcing nearly 40 reviews, can the Premier advise the House what the state Labor government has done to overcome the business community's obvious lack of confidence in Labor's infrastructure policies?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, member for Clayfield, for this question, because it gives me a great opportunity to talk about the wonderful things that we are doing in relation to building business confidence in this state. Mr Speaker, were they asleep this morning when I announced the aviation deal with Jetstar, which from September will bring in two additional flights a week from China? Were they asleep when we announced that? Were they asleep when the Minister for State Development and I announced the T2 solution—a solution that the former government could not come up with—to provide certainty so that the Adani and Carmichael mines could continue? My government is committed to jobs. Today I can advise the House that we expect a final decision on the preferred proponent for the Queen's Wharf development by the end of July, creating tens of thousands of jobs that are going ahead under this government. Let us talk about the LNG industry. Who set up the LNG industry in this state? Not those opposite: it was Labor! Next Friday the Minister for State Development and I will be in Gladstone to see the first QCG ship leave with LNG.

I love Queensland, my team loves Queensland and we will make sure that we grow jobs in Queensland. Unfortunately, what we are seeing on the other side is a destructive opposition. They do not want to talk about the real issues; they want to get down into the dirt and into the gutter. We will generate business confidence in this state. I have already announced that I will be establishing a Premier's Business Advisory Council—

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, most of the time when those opposite met with business, business had to pay—but not under this government. Our doors are open and we will continue to work with business in this state. Unfortunately, it is the same LNP that we saw under Campbell Newman, and most of the front bench that were there in the past is still there and nothing has changed.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Townsville I remind members that, when you are asking questions without notice, standing orders 113 and 115 apply in relation to concerns about lengthy preambles and the importance of having questions and not lengthy preambles. I call the member for Townsville.

Boot Camps, Costs

Mr STEWART: My question is for the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Will the Attorney-General please outline the cost pressures arising from the issues outlined in the Auditor-General's report into boot camps?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. There certainly are concerns in relation to the costs—

Mr Bleijie: Surprise, surprise! Oh, I was not expecting this one!

Mrs D'ATH: Again, Mr Speaker, they think this is a joke. At the time when the LNP was sacking public servants and pulling money out of Health and Education, they were more than happy to pour money into boot camps. That is disgusting. What we saw was a blowout in these boot camps from \$4.9 million to \$12.3 million—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Clayfield, you have asked your question. Will you please stop interrupting the Attorney-General. I call the Attorney-General.

Mrs D'ATH: I think they should be listening to this. I do not know how many of them would have read the Auditor-General's report on boot camps, but I encourage them to do so. There was a blowout of \$7.4 million. What we saw with the sentenced youth boot camp at Lincoln Springs was an escalation of up to \$10 million for that particular boot camp, where the original funding approval was for \$3 million. We have to question the former attorney-general about how much he knew of his department's frustrating the Auditor-General in his efforts to find out this information. The Auditor-General's letter, dated 2 April 2015 to the former attorney-general, says—

You may not be aware that, because your Director-General did not provide a full response to my letter to him of 15 October 2014, my officers needed to make further requests for information from his department. During this period this also came to our attention that the contract with the sentenced youth boot camp provider had been varied, and we also uncovered other related payments, of which the department had not made us aware.

The Auditor-General goes on to say—

In late January 2015, my officers also advised me that they had been told by departmental staff that the Director-General had requested his staff not to provide any further evidence to my office.

Let me enlighten this chamber exactly what we mean by 'cost blowout'. Not only were there capital costs of \$4.1 million to set up the Lincoln Springs boot camp, but Queensland Corrective Services has had to fund extra staff on top of the provider providing staff, and youth justice has had to fund extra staff on top of these costs that have been identified. The Auditor-General said that, in relation to the variation of the contracts, there is no clear rationale at all in relation to the variations in the contract in favour of the service provider. All of the utilities costs, over \$4 million in capital costs, the boots, the jeans, the Rough Rider hats—all of these are being paid for by taxpayers on top of this funding. It is disgusting to think how much money has been poured into this. The former attorney-general has not provided any information. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Aspley, I would like to inform members that the former member for Mount Ommaney, Mr Bob Harper, and his wife, Rhonda, are in the gallery observing the proceedings. I call the member for Aspley.

Domestic and Family Violence

Ms DAVIS: My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs. I refer the minister to the government's domestic and family violence campaign, which states—

Don't let your concern become regret. *Trust your instinct*—call DVConnect.

Given today's welcome announcement of \$1.5 million to DVConnect, will the minister advise if, on receipt of the email from the member for Cook's former partner, the minister trusted her own instinct and made the call to DVConnect to protect this woman, or was the minister's first instinct to call the Executive Building to protect the government?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. Our government is absolutely committed to tackling domestic and family violence. One of the first things we will be doing is putting in place a strategy to tackle this insidious crime. For the past three years there has been no strategy to tackle domestic and family violence, and it is the No. 1 recommendation of the Bryce task force report. These allegations—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, please allow the minister to answer in silence.

Ms FENTIMAN: The allegations the member is referring to are incredibly serious, and I fully support any and all investigations into domestic violence. That is why I fully support the Premier's decision to refer these allegations to the police. It is entirely appropriate that the police investigate these matters. Those matters need to be investigated by the police.

Ms Davis interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Aspley, you have asked your question. You were provided the opportunity to ask it in silence. Please do not interject on the minister.

Ms FENTIMAN: Unlike those opposite, I will not be releasing confidential information that was copied to me that contains details of the children of the member for Cook. Unlike those opposite, I believe that the ongoing public dissection of this matter is completely unhelpful.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Currumbin, do I need to warn you? I made a number of comments after this question was asked. Please listen in silence.

Ms FENTIMAN: As I said, I fully support the Premier's decision to refer this matter to the police. I am happy to inform the House that—

Ms DAVIS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My question was quite direct. It was whether the first instinct of the minister was to connect the woman with DVConnect or to pick up the phone and ring the Executive Building.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, there is no point of order. I ask you to let the minister continue to answer the question.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I would invite you to read the standing orders and perhaps some precedents. There is no point of order. I call the minister.

Ms FENTIMAN: As I have said, these allegations are very serious. This government, rather than trying to score cheap political points, is getting on with the job of delivering services. This morning we announced \$1.5 million to support those women and children who are experiencing domestic and family violence. We are getting on with the job of delivering the support services these women and their families need.

The Trust Your Instinct campaign is a campaign to encourage women to reach out and call DVConnect. We are providing the support services that these women and children need—extra funding for counsellors, extra funding for support accommodation—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. If there are any other further interjections I will warn the member under standing order 253A.

Ms FENTIMAN: These allegations are serious. They are before the police. That investigation needs to be completed. The Premier has commented on this matter many times before. I find the ongoing public dissection and the cheap political pointscoring unhelpful.

Gold Coast Light Rail

Mr de BRENNI: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier please update the House on the second stage of light rail on the Gold Coast and whether there are any impediments to this project?

Ms TRAD: I thank the honourable member for the question. Like every member on this side of the House, the member for Springwood understands that transport infrastructure is not just about roads; it also includes public transport infrastructure. People on this side of the House understand that significant city-shaping public transport infrastructure like Gold Coast Light Rail and like the Moreton Bay rail line are city-shaping—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, if you continue to interject you will be warned under standing order 253A. I give you full warning.

Ms TRAD: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I know how much those opposite hate public transport infrastructure.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I do not need you to provoke the opposition. Please come back to answering the question.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I know you are excited.

Ms TRAD: It is no fun anymore, Mr Speaker! Gold Coast Light Rail has been a resounding success. Only yesterday the five millionth passenger alighted from one of the tram services on Gold Coast Light Rail. Some 18,000 trips every day are being taken on Gold Coast Light Rail. This is an amazing public transport infrastructure project that was delivered by a federal Labor government and delivered by a state Labor government in partnership with the Gold Coast City Council.

This is a fantastic piece of public transport infrastructure that those opposite took credit for. We saw the former treasurer, the member for Clayfield, stand in this House and rattle off a list of things that he said had been started by the former government. Let me talk about infrastructure projects that the previous LNP government took credit for in the last term—significant pieces of public transport infrastructure like the rail line to Springfield, a fantastic rail line and a fantastic piece of public infrastructure, and like Gold Coast Light Rail. Who cut the ribbon on that? Who took credit for it? I think those opposite! The Queensland children's hospital is a fantastic Labor health infrastructure project, taken credit for by those opposite. The Gold Coast University Hospital—

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, I refer you to standing order 118. The question, as I understand it, is in relation to light rail on the Gold Coast. If you can continue.

Ms TRAD: The honourable member asked how we are going to proceed with the second stage and any impediments. The second stage is incredibly important for the Gold Coast. It is understood that it will not only improve public transport passenger services but also be a key feature of the transport strategy going into the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018.

The impediment here is that every single LNP member to a T will not lobby the federal government to change its stated position on funding public transport infrastructure. On two occasions I have asked the Hon. Warren Truss—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms TRAD: The Deputy Prime Minister of this country heard me out but did not respond. The federal Assistant Minister for Infrastructure refused to respond. Every single LNP member on the Gold Coast needs to lobby the federal government for funding.

(Time expired)

Mining Industry

Mr CRIPPS: My question is to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Yesterday the member for Mirani said in this House—

I am concerned that at this point in the history of coalmining in Queensland I am unable with confidence to point to any mining company that deserves the right to mine.

Does the statement by the member for Mirani reflect the government's position?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for his question. I reflect on the statements made by the member for Mirani yesterday. I will detail some of those statements. The member for Mirani was concerned regarding mine rehabilitation. I think we are all concerned regarding mine rehabilitation. On my tour of Queensland I have seen some wonderful mine rehabilitation results. You would not even know there had been mining there. I have also seen some of the legacy mines—the former minister would be aware of those—where mine rehabilitation was not so good.

The member for Mirani was concerned regarding the engagement of mining companies with local communities. I, too, am concerned regarding this. To be fair, Royalties for the Regions had one probably unforeseen impact on the mining communities on which the member has picked up. What has happened previously is that the mining communities were supported by the mining companies. Unfortunately, with the Royalties for the Regions we find that the companies have now abrogated their responsibilities. They have said, 'No, the Royalties for the Regions program will pick that up.' To be fair, that probably was not anticipated by those opposite, but we are fixing that with our Building our Regions program. The member for Mirani was also concerned about FIFO, fly-in fly-out, mines. We also have concerns about FIFO, and that is why we have a parliamentary committee inquiry. Today I also announced an independent inquiry into FIFO. We, too, share the concerns of the member for Mirani. The member for Mirani has shared his concerns with us through his speech as an independent member of that fine electorate. I remind those opposite what happened when another member tried to stick up for his electorate—Dr Chris Davis. I remind those opposite—

Mr CRIPPS: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, surely under relevance—under 118—the minister needs to advise the House in relation to the question I asked as to whether or not the statement by the member for Mirani that he cannot identify a single mining company in this state that should have the right to mine reflects the position of this government.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Hinchinbrook. I draw the minister's attention back to the question and standing order 118, which deals with the issue of relevance to the question that was asked. Please continue.

Dr LYNHAM: It does not reflect the position of this government. This government is about jobs. This is a government of economic development. This is a government that is supporting the mining community. A Queensland Resources Council report states—

We are encouraged by the fact that the Palaszczuk government has given the green light to many of the initiatives of the LNP administration that were in train when the election was called.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Excuse me, Minister. I have made a number of comments already in relation to standing order 253A. I will be directing the next member who interjects to leave the chamber under standing order 253A for the remainder of question time. That applies to both sides of the House. Minister, you have 29 seconds on the clock if you want to resume and use it.

Dr LYNHAM: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The report also states—

The Palaszczuk government also continues to show its political support for the development of the Galilee Basin and associated supply chain infrastructure. We are seeing the Deputy Premier playing a strong and constructive role behind the scenes. Also making good impressions is the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, Dr Anthony Lynham.

Jobs

Mr RYAN: My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer outline how the Palaszczuk government is working to boost employment opportunities for Queenslanders?

Mr PITT: I thank the honourable member for Morayfield for his question. The member for Morayfield was a part of a team that took a very comprehensive plan to the people of Queensland in terms of what we would be doing to increase opportunity for employment and increase the number of jobs in this state. When you look at those policies it is very clear to me that those policies were off the back of our broader Working Queensland policy—a very important program worth more than \$600 million with Skilling Queenslanders for Work at its core, a \$240 million plan which is all about ensuring that we look after those people who really need help to get back into the workforce or, for some, getting into the workforce for the first time. We know that when it came to a range of different employment areas in Queensland the LNP abandoned people. It abandoned young people. It abandoned people in regional Queensland. It abandoned mature workers. It abandoned disadvantaged groups such as people from non-English-speaking backgrounds. In fact, the last government spent more money on trying to sell assets than it spent on employment programs, which is an absolute disgrace. That is very evident when we saw the sorts of jobs figures we saw over the last three years in this state.

Going back to the member's question, we have the Advance Queensland Research Fellowships with regard to the knowledge based jobs of the future. We have the Business Development Fund which is about turning brilliant ideas into commercial realities. All of those things will help engender more employment in this state. We have the Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program, a program which I particularly like because it has a great way of looking at the ever-changing economy we are living in and ensuring that stay-at-home mums and parents can be flexible with their workplace as well as their work-life balance. I think that is a terrific initiative. Of course we have had to rescue TAFE because those opposite just threw it on the scrap heap and anyone who was going there along with it. When we look at the payroll tax rebate that we are going to be offering to employers who take on apprentices and trainees, there will be a 25 per cent rebate for another employee which means that there will be a discount.

It has been a few years since the member for Morayfield was here and it is important to note that the last time he was in this place the Labor government at the time was adding 1,175 full-time jobs per month. What was happening under the LNP at that time? On average it was losing 400 full-time jobs a month. That is the difference between then and now. Labor also increased the total number of full-time jobs to more than 42,300. That was the number we increased it by. Under those opposite we had a net loss of 13,800 full-time jobs over the last three years. It is absolutely disgraceful in terms of the way it threw people onto the scrap heap. No wonder we have seen business confidence having some fluctuations in this state, because it is the cumulative effect of the last three years of those opposite tearing down this state. They not only tried to do what they call fiscal repair; at the same time they destroyed our economy. We are going to have to talk up confidence in this state and ensure that we can undo the damage of the last three years.

Jobs

Mr COSTIGAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. Minister, jobseekers have seen the demise of major projects, notably in the far north the dredging of Trinity Inlet. Now the government is looking to stall the Olive Vale Station project on Cape York, and I ask: when will jobs and the employment hopes of Queenslanders, including those in northern Indigenous communities, rate above the Australian Labor Party's short-term political deals?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question. The one thing that I have heard throughout my short political career so far is that jobs are very important to the people of North Queensland and Queensland in general. The one commitment that the Palaszczuk government has made is job creation. The Treasurer has already outlined the programs that we have available to us and that we are currently working on. The previous LNP government made cuts to major front-line services and cut budgets. In my portfolio of Disability Services, \$108 million has been cut from the disability budget this year alone. Our focus is very much on job creation, and that is what we are working on across all agencies at the moment. The one thing that I have learnt from conversations that I have had with constituents is that they are very relieved that they now have a government that is actually listening to them, a government that is keen to work with community, with business, with industry to create jobs and to support people in our community.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mrs O'ROURKE: Exactly. They are relieved that we did not sell our assets. We still have our Townsville port.

Mr COSTIGAN: I rise to a point of order. I realise the minister is new and I can relate to that from my first term, but I ask you to rule on relevance here. There has been no reference to Indigenous communities at all and I do not see it coming in the last two minutes.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I commented earlier in relation to standing orders 113 and 115. If members want to ask wideranging questions, ministers have the opportunity to give wideranging relevant answers. I would urge members: if you want specific answers, ask specific questions and do not give long preambles. I call the minister.

Mrs O'ROURKE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The previous LNP government's legacy was cuts—millions of dollars of cuts. We have the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. As announced, \$65 million is going towards job creation. That is not job creation in one particular area; that is job creation across the whole of Queensland, which will encompass everybody.

Everybody will have access to that program. Within disabilities, we are looking at creating 13,000 jobs over the next three years and they are going to be in areas such as remote communities. We are focused on jobs. We are not focused on jobs just for one group of people; we are focused on jobs for everybody and that is what this government is doing.

Mental Health Services

Ms HOWARD: My question is addressed to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. I note the government has released an exposure draft of the Mental Health Bill 2015. Will the minister update the House on recent reports into front-line service provision for mental health services?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Ipswich for her question. I know that she is very passionate and committed to getting health outcomes in Ipswich and the West Moreton region, including in mental health. I want to talk a little bit about the Productivity Commission's *Report on government services*, which was published in January 2015, and how the Leader of the Opposition did not fix mental health. When it came to health, we have heard the Leader of the Opposition talk a lot about how he was the fixer. But let me give members two numbers. In his first full year as minister, the member for Southern Downs cut spending on mental health from \$918.8 million to \$873.4 million. That is a cut of \$45.5 million, or five per cent of the total budget for mental health, at a time when the demand for mental health services is rising. I am advised that it is one of the biggest cuts in mental health ever recorded in Australia. That is in that report. It is an Australian record, but for all the wrong reasons.

Today the Leader of the Opposition asked a question of the Minister for Energy about what a front-line service was. Let me talk about front-line services and what sort of impact this cut had on front-line services. In the Warwick community health service I am advised that, in June 2013—when

he was minister—there were 26 full-time equivalent staff working in mental health. By 30 June 2014 they were down to 21 full-time equivalent staff. That is a cut of five FTEs in the Leader of the Opposition's own backyard. So that is 20 per cent fewer staff to service his own community.

Time and time again we hear the opposition members talk about how good they were in government. But what is the stark reality? The stark reality, as demonstrated in this report, is cut, cut, cut. That is their legacy and that has a real impact on what we can do in our health services. It is extremely disappointing indeed. We need a bipartisan approach to mental health. We need to work together, but if you cut staff, you cut services, you cut benefits and outcomes for the community. I am happy to have a bipartisan approach, but if the policy is flawed, as with the Leader of the Opposition's bill—which he has rushed back into the parliament; flawed, full of errors, not dealing with policy issues—you cannot have that bipartisan approach. It is very disappointing.

I know that the Leader of the Opposition will throw things at me. He will struggle very hard to restore his status, but his legacy is cuts, cuts and cuts.

Electoral Redistribution

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Premier. In the 2009 redistribution three rural seats were abolished to create additional seats in the Sunshine Coast, Gold Coast and Brisbane districts. Will the Premier commit to working with the parliament to ensure that rural and regional electorates are not disadvantaged during the upcoming redistribution?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. I think all members of this House acknowledge the work that our regional members do not just in this House by standing up and representing their communities but right across the state. I know that firsthand by just recently going out on a drought tour and meeting with people in those remote regions about the huge impact the drought is having on those communities. I know the member for Mount Isa represents a large community as well as the member for Dalrymple.

It is my understanding that, during this term of government, the Electoral Commission will conduct a review of the boundaries. That is completely independent from government and it is at arm's length. I say to everybody in the House that we value every member of this House but we also value those members who represent large electorates. It is only when you go out on the ground and meet with the people and listen to the communities that you appreciate the large, encompassing job that they have to perform, the amount of travel that they have to undertake from community to community.

I have made it very clear that my government will govern for all Queenslanders. That means that my government will take its community cabinets to different parts of Queensland. I will also get out as much as possible and listen to people on the ground. That is in stark contrast to what we saw under the former government. This is a government of listening. This is a government of action. We will continue to represent the needs of rural and regional Queensland.

Tourism Industry

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister update the House on the government's commitment to tourism and what progress has been made to reach the 2020 target of growing visitor expenditure to \$30 billion?

Ms JONES: I thank the member for Mackay for the question. Last week I had the great joy of being with the member for Mackay when we met with the Mackay Tourism Board, local tourism operators and businesses as well as high school students in the member's community who are studying tourism at school. They want to have a job in the tourism industry in the future.

Our commitment to growing the tourism industry is resolute. That is why we took to the election a number of election commitments that will ensure a greater investment in our tourism dollar spend. That is more money for Tourism and Events Queensland as well as—and members heard the Premier talk about this this morning—an additional \$10 million for the attracting aviation fund to get more direct flights into Queensland and support local businesses.

Since I became the Minister for Tourism, every single place I go people are saying to me that they want to get more people through their doors, more people travelling to Queensland as a tourism destination. That is despite over the last three years hearing that tourism was meant to be one of the

core four pillars of the former government. I am hearing on the ground from local businesses that the former government ripped money out of tourism. It did not support the tourism sector. Despite pretending that it was a pillar, it ripped money out.

All we need to see as concrete evidence of that is the follow-up audit report that was tabled yesterday by the Auditor-General. What did he have to say about the three years of the LNP and its supposed focus on tourism?

However, the rate of growth in demand, as measured by visitor expenditure, remains a challenge. Queensland is not on track to achieve its ... 2020 target of \$30 billion.

Total overnight visitor expenditure in Queensland was \$17.938 billion for the year to 30 September 2014. This is well below—

That is well below the December 2014 interim high-growth target that it was meant to be of \$21.462 billion. So what we have seen is a major shortfall between what they promised and what they delivered. We were promised a pillar and all we got was a 'Leaning Tower of Pisa'. It was nothing more than a slogan. When you talk about business confidence—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you are provoking the opposition. I would urge you not to provoke the opposition. You have 32 seconds. You can continue.

Ms JONES: Mr Speaker, I would also like to correct the record this morning. They are trying to maintain that the last three years were somehow rosy and peachy. I doorknocked thousands of people and hundreds of businesses. They were telling me that unemployment was at the highest rate in 11 years, that they had lost their jobs, that business was stagnating. That is why no-one believes what the members opposite are saying when it comes to tourism or any other industry. The last three years was tough, tough, tough for business and tough for Queenslanders. For the members opposite to walk into this House and pretend otherwise—

(Time expired)

Member for Cook

Mrs SMITH: My question is the Premier and Minister for the Arts. Can the Premier please inform the House about any advice she has given to her parliamentary team, including the ministry, about providing support to the member for Cook despite her public statements that he should resign based on his admissions that he had abrogated his child support responsibilities and failed to disclose his criminal record?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will make it very clear: members are representing their electorate in this House and if any member wants a briefing on any bill in this parliament they are entitled to a briefing.

Mrs SMITH: I rise to a point of order. The question was not answered. I clearly asked about any advice she has given to her parliamentary team, including the ministry, about providing support to the member for Cook despite her public statements that he should resign based on the admissions he had abrogated his child support responsibilities.

Mr SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. If you would like to have a discussion with me later about the standing orders I am happy to have a discussion. The time has expired for question time. We will now move on to the introduction of private members' bills.

LIQUOR AND FAIR TRADING LEGISLATION (RED TAPE REDUCTION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (4.01 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Anglican Church of Australia Act 1895 Amendment Act 1901, the Anglican Church of Australia Constitution Act 1961, the Fair Trading Act 1989, the Liquor Act 1992, the Liquor Regulation 2002, the Oaths Act 1867, the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1900, the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971, the Queensland Congregational Union Act 1967, the Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Act 2014 and the Wesleyan Methodists, Independents, and Baptists Churches Act 1838 for particular purposes and to repeal the All Saints Church Land Act 1924, the Anglican Church of Australia Act 1895 Amendment Act 1901, the Anglican Church of Australia Act 1977, the Anglican Church of Australia (Diocese of Brisbane) Property Act 1889, the Ann Street Presbyterian Church Act 1889, the Boonah Show Ground Act 1914, the Chinese Temple Society Act 1964, the Presbyterian Church of Australia Act 1971, the Queensland Congregational Union Act 1967, the Roman Catholic Church (Corporation

of the Sisters of Mercy of the Diocese of Cairns) Lands Vesting Act 1945, the Roman Catholic Church (Northern Lands) Vesting Act 1941, the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1830, the Wesleyan Methodists, Independents, and Baptists Churches Act 1838 and the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property Act 1853. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Liquor and Fair Trading Legislation (Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Bill 2015 [\[371\]](#).

Tabled paper: Liquor and Fair Trading Legislation (Red Tape Reduction) Amendment Bill 2015, explanatory notes [\[372\]](#).

The irony of that long list of churches and religious organisations is that this is largely a bill about amending liquor, but, as we know, good wines are always named after saints or clerics and that explains the connection. This bill continues the good work that the previous government had started in building our economy. It is, in fact, a resubmission of a bill submitted by the former attorney-general under the last government in November last year, put forward in almost the same form. As you know, Madam Deputy Speaker, because of the procedure of the parliament, it fell off the *Notice Paper* when parliament was prorogued and we are resubmitting it because we believe that it is based on important principles and will achieve great things for Queensland and its economy at the moment.

As we have heard in debate in the last day or two in this House, there is, in fact, a crisis of confidence within our business community at the moment. That was highlighted by the remarks made by the member for Clayfield yesterday and reaffirmed by some extra points he made today. Confidence is, of course, a fragile thing and it can evaporate very quickly; and it has certainly done so under this government. The purpose of introducing this red-tape-regulation measure is to ensure that once again we can send a message to the Queensland business community that this parliament is about delivering a strong and prosperous business community.

Let us recall the issues raised by the member for Clayfield yesterday when he explained the paralysis and crisis that there is in respect of the government's actions with respect to the business community at present. The government has, as he said, cancelled, called in or stymied projects with the potential to create up to 30,000 jobs worth \$8 billion of investment and that adds to the 4,500 jobs lost since this government was elected. The Cairns shipping development project is one of those, the Trinity harbour development; Cedar Woods has been called in, causing significant concern amongst the development community, a project that had passed all levels of rigorous examination and yet now is back in the uncertain basket; the Kurilpa Riverfront Renewal, similarly called in; the Gold Coast cruise ship terminal gone; the BaT tunnel gone. What is the effect of all that? The effect of it is, as the member for Clayfield pointed out yesterday, that this government has got the thumbs down from the Property Council; it has got the thumbs down from the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry—which says, incidentally, that business confidence is at its lowest in six years; and it has got the thumbs down from the CommSec report rating states' performance right around the nation. Why is it that business confidence is important and why do we need to have our business community booming? It is not an end in itself; it is not about keeping business happy, it is about making sure that our economy is delivering for the people of Queensland.

The member for Murrumba, in his first speech yesterday, rightly quoted Ken Hayward who had said, 'You have to look after business because that is what employs people and pays wages.' It was a wonderful quote from Ken. I do not know that it was a remarkable revelation because it is pretty basic and pretty important. The point made by the member for Murrumba is well made. It is important that business is booming if we want our community in turn to be booming and if we want people employed and we want wages paid. Every legislative reform that helps business means that there is another job available in our community or that business costs go down and that that reduction in cost can be passed on to give us cheaper products or cheaper services.

This government said two things about business—updated today. It said these two things: No. 1, its door is open; and No. 2, it has established a business round table. It basks in the glory of these dual announcements, but these are, of course, nothing but the beginning of a process. It is not the end of the process to say that your door is open and that you are listening. What we want is action. We want a government that actually does things and that is where this government has been sorely lacking.

The measure that is before the House today does not deal with the big stuff. It does not deal with the infrastructure projects that we have been talking about over the last two days, it does not deal with those big picture issues that are so important to the community, but it does deal with regulatory reform. Regulatory reform to help business was a hallmark of the last LNP government—in particular, the overall picture of which this is but part, the reduction of red tape to assist business. The previous

LNP government set a 20 per cent reduction target by 2018. Due to the hard efforts of the member for Clayfield, the member for Nanango and the former member for Pumicestone, those targets were well on the way to being met. This legislation introduced today continues that path of reform.

The *Report card on red tape reduction*, which the government produced in November 2014, showed that 500 specific red-tape-reduction initiatives had been proposed and 370 of them had been completed. The Queensland Treasury assessed the value of those to the business community at \$425 million per year, which lifted significantly the burden on the business community. It showed that the government was tracking well against its 20 per cent target, which was effectively a target of \$569 million worth of regulation reduction. It achieved \$425 million against a target of \$569 million and was well on the way to getting to that target.

That target was part of a rigorous framework around red-tape reduction. I have been around long enough to remember when Sir William Knox was treasurer of this state. He set up a committee to reduce red tape and I can tell the House that there have been a few committees to reduce red tape since then. However, that committee actually did something; it actually achieved something. It established a best-practice regulatory system that had a culture right across government, and I know because as a minister I was under the thumb to make sure that we delivered those reforms, which were aimed at reducing the burden of regulation on our business community. That committee set up the independent Office of Best Practice Regulation, which measured regulation red-tape reduction. It did not just have it out in the ether; there was a baseline measure of the regulatory burden and specific reduction targets for each agency. That was a first. Once again, this bill carries on that great work.

Of course, the government, of which I was a part, introduced many more reforms right across-the-board with respect to red-tape reduction in a whole lot of areas. One that was close to my heart arose when I was assistant minister for planning reform, working with the then deputy premier. Under his guidance much was achieved in the planning area. I want to dwell briefly on one particular reform—that is, the Single Assessment Referral Agency. When the then deputy premier and I came to that office to look at how the planning regime was working here in Queensland, one thing that jumped out at us was that there was a unit within the department whose job was to bring together what could be three, four or five separate and conflicting pieces of advice to developers from various departments of government—one from the Department of Main Roads, one from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, one from another government department. We set up a unit within our department to look at the confusion that we had created by having multiple departments giving multiple and conflicting answers. At that time, it seemed sensible to the then deputy premier to set up a single assessment referral agency so that when developers applied for something to happen, instead of having to trot around to three, four or five departments, they could come to one department that coordinated a single and consistent response from across government. It was pretty simple but pretty important, and it was a reform that I am pleased to say won the Planning Institute of Australia's award for the best town planning reform of that year.

The previous government was committed to reforms that would and in fact did help business in Queensland, which in turn helped employment and the economy. That is where we are going with our broad regime of red-tape reduction. This legislation deals with red-tape reduction in the area of liquor within the hospitality and tourism industries. When the former attorney-general set up a consultative liquor and gaming red-tape reduction expert panel to look at the issues within the liquor industry that were causing problems, it was clear that plenty of things needed to be done. It was an important panel made up of representatives from numerous organisations within the industry. It considered the issues and reported to government, leading to the reforms that are suggested within this legislation. As the explanatory notes show, the objective of the legislation is to make reductions in the regulatory burden on the liquor and tourism industries by amending certain provisions of the Liquor Act. As I have said, they are pretty basic and simple amendments, but they will have a significant outcome for the industry.

One provision provides flexibility in the time frame in which an approved manager must be available. There is the need to have an approved manager on the premises. This legislation provides flexibility to maintain the necessary supervision of licensed premises, but not to place an inordinate and costly burden on licence holders to have approved managers present at a time when other arrangements could be made to ensure that the licensed premises are well regulated. There is a provision to remove duplication for Brisbane licensees in relation to the incident register and the crowd controller register. Those two separate registers essentially do the same job and, in some cases, require those who hold liquor licences to provide information on both registers. That is

unnecessary and the legislation fixes that. The issuing of notices or requisitions by investigators is a difficult and time-consuming process for licence holders. It is an important job and it is important that it be done properly. Once again, this legislation removes duplication and unnecessary regulation in the way in which notices or requisitions are issued by investigators.

During the evaluation of what we needed to do, one interesting item that came to the fore was that campdrafting events, very popular events in rural and regional Queensland, needed a community liquor permit. That was seen to be heavy-handed regulation that is not needed in the context of those community events. The Cooyar campdraft was a particular example raised by my colleague the member for Nanango in the context of that discussion. Campdrafts are held all over rural and regional Queensland and I see the member for Gympie nodding his agreement, as is the member for Beaudesert. Plenty of members will know what a practical reform this is, as it will allow those great community events to continue without the burden of heavy-handed bureaucracy, which in turn will increase tourism income and activity.

The legislation amends the risk assessed management plan, which liquor licensees need in relation to their business. Once again, in this circumstance the heavy-handed regulation went much further than was needed. For example, it meant that a florist who put a bottle of wine in a basket of flowers needed a risk assessed management plan. That seemed a bit extreme. Generally, florists are law-abiding people within our community and there seemed to be a degree of trust that could be given in that regard, doing away with the heavy-handed bureaucracy. A number of amendments relate to low-risk premises and the need for a risk assessed management plan.

There is provision to allow for the sale of takeaway liquor to signed-in guests and visitors to a community club. This will be helpful to local community clubs. All members know what important institutions they are within our local communities. Under appropriate conditions, the sale of takeaway liquor to signed-in guests and visitors will be made possible by this legislation.

The legislation will deem all police officers to be investigators under the Liquor Act. At the moment, there is a delegation procedure needed and police have to produce the delegation when they go to the premises. The amendment will simplify the process and cut out the paperwork and bureaucracy involved in police work in that regard.

Another provision allows after-hours consumption for residents and their guests outside their rooms in licensed premises. A very important provision will allow the sale of craft beer at promotional events. Queensland has a well-established group of craft beer producers, none more prominent than Burleigh Brewing, located in the electorate of the member for Burleigh. It is an award-winning craft beer establishment. The amendments take away the heavy regulation that stopped those people from selling or supplying their product at promotional events, markets and so on. The legislation will enable that to happen, again enhancing the economic benefits of the tourism industry and the craft beer industry.

There are other provisions in the legislation restricting patrons from taking liquor into and away from events that are the subject of a community liquor event and a commercial public event permit. There are provisions in the legislation that simplify proof-of-age provisions and bring them up to date. So, again, the bureaucratic requirements around proof of age are simplified given the various ways people have to prove their age.

There is a measure contained in the bill, which seems trivial but is again important, to clarify the meaning of liquor and to exclude certain substances from the operation of the Liquor Act. There are substances—for example, Chinese cooking wine and even soy sauce—which are in fact considered alcoholic beverages and are, unfortunately, caught by certain provisions of the act.

Mr Cripps: Vanilla essence.

Mr WALKER: Vanilla essence as well. I have often had meetings with the member and he has come in with a strong smell of vanilla essence on his breath. There will still be provisions within the bill that will ensure he does not go to town on vanilla essence! Chinese cooking wine, soy sauce and vanilla essence will be appropriately regulated rather than caught by unnecessary regulations under this legislation.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Member, I think we will note that that comment was made in jest.

Mr WALKER: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I should have indicated that with a more lively facial expression. That comment was certainly made in jest.

Mr Hinchliffe: The taking of facial expressions doesn't go down too well in *Hansard*.

Mr WALKER: No, thank you very much, Leader of the House. There is provision for regulation under the bill we have presented for the use of car parks for the sale and consumption of liquor. It has been a problem where licensed premises include a car park and there have been sound attenuation issues and disturbance issues. The bill provides for simplification of this issue.

The reason for the long list of religious bodies in the long title of the bill is that as part of this legislation we tacked on a number of acts which had become unnecessary, were not useful and were no longer needed by the organisations that are referred to in them.

Mr Hinchliffe: Disestablishmentarianism.

Mr WALKER: That is right. The longest word in the English dictionary is antidisestablishmentarianism. There is no such motive, Leader of the House, in respect of this. It is simply to get rid of 14 acts that effectively do not have a place in our statute books anymore and to make consequential amendments to other acts that take up any provision that is still useful to the religious body in question so that it is a workable piece of legislation.

The initiative for that change came from a referral by the former attorney-general to the Law Reform Commission. The Law Reform Commission recommended these changes. They have been well and truly consulted on with the bodies to which they relate. The explanatory notes indicate that of the 14 bodies involved I think only two were unable to be contacted or involved in the discussion. There has been lengthy discussion, particularly with the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, in respect of ensuring that these amendments still allow them to operate properly but also ensuring for their benefit that we get rid of large chunks of legislation that is no longer necessary.

That is the reason for the bill's introduction. We believe that it is part of a continuing reform program in relation to red tape. Although it comes from this side of the House, we hope it is looked at by the committee in a bipartisan way. I am sure it will be. In turn, I hope the House looks at it on its merits and sees fit to support it. It will assist the economy of Queensland to move on and the ongoing work of red-tape reduction to continue.

First Reading

Mr WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (4.23 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 5 May (see p. 389).

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Before calling the member for Ferny Grove, 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. I call the member for Ferny Grove.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (4.24 pm): It is with gratitude, pride and humbleness that I find myself delivering this speech—my first in this historic place in this 55th Parliament. May I extend my congratulations to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, on your appointment. I congratulate the Speaker, the Hon. Peter Wellington, the member for Nicklin, on his appointment as Speaker. I had heard a lot about the Speaker, but I have only got to know the gentleman since I have arrived here. I find him a man of integrity, respect and honour. It is a pleasure to assist him and you at stages during the sittings as a deputy speaker.

As the member for Ferny Grove, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the area where we meet today and also of the Ferny Grove electorate—the Turrbal and Garumngar people and the associated clans. I also congratulate my fellow parliamentary colleagues for their success in taking up positions in this House. It is never an easy task to be elected to parliament. I know for each and every one of us it is a great achievement and we did it with the best endeavours and for the right reasons.

Additionally, I sincerely thank the people of Ferny Grove for their confidence and support in entrusting me with this opportunity to serve them in the Queensland government. This opportunity is not taken lightly by me and I shall do my very best to respect the wishes of the Ferny Grove constituency without fear or favour.

This is only the seventh change of government in Queensland's history since 1915 and only the third time since 1932 that a sitting government in the state has failed to win a second term. I consider myself privileged to have been elected the fourth member for Ferny Grove since the inception of the seat in 1992. Glenn Milliner became the first member for Ferny Grove under the Goss Labor government.

Subsequently, Geoff Wilson became the member from 1998—during the time of the Beattie-Bligh Labor governments—until 2012 when the seat swung for the first time to the LNP's Dale Shuttleworth. I acknowledge all three members for their time as past members. In particular, it would be remiss of me not to mention the incredible level of support for Geoff Wilson residents indicated to me while doorknocking. His legacy is quite substantial.

It is an amazing feat to not only be elected to parliament but also to be elected on a second occasion. I do not take that opportunity lightly. It is a humbling experience to have that opportunity once again.

I join two Labor senators, former senators Mullan and Ferricks, who both served in the Commonwealth parliament and the Queensland parliament. Both served in the Queensland parliament prior to serving in the Commonwealth parliament but returned to the state following their federal terms. I believe I am the only senator who has come from the Senate to the state parliament. Therefore, in my view and from my research, I am making history.

Missing the opportunity in the 2013 federal election to be returned to the Australian Senate, my focus turned to the possibility of becoming the next member for Ferny Grove. Incumbency always has an advantage so I never once took for granted the chance of success. Notwithstanding this, with my ethic of hard work I knew that if I committed myself to the campaign rather than accept employment post June 2014 my chances of winning would be enhanced. I knew I had to listen to the residents of Ferny Grove and I set out to doorknock most of the electorate six days a week in the sun and rain—meeting as many people as possible.

Although I had doorknocked houses in the lead-up to the 2007 and 2013 federal elections with little effect, my concentration on Ferny Grove needed to be measured and effective. I started in Keperra in June, completing the entire suburb by July. Next came Arana Hills and Ferny Hills. Developing a scattered approach, I systematically moved into Ferny Grove, Samford Village and Upper Kedron in the lead-up to Christmas and the new year. In total, by January 2015 I had personally doorknocked 9,292 homes.

Along with assistance from our incredible campaign team, we delivered interactions with 16,958 residents. These interactions were varied. However, they were consistent in many respects, providing valuable research throughout the campaign. I could not help the reality of being warmly received on the doorsteps by the residents of Ferny Grove and their goodwill and their astonishment of a budding politician making the effort to come to their home. Leading into the summer period, there were quite copious opportunities to offer glasses of water, and you can only take so much water in before it comes out.

Equally the astounding commonality of many wanting to see a change in government or on many occasions a change in the Premier was quite extraordinary. Key issues identified whilst doorknocking were: job cuts; asset sales; attacks on nurses, teachers, doctors, ambos, correctional officers, the judicial fraternity, public servants and motorcycle riders; the management of the economy; the lack of respect for our environment; the Upper Kedron development; and defence concerns.

I turn to a letter recently provided to me. It is from a public servant written post the election after receiving a letter from Premier Palaszczuk. I was handed a copy and I would like to read it into *Hansard*. The public servant says—

I just wanted to share this with you. The response to Anastacia's letter by all of the public servants I know has been incredible. The relief felt by all of my colleagues has brought some people to tears.

I don't think Anastacia will ever know just how much this letter has meant. No-one expected it but it was so genuinely appreciated. Such a welcome approach after what we have all been through in the last 3 years.

Looking at these concerns raised sequentially, I inform the House accordingly. I turn first to the issue of jobs. All of us should realise the morale, integrity and confidence a job provides to the community, the economy, the family and so on. The previous government unsurprisingly continued down the path of previously elected conservative governments under the architecture of the former treasurer Peter Costello and cut to the bone—24,000 jobs gone in the space of under three years.

Many a household invited me into their homes to tell me their stories and that of their partners, or their children, who had faced the cruel axe of the Newman government. One such Ferny Grove family of senior residents told me the sad story of their three adult children whose jobs had all been terminated by the previous government and only one of those three children had been able to find employment since.

When Campbell Newman compared Queensland to being the Spain of Australia in 2012 shortly after being elected, his hyperbolic claim started a spiral of confidence in our economy descending towards ground zero. This can be best explained while campaigning for the 2013 federal election in Hervey Bay whilst outside a local florist. I asked the owner how business was of late. Her response was, 'Business has been terrible since the election of the Newman government.' Simply put, she credibly indicated that people were not spending because of the job cuts and fears about the direction the economy was heading in.

I turn to the issue of asset sales. Despite the change of tack by the prior government to change their language from asset sales to asset leases, I found no willingness for what people determined was a con—\$70 million of wasted taxpayers' advertising and consultation had failed to convince an intelligent public they wanted to maintain government assets. Even Jeff Seeney in 2010 claimed, 'Leases are a dishonest, sneaky way to undertake asset sales.'

I turn to the issue of the environment. With the experience and knowledge of having been a senator on the Senate Economics Committee's inquiry into the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme and on the Senate select committee's inquiry into climate change, I accept the volatility Mother Nature has on our beautiful state and believe that if we do address climate change we will face irreversible consequences for future generations to come.

I have also been fortunate in my past to have persuaded former Family First senator Fielding in 2010 by taking him to the Wenlock River in the cape to see firsthand the fragile and beauty of our state's rivers—rivers in the firing line of a private member's bill of Tony Abbott, who was hell-bent on allowing second grade bauxite mining on the wetland springs of this beautiful country. With the backing of this former senator in the Senate, we were able to defeat the Abbott bill. However, this win was short-lived, with the Newman government assisting his good friend Tony Abbott reach his dreams by rolling back the wild rivers legislation.

I reflect on positions taken while campaigning in 2013 in Bowen over the Abbot Point dredging concerns. There was a broad exchange of ideas from a whole variety of locals about this particular issue—some were for and some were against—notwithstanding that that was within days of an elected Labor government and a solution, which I understand reaches the consensus of most, to dump the dredged spoils on T2 next to the existing terminal, not on the Caley Valley wetlands or within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. Under the LNP's plan, proposals to dump more than 10 million cubic metres of dredge spoil could have gone ahead. I am informed by a traditional owner, an elder of the Juru people—Ross Williams, a gentleman I doorknocked and who has since joined the Labor Party—that the decision is welcomed by the people to minimise the impact on the reef, cultural heritage and environmental integrity.

I turn now to defence concerns. The Ferny Grove electorate has high number of ADF members and families living in many parts—mostly Army; however, some Air Force. I know this is a federal issue but you get a whole host of issues raised with you when you doorknock, as you would know, Madam Deputy Speaker Grace. While having some relationship with defence personnel having previously been chair of the Defence Sub-Committee in my prior capacity as a Queensland senator, I found opportunities while doorknocking to converse with them. I have been fortunate over that time to have spent time in Afghanistan in 2011, on the oceans both in the Coral Sea on Armidale patrol boats and in the middle of the Pacific Ocean on board the HMAS *Darwin* overnight, in the air in a P3 Orion above Ashmore Reef, and on many countless ADF bases throughout our nation and abroad, with many of our professional men and women of the ADF.

Despite having this diverse knowledge and relationship with the ADF, nothing prepared me for the various concerns expressed to me by ADF members and their families while visiting them in their homes, bearing in mind that around that time, in late 2014, was when the current federal government

had decided to stand by in silence when the Defence Remuneration Tribunal handed down its paltry increase of 1.5 per cent per annum to their salary and cut their conditions of entitlements. Rather than rely upon my experience, I refer to an article on news.com.au entitled 'Why I'm ashamed to be an Australian Soldier'. It reads—

The 31-year-old soldier, who has requested to remain anonymous has served with the Australian Defence Force for 11 years across Australia as well as serving in Afghanistan.

...

"They have given us a 'pay rise' of 1.5% for the next few years. This is more than 1.5% below estimated inflation, and 140% less than the pay rise that politicians have awarded themselves in past years.

...

"My own government disdains me and my fellow serving members, and it disdains us publicly and with thinly disguised contempt.

"I am an Australia Soldier and, for the first time in eleven years, I am thoroughly disgusted to be one."

We need to provide more and do better for our serving ADF, people who sacrifice so much in our community and sacrifice so much for our country and their own families.

There was biased debate in this House in the week of the opening of parliament regarding the two-party preferred outcomes in the election. The two-party preferred result was Labor on 51.1 per cent and the LNP on 48.9 per cent, representing a two-party preferred swing to Labor of 14 per cent since 2012. This is the voting system we have in Queensland—a system that has been in place for many years; a system, regardless of the outcome of any election, we should accept and move on.

I now turn to the Ferny Grove election issues. Notwithstanding the election result, the Palmer United Party candidate for Ferny Grove, Mark Taverner, was revealed to be an undischarged bankrupt and was therefore ineligible to run. This spurred speculation that there may need to be a by-election to resolve the seat. I became aware of further hubris of the LNP with measures of conducting a mail-out to all Ferny Grove electors indicating it was business as usual and a by-election was imminent. This was followed up by, as I understand, the LNP engaging a market research company to phone residents of Ferny Grove randomly to question my credentials and to mislead as to my character to influence people should there be a by-election.

The Electoral Commission of Queensland initially released a statement on 8 February saying that it would declare the seat and then refer the issue to the Supreme Court of Queensland sitting as the Court of Disputed Returns. ABC election analyst Antony Green believed that the Ferny Grove outcome and possible by-election would not have had an impact on who formed government.

I recall reading Professor Graeme Orr, an electoral law expert at the University of Queensland, labelling the prospects of the LNP maintaining a caretaker government until a possible by-election comparable to a constitutional coup. Professor Orr also reasoned that the laws and facts were against the Ferny Grove by-election. The Ferny Grove tally later indicated that PUP candidate Taverner did not have an effect on the outcome of the election, destroying any chances of the Court of Disputed Returns ordering a by-election. On 13 February the Electoral Commission of Queensland stated that, based on legal advice, it would not be referring the Ferny Grove result to the Court of Disputed Returns. This result cleared the way for a Labor Palaszczuk government with the support of the now Speaker, Peter Wellington. Despite a period of uncertainty and desperate measures the LNP used during the election, particularly in Ferny Grove, good government has been restored to Queensland.

During the three-week election campaign, the previous Ferny Grove LNP member provided nothing but false expectations to the electorate, promising unfunded millions of outcomes which were never provided for in forward budget estimates. These included road upgrades to Main Street in Samford Village, school hall upgrades to Patricks Road State School and unfunded assistance for the Grovely State School car park. All promises were signed off on blank cheques which could never be cashed other than by the sales of our assets—a proposition rejected by the residents of Ferny Grove and the majority of Queensland.

I turn to campaign assistance. All parliamentary members in this place know we do not get elected because of our good looks or our charming personalities. I, for one, knew I needed help if I wanted to be the member for Ferny Grove. I extend my gratitude to the many who helped me through the campaign trail. I thank my federal parliamentary friends—federal opposition leader Bill Shorten and opposition leader in the Senate, Senator Penny Wong. Both without hesitation agreed to help in the lead-up to and during the three weeks of the campaign proper.

I thank all those senators who contributed to my election and believed in me winning: Senators Moore, Bilyk, McEwen, Peris—Nova even came up on election day and helped hand out how-to-votes in the electorate—Polley, Bullock and Ketter. Even former president of the Senate, John Hogg, assisted me whacking in street signs and working on the pre-poll booth. Additionally, I thank House of Representatives members Chris Bowen, Tony Burke, Shayne Neumann, Nick Champion, Laurie Ferguson and Joel Fitzgibbon.

Branch members and volunteers, the backbone of any campaign and salt of the earth, were there when we needed them the most. I thank Matt Weatherby and Ali and Cam Gibbs. I must tell you a little bit about the Gibbs. They have a folk band called the Firedrakes. I believe it was the only street stall where there was folk music playing on the streets of Ferny Grove. It was a delight to be part of this campaign and have them playing their fantastic music. I also thank Matt and Sheila Siggins; Sheridan Power and Kerry O'Connor, now two of my very best friends; Col and Julienne Kay; Margaret and Brian Gagen; John Slaven; Kay Herrington; Ross and Linda Williams; Hanne Worsoe; Simone Flemming; Geoff Mackay, who was an inspiration and such a help hammering in street signs; Hugh Childers; Simon Crank; and Graham Theaker.

Past Ferny Grove members of parliament, Glen Milliner and Geoff Wilson, helped immensely with their knowledge and astute political awareness of the electorate. Notwithstanding those I have mentioned, can I thank all members and volunteers—some of whom I met while doorknocking who have since become members of Labor. You are the heart and soul of the Labor movement.

In leaving the best for last, I thank my campaign manager, Laurence Brown, his wife, Judi, and son, Will. The thing about the Brown family is that when you get one you get the whole package: Laurence, with his meticulous detail to everything and relentless stamina, even when he was struck down with a summer flu; Judi's attention to detail, ensuring all fundraising events ran like clockwork; and Will, always there eager to help with anything. Thank you to the Brown family.

In addition to branch member support, the union movement is never backwards in coming forward. I thank Neil Henderson from the Services Union; Peter Biagini from the Transport Workers Union; Ben Swan from the Australian Workers Union; Chris Gazenbeek from the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association; John Oliver from the United Firefighters Union Queensland; the Queensland Teachers' Union; and the CFMEU for all their assistance. It comes as no surprise to anyone on this side of the chamber that I hold a proud union heritage. I was an organiser with the Transport Workers Union, Queensland branch, an industrial officer followed by an official with the Queensland Police Union of Employees, and later the secretary of the National Union of Workers Queensland prior to entering the federal Senate.

A big thankyou to my family: Lorraine, for putting up with another opportunity in politics; my daughters, Stacey and Sally, for helping out during the campaign; and Troy for coming down on election day from Cairns to be with me and the rest of the family on this journey. I also extend my appreciation to the Queensland Labor Party—in particular, Evan Moorhead, Anthony Chisholm and Jon Persley for their commitment throughout the campaign. Since being elected I have engaged with many community organisations: at Samford Rural Fire Brigade I have been accepted as a brigade member, keenly by Allan Wells and the rest of the committed members; Samford Riding for the Disabled; Tramway Museum; Ferny Fireballs Cricket Club; Ferny Grove Falcons Junior AFL Club; Keperra Neighbourhood Watch; and Samford Area Men's Shed, to name just a few. I am also proud to be the patron of the Ferny Grove Bowls Club and the Kupidabin Wilderness Cultural Association. I keenly look forward to representing the people of Ferny Grove. Once again, I sincerely thank them for their support, trust and opportunity to be their parliamentary representative.

(Time expired)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Member for Ferny Grove, your time has expired. Thank you, member for Redlands, for your patience and understanding. Before calling the honourable member for Redlands, 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. I call the member for Redlands.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (4.46 pm): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. Congratulations on your ascension to the role. It is a great honour and privilege to be here in this place. The people of Redlands have put their faith in me and the LNP, and it is with deep respect that I undertake this responsibility as their representative in the 55th Parliament of Queensland. When my great-great-grandfather, Thomas Kirk, drove the first steam engine on the brand-new Cleveland line from Brisbane to Redlands on 1 November 1889 he could never have known that his descendants would still be living in the Redlands 126 years later. Thomas Kirk was reported to be passionately

political and was praised by his contemporaries for not forcing the disembarkation of those at variance with his own views at some dark remote location between Brisbane and Cleveland—probably Birkdale, still dark and remote by some accounts; no offence to the member for Cleveland.

The political passion has burned through the generations to reside in me. Politics to me is about relationships—relationships built on trust, not necessarily in agreement but acknowledging differences if they exist and then working together for the betterment of our community. Redlands is populated by a great many people who work together for the betterment of the community. In fact, Redlands has been populated for at least 23,000 years. I acknowledge the Quandamooka, the first peoples of the Redlands, the Noonuccal, Gorenpul and Koobenpul elders past and present.

The electorate of Redlands encompasses bush, farmland, suburbs, industry, coastal fringe and Moreton Bay islands. It is rich in natural beauty—from its very own extinct volcano, Mount Cotton, which gave us the vibrant fertile soil from which we draw our name, to Moreton Bay, which has a profusion of marine life, internationally important wetlands and is our marine playground. Indeed, I, like thousands of Redlanders, can be found on the water fishing, prawning, crabbing or just paddling around the mangroves of Erapah Creek. The natural heritage we have inherited we must manage and care for. This is one of the challenges that face us now. People want to move to the Redlands and enjoy the lifestyle and location, and that puts pressure on infrastructure, services and the environment.

Managing growth is never easy and there are some things we need to do. Nearly 70 per cent of working Redlanders travel outside the electorate to go to work. This puts immense pressure on our arterial roads. As a consequence, road infrastructure needs to be upgraded including Cleveland-Redland Bay Road and Mount Cotton Road. I campaigned on this issue during the election. Redlands has a population of 50,000 people and two single lane roads for access. I committed to upgrading Cleveland-Redland Bay Road if an LNP government were elected, and I urge the Labor government to address this infrastructure need.

The island communities of Coochiemudlo, Macleay, Lamb, Karragarra and Russell have infrastructure needs also, with the Victoria Point and particularly Weinam Creek ferry terminal car parks brimming to overflowing every day. I am working closely with Mayor Karen Williams to address this issue.

Redlands has the history, people, natural and built environment to draw visitors, and this presents an opportunity for us to build the tourism industry. With investment, certainty and cooperation between governments and local business, we can create local jobs and opportunities and make our home an even better place to live. Redlands has a unique place in Queensland's aviation history. For the benefit of those in the House, Redland Bay was Queensland's only international airport from the 1950s to 1973.

Mr Hart: Seriously?

Mr McEACHAN: Seriously. The Redland Bay Hotel doubled as the Qantas lounge. My cousin vividly recalls the thunderous roar of the Sunderland flying boats coming in to land at about 11.30 at night, refuelling and taking off for Vanuatu on their five-day journey to London.

Redlands has wonderful schools and has earned a reputation for excellence in education in both private and state. I was delighted with the program of maintenance embarked upon by the previous government that has enabled our schools to repair and build after a long period of neglect. I will continue to work hard in fighting for the resources and support Redlands students need.

Similarly, Redlands Hospital staff have flourished in the last three years, earning their place as one of the top performers in their class in Australasia, a beacon of excellence and an example of what can be achieved when you have dedicated professionals with the mandate and budget to manage the provision of health services. As with schools, I will continue to fight for the resources our Redlands Hospital staff require to keep delivering world-class health care.

It was a different story years ago. It was in the Redlands Hospital that I became determined to try and create a better future for my daughter through politics. I carried her into Redlands Hospital with a broken leg. There were no emergency beds available, and as the ink was drying on a contract with IBM that would cost Queenslanders \$1.2 billion, for nearly two hours I held my little girl in my arms with her leg broken just below the knee. I knew that the abject failure to provide policy leadership and resources and a political attitude of indifference had led directly to this situation. I made a silent promise to my daughter to do whatever I could to fix it. Shortly after my preselection, it was an honour to announce 10 short-stay beds with friends and colleagues Steve Davies and Mark Robinson.

I grew up in an environment where political views were encouraged, especially if they were left-wing views. My dad, born in the Gorbals of World War II Glasgow and schooled in the shipyards of the Clyde, is about as union as you can get. In fact, workers' rights and industrial relations has been an enduring passion throughout his life. My mum too is left wing on social justice and was a workplace union representative. So in a political sense I am the black sheep of the family, the one that got away from Jackie Howe. From my dad, I learned that you hold to your beliefs, I learned a great reverence for history and I learned to love the Celtic team. From mum I have learned about courage, humour and integrity.

Mum and dad separated when I was eight. Mum, my sister and I moved to Queensland, leaving dad in Western Australia. It was a tough time for the three of us, and it is fortuitous that I am now on a committee that is looking at domestic and family violence. For a number of years after we moved back to Queensland, mum suffered physical and mental abuse at the hands of her new partner, and I was witness to it. The effects of this were far reaching and long term, but with grim determination she got us out of there.

We moved to a gritty one-bedroom shack that my grandfather built in a tiny fishing village. Mum thought she was doing the wrong thing by us and was sick with worry, but my sister and I knew this shack was healing us. It was a place of refuge. It was a place that we could be a family. It was much more than a shack; it was our home. For mum, with limited means, to have the courage to get herself and us out of an abusive life, she is to be admired. I love you, mum.

As a child, my work experience affirmed reward for effort. I started my first job, a paper run, at age 10. I sold home-grown oranges to the local corner store, thrashed sugar cane and washed dishes. I did a tucker trip on a scallop trawler. Later I went to university and studied ecosystems and cultural anthropology. After two years I deferred and went to the Northern Territory. Over the two years there I became a qualified motorcycle riding instructor and licensing officer with the Department of Transport and Works. Back in Redlands I became a business owner, teaching people to ride. Riding motorcycles and sharing the unmitigated joy of riding is an enduring passion of mine. In a profound way, the reward for effort was even more pronounced—for the better you teach, the less likely that people will get hurt and the more they enjoy their riding.

Redlanders are hard workers. They are aspirational, not only in their personal and family life but also for the community as a whole. Redlanders are a parochial lot and fiercely proud of their local area. We support each other and there is an abundance of community groups, service groups, sporting clubs and volunteer organisations dedicated to Redlanders. There is a strong sense of community in Redlands, a social conscience.

Left-wing philosophy does not have proprietary rights over the social conscience. Often left-wing philosophy is manifest in a well-meaning, paternalistic, nanny state outlook. At worst, it is a myopic, ideological view that blinds true believers to the rights and aspirations of individuals, small business and those that disagree. In doing so, the rights of those less fortunate in our society are elevated above others to the point that a disparity is imposed.

Likewise, left-wing collectivism has a propensity to move past a helping hand to welfarism. Welfare without reciprocal responsibility quickly becomes a pedestal too daunting to climb down from, creating dependence, entitlement and negative stigma. Welfarism is not bound by social standing, ethnicity or context. It is anathema to the human spirit, corrosive to social cohesion. This is one of the fundamental reasons I have a differing political view. The collective thinking that takes us down this road is fraught. Noel Pearson wrote—

Collectives cannot motivate action to improve life in the way that individual choice can: this is the great contribution of liberal thought to the understanding of human behaviour.

I believe that as LNP members we hold to a simple and powerful political philosophy—one that holds dear the rights of the individual; it frames our pursuit of fairness, egalitarianism and the common good. Nor do we seek an enemy to justify our political world view. We have no need of political foes when our efforts are in concert for the good of all Queenslanders.

The LNP combines head and heart in our effort to create the best future for all Queenslanders. It takes political courage to hold to a position which is for the greater good but may be politically unpopular. It is to the detriment of our society to have politicians who make safe political decisions that just pull at the heartstrings at the expense of good governance.

I want to acknowledge Campbell Newman, whom I worked with for four years. His passion and determination in leading the LNP team saw improvements in law and order, health and education, to name a few. His legacy is one of action and dedication to his fellow Queenslanders. Campbell has the courage of his convictions and it was an honour working with him.

It is an even greater honour to serve the people of Redlands and I acknowledge those who have served the Redlands electorate before me—Edgar Baldwin, the indomitable Paul Clauson, Darryl Briskey, John Budd, John Hegarty, John English, my predecessor Peter Dowling, and last but not least John Goleby, survived by Betty Goleby, and in his honour I wear his tie today.

I have wonderful staff in Katie, Sam and Amy who are dedicated to helping me serve the local community. It was only a matter of weeks from my preselection until the election was called. I will always owe a debt of gratitude to the people who gave up their time, expertise and sound advice during the campaign.

Indeed, this time was given over the Christmas-New Year break, even meeting on Christmas Eve. I thank the honourable Bob Harper, legendary political warhorse, whose first campaign was back in the mists of time—back in 1969 if I recall correctly. I thank Craig Luxton, who threw himself into the job with infectious enthusiasm and a booming laugh; Scott Lewis, who worked like a drover's dog and kept nipping at my heels to keep going; federal member Andrew Laming, the last word in grassroots campaigning; Dennis Head, whose mastery behind the Nikon knows no bounds, and his better half, Susan, who was a steady hand in everything that happened; Betty Goleby, who charmed voters on a daily basis; Dot Cheney, who organised 200 volunteers on election day with military precision; Darryl, who kept the books balanced; Adrienne Verco—and who she does not know is not worth knowing—and Uday, fellow road warrior. I also say thank you to Don, Sandy, Stephanie, Esther, Col and Kay, Whyn and Jennie, John and Kay, Barry and Beverley, Trevor and Myrtle, Hannah, my old mate Shane Goodwin, who drove non-stop from West Wyalong to hand out, and all the volunteers. I would like to acknowledge and thank the LNP headquarters team—Bruce McIver, Brad Henderson and Mark Highfield—and my former colleagues Mitch Redford, Katie, Aaron, Matthew, Jamie, Tristan, Kylie and Heidi. They are a wonderful team.

Finally, I would like to thank my mum, who worked her heart out, and my daughter, Indi, for without their unconditional support and love none of this getting elected business would have happened. For however long I am their local member, I commit to serving the people of Redlands by listening, by being accessible and by working for the betterment of the Redlands community. It may come as a surprise to some that I am a keen amateur poet, having subjected friends, family and staff to my musings. In conclusion, this brings me to some advice from Shakespeare that is pertinent to all of us here as we argue and debate for the communities we love—

Let me not to the marriage of true minds

Admit impediments. Love is not love

Which alters when it alteration finds,

Or bends with the remover to remove:

O no; it is an ever-fixed mark,

That looks on tempests, and is never shaken;

It is the star to every wandering bark,

Whose worth's unknown, although his height be taken.

Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips and cheeks

Within his bending sickle's compass come;

Love alters not with his brief hours and weeks,

But bears it out even to the edge of doom.

If this be error and upon me proved,

I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Congratulations, member for Redlands.

An incident having occurred in the public gallery—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Please, gallery. Thank you, gallery, but normally that is not the way we do things, but I understand. Before calling the honourable member for Lytton, 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.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.02 pm): May I first congratulate the member for Nicklin on his appointment to the important position of Speaker. His reputation for fairness and an even-handed approach precedes him, and I wish him well in this important role. I would respectfully like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land upon which we gather and also the traditional owners upon which the Lytton electorate is located as well as the elders, both past and present.

I am proud, honoured and, at the same time, truly humbled to have been chosen by the people of Lytton as their representative in the Queensland parliament. This is an exciting time for me and for my constituents as our new Premier sets the pace for the next term of government. I represent an electorate made up of workers, their families, business owners, the elderly and the young, those who contribute so much to our local community and also those who need a little help from the community. That is the enduring characteristic of Lytton. It is strong and it is caring and it is a vibrant community.

I would sincerely like to thank the electors of Lytton for putting their faith in me to represent their interests. Incidentally, I have the honour of being the first woman elected as the member for Lytton in this parliament. Labor held the seat of Lytton for 40 consecutive years, from its inception in 1972 until 2012. Deputy premiers Tom Burns and Paul Lucas both served the seat and the state with distinction. So there are some very big shoes to fill. Tom Burns represented the Lytton electorate for 24 years. He was a common man of strong conviction and had a practical love of others. His legacy continues, and he is a role model and an inspiration to all those who share Labor's values.

Paul Lucas, member from 1996 to 2012, is a man of great integrity with a burning passion for access to quality education for all, looking out for the battler and delivering great outcomes for the electorate. Whether it be the Port of Brisbane Motorway or the revitalisation and construction of state-of-the-art local state schools, Lytton is a much better place due to the efforts of Paul.

I am very honoured to enter this chamber as a representative of the Australian Labor Party for the electorate of Lytton. I thank the Labor Party for their support. To the dedicated and committed branch members in Lytton and the volunteers who worked so hard during the election campaign to win back the seat for Labor, I thank you. I acknowledge those of you who are here tonight and I promise to work hard for you and with you.

I would not be standing in this place today without the dedicated commitment, support and assistance of my campaign director, Daniel Cheverton, and my local campaign team. I sincerely thank each and every one of you. I would like to particularly mention Mr Darcy O'Dempsey. A quick look at the first speeches of both Tom Burns and Paul Lucas reveals that Darcy has been a local campaigning powerhouse for many decades. Since before I was born, Darcy has fought the good fight and we are better for it. I would like to formally acknowledge Darcy for his life-long commitment to the Labor Party.

My own path to this place has been forged by past generations of my family. Their experiences, the standards they set and their values are firmly instilled in me. I have been fortunate to have instruction from both sides, men and women. The men in my family have a long history of public service. My father, Jack Pease, along with his three siblings, was orphaned at a young age and brought up by an aunt. He became the assistant state secretary and industrial advocate for the State Services Union. My great-grandfather Percy Pease represented the seat of Herbert in Townsville for the Labor Party for 20 years, from 1920 until his death in 1940, serving as deputy premier and minister for lands. But it is not just the men in my family who have influenced me.

My mother, Agnes, instilled in me a strong sense of social justice and fairness. She was one of 12 children. She grew up with rationing in post-war Glasgow and was known to challenge her own parents when she believed her brothers were being given larger portions of food than she was. She migrated to Australia at the age of 19 and set about building a life for herself in a new country. Almost her entire family followed her, including my grandfather, who carried debilitating shrapnel wounds from the First World War. With patience and wisdom, my grandmother presided over a large posse of grandchildren frequently creating havoc in Brisbane's southern bayside suburbs. I am most grateful to my mother for teaching me that women are capable of anything.

We grew up in Birkdale, which in those days was a farming community. Like most families back then, my parents survived on one income; my mother made all our clothes; we holidayed in a caravan; we went to local state schools; our one car was a bomb; and our house was made from fibro. Our playground was a nearby creek and our playmates were local kids and a stack of our cousins.

Both my parents were actively involved in the local community and were members of the Labor Party. Through my parents, I learned that even though we had little, there were others who had less. I saw them help others out and fight for the rights of others and, by example, they taught me a set of values. They taught me the importance of standing up for myself, looking out for others and a sense of fairness. I have carried the values impressed upon me by my upbringing throughout my working life.

Being of independent mind, I left school and home early and began work as an office junior at 16, experiencing firsthand what it is like to start at the bottom, making ends meet on the minimum wage. I fully respect the work of the union movement in Australian history, ensuring that working people are protected from exploitation and have the safety net of minimum wages and conditions. This important work continues today and I am a proud member of the Transport Workers Union.

However, my working life has not been limited to being an employee. I have also had the experience of running a business and employing staff. In my early twenties my mother became ill and I took over the running of her cafeteria. I ran my own training business and, more recently, I owned a cafe in the Wynnum CBD with my sister. I have been fortunate to see both sides of the coin. These experiences have helped me form the view there are often two sides to a story, that it can be folly to jump too quickly to conclusions and that the best outcomes are usually delivered through proper consideration and consultation.

From what I have said already, it is clear that my family is very important to me. I would not be here today without the support of my family: my parents, Agnes and Jack Pease, who are sadly no longer with us; my husband, Peter, and my children, Callum and Audrey; and my sisters, Catherine and Maureen, and their families. Peter, Callum and Audrey have always supported me and are here tonight. They have encouraged me and participated in the many and varied organisations that I have been involved with and they have all often been called upon to undertake duties, some of which they would perhaps prefer to forget. I think dressing Peter up as the IMA safety house may have been asking just a little too much: bright yellow lycra leggings with a foam house on top on a man who is six foot four—I leave that to your imagination. My sisters and their families are an important part of my life, and I was fortunate to have them working alongside me in the recent campaign. Even my very new great-nephew Alex is already working the campaign trail. He is being brought up in the faith. I feel incredibly blessed to be surrounded by such love and loyalty. Thank you.

I love where I live, and I have loved being as involved as possible in the local community. I moved to the electorate with my husband, Peter, over 30 years ago. We raised two children, and I juggled work and home duties while studying for a degree in vocational education. I threw myself into a range of local community and sporting groups, and in so doing discovered just how community minded the people of Lytton are. So many people in the electorate of Lytton are involved in its communal life. We are justifiably proud of our mighty Wynnum Manly Seagulls, the Bugs, the Manly Halloween celebrations, our hardworking environmental groups and the vast array of activities from callisthenics to amateur theatre that take place in the halls, schools, churches and community centres across our electorate.

I would like to make special mention of a number of community and not-for-profit organisations that demonstrate the commitment of Lytton residents to build a better community. Silky Oaks Children's Haven has provided family and human services with dignity and respect and is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, which is an outstanding achievement. Both Wynnum Family Day Care & Education and Brisbane & Bayside Family Day Care provide education and important services to our local community and families. Sailability provides social and sailing opportunities for people with disabilities, BABI Youth & Family Service provides assistance to young people and families in our community, and Winnam provides a range of services and community development activities in Wynnum and bayside to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These are just a small snapshot of the many not-for-profit organisations that are so important to our community.

Much of the work that goes into making the community a better, more compassionate place to live is done by volunteers; however, volunteers cannot provide all of the services that a community needs. In the last three years, the bayside community has experienced a significant reduction to local services at the hands of the LNP government. The Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit was closed down, and 85 local residents lost their home the day the doors were shut; however, it did not go down without a fight. Hundreds of locals attended protests, and 15,000 signatures were collected on a petition to save Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. Sadly, the protests and the 15,000 petitioners were

ignored. The 85 elderly, frail, and in some cases very ill, residents of Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit lost their home. The unit was demolished and to this day sits as an empty reminder of what used to be the place that 85 people called home.

There have been savage cuts to services in Wynnum. The Department of Housing and Child Safety offices have been relocated and moved out of Wynnum. These services are no longer easily accessed by bayside local families. The Bayside Tenancy Advice and Advocacy Service, which assisted residential tenants, closed locally and across the state. The Caravan and Manufactured Residents Association, which provided advocacy and advisory services to tenants and residents in caravan parks and manufactured homes—some of the most marginalised in our state—was closed. The loss of these services has had a direct impact on our local economy. The people who worked at these services and those who used them are no longer in Wynnum and are no longer there doing their shopping, their banking or conducting their businesses.

The Wynnum Hospital has also suffered at the hands of the LNP. Our community has lost valuable and important health services. Our hospital no longer has 24-hour medical staff, and the primary care clinic operates with reduced staff and hours and is now only open between the hours of 8 am and 10 pm. Both of my parents were treated with care and dignity in their declining years at the Wynnum Hospital, and I am very conscious of the value that the proximity of this hospital has to local residents.

Clearly these cuts to government services were a major issue for the citizens of the Lytton electorate in the recent election. What the campaign highlighted in Lytton and across the state was a fundamental difference in philosophy on the role of government. The conservatives advocated *laissez faire*; leave it to the market; small government; if it is an asset, sell it; if it is a public service, cut it; if there is a regulation, get rid of it—as if all of these things are inherently bad. Labor, on the other hand, advocated what it has always done and stressed the importance of the power of the intervention of the state for public good, that there is an important role for the public sector and the provision of services in a civilised society.

It is amazing how long the debate between these two positions has been going on. In researching for this speech, I came across my great-grandfather's first speech to the House on 18 August 1920. He had recently won a by-election for the seat of Herbert, which covered much of the city of Townsville. As coincidence would have it, his campaign dealt with similar issues to the election which brought me here today. The people of Townsville were most concerned about services—in particular, the expansion of rail links—and threats by the conservative opponent to sell enterprises which were of particular value to the north.

What the public—the voters—said in 1920, they are saying now. Our society is made up of communities that are more than economies, and communities need services. Further, communities need infrastructure spending, and that infrastructure is vital to future growth and prosperity for employees and employers alike. Communities need the hand of government to make sensible decisions for the public good.

My great-grandfather's first speech to this House made fascinating reading, not just in the context of the major issues of Queensland's latest election campaign but also reflecting on the impact that the decisions made by the Labor government nearly 100 years ago have had on today's Queensland.

Percy Pease joined the Labor government that had first come to power five years earlier and was already the first of its kind in Australia to introduce health and safety regulations, workers compensation legislation and to regulate at a state level to ensure fairness, competition and to intervene in the market if it thought the greater good could be served. In its time it was seen as a radical vision, and the Labor governments of TJ Ryan and 'Red Ted' Theodore particularly were thrown into conflict with the London money market, which was not keen on lending money to governments with these priorities. The state Labor government of the day was intent on building a future and intended to use the power of the state to do so. For example, to combat profiteering following meat rationing from the First World War, the Labor government established state pastoral stations and state butcher shops to create market competition. In a struggle against profiteering and monopoly interests, the government established sawmills, coalmines, a fishery and even a hotel. They intervened in the sugar industry and took on powerful interests by instituting a prices board to ensure fair prices for growers. They even had the cheek to borrow money from the United States instead of England to help develop Mount Isa Mines.

These are examples of some of the deliberate interventions by the Labor state government of the day into the market to address issues of the time and to lay down foundations for a fair and prosperous future. The ideologically-driven notion that the public sector is a burden on our society, which is currently being pushed by state and federal conservative parties, is erroneous and has been proven incorrect many times in our own history and around the world.

When the Forgan Smith Labor government was elected in 1932 at the height of the Great Depression, my great-grandfather became deputy premier and minister for lands. The Forgan Smith government shocked the world by refusing to adhere strictly to the premier's plan, which was a federal plan drawn up at the request of the Bank of England to ensure that all interest repayments were made and that no new spending was entered into. Instead, the federal government bankrolled three major construction projects: the Stanley River—or the Somerset Dam—which provided water for Brisbane for the next 50 years; the University of Queensland campus, which continues to educate Queenslanders; and the Story Bridge, which is still a vital link for commerce in Brisbane. All these initiatives were on borrowed money, against the economic rationalist thinking of the time and were successful investments in the future.

There are two sides to every story. Regulation, government spending, public services and state owned assets are not all bad. Some interventions serve their purpose and are no longer needed—there are no state butcher shops or cattle stations anymore; others still serve the public good. Constant re-evaluation is needed, and the threats of the future do need to be considered. But on the evidence of our past, the Labor philosophy of using the hand of government for public good has served us well. It was during the time my great-grandfather was minister for lands that vast numbers of unemployed were paid a small stipend by the state as relief workers—building roads, reclaiming land and in my own electorate constructing sea walls at Wynnum and Manly.

This brings me back to the people of Lytton, who live in the Moreton Bay suburbs of Wynnum, Manly and Lota as well as Hemmant on the Brisbane River. The electorate includes part of Moreton Bay Marine Park and all of the Port of Brisbane on the south side of the river and covers 48 square kilometres. It is a community that has benefited from the infrastructure spending on the Port of Brisbane Motorway and the extensions out into the bay of the Port of Brisbane. Many residents work there. Clearly, the people of Queensland have also benefited from this spending.

Importantly, the Lytton campaign and my postelectorate priorities are based on saving the services of Wynnum Hospital for the people of Lytton. The people of Lytton not only need and want these services but also deserve to have these services reinstated. We need to keep public palliative care beds and rehab beds and we need 24-hour primary care services in our community. Now that I am elected I will fight to keep these valuable services in our community.

I really want to see the redevelopment of the old Wynnum Central state school site into a vibrant community hub and look forward to working with council and stakeholders to ensure that this meets community expectations. I want to work with the residents of the Wynnum chamber of commerce, the business owners and the greater community on advancing plans to revitalise the Wynnum central business district. Many local residents are profoundly disappointed at the LNP council's decision to ignore the Wynnum/Manly Neighbourhood Plan for the utilisation of the old Wynnum Central state school land. The neighbourhood plan was designed and drafted by a local committee including local residents, community and business groups for the long-term benefit of the community.

What the Wynnum CBD needs most for future prosperity is an increase in population density, which was a focus of that plan. However, the LNP council has decided instead to give us another supermarket and a library. We locals are struggling to understand the wisdom of this decision, which is yet another example of the conservative side of politics' approach to public consultation. This is the kind of extreme ideology and public policy that characterised the LNP state government, which the voters of Queensland resoundingly rejected at the last election. The LNP government decided to act first and ask questions later. We need to get back to a more considered approach to public policy, because the voters of Queensland made it clear that they would prefer us to ask questions and to listen to what Queenslanders have to say.

Queenslanders want the government to listen and act sensibly, and I intend to devote myself to listening to the residents of Lytton and standing up for the interests of my electorate, for working people, for local business, for the young and the old, for the Labor movement and for the future prosperity of Queenslanders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Congratulations to the member on her first speech. I call the member for Glass House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.22 pm): It is with mixed emotions that I rise to contribute to the address-in-reply this afternoon. At the outset I say that it is absolutely wonderful to have the honour to represent the people of Glass House for a third term. I think all who have been in this House for more than one term know just how special it is to continue to have the faith of the people you represent placed in you.

If I can just pause for a moment, I want to give a wonderful example of why we do what we do. Yesterday morning I spoke of Steve and Donna Smith, a young couple who had water thigh high go through their house and who had had Energex come out and say that the house was unsafe to reside in. Donna is 32 weeks pregnant. I do acknowledge that that morning the government had included their street in the disaster declarations and that the government and Red Cross were working with them to achieve an outcome. Unfortunately, that outcome was not suitable for someone who is 32 weeks pregnant. At this point I acknowledge Minister Miller, who came to me yesterday and said, 'If there's anything more we can do, please let me know.' When I got notification from the Smiths today, I spoke to Minister Miller and within a matter of minutes she had rung the family and then my electorate office. I have just received from the mother and aunt of Mr Smith a message, which reads—

Dear Mr Powell, this is the mother and aunty of Steven Smith from Male Road, Caboolture. We are just texting you to thank you with all we have as the tears are streaming down our faces and unable to talk. Jo-Ann Miller has rung us this afternoon to help and we just cannot thank you enough. Cheers, Barbara and Dianne.

I think that sums up perfectly why we do what we do.

As I said, I am here this afternoon with mixed emotions because I do acknowledge that considerably fewer people in Glass House voted for me in 2015 than in 2012. That is certainly not lost on me.

Mr Mander: Is that why you have the beard?

Mr POWELL: I actually have the beard because it has been five weeks since the last sitting—long enough that even I can grow a dodgy resemblance to a beard! That is why I have it, member for Everton. I acknowledge that I need to address the concerns the people of Glass House clearly expressed at the 2015 election.

I must begin by thanking my family, who continue to support me in my role as member for Glass House. My wife, Taryn, is probably the most patient, supportive, incredible woman I know. If people got to know her themselves they would agree. It is fair to say that our five children are who they are today because of what Taryn does each and every day. Honey, I love you so much. Thank you for what you do to support me, for the love that we share and for the fact that we celebrated 17 years of marriage this year. I look forward to 34 more, or even more than that.

Mrs Frecklington: How did you come up with 34?

Mr POWELL: Seventeen and 34: what will that make me? Too old! Hopefully it will be a lot longer than that.

To my man about the house, my big boy Dan, recently turned 14: I am just so proud of you, mate. While I have been absent over the past three years as a minister you have really stepped up. You have looked after the family. You have looked after Mum. You have looked after the place. It is awesome that you made the rep soccer team this year. I look forward to catching a few games, because I have the time to do it now.

To my 12-year-old daughter Erin, who is just so smart and so switched on: I know we are going to share a lot more time geocaching around the Sunshine Coast over the coming months because, again, I will have a bit of time to do it.

Brielle: happy birthday for yesterday, my princess. Daddy is again sorry that I was not there to join in the festivities with you but I look forward to seeing you pretty soon.

Ben, my cheeky little monkey: we are going to have a lot more time together. I just wish I shared your passion for sharks. It is not something Dad is going to get involved in, but I know we will have fun all the same, matey.

Beautiful Rohanna: it is hard to believe that last week you turned five. This is a child who was born once I became a member of parliament. It is scary how fast that time has passed and that you are now five. You are just such a beautiful blessing to us as a family.

The children are certainly starting to not know a time when I was not the member for Glass House. As I have alluded to, one of the blessings of now being back in opposition is that I will certainly have a lot more time to spend with them.

I also thank the staff in my electorate office. Alaina, why you are still with me I do not know. It has now been some 6½ years. I know that you have taken time off to have your two wonderful children, but I just thank you so much. Jen, it is great to have you back. We are back to the original EO staff that we kicked off with six years ago, and that is just wonderful. I also want to acknowledge Katie. I was sorry to lose you but I was so pleased to see you up in the gallery earlier supporting your new boss in Matt McEachan, the member for Redlands. Gemma, I hope life in Brisbane is treating you well and that it has worked out to be all that you wanted it to be. I also mention Nicole and most recently Carol. No, I do not go through exorbitant numbers of staff; they just tend to have children often, so we have to replace them. They are a bit like me!

We have a lot to be proud of in Glass House. We achieved so much over the past three years. If anything, we failed to get that word out to the people of Glass House as much as we should have. I mention things like funding for the upgrade of the D'Aguiar Highway. I know that the constituents of the member for Nanango will rejoice in this also. We have just announced that tenders are out for the work that will include an overtaking lane between the Gamgee roads; surface improvements; improvements to the intersection of Williams and Gamgee roads and at Canando Street, Woodford; and general visibility and safety improvements, some of which have already happened.

With the community's support we have been able to achieve funding for traffic lights at Reed Street and Steve Irwin Way in the Glasshouse Mountains, with construction to start later this year. We achieved extra police officers at Maleny, Woodford and Palmwoods police stations. We achieved public transport fare cuts, and I acknowledge the former minister for transport here this evening for all of the efforts he made to ensure that we not only halved Labor's previous price increases but cut them by five per cent—the first time in history.

So many clubs in the Glass House electorate received Get Playing grant funding, and I acknowledge the former minister for sport—clubs like Sunshine Coast Bowmen, Maleny Bowls Club, Wamuran netball, Maleny swimming club, Maleny junior rugby union club, Conondale Swimming Pool Committee, Caboolture Sports Club, Maleny District Sports and Recreation Club, Maleny Rangers, Landsborough Tennis Club, Wamuran Little Athletics, Palmwoods Bowls, Elimbah Ladybirds Netball Club, Maleny Golf Club, Palmwoods and Western District Junior Rugby League Football Club and the Caboolture PCYC. Other community grant funding went to groups such as Delaneys Creek State School, Montville Village Association, the Compass Institute, Woodford Scout Group, Delaneys Creek Rural Fire Brigade, Peachester History Committee, Palmwoods Memorial Hall, Glasshouse Districts Cricket Club, Woodford and Region Men's Shed, Beerburrum School of Arts, Woodford RSL Sub Branch, Palmwoods Tennis Club, Maleny junior rugby union team, Glass House Mountains Rural Fire Brigade and Wamuran and District Men's Shed.

We achieved flashing lights at Woodford, Wamuran, Beerburrum, Elimbah and Chevallum schools and after 10 years of requesting a 40-kilometre zone at Montville State School—not flashing lights but a 40-kilometre zone—we achieved it, with that happening last term. That is a fantastic outcome. We also achieved funding for Lavally Lodge, a disability service provider—recurrent funding for Lavally Lodge in the Glasshouse Mountains—and we also provided Everyone's Environment grants to Barung Landcare, GMAN and the Blackall Range Lions club. We achieved recurrent funding of \$50,000 per year for Maleny Neighbourhood Centre, Palmwoods State School became an independent state school, two new express rail services on the Sunshine Coast rail line, a new state primary school at Caboolture on Pumicestone Road, a new 657 bus servicing that same part of Caboolture—again, something we fought for for so long—and close to \$2 million in funding to clear school maintenance backlogs. That is a huge amount that we achieved and I am so pleased that we have been able to do that for the people of Glass House. I know there is more to do and we are committed to doing that.

I also acknowledge my fantastic ministerial office—to Troy, Lyn, Fiona, Brooke, Aaron, Abbey, Shannon, Erin and Carl—and also acknowledge the contributions over the years from Alex, Ken, Karen, Frangi and Margaret at various times. In the same way we have so much to be proud of. The Newman LNP government has a record of achievement of delivering across-the-board, including in the environmental portfolio. Again, much of what we achieved has perhaps gone unnoticed, but we know we did so much to create a better environment and a more nimble, more modern regulator that ensures that that environment remains protected into the future. I thank the departmental staff including Andrew and Jon and their team of Dean, Tony and Tamara and all of the staff who worked within the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. What did we achieve? Probably first and foremost was a considerable culture change within the department of environment. Gone are the days of DERM. What we have is a department in EHP that accepts its responsibility of protecting the

environment but is there to work with the people who want to create jobs so that both can be achieved. That was a huge job—a huge job—and I again commend the work of Andrew in leading that change management.

In terms of green-tape reduction, we have lost 9,500 environmentally relevant activity administrative burdens on business—9,500! We are now almost on par with states like New South Wales, but we have so much further to go and I hope the Palaszczuk government continues this work. We could still aspire to Victoria where, with a similar population and with a far larger manufacturing industry, it only has 700 ERAs in the entire state. We are around 4,500. New South Wales is at about 3,500 and WA is at about 1,200. There is more green-tape work that can be done.

With regard to the Great Barrier Reef, contrary to what those opposite will say, much of what has been achieved over the last three years has been achieved because of the combined efforts of the LNP government at the state level and the LNP coalition at the federal government level. If the Great Barrier Reef is not listed in danger this year, it will not be because of the three months effort of Dr Miles; it will be because of the work over the last three years of the LNP government. We worked with our canefarmers and our graziers in putting in place BMPs where we are not asking them to fill in copious amounts of paperwork and sending them to jail if they do not. We are working with them cooperatively for the benefit of their industries and for the benefit of the environment.

Our Everyone's Environment grants were such a great initiative that saw people who have never got out of their houses and participated in protecting the environment do so. Scout groups, Lions groups, Apex groups, youth groups, churches and our heritage area all achieved funding through these programs and it was wonderful to see. We implemented the toughest penalties and sentences within environmental legislation in this state ever, and that included increasing our penalties and sentences for damaging the Great Barrier Reef—something that those opposite could not even support and yet they claim they are better for the Great Barrier Reef. We added one million hectares to nature refuge, taking the overall total to four million. For the first time our koala package addressed all of the causes of concern in declining koala numbers. Most importantly, there was our \$3.2 million to disease research and prevention. This has led to the first successful wild trial of a chlamydia vaccine that will now be rolled out across the state for every koala we come in contact with. Again, Labor will try to take credit for the national park acquisitions we have made over the last three years, but I and the team know better. We know we worked on a scientific basis, we know we worked on ensuring connectivity and we know that those strategic acquisitions will truly add to the protected area estate of this great state. The ALP will try to take credit for what we did, but we know we did the hard yards and we know we have turned the environmental portfolio on its ear and we should be duly proud of that.

I want to pick up on something else that I am very proud of in the last three years, and the member for Gympie acknowledged this too—that is, the Queensland Plan. I just listened to the member for Lytton in her maiden speech suggest that we did not consult with the people of Queensland. Through the Queensland Plan more than 70,000 Queenslanders had direct input into the future of this great state for the next 30 years. Again, what did those opposite do? They rejected it and they refused to accept the input of 70,000 Queenslanders in guiding Queensland for the next 30 years. That was a fantastic initiative. It has received awards from around the state, the nation and the world. It has received plaudits from community engagement practitioners throughout the world.

I mentioned earlier that I heard loud and clear from the people of Glass House. I know I need to do more, and I will talk briefly in a moment as to what that is. I just want to refer to an article in the *Australian* from 19 March this year that states—

Our political system is not delivering. This is now obvious to the community. There is little sign the political system can address the nation's problems: a fractured budget, unsustainable spending programs, unproductive industry, entrenched inequity and insufficient infrastructure. It is true the nation is not in crisis yet this repeated invocation is recruited to excuse the status quo.

The article continues—

Reform is a lost political art in this country ...

The power of the negative campaign has never been stronger ... Yet the nation cannot solve its long-run problems short of unpopular measures.

The voices of the aggrieved dominate the media and political debate at the expense of the public interest. The media weight given in the 1980s to national interest reform is long since lost. Australia is trapped between challenges that demand long-run brave policies and a political culture addicted to cynical, short-termism and cultivation of votes on grievance.

I think that sums up the fact that we are in a challenging political landscape where to truly reform and truly set this state on a path for a greater future is going to be captivated by those who have short-term focus, those who are NIMBYs—not in my backyard—and want to naysay everything. I think it is a challenge not only for this side of politics but also for the other side and I look forward to seeing how those opposite grapple with it. As I said to the people of Glass House, I do need to listen more and I need to do more and over the last couple of months we have been pulling together a list of things that we need to work on: we need to find out what the Labor government is going to do about the north coast rail duplication, the Jubilee Drive intersection at Palmwoods, a permanent school crossing supervisor at Chevallum, upgrades to the Maleny-Kenilworth Road, an indoor aquatic centre at Maleny, a kiss and go at Maleny State School, an upgraded police station at Maleny, flashing lights at Peachester school, air conditioning for Glass House Mountains State School, an upgrade to King John Creek bridge at Elimbah and parking at Caboolture Hospital—something we funded and had in the budget.

Also, there are speed reductions near County Drive on the D'Aguilar Highway and pedestrian crossings in Woodford, also on the D'Aguilar Highway. They are just some of the things that I will be fighting for over this coming term.

Before I conclude, I must also thank my local LNP team, led by the staunch and indomitable Greg and Joyce Newton. There are just so many people in my four branches of Palmwoods, Maleny, Glass House-Beerwah and Woodford-Wamuran so I cannot mention them all individually. But I know that, compared to many of my colleagues, I had more people on my campaign team than many had in their entire LNP membership in their electorates and I am very grateful for that effort. I thank them so much for what they have done. We worked so hard. We have taken a knock, we have talked that through and we will be the stronger for it.

As I conclude, I would like to acknowledge four constituents who no longer call Glass House home: two who have relocated and two who are looking down on us from above. The world is made up of two kinds of people: Glass House residents and aspirational Glass House residents. So it has come as quite a shock that Neil and Deb Cook have chosen to leave Glass House and make Lockyer their home. I have spoken to them of the dangers of going to an electorate serviced by someone like Ian Rickuss, but they have stuck by their decision and they have moved to the town of Laidley. Neil and Deb are stalwarts of the Mount Mee community. Neil was involved with the Mount Mee hall and the Mount Mee Rural Fire Brigade. He also ran the community newsletter. We just worked so well together and Neil did so much for the community. I want to acknowledge that couple and tell Ian Rickuss that he has a lot to live up to. He had better look after them.

I also acknowledge the passing of Beryl Newton and Keith Beitz. Beryl Newton was over 100. Beryl turned up at my preselection seven years ago. I will never forget her and Mrs Olga Webster sitting in the front row and saying afterwards, 'We changed our vote after the first vote. We wanted you as our member.' I am here today because of Mrs Beryl Newton. It is a great loss, but we know that she is where she wanted to be. I ask her to please keep looking down on us. She had a teacher approach to everything. We lived in fear of Beryl, even when she was in her nineties. She was just so wonderful. The other loss was Keith Beitz, otherwise known as Chooka, from Glass House Mountains. Keith was a supporter who, in his late years, in many of my election campaigns would go out doorknocking with me. Afterwards, I would share with him a cold ale on his back deck. I thank him. My thoughts are with Maisie and his extended family.

I am determined to serve. I am determined to deliver for the people of Glass House. It is for people like Neil and Deb Cook and because of people like Beryl Newton and Keith Beitz that I am where I am and I do what I do. I thank each and every one of them for that privilege and that honour.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Ryan): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Cairns, I remind all honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I call the member for Cairns.

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—ALP) (5.42 pm): Firstly, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet and pay my respects to elders, both past and present. I would also like to thank those who have assisted me in becoming functional in this place. As I am a person with quadriplegia, the Clerk of the Parliament has provided me with reasonable accommodation to allow me to contribute to this parliament on an equal footing with other MPs. That is all people with a disability want: equality of opportunity. When I was elected one question asked was whether I would have extra time to be here when the bells ring. But that was not something that I would request or expect. However, in providing me with a nearby deputy whip's office, what I have been given is reasonable accommodation that allows me equal opportunity to be here in time when the bells ring. For that I am thankful.

Importantly, I want to thank my family for their support. I thank my mother, Marion, my sister, Joann, and, most importantly, my wife, Jenny, and my daughter, Katie, for their love. I also thank my staff, Erenie and Cameron, for essentially being me when I am out of the office, including during my time here. I also thank the Cairns trade union movement, particularly Together, ALP members and all my supporters for their ongoing support.

It is a considerable honour and personally significant moment to be here giving this speech today. Mr Deputy Speaker, with your indulgence I will explain why this is such a poignant event for my family and me. I grew up in a Labor family—a family committed to public service. My father, Tom Pyne, will be unknown to many members, so I will recount his place in history. Dad was born in Babinda, the youngest of five children. He was educated at the McDonnell Creek, Bellenden Ker and Hambledon state schools and lived for a period at Deeral before moving to Edmonton. He married my mother, Marion McKinnon, in 1955 and they had two children, my sister, Joann, and me. Dad worked as a wood machinist for Queensland Railways, the department of public works and for Advanx Tyre and Motor Services before subsequently opening his own small business, a petrol station at Edmonton.

Dad joined the Australian Labor Party at 18 and held a range of roles in the party, including local branch president and secretary, campaign director for several MPs, ultimately being awarded life membership of the party in 1985. He was elected as a councillor for the shire of Mulgrave in 1961 and served continuously, including 16 years as shire chairman, until the shire was merged into the City of Cairns in 1995. Dad then contested the first mayoral election for the new enlarged City of Cairns and easily defeated incumbent Cairns mayor Kevin Byrne. His term as mayor included overseeing the transition to the new council chambers, the new council headquarters and the development of the Esplanade Lagoon on the Cairns foreshore. He retired in 2000, having never lost an election and having served as shire chairman or mayor for 21 consecutive years.

Dad was a prominent member of the Local Government Association of Queensland, becoming a member of the local government executive in 1979 and serving as the president of the LGAQ from 1997 to 2000. Dad passed on in 2011. Dad offered his services to the party as a potential candidate for Cairns in 1983, but was overlooked for Keith De Lacy, subsequently becoming Keith's campaign manager. It may have taken a while, but if the old man is looking down tonight he may well reflect that, through me, he has reached the only political goal denied to him. In 2008, I was elected to the Cairns Regional Council and was subsequently re-elected in 2012. All being well, at the end of this term my family will have represented people in Cairns in one capacity or another for 50 years without electoral defeat, a family electoral record of which I am duly proud.

Although it is great to be inspired by history, reflection must be brief, as more than ever the modern electorate is concerned about those who can deliver and deliver now. Clearly, at the last election Cairns electors did not feel that the state government was delivering sufficiently, which is why they elected me. It is my intention to deliver for those who put me in this place, including small business people, teachers, nurses and public sector workers. I refer to nurses like Fae Morgan, who is a palliative care nurse. Nurses such as Fae regularly see people dying before their time and families hurting—supporting families faced with the anguish and gut-wrenching pain of losing someone they love and, unfortunately, because of cuts to services, often working to support these people with struggling resources. Nurses are at the coalface of caring for the people we love. They work unsociable hours to the detriment of their own families, missing out on school concerts, family get-togethers and special occasions. Every day nurses care for Queenslanders. Nurses, firies, ambos and all who work unsociable hours deserve to be paid penalty rates. Fae said to me—

Nursing has an ageing workforce. How can we attract more young nurses to care for us? Certainly not by cutting their entitlements! We need to be forward planning and attracting young people towards the health professions by offering appropriate remuneration, conditions and most importantly, our respect.

I also represent teachers such as Stephen Lippingwell, who teaches at Woree State High School. Educators in the Far North and in my electorate of Cairns are presented with unique challenges owing to the cultural composition of their school communities. Stephen says—

I am passionate about increasing the engagement of all cultural groups in education, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait and Pacific Islander students. I understand that different culturally appropriate educational approaches are essential to engage all students in education. Others need to recognise this.

I support educators such as Stephen Lippingwell, who are developing culturally differentiated pedagogical approaches to foster connectedness to the school community and increase the engagement and success in the education of Indigenous and Pacific Islander students.

I also represent small business; people like Rob Rutten. Rob runs a small business called Rutten Technologies. As a small business owner who has worked with hundreds of small businesses in Cairns over the last 13 years, Rob understands that good economic management and consistent government underpins private sector growth. But he tells me that is not enough anymore. Rob is part of a growing tide of small businesses who demand to see community focused outcomes and a fair go for all. He says—

It is about more than the simple bottom line of a profit and loss. Modern business owners are not ruthless profit chasers. It's not all about "show me the money" for me, it is about how small business can thrive and contribute to a better place to live for our families and friends of today and our children into the future.

Sonya Barber, a former TAFE teacher now employed by Fitness Australia, has endured the despair of recent years. Sonya said to me—

Having been part of the fight to defend TAFE, please don't forget about our teachers and students. You were there for us, including when we went on strike for the first time in 20 years.

She said—

Also remember the health agenda. Preventative health programs that have wide-reaching impact on social and community connectedness. We spend less than two per cent nationally on health promotion and real programs. It needs to be more to have an impact on chronic disease.

It is indeed my hope that the Palaszczuk government will deliver for these and other Cairns people who have been missing out for a number of years. I hope to see this happen through the delivery of a number of important projects by executive government and also through the work of the Legislative Assembly. I will outline just some of the projects I feel are important for Cairns. The Martyn Street Sporting Reserve Redevelopment is a very important initiative, especially for netball. One of my first actions following the election was to confirm this funding had been secured. Along with Cairns Netball I am keen to see work on the redevelopment of the Martyn Street site begin later this year. This will benefit Cairns and neighbouring electorates. Another important project is the Cairns State High School High Performance Centre. Cairns State High School has identified a long-standing need for an undercover sporting facility. Plans were drawn up by the Bligh government, construction was promised by the Newman government and now it is time to deliver. I have met with the Cairns State High School principal and her leadership team and promised my support for this project. I have written to Minister Kate Jones and will continue to lobby hard for this much-needed project that would see valuable school land used for the benefit of not just the school but also the wider community.

Another important project is the Synapse Rehabilitation Centre in Hoare Street. I have long been working with the Synapse Brain Injury Association to plan and construct a rehabilitation facility for people in Cairns who sustain an ABI. I am confident that there will be a rehabilitation centre operational in Cairns during this term of government. Primarily aimed at Indigenous people with an ABI, this facility will provide a pathway and life opportunities for some of our most disadvantaged Queenslanders.

Cairns needs a base for our special education specialists and facilities for students with very high needs. This must be done in an inclusive education environment that fosters socialisation and wellbeing. Land has been identified and parents of some of our high-needs students are already being consulted. They are looking forward to the same facilities for their children as are provided in other regional cities of similar size.

Another project is the Shields Street Heart project. Cairns Regional Council wants to make our CBD streets welcoming and beautiful—cool and shady in the daytime and festive and lively at night. The Shields Street Heart project focuses on creating a new and refreshed public space from Abbott Street to Grafton Street, providing more cool, vibrant and tropical streetscaping for our city heart. Plans have been developed following community feedback. The Bligh government committed \$38 million to CBD renewal in Cairns. Work subsequently commenced with the upgrade of Lake Street completed in 2014. However, the Newman government only allocated a fraction of the Bligh commitment. With work on the Shields Street Heart to start this year, I expect our current government, the Palaszczuk government, to make a contribution.

The Step Up Step Down unit proposed for Law Street in Cairns will offer short-term residential treatment in a purpose-built facility delivered by mental health specialists in partnership with non-government organisations. The units in this centre will be occupied by young people who are at increased risk of an acute episode of mental illness. A young person experiencing this situation will have the much-needed supports which will then be subsequently withdrawn as mental health

improves and the young person transitions back into the community. This will be a six-bed facility with the capacity to expand the number of beds to 12 in future years. Targeted at 18- to 25-year-olds, this project offers a best-practice response to people experiencing mental illness focused on community care and integration. The project follows the tragic loss of a number of young Cairns lives to suicide in recent years. The project is funded but has not commenced construction as the land remains registered in the name of Queensland Rail. I have seen much bureaucratic bungling over the years from both sides of politics, but I am confident Minister Cameron Dick will resolve this and ensure the land will be transferred and the construction of this much-needed facility will commence in the not-too-distant future.

A commitment to public or social housing is another key reason I support the Australian Labor Party. During this term of government I am confident we will see a number of public housing developments completed in Cairns. The total cost will be several million dollars and many families will be housed. This is exactly the sort of thing Queenslanders have a right to expect from a Labor government.

Cairns residents have long lacked the recreational fishing facilities of other cities. I am working to have the Tingira Street boat ramp upgraded. This would provide a safe and accessible way for local boaties to enjoy the recreational opportunities of Trinity Inlet and surrounding areas. Another important project is the Global Village project. The impact arts, culture, heritage and our creative industries have been extremely important in Cairns, ensuring a vibrant, liveable community inclusive of the many migrant communities that have established their lives here in our region far from Brisbane's centralised services. More importantly, the arts and cultural communities have a unique way of engaging with domestic and international tourists, our region's most dominant industry. I recently met with key members of the arts and multicultural communities who outlined the extent of the decline in the Far North Queensland region's arts services and cultural support infrastructure over recent years. They also outlined how this poses an opportunity to go forward and address this deficit with strategic solutions that capitalise and expand on existing programs. This is a unique opportunity and three significant community based organisations have offered to pool their skills and resources into a shared service model that would deliver services on a range of current state government policy areas including the arts, event management, science and technology, tourism, education, employment and crime prevention. The proposal is to co-locate three community-based NGOs: Arts Nexus, which is an arts and cultural development service for the creative industries; Cairns Community Radio, which is an ethnic and community broadcasting service; and Cairns and Region Multicultural Association. These three organisations each have proven track records, active memberships and are best placed to facilitate community conversations on cultural facilities and other community issues.

As well as these specific projects, Cairns desperately needs to position itself to generate the jobs of the future. Jobs in health, education and tropical sciences are part of a bright future in jobs growth. My vision for Cairns is that of a city that will fulfil its potential by making the most of its environment and geographical location as a Pacific rim city. Cairns will embrace its cultural diversity and firmly establish itself as a world leader in health and education and as the home of tropical excellence in business, sport and the arts. This shall be achieved by fostering innovation and embracing emerging technologies.

I have tried to steer away from controversy in this my first speech, and I close on a subject that I believe is the most important faced by this parliament and which, were it not for the intellectual poverty of recent years, would indeed be beyond controversy. The issue of which I speak is the issue of climate change.

Climate change is a scientific fact. It is leading to sea-level rise and Cairns is a low-lying city. Every year I do my best to attend a king tide on the Cairns Esplanade. I see the esplanade seawall breached and I see water coming up through the stormwater drains and flooding underground carparks. This is an urgent situation and we need a sense of urgency from all our elected leaders. I have the utmost respect for those working in disaster recovery, but the reality is that a summer king tide combined with a category 5 cyclone would see much of Cairns city destroyed. All levels of government need to first acknowledge the problem and then make sure our best scientific minds feed into an all-of-government policy response. I pray this will happen.

Debate, on motion of Mr Pitt, adjourned.

MOTION

Ethanol Mandate



Mr POWELL (Glass House—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. Supports an ethanol mandate in fuel;
2. Instructs the government to form an implementation board to:
 - (a) consult stakeholders and consumers;
 - (b) determine preferred levels for ethanol content in fuel sold in Queensland;
 - (c) consider potential impacts on consumers and any appropriate protections; and
 - (d) determine time frames for the introduction of those mandated ethanol levels; and
3. Requires the implementation board to report back to the parliament by no later than 30 October 2015.

At the outset it is undoubtedly fair to say that the issue we are debating tonight has already been significantly and widely debated in this House over the years. I also want to point out at the outset that at various times the issue has received support from all sides of politics, including from you, Mr Speaker, I suspect in your capacity as the member for Nicklin given the significant sugar industry in the Sunshine Coast hinterland, which we have the pleasure of representing. It is in the spirit of this new parliament that the LNP opposition believes there is a genuine and real opportunity for all members of parliament to fully consider the potential benefits that this industry holds, not just for regional Queensland but also for the state as a whole. I will spend a few moments considering the benefits of the ethanol industry.

Certainly biofuels have lower emissions than fossil fuels. Mandating a minimum amount of ethanol will improve not only the quality of the petrol, but also environmental outcomes, including air quality. It will help improve fuel security. I understand that recent reports have outlined that Australia now imports more than 90 per cent of its fuel, with refineries closing down across the country each and every month. We have seen that here in Brisbane with BP's recent decision around Bulwer Island. An ethanol mandate will help stimulate regional economic development through the creation of an alternative and stable market for grain, cane and other feedstocks produced in this state. Importantly, it will help to deliver diversity to our rural industries and stimulate employment growth in our regional communities, which are some of the key aspects that we heard discussed by the Queenslanders we worked with to develop the Queensland Plan. They wanted to see diversification and growth in regional employment and regional industries.

Two of Australia's three ethanol producers are based in Queensland: the Dalby Bio-Refinery in the electorate of Condamine and the Sarina distillery in the electorate of Mirani. Both are major employers in each town. An ethanol mandate could help to facilitate further plants throughout Queensland, as well as expanding existing capacity at the Sarina and Dalby plants. There are also potential benefits for our farmers by providing a reliable alternative market for grain grown by Queensland producers.

That is not to say that there are not complexities and impacts, which do need to be fully considered before we adopt a mandate in Queensland and that is why we have included what we have in tonight's motion. As highlighted in departmental advice to a previous parliamentary committee report, it is important to understand both existing ethanol production capacity and potential ethanol production requirements. That is why we are proposing broad industry consultation and discussion before determining a preferred level for ethanol content in fuel sold in Queensland. As an example, in Queensland the two existing plants have capacity of approximately 140 megalitres. A five per cent ethanol mandate on the volume of total motor spirit sales could produce total demand in the order of 200 megalitres. While the bulk of a five per cent mandate might be met by expansions to the existing plants, a higher mandate would require further industry development. There is also a perception in the community that ethanol can be harmful to car engines. There are concerns that mandating ethanol will reduce the availability of regular unleaded to those who choose to access that fuel or that there may be inadvertent increases in fuel prices across the state. That is why we believe we must consult with stakeholders, consumers and consumer advocacy groups to ensure that we do not have those negative impacts.

There are also the implications of changes in the Ethanol Production Grants program by the federal government. Currently, all ethanol sold in Australia attracts a Commonwealth excise of 38.143 cents a litre, but ethanol that is produced domestically receives an offsetting rebate of the same

amount. Effectively, domestic ethanol producers have an advantage over their competitors from overseas. However, the federal government has announced changes to what is known as the Ethanol Production Grants program and from 1 July 2016 domestic producers of ethanol will also be liable to pay some amount of excise. The full impacts of that decision are not yet fully understood.

With all of this in mind, the LNP opposition believes that it is the right time, a good time, for this new parliament to consider what can be done to support the diversification of Queensland's rural industries. It is with much pleasure that I move the motion before the House this evening.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (6.05 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'ethanol mandate in fuel' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'and a vibrant biofuels and biomanufacturing industry to support regional Queensland and our clean energy future;

2. notes the Palaszczuk government has stated its intention to introduce an ethanol mandate in fuel and has already commenced consultation with key stakeholders and will continue to do so via a discussion paper to be released by the end of May 2015. This discussion paper will:
 - (a) canvas preferred levels for a mandated ethanol content;
 - (b) ensure the implementation does not lead to an increase in ethanol imports and supports our regional economies;
 - (c) consider potential impacts on fuel retailers, consumers and any appropriate protections; and
 - (d) determine time frames for the introduction of mandated ethanol levels; and
3. notes the government's decision announced on 23 April 2015 to introduce a bill to this parliament as soon as possible this year to start the legislative process to implement an ethanol mandate and other measures to support an ethanol, biofuels and biomanufacturing industry in Queensland.'

The Palaszczuk government is already taking a holistic approach to supporting Queensland's biofuels and biomanufacturing industry. This includes ethanol, an industry that we have supported for over a decade. Sadly, the political opportunists opposite are two weeks too late to the party. While in government they had three years to introduce an ethanol mandate and they squibbed it. The member for Callide squibbed it because it was not politically expedient. Sadly, he had no problem letting down regional Queensland. Coming from a sugar seat myself, I really do know the benefits of ethanol and the disappointment felt by many in the sugar industry at the actions of the member for Callide. I also suggest that those opposite, in their sudden revelation that they support ethanol, might like to talk to their LNP counterparts in Canberra, who are planning to whack a 12.5 cent per litre excise on ethanol by 2020. On 30 June this year, the Abbott government will also cease its Ethanol Production Grants program, which is another victim of last year's train wreck federal budget.

In stark contrast, last month at the Sarina ethanol refinery the Minister for Energy and Water Supply announced that the Palaszczuk government will act to grow Queensland's biofuels and biomanufacturing industry and the jobs that come with it. Later this month, the Palaszczuk government will release a discussion paper on biofuels and biomanufacturing. Accompanying that paper will be a bill, to be introduced to parliament as soon as possible this year, establishing a head of power for an ethanol mandate.

Biofuels and biomanufacturing represent a significant industry development and regional development opportunity for Queensland. Last year, Deloitte Access Economics, in partnership with QUT, studied the economic impact of future tropical biorefining opportunities in Queensland. The study found potential for all forms of biorefining to contribute more than \$1.8 billion in annual gross state product to Queensland and increase employment across the state by 6,640 full-time equivalent jobs over the next 20 years. That independent analysis identified that Queensland has a comparative advantage in biorefining, with our climate and agricultural sector ensuring the availability of natural materials that can not only produce cleaner fuel, but also are capable of producing cleaner energy and manufacturing plastics and chemicals from renewable inputs such as crop waste.

Those are the jobs and the innovations of the future. Those are the sorts of jobs that will be supported by the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland research fellowships. That is the sort of innovation that will be supported by the Palaszczuk government's Business Development Fund, which will turn ideas into reality. Labor has a proud tradition of supporting bioinitiatives and, as a result, Queensland now has some of the best minds in the world working at facilities such as the QUT Mackay Renewable Biocommodities Pilot Plant, which opened in 2010 with funding of \$3.1 million from the former Labor government.

Over the coming months, the Palaszczuk government will consult widely with Queenslanders about how we can work together to expand this burgeoning industry. The first step is to signal our intention to introduce an ethanol mandate. Unlike those opposite, we will work collaboratively over the coming months with all associated industries to determine the most appropriate starting point for such a mandate, its growth path and transition arrangements. Consultation will look at ways to ensure an ethanol mandate is gradually introduced to align with the production capacity of ethanol in Queensland. The majority of ethanol sold in Queensland should be produced in Queensland using renewable Queensland resources. Consultation will also look at consumer protections and consumer education around the benefits of E10.

I am pleased to advise the House there is strong interest from a range of private-sector proponents in working with the Palaszczuk government to deliver our biofuels and biomanufacturing strategy. Across-the-board, stakeholders have welcomed our approach. Canegrowers, the Australian Sugar Milling Council, AgForce and the RACQ are all supportive.

The ethanol industry has advised us that a mandate will give them the demand needed to invest capital in regional Queensland and build new refinery capacity. Proponents have expressed their desire to ensure a mandate is gradually introduced and phased in to align with production capacity. That is a very important point.

Proponents have also expressed their concern about the New South Wales experience and the series of exemptions in current New South Wales legislation. It is important that we learn lessons from what has happened south of the border. Proponents have also expressed concern at the LNP's track record, particularly the member for Callide's track record—promising the world when last in opposition and then going weak at the knees while in government.

I urge all members of this House to support the amended motion. It is a far stronger position for the parliament to endorse. Only the Palaszczuk government will be committed to supporting a vibrant ethanol, biofuels and biomanufacturing industry to support regional Queensland and our clean energy future.



Mr KATTER (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.10 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'ethanol mandate in fuel' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'as ethanol enhanced fuel will support and diversify our sugar and grains industry, provide cheap fuel and clean air, reduce our dependence on markets and support Australian farmers by providing a major economic boost for regional communities; and

2. Instructs the government to:

- (a) implement a 10 per cent ethanol mandate in Queensland with incremental targets (commencing at 5 per cent from July 2016);
- (b) implement a consumer awareness campaign which is formulated with industry that highlights the benefits of ethanol;
- (c) introduce measures that will encourage private investment and provisional support for the sugar industry to transit towards the production of ethanol; and
- (d) implement a board to oversee that effective targets are met in timely manner.'

It is difficult to know what the key drivers are for ethanol. The first could be that thousands of lives are lost each year from heavy particle emissions from motor vehicles. With a 10 per cent ethanol mandate, vehicle emissions would be reduced by 30 per cent. People living in major cities would stop dying. The Australian Medical Association, the AMA, is a massive supporter of ethanol. They know that the introduction of ethanol into our fuel would save lives. That alone should be a big enough driver for change, but it is not the only reason for mandating ethanol. A 10 per cent blend would reduce tailpipe emissions by 30 per cent. If members feel warm and fuzzy about reducing carbon emissions, this is the most cost-effective way to do it without having an impact on people's pockets. I like it most for the number of jobs it will produce in the Burdekin. The Cox family will spend \$250 million out of their own pocket to produce 600 jobs in the region.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mount Isa, please stop for a moment. I have paused the clock. You say you have circulated an amendment. Can you produce a copy for members to read?

Mr KATTER: Sorry, Mr Speaker, I had it in my hand.

Mr SPEAKER: It needs to be distributed to members so we know what you are speaking to.

Mr KATTER: My apologies, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Mount Isa to continue.

Mr KATTER: We could talk about fuel security. Some 90 per cent of our fuel is imported. It is imported mostly from Singapore. We have about 21 days of fuel supply. That means we do not meet our obligations under the international energy treaties. That has been identified recently in the media.

Members will be interested to know—and I am not kidding—that a recent Al-Qaeda newsletter identified how easily isolated countries like Australia can be shut down by stopping their oil supply. The majority of our oil comes from the highly volatile Middle East through the Indonesian archipelago. This has been identified as a defence threat.

Another key driver is that the national interest is served by taxes being paid at the point of production of fuel that we put in our motor cars. Currently, 90 per cent of the oil we use is refined mostly in Singapore. Many would say that the biggest driver is the ability to drive the price of fuel down. That is happening in the 63 other countries around the world that mandate ethanol. The industry would also provide a floor price to sugarcane and grain farmers akin to the addition of the live export industry to the cattle industry.

New South Wales has made an attempt to mandate ethanol. The government was unsuccessful because it was weak when it came to the implementation of the mandate. That is why we need an implementation board. A passive approach will fail. Just talking about giving people a choice and promoting ethanol will not work. It has to be driven strongly by government otherwise the oil companies win. Oil company sales in Australia are about \$23 billion a year. A 10 per cent ethanol fuel mandate would cut those sales and set off a push back.

The IMEA is a strong supporter of the ethanol industry. They dispel any myths of vehicle damage. The majority of vehicles being built around the world now are ethanol compliant. In fact, in the EU they are not accepting vehicles unless they can accept a 20 per cent ethanol blend. So mechanics want this. The mechanics institute wants this because it has an interest in keeping more drivers on our roads. More drivers on our roads need cheaper fuel. This is the way to deliver cheaper fuel.

So mechanics want it, the AMA wants it, the RACQ now supports it, AgForce supports it, the Australian Cane Farmers Association and Canegrowers support it, environmentalists support it. In New Zealand the Greens used their balance of power to force an ethanol mandate. People want jobs. We do not need to use any of our Queensland taxes to pay for it. It will be built by private industry. Why would we not do it?

I could carry on about all the failed attempts of governments in the past that have not driven this strongly enough and the hypocrisy of other governments that have not taken this on. This is an opportunity for the government to work to enforce a mandate and deliver great things for the state—jobs, fuel security, health outcomes, environmental outcomes. It ticks all the boxes. It will not cost us any of our Queensland taxes. It would be a great thing for this government to deliver for Queensland. I would be grateful to be a part of that.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing) (6.16 pm): I rise to speak in support of the government's amendment to the motion. The Palaszczuk government's support for the renewable energy sector is rock solid. We have given the green light to develop biofuel and biomanufacturing industries in Queensland.

What action did we see under the split personality LNP? Absolutely nothing. Three years were wasted. My recollection is that the previous member for Burdekin introduced a bill mandating ethanol when a previous Labor government was in office. That bill was reproduced in the last parliament by the Katter's Australian Party. So what did the previous government do in the three years that that bill was in the ether? Not a single thing. I might add that some in the chamber should educate themselves on this issue by looking at the report that was prepared by the previous member for Gympie on an ethanol mandate. Unlike the LNP, this government has a plan to support industries of the future such as biofuels. Our government will introduce legislation to mandate the use of ethanol in our fuels.

What legislation did the previous government propose? None. When they had a chance, what did they do? Nothing. Three years were wasted when it comes to biofuels and ethanol. There were three wasted years for Queensland under the LNP. They decide to trot in here now and move a motion about this. All of a sudden they are converts to biofuels again!

What about the last three years? Zip. Nothing. The government sees through the charade as do the people of Queensland. It is just a joke. Despite what they say, their actions have proved that the LNP does not support ethanol. It had three years to show any support. There was nothing.

I can inform the House that the government's plan has been welcomed by stakeholders in the agriculture portfolio. In a published statement on 23 April AgForce Grains said that they had been lobbying for the development of a domestic biofuels industry for a number of years. They went further—

Agforce has consistently tried to work with previous governments to build the Queensland biofuels industry given it has traditionally lacked the legislative support required.

I am pleased to add that AgForce now looks forward to working further with the Palaszczuk government on 'how best to expand ethanol production and use for the benefit of agriculture, the environment and the greater Queensland economy'. What a ringing endorsement from AgForce!

The Australian Sugar Milling Council sees biofuels as a strategic growth opportunity for regional Queensland. They said—

The sugar industry is currently one of the largest producers of renewable energy in Queensland, through the 21 sugar mills located along the Queensland coast. We can produce more and we would like to produce more—but the policy uncertainty around the renewable energy target is making further investment next to impossible.

What is their position on the renewable energy target? They should ask them that question. I am pleased to say that with our policies it is not impossible under the Palaszczuk government; it is achievable. We will take AgForce, the Australian Sugar Milling Council, other industries, key stakeholders and the community with us as we lead Queensland towards a greener, cleaner energy future. It might be something for those opposite to contemplate.

Finally, the RACQ has also welcomed the announcement by the government. We will take steps to ensure that any ethanol used and sold in Queensland comes from right here in Queensland. We will deliver. The LNP have done nothing and stand exposed as hollow people with hollow promises.

I will conclude with this comment. I recently had a conversation with the former member for Gympie. Our conversation moved to the consideration that we had in the committee on the ethanol bill put forward by the Katter's Australian Party. If I say nothing else in this debate, every single member of this House should go and look at that report, go and look at the good work that was done by the former member for Gympie and the committee examining that bill. While it never came to this parliament, it should have. It shows just where this issue sits in the priorities of the Liberal National Party. It is like having a split personality, as I said—one minute they are for it, next minute they do nothing and now they are for it again. It is pure political opportunism and you stand condemned for it.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.21 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Glass House. He has dealt with the mechanics of the motion, so I want to go through the reasons why we are here today and why it has been necessary for the LNP to put forward this motion. I think it is fair to say that this has been a fairly tortured area of public policy in Queensland.

We have seen a fair bit of historical revisionism from the member for Rockhampton, the previous speaker. For his benefit, on three occasions—in 2002, 2004 and most recently in 2008—the LNP introduced into this parliament private members' bills seeking to establish an ethanol mandate and a renewable fuels industry in Queensland. All three of those bills were defeated by the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments at that time. The first two were opposed by Labor, but the debate identified a number of implementation questions associated with introducing an ethanol mandate. But these debates achieved the purpose of putting the issue on the agenda in Queensland.

In 2006, in the lead-up to the 2006 state election, the Beattie government made a commitment to introduce a five per cent ethanol mandate in Queensland. That was supposed to commence on 31 December 2010. A lot of work was done supposedly on how to implement that commitment. But then in October 2010, after four years of consultation and just two months short of the implementation date, the then treasurer, Andrew Fraser, stood up in this place and made a ministerial statement which abandoned Labor's 2006 election commitments. So a decade after first committing to introduce an ethanol mandate the Labor Party is back in the parliament talking about an ethanol mandate in Queensland.

The LNP anticipated the Labor Party's lack of commitment around its 2010 implementation date and in 2008 we pushed again, for the third time, with a private member's bill to establish an ethanol mandate and a renewable fuels industry in Queensland. Importantly, the LNP's 2008 bill took account of the emerging issues in this space. We included a number of amendments in the bill including moving the mandated level of ethanol into the regulations to improve the administrative flexibility of the bill, allowing for exemptions in certain circumstances and encouraging the development of second generation technology.

That bill was defeated by Labor in 2008 and they all pointed to what they were going to do in 2010, but we know what that commitment was worth. Nevertheless, you have to acknowledge that there was some doubt about the matter of introducing an ethanol mandate in a jurisdiction. There are practical considerations such as the continuity of supply, the interests of consumers, the concerns of other stakeholders and the complexity of having a federal jurisdiction responsible for the application of excise rates, creating layers of complexity.

When a bill was introduced last year by the Katter party, it had not taken account of developments in the debate around this issue of implementing an ethanol mandate in Queensland. As a result, the State Development, Infrastructure and Industry Committee's report on the bill, which the member for Rockhampton mentioned, recommended that it not be passed but it did say that the Department of Energy and Water Supply should develop a policy on biofuels and consult with the Australian government. Furthermore, the committee recommended that, in considering a future mandate focus, the department develop a public education campaign to focus on the benefits of an ethanol blended fuel, enhance consumer confidence in relation to vehicle compatibility, include other biofuels and examine the experience of the state of New South Wales.

The government's response to the committee supported those recommendations in principle. As a supporter of an ethanol mandate in Queensland, a very strong, long-term supporter of this initiative, we have to realise that there are many other people in our community who are not so positive about it and we have to deal with their concerns. Former treasurer Andrew Fraser listed them when he dumped Labor's commitment in 2010—motoring groups, the Lot Feeders' Association, service station owners. Many of the same stakeholders lined up to make a submission to the committee last year when it was examining the Katter party bill.

The Katter party wants an ethanol mandate. The Labor Party seems to have a renewed interest in doing something about ethanol after letting everybody down in 2010. The LNP has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the introduction of an ethanol mandate in this state, and we are seeking to facilitate this process by putting this motion before the House today.

The purpose of the LNP motion is that we want to provide some parliamentary direction to the government. The ALP's amendment is a gratuitous slap on the back to itself, whereas the Katter party amendment is a problem because it is specific and proscriptive. What we are trying to do is provide for a framework for the implementation of the intention of the government, the Katter party and the LNP, and I think it is a motion that all members could support.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (6.27 pm): I rise to support the Treasurer's amendment and to oppose the opposition's motion. The question has to be asked: if they are so passionate on the other side of the chamber, why were they so quiet and silent on this issue? With their record majority for three years, they did absolutely nothing on this issue. The party with form in this chamber when it comes to ethanol is Labor. Who introduced ethanol into Queensland? It was Labor. Who, within months of forming government again, announced an ethanol mandate two weeks ago in Sarina? It was Labor. We are the ones with a good track record on this. We have come back to it at the first opportunity.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango, please. We have one motion and two amendments. I will listen to the minister.

Mr BAILEY: What we have is a tepid form of imitation from the opposition. May I point out a few things here. Their motion, for instance, does not mention biofuels. It does not mention first generation or second generation biofuels. It is all about ethanol. This is a cynical move by the opposition to try to ingratiate themselves after being inactive and insincere for three years on this issue. They stand condemned. This is another piece of political trickery. This has nothing to do with their commitment to ethanol or to the environment or even to primary industries in this state.

I note the support of the sugar mills, AgForce and the RACQ to the government's announcement two weeks ago that we would have a mandate on ethanol in Queensland. It must be galling for the opposition to see those groups so vehemently in support of the government's policy. I support the amendment moved by the Treasurer, because we have to make sure that the jobs created by the ethanol and biofuels mandate are Queensland jobs and that this new market is not dominated by imports.

The current capacity of the industries is about 4.7 per cent in terms of a mandate. If we go very quickly to a large mandate, the risk is that we have cheap imports coming into this country and we are not creating Queensland jobs. That is why I support a sustainable mandate—one that grows Queensland jobs and grows capacity as we go. I might add that we support an implementation board. We are open to good ideas from the member for Mount Isa, who has made a significant contribution on this matter. We welcome his support of ethanol in the previous term of parliament, and we continue to commit to working with him and all members who are sincere on this issue and not cynical in trying to bring it here when in opposition and having lost power.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Honourable members, two amendments have been moved during the debate. The first amendment, moved by the minister, seeks to amend the latter part of the motion moved by the member for Glass House. The second amendment, moved by the member for Mount Isa, seeks to amend either the motion or the minister's amendment. Its form is irregular. Strictly, if the second amendment is seeking to amend the first amendment, it is probably out of order as it is a direct negative, omitting the entirety of the first amendment. If it is an amendment to the motion it is in order but should not have been moved whilst the amendment was under consideration. However, it could normally be moved after the resolution of the first amendment if it was negatived. I propose to treat the second amendment as an amendment to the minister's amendment.

The question is that the opposition's motion be agreed to, to which it has been proposed that the question be amended by omitting all words after 'ethanol mandate in fuel' and inserting the words contained in the Treasurer's amendment, to which it has been proposed that the amendment be amended by omitting all words after 'ethanol mandate in fuel' and inserting the words contained in the member for Mount Isa's amendment. The question is that the member for Mount Isa's amendment to the Treasurer's amendment be agreed to.

Non-government amendment (Mr Katter) negatived.

Division: Question put—That the Treasurer's amendment be agreed to.

AYES, 43:

ALP, 42—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Pyne, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

NOES, 43:

LNP, 41—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, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Pairs: Palaszczuk, Springborg.

The numbers being equal, Mr Speaker cast his vote with the ayes.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. supports an ethanol mandate in fuel and a vibrant biofuels and biomanufacturing industry to support regional Queensland and our clean energy future;
2. notes the Palaszczuk government has stated its intention to introduce an ethanol mandate in fuel and has already commenced consultation with key stakeholders and will continue to do so via a discussion paper to be released by the end of May 2015. This discussion paper will:
 - (a) canvas preferred levels for a mandated ethanol content;
 - (b) ensure the implementation does not lead to an increase in ethanol imports and supports our regional economies;
 - (c) consider potential impacts on fuel retailers, consumers and any appropriate protections; and
 - (d) determine time frames for the introduction of mandated ethanol levels; and

3. notes the government's decision announced on 23 April 2015 to introduce a bill to this parliament as soon as possible this year to start the legislative process to implement an ethanol mandate and other measures to support an ethanol, biofuels and biomanufacturing industry in Queensland.

Sitting suspended from 6.38 pm to 7.40 pm.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 444.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.40 pm): I rise to give thanks to the Burleigh community who have put their faith in me to be a strong representative in the 55th Parliament and continue the work that I set out to do after my election in 2012. Mr Deputy Speaker Furner, can you pass on my congratulations to the Speaker on his elevation to a very important role in this parliament. I also pass on my congratulations to the Premier, the Deputy Premier and all of her ministers on being elected to the government, which I think was probably as big a shock to them as it was to us.

Retaining the seat of Burleigh was undoubtedly a team effort. It had its ups and its downs, with hundreds of man-hours. While I cannot name every one of the 150 volunteers, I would like to take this opportunity to put on the record my thanks and gratitude to those who went above and beyond to make the win possible. I start with my campaign manager, David Pourre, and his wife, Jodie, who provided all of our catering on 31 January. I thank my campaign executive—Joe Milsom, Mark Henry, Karly Abbott and Joe Hanlon. I thank my staff who helped out in their spare time—Renee Whitehead, Jacqui Wild and Matt Taylor—along with the previous staff who have worked for me since I was elected, Gloria, Jill, Mark and Gordon. I thank my booth captains and regular campaign volunteers—Oliver and Alister Cran, Bren Milsom, Nic Rone, Nola Mattei, Jon Ingall and Craig Lucas. I cannot forget the wonderful efforts of the Young LNP who were down in Burleigh on several occasions and helped my campaign.

Of course I thank my family. My children, especially my boys Tim and Hayden, were out there in the wee hours of the 31st putting up all of our bunting and corflutes and making sure we had prime position over the Labor Party in Burleigh at those 13 booths that we ran on the day. My daughter, Jessica, captained one of the booths and she did an excellent job. She is almost as keen about politics as I am. I also thank their partners, of course, who were out there helping during the night and on the day as well.

I thank my sister, Jo, and her husband, Brad. I also thank my brother, Chris, and his wife, Jo. They came up from Ballina and helped out. Family is a wonderful thing in politics. I think many members here over the last couple of days have stressed what a hard job this can be on your family, and it certainly is. It is wonderful to get the support of those family members when you need it—and you need it during election time. If you do not need it any other time, I can tell you that you need it during election time. To have a great family who supports you in everything you do is vitally important. It is one of those things that is a must-have in politics.

I would like to repeat one thing I said in my inaugural speech because it is really important to me. I said—

I believe in the right of people to make their own choices in life. Regardless of whether or not I agree with them, they have a right to their own opinion and their own choices. I believe in small government with minimal regulation. I believe in a hand up from government, not a handout. In basic terms, I believe good government needs to ensure the population is secure from interference from the action of others. If a government does just that one thing, I believe it succeeds.

I stand by those words today. I have heard different views from some other members as they have given their inaugural speeches, but that is how I think and that is my philosophy in life and everything that I do in this place will resonate from those few words.

Since the Palaszczuk government have been elected, they have expressed their absolute desire to interfere in the daily lives of the people of Queensland. They have announced 34 reviews and inquiries—

Mr Rickuss: No, there's more.

Mr HART: Up to the time I put this list together, there were 34 reviews but I think they actually announced another couple today. I have actually lost track of the number of inquiries we now have but let me go through just a couple of them. I first mention the review into boot camps and youth justice, and I am sure the shadow Attorney-General will be watching that very closely. Another review is into the Queensland greyhound industry, and that is absolutely needed. We also have a review into health targets. Isn't that strange, given that we had guarantees in place that people would achieve their surgery on time.

Mr Rickuss: What did Confucius say about that?

Mr HART: You will have to remind me, I am afraid. We had that in place. Our former health minister put that in place and that was working wonderfully, but this government have taken that away and in fact they have actually lowered those targets. We had set a high target and they have in fact lowered those targets. It has to be easier to hit a target if you lower it. I hope the health minister—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Can I have a bit of order?

Mr HART: This is not my first speech so feel free to let them.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I realise that.

Mr HART: I hope the health minister is not going to come in here every time he cannot meet the targets and lower them even further. We will be watching very closely what happens in health, because it was—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr HART: The minister has a track record. I think the member for Kawana is telling me that the minister has a track record. We will watch very closely the results that come out of health because it was one of a number of things that we did very well—very, very well.

There is an inquiry into the fair price for solar power. That was another big mistake that the previous Labor government made when they put in place the FIT. They were paying people a 44 cent feed in tariff, when we were only charging people 26 cents to take it out.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr HART: We hear from the Minister for Education that that is good policy. Is it good policy? When you pay somebody more than it costs you to provide something, you lose money. Wow!

Mr Rickuss: You're an economic genius.

Mr HART: The thing is, member for Lockyer, I was in business before I came into this place so I have a bit of a track record on knowing how business works and how to employ people. I employed 50 to 100 people at numerous times. We made money, we lost money and we had that experience. What do the members over there have? I will be very interested to hear over time exactly what sort of experience they have. I hope it is not just experience in unions. I hope there is a bit of business experience. Maybe one or two of them over there have a bit of business experience. That would be fantastic.

There are quite a few other reviews, but the one I would like to really stress is the review into the VLAD laws. Our former attorney-general and our former premier put in place some laws that were really needed on the Gold Coast and they have made such a difference to the Gold Coast. People down on the Gold Coast feel much safer than they have ever felt before, and it is all because of those laws. The perception is that if you break the laws there is a jail sentence there, and if you are convicted you are going to jail and you are going to jail for a long time.

People are worried about that. The people who break these laws are worried about it and they have changed their attitude. Unfortunately, the day after 31 January, when it became clear that we were not going to maintain government and that the Labor Party could win government, the bikies were back on the Gold Coast. They were back in my electorate of Burleigh. At eight o'clock the following morning I saw eight people on Harley-Davidsons—and I do not have an issue with Harley-Davidsons because I had one myself until recently. Let us not go down the track of saying that we are picking on people who ride bikes or who have tattoos because that is not what this was about. This was about criminal organisations.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr HART: I can tell the minister that I have been around Burleigh for 30-odd years, so I have a bit of experience and I know what I am talking about. I have lived in my electorate for 33 years. I have seen organised crime. I have seen crime come and go. At the moment life where we live is perfect. This has made such a difference. I say to the member for Kawana that he did a fantastic job. I really hope that those opposite take notice of what is happening on the Gold Coast and other parts of Queensland and do not change those laws. Do not water those laws down. We fixed the problem, but do not give us the problem back because we do not want it.

There were two or three other inquiries announced today. One of the things I heard the Premier say today is that she is introducing a Premier's Business Advisory Council. I wonder who will be on that. Would it be classed as a business council if it is full of union people? Do we class unions as business? I do not know; I do not think we would, although they do make plenty of money. Maybe we can. I gather that there was also an announcement today about fly-in fly-out. I am on the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee and we are doing an inquiry on fly-in fly-out. Now we have an independent inquiry with a couple of regional mayors appointed to it. There is going to be quite a bit of money spent on that inquiry as I imagine it will be travelling around talking to people, and we will be doing the same thing. I wonder where all these inquiries have come from and what is the intention. How does the government—

Mr Pearce: I'll come and talk to you. Do you want to do it now?

Mr HART: Well, I am speaking at the minute. How does the government intend to create jobs? Are we creating jobs by holding more inquiries, because I do not think that is the best way to do it. I really do not.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr HART: There is something that I have noticed about the Australian Labor Party over the last three years that I have been in this place. They seem to be very good at taking the big whiteboard of history and erasing it. Then they draw up their own version. We are hearing that 24,000 people were sacked and we have heard that 20,000 people were sacked. What was the actual number? Does anybody have any idea?

Mr Rickuss: There were very few sacked because they were redundancies.

Mr HART: Nobody was sacked; there were people who took redundancies.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr HART: That is why I am where I am and where am I? I am standing right here.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr HART: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your protection. Undoubtedly, I do not think anybody on this side of the House—certainly not me—could have missed the message that the people of Queensland sent us on 31 January. The margin in my seat took a 4.9 per cent swing, and there were greater shifts in a lot of other seats. A lot of our very good members of parliament, people who were doing a fantastic job, are no longer here. If we did not hear the message from the people of Queensland, then there is something wrong. I certainly heard it. I heard that they had an issue with the way that we governed. I do not think they had an issue with the results that we produced because I think we produced very good results. That is why we are seeing green shoots appear everywhere now. We are seeing things that are better than they have ever been.

Our Treasurer opposite stood up this morning and talked about the latest quarterly financial results to March. As most people who have been in business would reflect on, the first quarter goes from 1 January to 31 March; it is those three months. There was an election on 31 January. Things do not happen that quickly, folks. The reality is that the good results that have been achieved in that quarter have actually come from things that the previous government did. For those members who did not watch any of my speeches in the last parliament—and I suspect that is all of them because they would not have had any interest in them, but if anybody would like to see them, they are available on the web, so have a look—I talked numerous times in this place about the government being like a big ship. Before the election in 2012 we were a big ship running at an iceberg. It was also described as an aeroplane going over an abyss and accelerating into the ground. We were a big ship heading for an iceberg. The LNP government pulled back the throttles, turned the steering wheel and nothing much happened for a while because that is what happens with big ships. Like big governments, it takes quite a while for things to react. So we pulled back the throttles, we turned the steering wheel and things started to eventually turn around. It got to the stage where we had actually turned this economy around. We were heading for a surplus budget, which we have not had in this state for numerous years. We were heading for a surplus budget and we were just starting to slam those accelerators open. That is why we see the cranes on the skyline, because of the action that the LNP government took. We were getting great results. I would anticipate that it is going to take a little while for the actions of the state government to take effect and for things to start slowing down.

I wish to raise a couple of things about my electorate of Burleigh which are the things I really want to talk about. I have already spoken about the organised crime laws. I was a big supporter of the Gold Coast shipping terminal. That has now gone and 6½ thousand jobs have been killed on a political whim. For those members who do not know, my background is engineering. I suspect that a cruise ship terminal might not have been possible in the Broadwater, but why would we not let it go through the process and see whether it was, in fact, possible before we made a political decision—just like the Labor Party did in 2006—to kill off something that was going to provide thousands and thousands of jobs?

The Gold Coast quarry, which sits on the edge of three electorates on the Gold Coast—my own and that of the members for Currumbin and Mudgeeraba—was something given to us by the Bligh and Beattie governments. It was put in place. When I stood for election in 2012—and the other two members were already in parliament—we said that we would try to stop it if we were elected. However, when we came to government we found that that process had gone too far; we simply could not stop it. We went out and we told people that that was the case, that we could not stop it. However, candidates from the Labor Party and the Premier were on the Gold Coast saying, ‘We can stop it.’ They led those people completely astray, because the people believed that they could stop it when those candidates knew they could not. Only this week we have heard an answer to a question on notice from the Deputy Premier that stopping that quarry is not going to be possible. They have got into government and they figured out that what they said previously was just not going to be possible.

We have achieved a lot of things in Burleigh over the last few years. We have \$100,000 for the Palm Beach Soccer Club for their lighting. A lot of people will now be able to practise of a night rather than having to travel all over the Gold Coast playing at different fields. We have the Gold Coast police helicopter and we have the Rapid Action and Patrols Group, and what a wonderful job they are doing. I will wrap up by saying that—

A government member: The desalination plant!

Mr HART: The desalination plant is actually in the member for Currumbin’s area, but what a wonderful thing it was. Let’s not get started on all of the failures of the Labor party like the Health payroll system. I want to mention the Get in the Game program because it is a fantastic program which has benefitted just about every electorate in Queensland. Soccer clubs, football clubs, tennis clubs and surf-lifesaving clubs have all had their memberships contributed to by the Get in the Game program. I thank the former sports minister for instigating that, and it is something that the new government needs to look at. I would like to see that funding continue, because it provides access to sport for a lot of our children who may not otherwise have it, and it adds to a healthier lifestyle.

With those few words, I would just thank the people of Burleigh for putting their faith in me again. We have done some wonderful things together. There is a lot more for us to do, and I look forward to that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Ipswich West, 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. I call the member for Ipswich West.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (8.00 pm): Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will begin by showing my respect and acknowledging the traditional custodians of this land on which we meet and their elders, past and present.

I would like to congratulate all of my fellow members on both sides of the chamber on their election to the 55th Parliament. I have friends on both sides of the House, and I hope that always remains so. I would also like to congratulate Peter Wellington on his election as Speaker, my leader Anastacia Palaszczuk on her election as Premier of Queensland and Lawrence Springborg on his election as Leader of the Opposition.

To stand before honourable members today as a representative of the people of Ipswich West is truly a great honour. On the one hand, it is exciting to be given this opportunity and on the other hand, it is daunting to know just how much work I have ahead of me to give the people of Ipswich West the representation they deserve. The fact that I am here today is testament to the hard work, dedication and support of countless numbers of people, colleagues and family members who have assisted me. Firstly, to my darling Nicole and our wonderful children who are in the gallery: I could say thank you a million times and it would not be enough. It did not matter if it was holding signs at the side of the road, working at mobile offices, attending meet-the-candidates evenings or working on

polling day, Nicole was always beside me every step of the way. She was there to lift me up when I doubted myself and bring me straight back down to earth when that was needed—all the time making sure our children were not neglected.

To my wonderful parents, my mother Gaie and my departed father Brian, I can say without exaggeration that any success I have had in my life is due to their love, guidance and hard work. They were loving, devoted and caring parents who were always there to support me and my siblings and who gave me every opportunity in life. They, like me, were raised in the electorate of Ipswich West and educated me as to the importance of community. My mother taught me in grade 3 at St Marys Primary School at Woodend in Ipswich and remains my life mentor.

To my sister Anne Marie and my brothers Peter and Dennis, I thank you for everything you have done for me in my life and your help during the campaign. You have been my life companions, and I hope your little brother has made you proud. I am sure our departed brother Brendan and our dad are here tonight in spirit.

To my campaign team, my state electoral council, my volunteers and my local branches Somerset, North Ipswich and Rosewood, who all worked so hard to get me here, I say thank you. Nothing was too hard for them, and seeing them turn out day after day to support my campaign made it so much easier for me to keep pushing myself. In particular I would like to thank my campaign manager Madonna Oliver. She deserves as much praise as I can heap on her. With kids going back to school, sick family members and all the stresses of running a campaign at breakneck speed, Madonna barely broke a sweat, always composed and taking it all in her stride.

Young Labor played a key role in my campaign, and leading the way were Ben Fullarton, Tim Tyrell, Ben Goudie and Wyatt Cook-Revell. I also wish to thank Jake McLellan, who travelled all the way from New Zealand to help out. I would like to thank my telephone call team, led by Janet Butler and Dot Hogan. I had over 200 volunteers who assisted with my campaign, and I would like to thank them all as well as my volunteer organiser, Wayne Gaddes.

I would also like to thank Peter Chapman and his team at the *Queensland Times* newspaper, David Greenwood and his team at River 94.9 Radio, as well as the staff of the Gatton *Star* for their excellent coverage of the Ipswich West state election campaign. I would also like to thank the *Queensland Times*, the Somerset Region Business Alliance and the Mid Brisbane River Irrigators for organising meet-the-candidates evenings.

It seems that I have been involved with the Labor Party for all of my life, with my grandfather the former president of the Marburg branch of the ALP, my uncle the former president of the Rosewood branch, and my father a true believer who operated a café for many years in the old Ipswich Trades Hall.

To the Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party at Peel Street, and in particular the campaign director Anthony Chisholm, on behalf of myself and the rest of my Labor colleagues seated around me here today I say that we owe you a huge debt. To bring back the Australian Labor Party from the brink of oblivion after the 2012 state election to the position we are in today is a testament to your dedication, hard work and passion.

To my union, The Services Union, particularly the Union Secretary Neil Henderson, I thank you for your unflagging support. I would also like to thank the other unions who assisted me in my campaign, including the AWU, the TWU and the meat workers union, as well as the Not for Sale group. I am also indebted to my Labor state organiser James Gunn, who kept pushing me right up until election day. I also need to thank the hardworking staff of my law practice, David Grant & Associates, who took over the day-to-day operations of the law practice to make it possible for me to focus on my campaign.

To my fellow Labor caucus members in the 55th Parliament who fought so hard for the honour and privilege of representing their community, I look forward to seeing the same level of camaraderie we displayed during the campaign continue in our work in parliament. You are a great group of people and I always look forward to catching up with you. It is fantastic to see just how many women now serve in the 55th Parliament on both sides of the chamber. I think it is great that more than half of the Labor cabinet are women, which is a proud first in our state's history. While we still have a long way to go to achieve gender equality, we can celebrate the achievements of our efforts thus far in creating a more representative parliament ready to serve the people of Queensland.

As to past Labor Ipswich West members such as Vi Jordan, Wayne Wendt and Don Livingstone, I hope to be able to continue the proud Labor tradition they have set. Just a few weeks into my time in parliament, I was a special guest at the naming of the Don Livingstone One Mile

Bridge in Ipswich, which is a fitting tribute to a man who delivered so much to the people of Ipswich West. Unfortunately Don is not in the best of health, and I am sure there are many people in this chamber who will join with me in wishing him the best of good fortune.

Most importantly, I want to thank the people of Ipswich West for their trust and support. It is not enough to give them thanks for electing me as their member; I must also thank them for shaping me as the person I am. I am proud to say that I was born and raised in Woodend, an inner-city Ipswich suburb just a short distance from the southern boundary of Ipswich West and formerly part of Ipswich West. Being raised in Woodend taught me that to be truly part of the community, you have to contribute to that community. It was the sort of place where, if you went on holidays, there was always somebody happy to feed your cat or dog, mow your lawn or collect your mail.

I am a proud member of the St Mary's parish community at Ipswich, led by our parish priest Father Peter Dillon, and my faith has always provided me with my core spiritual values. I am a past student of St Mary's Primary School and St Edmund's College, both Woodend institutions, which instilled in me fairness, hard work and social justice—values which I am looking forward to putting at the core of all of my work in parliament.

Ipswich West is a diverse, progressive and dynamic electorate. In the southern part of the electorate we have Australia's largest Air Force base, Amberley RAAF base. The electorate encompasses suburbs such as Brassall, One Mile, Leichhardt and North Ipswich located near the ever-growing city of Ipswich, where small businesses, industry, retail outlets, cafes and restaurants thrive. In the east the electorate spreads over the ever-expanding suburbs of Karalee, Tivoli and Chuwar. In the west we have towns like Rosewood, Marburg and Grandchester, while in the north the electorate stretches out to towns like Lowood and Fernvale near Wivenhoe Dam. They are all bustling little communities surrounded by farms filled with horses, cattle and crops.

The diversity of my electorate is very much reflected in my own life story. At an early age, like many members in this chamber, I devoted my life to public service. I have assisted numerous non-profit organisations in Ipswich and the Somerset region by either serving on committees or providing legal advice. Perhaps my proudest achievement is being convener of the Woodend Anzac Day service, a position I have held since I established the service in 1999.

After graduating from St Edmund's College, my first job was as a water meter reader with Moreton shire council, which later merged with the city of Ipswich to form the Ipswich City Council. I went on to study horticulture and agriculture at the Gatton campus of the University of Queensland, which was at the time called the Queensland Agricultural College. To this day I maintain an association with UQ Gatton, serving as president of the past students association and also as a member of the UQ Gatton consultative committee. As an agronomist I worked both in Australia and overseas, but it was the challenges and experiences I gained working in the rural areas of Queensland that provided me with the most satisfaction.

In 1999, for various reasons my life took a new direction and I commenced studying law before being admitted as a solicitor and eventually purchasing my own law practice at Lowood, David Grant and Associates. Before my move to state parliament I had the opportunity to serve on the Somerset Regional Council as a councillor—a position I was honoured to achieve and which taught me so much about public service. In short, over the course of my life Ipswich West has taught me countless lessons, experiences and skills. It is with great pleasure that I now look forward to putting them to good use, because Ipswich West is an electorate where action is needed urgently.

The fact that Queensland's unemployment rate is over six per cent is of concern, but the fact that the Ipswich West unemployment rate is over nine per cent is a tragedy. And the fact that the youth unemployment rate is almost 20 per cent is heartbreaking. But these unemployment statistics are in no way an indication of the attitude of the unemployed people in my electorate. I have been given the chance to attend employment expos and meet with community groups running employment services. Having spoken to jobseekers, it is apparent to me that they want to work. What is lacking is opportunity.

What Ipswich West needs, plain and simple, is more jobs. In conjunction with the good work already done by Ipswich City Council and the Somerset Regional Council, I will make sure that Ipswich West attracts new businesses with more jobs. At the same time, I will do all I can to help existing businesses remain strong into the future so that my constituents do not have to worry about waking up one morning only to find themselves out of a job. I will also be making sure that jobseekers are provided with every assistance possible to connect with employers.

But this alone will not be enough. Now more than ever, skills, training and experience are what employers are looking for. My electorate has a proud and long association with TAFE and the vocational training sector. I will do all I can to ensure that, once again, the people of my electorate have access to what was prior to 2012 a world-class TAFE system. I will work closely with TAFE South West to ensure it has adequate resources and support to make sure the unemployed in Ipswich West are competitive, multiskilled jobseekers.

In all of this, I will do my best to make sure that people who often find themselves at a disadvantage are not left behind. In particular, I will be doing my best to make sure that people living with disabilities are included in Labor's plans to lower unemployment, with programs such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Soon after my seat was declared I had the pleasure of opening a training workshop being run by a local community group that helps people with disabilities to achieve their full potential. It benefits us all to make sure this talent does not go unused.

The people of Ipswich West have always had to fight hard to get their fair share, but it seems that my rural constituents have had to fight the hardest. It is a sad fact that when it comes to health services, education, transport and public works, it is the rural areas of Ipswich West that have found themselves missing out. There is no better example of this than the BreastScreen mobile screening van.

The BreastScreen van, as I am sure all members are aware, provides an essential front-line service, making sure women with breast cancer, which is still the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Queensland, have it detected and treated as soon as possible. Until recently Lowood, a town of 3½ thousand people and the town where I live, was not a town the BreastScreen van visited. The impediment to the BreastScreen van coming to Lowood was the lack of a suitable site with three-phase power. As soon as I realised this was the case, and with the full support of the West Moreton health service, which operates the BreastScreen van, as a Somerset councillor I took steps to make sure the appropriate facilities were put in place by the Somerset Regional Council so that the people of Lowood were no longer deprived of something so important. In doing so, I was fortunate to have the full support of Mayor Graeme Lehmann, Councillor Michael 'Otis' Ogg, the other Somerset councillors and the staff of the Somerset Regional Council. Not long ago the BreastScreen van visited Lowood for the first time. In the two weeks it was there, over 200 women walked through the doors, a number for the first time, with every appointment available filled.

I am not telling this story just so I can pat myself on the back for a job well done. As great as this achievement is, we still have so much left to achieve in these rural areas of Ipswich West when it comes to improving government services and infrastructure. During my time in parliament I intend to do my best to ensure the rural areas I represent are no longer made to go without.

It would be almost impossible for me to show my face in Lowood or Fernvale if I did not take this opportunity to highlight the terrible state of the Brisbane Valley Highway. I never again want to see a situation, as has happened between the Geoff Fisher Bridge at Fernvale and the Blacksoil interchange, whereby sections of a major highway are allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that the speed limit has to be reduced from 100 kilometres an hour to 80 kilometres an hour for safety reasons.

Unfortunately, the Brisbane Valley Highway is not the only road safety hazard to exist in my electorate. The intersection of Mount Crosby Road and Pine Street in North Ipswich is a transport bottleneck that has to be resolved. But I am confident that, with the assistance of the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Minister Mark Bailey, these problems can be addressed. I will continue to support the Ipswich City Council in their efforts to have the Norman Street bridge built to provide another crossing over the Bremer River, as well as in relation to the proposed Ipswich performing arts centre. I look forward to continuing to work with Mayor Paul Pisasale and Ipswich city councillors, Mayor Graeme Lehmann and the Somerset regional councillors as well as Shayne Neumann, the federal member for Blair, to realise these projects. It is great to see all three levels of government working together for the betterment of the people of Ipswich West.

What I have talked about tonight are my priorities for the immediate future that I hope to achieve. However, it does not even begin to scratch the surface of everything I hope to achieve for the people of Ipswich West during my time in parliament, be it in the areas of health, transport, policing, education, sporting facilities, infrastructure or government services. It may be naive of me to think I am going to achieve everything I hope to achieve—I am fully aware that I have ambitious goals—but I will work hard, along with my electorate staff, Ben Fullarton and Jake McLellan, who are in the gallery, to achieve these goals.

I have devoted my life to public service because I believe that we all have a duty to leave this world a better place for our children and those who come after us. There will be times when, despite my best efforts, I may fall short of the expectations of some people of Ipswich West, and I understand that. But what I can promise them is that as long as I represent them in this chamber they will have a diligent, passionate and hardworking advocate for Ipswich West. The people of Ipswich West should expect no less.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (8.18 pm): I am humbled and honoured to have been returned as the member for Hinchinbrook. I thank the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate for their support. I will endeavour to repay that support by providing them with the strongest possible representation. I am particularly pleased to be here to participate in this debate given that apparently Laurie Oakes gave me the boot on Channel 9 at about seven o'clock on election night. I thought that was a bit premature and a bit unkind of Laurie. Anyway, rumours of my political demise have been greatly exaggerated, but I have always acknowledged that despite the fact that the Hinchinbrook electorate has been held by the LNP for a long time it has never been a safe seat. The margin at times has been healthy; at other times it has been pretty precarious. The people of the Hinchinbrook electorate expect strong and effective representation and, as such, it continues to be my challenge to demonstrate to my constituents that I am worthy of their support. I have never taken it for granted and I never will. I am pleased and proud for the fourth time to pledge my loyalty to our most gracious sovereign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; to her representative in the state of Queensland, His Excellency the Governor; and to the people of the Hinchinbrook electorate. For the fourth time also I reaffirm my view that our current constitutional arrangements have served the people of Queensland and Australia well and I am a strong and committed advocate for retaining our present constitutional arrangements in the interests of good government.

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the people who assisted me in being returned as the member for Hinchinbrook. I thank the people who make up the branches and the committees of the LNP in the Hinchinbrook electorate. They are dedicated supporters of our party and they helped me enormously during our election campaign. There are also many people who are not members of the LNP who volunteered their time and supported me during the election campaign, and of course I am also very grateful to those people. I would in particular like to thank my campaign director, Bryce Macdonald, and the members of my campaign committee: Marc Rowell, Nat La Spina, Eddie Solari, Terry Bolger, Wally Skinner and Mario Quagliata. As always, my family supported me fully during the recent election campaign. I am very grateful to my mum and dad, Lloyd and Lorraine, for their encouragement. They have made a lot of sacrifices for me throughout my life and, amazingly, they continue to support me in my public life despite all of the disadvantages it brings to them.

I would very much like to express my gratitude to the staff in my electorate office—Jess, Leisa and Lorraine. They really are fantastic staff and I am fortunate to have them and they put up with a lot in their demanding jobs. I also want to take this opportunity to thank my former ministerial staff who worked with me during my time as the minister for natural resources and mines in the previous LNP government. It was a great experience and during the time that we were in office we implemented a lot of change and reform in the area of natural resource management and the resources sector in Queensland. As I mentioned during the debate on the confidence motion during the last sitting week, I was amazed that the Governor's speech failed to mention natural resource management, agriculture, mining or resources at all. The resources sector is a cornerstone of the Queensland economy, particularly in regional areas, and as mines minister I was determined to ensure that Queensland benefited from growth in the resources sector and that it developed in a responsible and orderly fashion.

The LNP government recognised the need for growth in this sector and concentrated on improving the efficiency of the regulatory and approvals processes, improving confidence in the sector's social licence to operate and restoring Queensland's reputation as a preferred destination for investment. I also sought to diversify the resources sector to build on our traditional strengths in coal, base metals and more recently in natural gas. The LNP provided a way forward for uranium mining, rare earths, oil shale and new deep gas and oil investments in Queensland. Our land and water resources are fundamental building blocks of our environment, our local communities and the economy. As natural resources minister I pursued policies that provided for the prudent use of Queensland's natural resources—land, water and vegetation resources—to encourage sustainable economic development opportunities, particularly and unapologetically in rural and regional Queensland.

The LNP saw the need for the management of our natural resources to return to a more balanced approach that afforded some respect for private property rights while pursuing efficiency and sustainability outcomes in parallel. This was in stark contrast to the ideological, politically driven agenda of the former Beattie and Bligh Labor governments and their alliance with the extreme greens which over 14 years waged a relentless assault on private property rights here in Queensland. For over 150 years Queenslanders have utilised our natural resources to support their families, create jobs, build communities and generate opportunities. Over the last 20 years the alliance between Labor and the Greens has undermined confidence and created uncertainty for industry. It has caused pain, frustration and anger in the lives of hardworking Queenslanders, particularly in regional and rural communities.

Another matter which I raised during the debate on the motion of confidence during the last sitting week was that the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines had very few things to talk about that he could reasonably claim to be the result of his own initiative. Last time this parliament met the minister claimed the expansion of the drill core library at Zillmere and the signing of an MOU with South Australia to develop the Cooper Basin as evidence that he was getting on with the job. Not only were those initiatives mine but yesterday the minister did it again—claiming credit for round 9 of the collaborative drilling program, part of the LNP's Future Resources initiative, a program that I put in place to support the exploration sector. So the minister is still handing in my homework and claiming it as his own. But what is he going to do and what is he going to talk about when all of my initiatives are finalised? That is going to be the real test for the minister when he has to secure the agreement of his cabinet colleagues to do something proactive in support of the resources sector. So far his track record of banning uranium mining—again—delaying the development of the port at Abbot Point and casting doubt over the approval of Acland stage 3 will be very much alarming a wide number of stakeholders in the resources sector.

In the area of natural resource management, rural industry groups across Queensland are waiting with bated breath for the minister to do something—anything—to show some direction and guidance on land, water and vegetation management. We have had the spectacle of the minister deferring the commencement of Water Act amendments this House approved last year. They are just sitting there waiting to be proclaimed, waiting to reduce red tape, improve efficiency, streamline assessment and reduce costs for entitlement holders. We are also waiting for the minister to get on with the job and progress the release of additional unallocated water in the Flinders and Gilbert river catchments. Public submissions on the proposed amendment to the water resource plan closed in the middle of February and the minister has had plenty of time to consider the issues and release the new gulf WRP.

The science is in on this initiative, backed up by a comprehensive CSIRO report, that the volumes of additional water to be released in the proposed amendment are sustainable, so I cannot understand why the new Labor government is taking so long to get things moving. Labor needs to get on with the job of releasing this additional water for new irrigated agriculture in North and North-West Queensland. New opportunities are waiting for local communities in these catchments if we can get the proposed additional water in the Flinders and Gilbert river catchments released—if this government can just get its act together. I am very concerned that this minister does not know what he stands for and he cannot make a decision about things. I feel as though I am standing over here in an episode of *Mr Squiggle* and I am Blackboard and I am saying, 'Hurry up! Hurry up!'—repeating it over and over again asking the minister to hurry up—and in the meantime the indecisiveness of the minister and his lack of political influence in the cabinet to get things done is creating uncertainty and compromising potential investment decisions in rural industries in regional parts of this state. So in retrospect I am very proud of the legacy that I have left behind after almost three years as the minister for natural resources and mines. The legislation I introduced and carried through this parliament included significantly reforming the management of Queensland's land resources, in particular offshore tourism island leases and rural leasehold land, providing unprecedented opportunities for lessees to freehold their rural properties.

I also introduced legislation to significantly reform the management of Queensland's water resources for the sustainable and productive use of water to ensure that there is a balance between the social, environmental and economic outcomes for the use of water. I also significantly reformed Queensland's vegetation management framework to provide opportunities to sustainably grow our agricultural sector, reduce red tape and treat farmers with respect and not like criminals. I provided the community of North Stradbroke Island with a sensible and orderly time frame in which to transition from an economy based on sandmining to an economy supported by other industries such as

tourism. I commenced the streamlining and modernisation of Queensland's five resource related acts, some of which are very old and in some cases inconsistent with each other, to ensure that we have contemporary regulatory arrangements. Lastly—and this is something that I am very proud of—I cleaned up the flawed legacies of the Indigenous landholding acts and delivered a framework to offer Indigenous Queenslanders in Indigenous communities the first ever opportunity to own their own home in freehold. Certainly, I am determined to defend these achievements and these legacies from those who seek to malign and misrepresent them.

I would like to turn now to my electorate of Hinchinbrook. I am always proud to say that I was born and raised in Tully. For 10 years now I have lived in the great town of Ingham. Both sides of my family have lived in North Queensland for several generations and I am very passionate about the people, the communities and the industries of North Queensland. The Hinchinbrook electorate stretches from the mouth of the Bohle River in Townsville in the south to the mouth of the Johnstone River of Innisfail in the north. The Hinchinbrook electorate and North Queensland is my home. I love it very much and I love fighting for it. I love fighting for a fair go for North Queensland and for opportunities for our communities to grow and enjoy our special lifestyle.

The former LNP government delivered a great deal for the Hinchinbrook electorate. I am proud of the initiatives and the programs that were implemented over the past three years. This is an opportunity to mention a few of them. On Townsville's northern beaches, we delivered a new all-terrain vehicle for the Deeragun Police Station. That vehicle has significantly improved the capacity of the police in that area to service their local communities. We brought forward stage 4 of Townsville's ring-road. We delivered—finally—an upgrade to Blakeys Crossing. We upgraded the Woolcock and Mather streets intersection. We delivered additional teacher aide hours to Bohlevale State School. We deployed master teachers to Bohlevale and Bluewater State School and we provided a \$1.5 million Get Playing Plus Grant for Peggy Banfield Park to the Townsville City Council.

In the Black River area, we finally provided the community there with a new ambulance vehicle. For the rural fire brigades at Black River and Purono Park, we provided them with new fire trucks. We upgraded the boat ramp at Saltwater Creek at Toomulla. We replaced the pontoon at Fisherman's Landing at Rollingstone and we provided additional teacher aide hours to Rollingstone State School. The LNP government provided a \$1.8 million upgrade for the Paluma Environmental Education Centre. For years, this was a little community that had been forgotten by the previous government. Finally, under the LNP, they received an upgrade to that centre.

In the Hinchinbrook shire, we provided \$30,000 for Multicultural Partnerships funding and Valuing Diversity funding for the Australian Italian Festival, which is an iconic festival in my community in North Queensland—

Ms Grace: I've been to it, too.

Mr CRIPPS: Yes, the member for Brisbane Central has been there. She has an appreciation of the cultural importance of that festival for the Herbert River district. After years of the fire station at Ingham being flooded during every flood event, we finally got a new fire station for Ingham. It has been relocated to a flood-free area so that the fires do not have to pack up and relocate every time we get water through Palm Creek in Ingham. We have had additional ambulance vehicles given to the Ingham and Halifax stations.

We have had the cutting of red and green tape. We provided a permit to the Herbert River Improvement Trust to remove vegetation from the bed of the Herbert River in the Herbert River district to mitigate the impact of flood events on the lower Herbert. For years, the trust had not been able to do that until our government cut through the red tape. We provided \$365,000 to replace the boardwalk at Broadwater State Forest. We provided \$70,000 for the local theatre to be upgraded—and that was after the local disability support services group took over the running of the theatre—so that they could continue to operate with new digital equipment. We provided funding for watercourse management, funding for flood studies for Ingham, two new police officers for Ingham, \$110,000 for the feral pig management program in Ingham, new teacher aide hours for Macknade and Forrest Beach, and a record amount of funding for the Herbert River Improvement Trust. These are important things for my area of the world.

Up at Mount Fox we provided more than \$600,000 in betterment funding to upgrade Michael Creek. In the Cassowary Coast region, starting in Cardwell, we provided \$140,000 for the Smart School Subsidy Scheme. We provided \$245,000 to support the well-known Giringun Aboriginal Corporation with its Indigenous art programs. We provided new overtaking lanes on the Bruce Highway north of Cardwell and more teacher aide hours in Cardwell.

In Kennedy, we also provided more than \$220,000 for the Smart School Subsidy Scheme to Kennedy State School and additional teacher aide hours. I am very proud of the fact that we provided \$2.5 million to support the repair and reopening of the Kirrama Range Road—a very important regional road in my area of Queensland. We provided \$20,000 to upgrade the walking tracks in the Misty Mountains national park so that people could actually use them. We built new overtaking lanes north of Tully on the Feluga straight, refurbished the nurses' quarters at Tully Hospital, provided a new ambulance vehicle to Tully, provided funding to the council to upgrade the lighting at the Tully Showgrounds and upgraded the Lions Park in Tully with \$184,000 in funding to the council. We also sent master teachers to Tully State High School and Tully State School.

At Mission Beach, we provided \$18 million for marine infrastructure and a new ambulance vehicle. At Kurrimine Beach, we gave the people there a new fire appliance. After years of putting up with an old vehicle, they finally got a new fire truck for the Kurrimine Beach station. We also provided a new ambulance vehicle at South Johnstone and additional teacher aide hours at South Johnstone. At Silkwood, another important multicultural event in my electorate is the Feast of the Three Saints. The people there secured \$40,000 through our Valuing Diversity Grants Program, which will help them to continue to put on their annual festival, which I attended on Sunday. It was the 65th anniversary of that very important multicultural event in the Hinchinbrook electorate.

In Mourilyan, we replaced the floating walkway at Mourilyan Harbour. We provided \$13,000 to Mourilyan State School under the Anzac Centenary community grants program. We upgraded the intersection of Mourilyan Road and the Bruce Highway with \$2.8 million of funding. We also provided teacher aide hours to Mourilyan State School.

We also provided \$125,000 for flood recovery of watercourses in the Cassowary Coast region. We provided new police officers in the Cassowary Coast stations and \$400,000 to the Cassowary Coast River Improvement Trust, which was record funding for that institution after years of neglect under previous governments.

In my electorate of Hinchinbrook, we spent \$1.2 million in sport and recreation funding. We spent \$4.8 million to slash school maintenance backlogs in schools in the Hinchinbrook electorate, of which there are about 40. We boosted prep hours for children to 322 hours across the whole state. We received 320 Great State Grants, worth \$4.8 million. Importantly, we provided double the assistance for the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. After years and years and years of screaming out to the Labor Party to do something about the lack of support for patients who had to travel, we got a doubling of that rate.

I welcome and acknowledge all the new members of the opposition who have joined us, but in particular I want to welcome the member for Burdekin, who is my closest LNP neighbour in North Queensland. There have been a lot of changes in this place since I became a member. I am reminded of an old saying that I am very fond of—and all the other members here would do well to remember it as well, because it rings true for all of us again and again—there is nothing more permanent in politics than the temporary.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Before calling the honourable member for Pine Rivers, 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. I call the member for Pine Rivers.

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (8.40 pm): In rising I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today. I pay my respects to their elders, past, present and future, for they hold the memories, traditions, culture and hopes of Indigenous Australia. I am honoured to be elected Labor's member and representative for Pine Rivers. I am deeply thankful to the people of my community for placing their faith in me. My electorate had a 21.3 per cent swing back to Labor. The outcome was an outright rejection of what the previous government had to offer and a reversion to working class labour values: values of equity, opportunity, fairness and reform. In my community I have shared in and seen firsthand the daily struggles and triumphs. I have spent over a decade as a labour and union activist doing my best to make a positive mark on our society. Labour values are the values of the people I got to know so well in Pine Rivers.

My electorate is a place where too many in our community go without. Decisions made in this place by governments can hurt or help. Cuts have deep impacts and when decisions hurt they hit hardest those with the least in Pine Rivers. I am uncomfortable with individualism by instinct because so much of my life has been about the collective—caring for others, working with others, organising and campaigning with others. The only power that matters is the power of the collective. But a collective is made up of individual stories and individual journeys.

My journey to get to this place is very much from humble beginnings. I grew up in a female dominated household, a working-class family like many in our community who strive to make a better future. My mum, Gerri, taught me the values of hard work and determination in following your heart. The year her youngest daughter started school was the year she started a university degree as a mature age student. Mum's struggle and determination resulted in her becoming the first in her family to gain a university degree. She works as a palliative care nurse with terminally ill patients who choose to be at home surrounded by their loved ones when they pass. My dad, Jimbo, recently retired. He has spent his working life predominantly in the Australian tax office. There he chased after big businesses and international corporations to ensure that they paid their fair share back into our community. He instilled in me that everything has a value and the importance of a value placed on everything and that nothing in this world comes for free. When public servants are demonised as pen-pushers or fat cats or bureaucrats, those who are actually being persecuted are workers—workers who provide a service to us all, workers like my parents.

I would like to thank my family for providing me with strong foundations and unwavering support and guidance. My sister, Lisa, and her husband, Steve, live in a remote Indigenous community in the Territory. Twelve days ago they welcomed their first child into this world—Ezekiel—who has inherited his middle name from the late, great Gough Whitlam. Lisa is more than a sister. Over the years she has been a carer, roommate, friend and mentor. I thank Lisa and Steve for being so bold in the way that they live their lives and always giving and unselfishly being there for those in need. My brother, Matt, who is with us tonight, has guided me through life on a journey of self-discovery and betterment. I am proud not only to call Nicole a sister-in-law but a great friend. Over recent years they have brought two brilliant little souls into our lives: Lachy, who is full of kindness, creativity and imagination; and Rachie, who is fiercely independent and full of resolve. Thank you for always having a place in your home for me and time on the campaign trail to secure this win. To Amanda and Tim, I thank you for your encouragement, interest and enthusiasm. Your energy is very often drawn upon. Your determination and strong wills are certainly reflected in your little man, Finn. To my extended family, you have all played a part in this and I thank you for your support. Around my family are lifelong family friends. Thank you to the Timmses and the Coles, some of whom are here tonight, for your ongoing encouragement and support. To my parents I say thank you for believing in me and always being on my side. The sacrifices you have made to provide for us all have not been lost on me.

I find myself in this place in life also due to the great labour movement. I joined my union as an early childhood educator. I found working in the sector enormously rewarding and fulfilling. At that time a job at Woolies stocking shelves paid the same or more as a qualified educator. Money was not a motivator for me and to this day it is still not, but the reality that I have learned is that it is a necessity. Working in a female dominated workforce must never be an impediment to being able to make a living or not. It is a stain on our society that it is. So many of us want careers that make a difference in this world. Too many face the difficult choice of walking away from the careers and the work that they love simply because it is not sustainable. The more time I spent campaigning full-time in different female dominated industries the more I realised my story and my struggle was not mine alone. My story is shared by thousands of others just like me. Labor must be about all those who work, be it an early educator struggling to make ends meet, a small businesswoman trying to make her dream a reality, a woman in the corporate world whose career is held back by entrenched and subliminal discrimination or those who have been left out or left behind in our economy entirely. That is why I stood as a Labor candidate and why I am so proud to be part of a Labor government in Queensland.

We are for all who work. We are about fairness. That is the Labor story and it is built from the stories of thousands like me who know that there must be a better way. Labor's values are the values of hard work and family. Conservatives seek to demolish family through simple things like removing penalty rates to steal our weekends. They seek to demonise those who are out of work. They do not understand that it is their values that the community is rejecting. Labor loses elections when it abandons its values. Conservatives lose them when they uphold theirs.

I am proud to play a part in this state Labor government. One hundred years ago women became able to run for Queensland parliament for the first time. I am proud to have a strong and tenacious female Premier and Deputy Premier leading our state 100 years later. I am proud that Labor has a front bench that has as many women as the sum of all in the LNP caucus.

Pine Rivers has a long history of strong female representatives from both sides of politics. Having considerable influence with me is Linda Lavarch. I would like to thank Linda for her unwavering support and guidance through my campaign. Rarely do you encounter a lady with the

intelligence, grace and dignity of Linda. To the former member for Aspley Bonnie Barry, I say thank you for always being there, for your perspective, sense and focus. To my predecessor, Seath Holswich, on behalf of Pine Rivers I thank you for your contribution over the last three years. I wish you and your family well in your future endeavours outside of this place.

To Dick, Anthony, Evan and the party office team, thank you. Thank you to Bill Shorten for launching our campaign and Mark Butler for lifting our spirits. Thank you to senators Claire Moore and Jan McLucas for your support over the years. Senator Chris Ketter, thank you for the hours of doorknocking and campaigning that you contributed. Thank you to Brett Murphy, who brought his camera to the suburbs and got us started on the campaign trail. Thank you to all community supporters and ALP members and life members who played a part in our election victory.

I would like to acknowledge a lady who for so many has been a mentor, sister, comrade and friend. Wendy Turner has for years been offering me guidance and support and I am certain that I owe much to her perseverance and dedication. Thanks to Councillor Mick Gillam for his unwavering assistance and profile-building support. He was always there for me. He opened many doors to our great community along the way.

In the campaign my team and I made over 46½ thousand phone calls, we knocked on over 19½ thousand doors and we held hundreds of street stalls. Decisions made over the last three years in this place have hurt us in Pine Rivers. In the months leading up to the election our community was screaming out for change, screaming out to be heard, screaming out for fairness and it is in Labor that they will find that.

Queenslanders are battlers. It gives us a sense of pride and achievement to know that we are making it work against the odds. People in my community do not need us in this place to do everything for them. They need us to understand that when we make laws we make their daily struggle harder or easier. We need to make sure our decisions build a better today for them and a better tomorrow for their children. We need to give their families opportunity and themselves fairness. I will always stand up and fight for what is right. My record demonstrates that. That is why when the Bligh government sold our assets, I took a stand and I campaigned against it. When the LNP proposed asset sales I did exactly the same thing. When blue collar jobs like those in rail, port or power are lost they are gone forever. Our community is no better for having lost them.

I remember what made me decide to run for parliament. For many years I had the honour of representing Queensland's allied health professionals. I recall one meeting in metro north in 2012. I was presented with another spreadsheet of jobs that were to go. Each line on the spreadsheet represented a life that was being torn apart, a family being plunged into uncertainty and a community with one less dedicated public health professional. The cuts at Prince Charles, the royal, Caboolture and Redcliffe were some of the deepest. I decided to stand for parliament as a Labor candidate because I believe that when things are wrong you stand up and you do something about them, and that was wrong in every sense of the word.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of United Voice for the privilege of working with them and for them over the past decade, campaigning in under recognised sectors. Thank you to Gary and the executive for the investment they made in me over the years and for the enormous support they provided me with to win back Pine Rivers.

After a decade, you form some close bonds. Thank you to my mentors at the Missos: the member for Springwood, Mick de Brenni; David Pullen; the member for Capalaba, Don Brown; and my ever-inspirational mate who is cool on four continents, David Malley. Unfortunately, my mentor—the one who got me started in the ALP—is no longer with us, but in many ways he has never left us. Thank you to my comrade, Ian Burgett, his wonderful wife, Michelle, and their daughters who continue to support me. The backup and campaigning contributions from my United Voice comrades, including those who came from across the country, was phenomenal and I thank them all for their efforts through the hot campaign this January summer.

Thanks also for the unwavering support provided to me by my union, the Electrical Trades Union. I am a proud member of the ETU, the union that ran the Not4Sale campaign right across this state. Not4Sale was a strong grassroots community campaign, initiated by energy workers across Queensland who appreciated that we would be worse off under a privatised model. There is little doubt in my mind that the recent state election was, indeed, a referendum on the sale or lease of our assets. I can assure the people of my community that I have heard them loud and clear. After the fight of our lives, we have kept our assets in public hands.

I thank my comrades at the ETU not only for their successful campaign but also for the support they offered to my community. I am proud to call the member for Kallangur, Shane King, a comrade and a friend. I am certain that I would not be standing in this place if it were not for him. Fiercely loyal and with an unwavering compass, he is one of a kind. I very much value the support, friendship and camaraderie that I find in him and his family.

I acknowledge the role of the Queensland union movement, the Queensland Council of Unions, CFMEU members, members of Together and Young Labor in winning back Pine Rivers. In the short time that I have been here I have seen those opposite demonise and ridicule unions. I am proudly a unionist, someone who believes in the collective and I will endlessly stand up for fairness, equality and opportunity. We should always be striving to make a difference for those in our community who need it most, those at risk of being left behind or not heard, and those not able to fight for a fair go.

I would like to thank the kergs and, at the heart of that, is my mate Kegan Scherf. He has been a constant support to us in Pine Rivers and has played critical roles in campaigns right across the state. He has a bright future ahead of him and I thank him for getting our campaign off the ground and for keeping it going when times got tough. Another kerg in the gallery, and certainly the chief kerg on our campaign, is undoubtedly Taylor Bunnag. He is someone who sees how absolutely precious and volatile our community is. I am very fortunate that post campaign he continues to make sacrifices to remain involved, active and at the forefront of ensuring that our community has a voice.

I acknowledge Jim Grant, a Joyner local and some 80 years of age. 2015 was the second time in Jim's life that he made a political donation. The first was when Maxine McKew ran against John Howard. At the last election, Jim donated to the Pine Rivers and the Ashgrove campaigns to put an end to Campbell Newman. He knew that to change government we needed to change not just Campbell Newman's seat but also seats such as Pine Rivers.

I would not be here without the guidance and support of one of my best mates and the love of my life, Reece Pianta. An enormously intelligent, strategic and great political talent, Reecie is always there for me in every imaginable way. He likes to joke that he tricked me into agreeing to marry him, but I feel confident that I have the better deal. My life is never short of laughter or joy when you are around and I very much look forward to spending the rest of my days with you, making all of our dreams a reality.

There is a new sense of confidence in my community, but the work of rebuilding has only just begun. I and all of us here will be judged by the economy we rebuild. We must build an economy that works for people, not an economy that enslaves our community. The dignity of work is fundamental and local job creation is my focus for Pine Rivers.

Labor builds things and the Moreton Bay Rail Link is a great Labor initiative. It is providing 8,000 jobs for people in my community. Local jobs result in improvements to our way of life. Less time commuting to employment means more time with loved ones and a better life balance. Our local roads and public transport continue to groan under the demands being placed on them each day. Local jobs are the long-term solution. The shorter term solution is a better integrated transport network. For example, a safer train station at Strathpine without a dangerous level crossing would remove lengthy delays for commuters and allow more train services. A station at Strathpine that is equipped with improved disability access would improve equity of access. A simple upgrade such as that could have significant positive effects for the people of my community. Many small steps like those make up the fabric of Labor's tradition of community centred governance.

Infrastructure creates jobs and a transport network gets people to and from those jobs in a timely fashion, giving quality of life, but education is the key to our future. Lawnton State School is one of the many in my electorate that has grown rapidly in recent times. It lacks essential infrastructure such as a school hall that all of the school community can fit in. I am proud to be part of a party that fundamentally believes in education. I believe we will be the kind of party and the kind of government that delivers for schools such as Lawnton in my electorate.

Those are the things that I know to be priorities in my electorate. They are the things that I believe we must secure. They are fundamental. They are jobs, they are roads and they are school facilities. For my entire life I have stood up for people: in my profession of childcare when I knew that things were so wrong, as a union official working with health workers and as a political campaigner against asset sales. I have had faith in collective action because I have experienced its power to make lives better. That is why community works. I was raised with the values of hard work and care for others. Those values have driven me through my working life and those are the values that I bring with me to this place.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Congratulations. I now call the member for Lockyer.

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (8.57 pm): Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is nice to see you back; I will not say it is great to see you back.

An opposition member: The applause was for you, Ricko.

Mr RICKUSS: I thank the people in the gallery for the applause. That was very nice. It was a good introduction.

I thank the LNP members of the Lockyer and particularly my wife, Ann, who worked extremely hard to help me, and has done for many years. She is a great asset to me and the community. I thank my family, my staff and members of the local LNP. I thank Tina and Alan Fry, Jeff Sommerfeld, Jim McDonald, Warwick and Kathy McLean, Michael Hogan, Mansell and many others. It is great to have the support of the community; it is real grassroots support. Ann did a wonderful job on the pre-polls. It turned out to be a fairly close election. I was quietly confident all the time, but it did turn out to be a fairly close election and it was nice that Ann had worked extremely hard on the pre-polls and had such a great bond with the community. I am sure her assistance on the pre-polling helped me out.

I was quite surprised when someone sent me some information about a former member for the federal seat of Oxley who I stood against. When she was the member for Oxley there were 515 divisions in the federal parliament and she attended 129 of those. I think she attended only about eight of 120 in her last year in parliament. Over the years millions of dollars have gone into the coffers of One Nation and the accounts of the former member for Oxley. That has brought changes to the way political donations are handled now, simply because of the amount of money that went that way.

It is good to be back in parliament. I congratulate all the new members—people like Jim Madden, the member for Ipswich West. I have known Jim for a number of years. The good thing about Jim is that he went to Gatton college. That is the best thing I can say about Jim. I do not know what happened; he did not come out of there with the right colours. That is all right.

It is great to see so many new members. I congratulate the new members on our side and my colleagues who were here previously. I am glad to be back here. It is a volatile electorate that we have been dealing with over the last few years. The Clerk told me there have been 87 MP changes over the last two elections. There are only 89 seats. Admittedly, some of them have stayed the same. There has been quite a roll call of members in this parliament.

I must admit that it was great being in government for a term. The resources that I managed to leverage for the Lockyer community were welcomed. There was the wonderful upgrade of the Laidley Police Station. There was also the one-stop shop for Gatton. Mr Walker delivered the one-stop shop for Gatton. It is a great resource. It is going extremely well. I think it is something that Labor will pick up and run with. It is good government and makes sense to have them, particularly in electorates like mine and Beaudesert. I am sure they are going to be a real bonus for our communities.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr RICKUSS: They would work in Nanango or Kingaroy.

Mrs Frecklington: You need good, common-sense government.

Mr RICKUSS: That is right. There have been dramatic improvements in safety on the Warrego Highway since I have been the member. I am looking forward to the second range crossing when it is completed. It will be nation building for Australia. If the Rudd federal government had not wasted billions of dollars we could have had the second range crossing built half a decade ago. We probably could have fixed the Bruce Highway if the Rudd government had not wasted so much money. It is a shame because that is nation-building infrastructure. It is nation-building infrastructure that would have saved the state and country billions of dollars over the long term.

The Southern Rail Freight Corridor put in by a previous Labor government is a catastrophe waiting to happen. It is 40 kilometres out of the way. It is in an area where it should not be. It is a disaster. I explained that to the previous transport minister. Admittedly, it was already gazetted by the time we got into government. I explained to the member for Indooroopilly the stupidity of that corridor. I know that on one occasion the former deputy premier would not sign off on some work when the federal government came to him. The Southern Rail Freight Corridor is in the wrong place. It is too long. It is a disaster waiting to happen. When I retire from this parliament I will continue to lobby to have that changed. It is a disaster waiting to happen. It is stupidity of the highest order. It was a grave error of judgement.

The fire stations at Laidley and Gatton have new equipment and have had upgrades. The rural fires have had much improved services. We did wear some flack over the Rural Fire Service levy but it was worthwhile in the long term. The schools in my electorate have been brought up to speed.

I acknowledge Wyatt Cook-Revell, who is in the gallery tonight. He came in to see me, but I think he listened to Jim's speech too. He is the youth member for Lockyer. I think he is some relation to Jim—a distant cousin or something. I am sure Wyatt will enjoy the experience of being involved in the youth parliament.

I have listened to the first speeches and I am impressed with the depth and quality of those from our side of the House. It is about being comrades. It is about how we on our side of the House can develop Queensland and make Queensland a better place.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr RICKUSS: The comrades over there and you in your red shirt, member for Nanango. It is important that as parliamentarians we work for the betterment of the state. That is what it is really about. We will always challenge each other's ideas here, but in our electorates we all want safer roads, we all want better schools, we all want more police. All those sorts of issues we agree on.

I had an interesting meeting where we were having discussions about maybe getting some prisoners from Palen Creek to play in the local football competition on the weekends on a day release basis. They already do community work in the area. We will all get a rap on the knuckles if it goes wrong, but if it goes right it will be great. It helps with anger management and learning how to control one's anger. There is no better place to learn that sort of thing than on the football field. I encourage the minister to look into that.

My concern is how we can improve the Lockyer. The minister mentioned some mining issues before—issues such as rare earth facilities. They are the sort of things that we have to look at to ensure that we have ongoing employment. Unfortunately, a lot of the old manufacturing type industries are struggling. We have to look at some of the high-tech industries and how we do things smarter and deliver the right sorts of jobs.

I want to speak about some serious safety concerns and breaches of the law by Cement Australia. Firstly, I will acknowledge that I do have an interest in this. My son, Luke, worked for Cement Australia as a contracted lorry owner driver. Now that he no longer works at Cement Australia I am not constrained about speaking out on what he has advised me.

Cement Australia has recently lost its Tarong fly ash supply and its credibility has been damaged by an ACCC case where it was found to have abused its power. The Fair Work Commission ruled against Cement Australia on 23 April 2015 in relation to workers' rights.

During my son's five-year contract with Cement Australia he was required to use a 30-year-old trailer owned by Cement Australia that had shock absorbers that did not work, no disc brakes, no electronic stability control, no trailer rollover system, no electronic braking distribution system, no load proportioning brake valve system, no antilock braking system and no undercarriage safety.

On 10 March Luke had an accident in his truck. I believe it was an accident waiting to happen. Luke lost control of his truck and the truck and trailer rolled over near Cement Australia's Pinkenba plant. He felt the load shift and trailer lurch. His speed met the guidelines under Australian standards. At the time of the accident the company was more interested in getting someone to climb dangerously up on the overturned trailer and paint out the Cement Australia sign than worried about the driver, the driver's family or how they could improve safety.

I attended a meeting with Luke and Cement Australia representatives Peter Klose and Mark Harrison for Luke to discuss the accident's ramifications. I was quite amazed at the lack of compassion for Luke and his family at this meeting. There was no question of how his wife and children's welfare was. There was no question about his family at all. Luke supplied a written response to the show-cause notice. Peter Klose and Mark Harrison left the room to discuss this. It took them some 10 minutes to decide.

On their return they said that they had decided to terminate Luke's contract with Cement Australia. They did not offer any type of upskilling, counselling or any other support to Luke and his family. They did advise that he could go to arbitration. But if he won his arbitration they would not renew his contract which was due for renewal in May 2015. Peter Klose stated this twice. Cement Australia's bullying of small contractors demonstrates its lack of compassion.

Cement Australia, a company with over a billion dollars in turnover, was fined \$100,000 by the court system when an employee was killed at a Cement Australia plant. Yet they were quite willing to impose a \$200,000 penalty, loss of contract and income on one of their subbies, whose turnover is equivalent to about \$200,000 a year, without even asking how his wife and children were handling the trauma.

Kevin Savory, the general manager, let the fleet of powder tankers get so far out of date it beggars belief. The rebirthing operating of old tankers in South Australia also needs to be looked into. I only hope that highlighting these issues, in a company the size of Cement Australia, improves their corporate practices. We have seen what happened to other companies that care only about profit and not about their responsibilities. McAleese Transport and Cootes Transport come to mind. They have almost sent McAleese broke.

The CA subbies are being starved out of work. Rob Davies is ignoring the issue. Rob Davies is the manager of Cement Australia. Kevin Savory is either being misled by Mark Harrison and Peter Klose or he does not want to know. Mark Harrison's management of the allocation has been so poor that Hanson have brought their own trucks in to ensure they get proper supply. I table a document in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 18 February 2015, from Rob Davies, Chief Executive Officer, Cement Australia [373].

Telling the LODs, lorry owner-drivers, the lies and stupidity that Rob Davies did in a letter dated 18 February 2015 goes to show what little regard they have for their contractors and workers. CA is a company with over a billion dollars in turnover and 1,100 people working for it. Its website says, 'Working at Cement Australia and you are working with an Australian icon.' It should say, 'They treat you like a substandard commodity, not like a person.'

I was extremely disappointed with how Cement Australia's middle management managed the issues. I looked up some data on suicides and those sorts of things. Unfortunately, a lot of Cement Australia drivers would be in the age range of 34 to 54, and that age range has very high suicide rates in Australia. This is the sort of thing that a company the size of Cement Australia should be looking into: how they manage their workers. If they do not want to renew contracts, fair enough, but do it with some compassion and in a realistic way. It is about managing people and it is about managing their business. This is a company that is owned by Holcim and Hanson, and it has really left a lot to be desired. I table this document too.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Figure 19. Preliminary and First Revision of Suicide Rates, 2012' [374].

With that, the Lockyer electorate is a great electorate. We have some great water suppliers at the moment.

Mr Cripps: The salad bowl of Queensland.

Mr RICKUSS: I take that interjection. It is the salad bowl of Queensland. We do not have any coal seam gas; I will say that. We do not have any coal seam gas permits; I will say that as well. I am sure one of my colleagues in the radio industry will pick this up and run with it. I do find it frustrating when people are using that sort of information for their own political gain.

The next 12 months will be interesting. We are less than 12 months away from a council election, so that will be interesting. I represent areas within four councils. I have part of the Logan council at the Greenbank end, I have part of the Ipswich council and I have part of the Scenic Rim. That brilliant political operative Mr John Brent—

Mr Cripps: His Worship.

Mr RICKUSS: His Worship Mr John Brent.

Mrs Frecklington: Do you have a bit of Somerset as well?

Mr RICKUSS: No. I have been cut out of Somerset. Councils really do have to tighten their belts. I table a document that highlights how councils have lost track of where they are actually going.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Lockyer Valley Regional Council: Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2014' [375].

The Lockyer council, for instance, runs the Staging Post Cafe. So we can all go there and buy a nice cup of coffee. It is very nice. The only problem is that it loses \$512,000 a year. The café would not sell \$512,000 worth of cups of coffee, so I imagine we are throwing in more than \$1 a cup. The council runs a childcare centre, which might have been good when we did not have 20 other childcare centres in the area. It loses only \$170,000 a year! It also does work on roads and subbies work out. It

loses only \$130,000 a year on that! We are roughly up to \$812,000—\$50 or \$60 per ratepayer. The council has to start to concentrate more on its core business and get out of its loss-making businesses. It needs to concentrate on what it should be doing, not so much worrying about things like coal seam gas that does not exist in the Lockyer Valley.

Mrs Frecklington: It is not in the Lockyer?

Mr RICKUSS: No. The council should be ensuring that people get the appropriate information they need so that people are informed about what is going on in their areas. Let's face it: unfortunately, some of the areas that local governments have strayed into are the jurisdictions of other governments. They are expending government money on those things. Private enterprise should be running the childcare centres. Private enterprise should be running the coffee shops. Unfortunately, the local council has also bought millions of dollars worth of land around town.

Ms Leahy: Land banking.

Mr RICKUSS: Yes, land banking. I take the interjection of the member for Warrego. But what that has done over the years is stifle development in the town. It has stifled development in the town unfortunately. In the main streets of Gatton—I did count them the other day—there are probably in the vicinity of 15 empty shops and buildings.

Mrs Frecklington: Tiffany Brieschke has just opened a shop in the main street of Gatton. She's from Toogoolawah.

Mr RICKUSS: I take the interjection. Has she? What sort of shop has she opened?

Mrs Frecklington: A dress shop at 57 Railway Street.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Address your comments through the chair.

Mr RICKUSS: That would be good because we need a good ladies apparel shop in Gatton. I think we are down to only one shop in Gatton at the moment. That would be good for the town. We did have some fairly big retailers in town but they have moved on. We have the dearest rates in the local area by 20 per cent so that does not help, having such a high rate base. The councils have to start to work on their core business and on their core enterprise.

I will work extremely hard over the next—I think two years will be about the limit. I will work extremely hard over the next two years to ensure the Lockyer is well represented. I think the Labor government will stagger along for about that long before it gets hit with a rhythm stick somewhere along the line.

Mr Cripps: Runs out of our announcements.

Mr RICKUSS: Yes, that is true. It will run out of the minister's DNR announcements. Once that happens it will be interesting to see the make-up of the new parliament. As I say, I congratulate all the new members.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace): Order! Before calling the member for Stretton, 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. I call the member for Stretton.

 **Mr PEGG (Stretton—ALP) (9.17 pm):** I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners and pay my respects to elders past, present and future. I want to place on record my thanks to the people of Stretton for their support. I promise that I will always be your faithful servant. I also congratulate all members of the 55th Parliament who were successful at the election and have the privilege of representing their respective electorates.

I rise today as a very proud member of the Palaszczuk Labor government in this great state of Queensland. Now, more than ever, Queensland needs a Labor government. Now, more than ever, my local area needs a Labor government. Seventeen years ago I made our local area my home, and I have lived in and around our local area for most of my life since then. I can remember dropping my triplet brothers off to work at Sunnybank Hills Shoppingtown back when the Calamvale Central Shopping Centre was still a grassy field. From those beginnings, I have seen Stretton grow into a modern, diverse, multicultural area. I always say you can eat your way around the world if you live in my local area. It truly is a place where you can have a diversity of experiences.

We have many fantastic and hardworking people in my local community throughout so many different community groups. I saw this quite clearly at my official office opening back in March. Present we had representatives of local P&Cs, Meals on Wheels, the Karawatha Forest Protection Society, the Men's Shed, and, of course, representatives of the many multicultural groups we have in

our local area. I also want to thank the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games for being in attendance.

My electorate of Stretton has the highest proportion of people born overseas in the state. It has the highest proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home of any electorate in this state. It is a place where Chinese Lunar New Year, Eid al-Fitr and Diwali are celebrated in the community along with Easter and Christmas. It truly is a fantastic place to live with so much cultural celebration. When discussing multiculturalism, I think the words of the late prime minister Malcolm Fraser in his speech to the Institute of Multicultural Affairs on 30 November 1981 are particularly appropriate. He said—

Multiculturalism is concerned with far more than the passive toleration of diversity. It sees diversity as a quality to be actively embraced, a source of social wealth and dynamism. It encourages groups to be open and to interact, so that all Australians may learn and benefit from each other's heritages. Multiculturalism is about diversity, not division—it is about interaction not isolation.

I see the practical manifestation of these sentiments every day in my local area and will continue to work hard to ensure that we continue to embrace diversity. I am very proud to be part of a Labor government that has a clear commitment to the advancement of multicultural principles in Queensland. I am proud to be part of a government that has a clear commitment to making sure that state government service delivery and state government policy better meets the needs of our culturally and linguistically diverse communities in this state and, in particular, in my local area.

I am very proud to be part of a government that will introduce a multicultural Queensland charter and establish a Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council. This Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council will serve to both advise and provide recommendations to the minister in the development and implementation of government policies in relation to multiculturalism. Those policies will entrench Queensland as a welcoming place and an inclusive place for all people—no matter what cultural background they are from, no matter what linguistic background they have, no matter what religious beliefs they hold.

My support for a multicultural agenda has been a guiding light in my political life. I joined the Labor party in 1998, when I was 17 years old. One of the main reasons I chose to join Labor was that I wanted to provide a voice against the rise of Hansonism. The rise of Hansonism and One Nation saw a very different, and a very ugly, side of Queensland begin to emerge. Queenslanders deserved better than that ugly type of politics, and Queenslanders deserved better than the Borbidge led National Party government that pandered to it. Queenslanders are fundamentally decent, tolerant people. They deserved better from their politicians.

In the Queensland I knew, as long as you enjoyed a barbeque, a sunny day outdoors and did not take yourself too seriously, you were part of the family. At university I had many friends from a huge diversity of backgrounds. They were good, hardworking, decent people. They deserved better than Hanson's ignorant, anti-immigration attacks.

Labor has had a longstanding position that it will place One Nation and other like-minded parties last on how-to-vote cards. Labor was the first party that took this principled position. This was one of the key reasons I joined the Labor Party: to provide a voice against this type of politics. It was also a bit personal. My mother was also a migrant—from Scotland. Like so many members of my local area, she chose to move to Australia to make a life for herself.

I spoke earlier about my electorate having the highest proportion of people born overseas and the highest proportion of people speaking a language other than English at home in the state. The seat of Stretton also has the highest proportion of Queenslanders identifying Islam as their religion in this state. Over time I have got to know local Islamic leaders well. With people of the calibre of Ismail Cajee, President of the Islamic Council of Queensland, providing strong leadership in this state, I know that there is community minded leadership in place. However, despite the support for multiculturalism and diversity in this state, it cannot be denied that there are still challenges to be faced. Unfortunately, there have been two attacks on mosques in Queensland in recent times. It is vitally important that all of us in this place, both inside and outside the chamber, condemn such attacks on places of worship and continue to defend the right of all Queenslanders to practise their religion peacefully. In this regard, I commend the member for Toowoomba South for the remarks he made in his adjournment speech yesterday evening.

Our local area has a great tradition of engagement and a great sense of community. In addition to our strong local multicultural communities, I would also like to acknowledge the work of the local Lions Clubs, the many P&Cs, Multicap and the Kyabra Community Association. Talking to my friends

and colleagues from across Brisbane, I am often struck by a sense of what a great, close-knit community we have in Stretton. I can honestly say that I do not think you see the same level of community activity anywhere else in our state. It is these local organisations that provide the glue to hold our community together.

I would like to single out the Karawatha Forest Protection Society. The area that I represent not only has fantastic community minded people but also is an area of natural beauty. Karawatha Forest is an important part of my local environment. It is a place of rugged beauty and, as one of the largest areas of remnant bushland in Brisbane, needs to be protected. Protecting our natural resources and the environment is important now more than ever when we see threats to great natural resources such as the Great Barrier Reef.

Having a great natural resource like the forest in your backyard really reminds you of how important it is to conserve these natural wonders. It does not matter whether it is the Daintree, Kakadu, the Great Barrier Reef, the Murray-Darling or Karawatha Forest: they all add their piece to our national environment. The members of the Karawatha Forest Protection Society do a fantastic job in protecting this important natural resource and bringing relevant issues and concerns to the attention of the government, the Brisbane City Council and the broader public. The Karawatha Forest Protection Society also organises some fantastic bush walks, and I look forward to participating in more of them in the future.

My local area needs Labor values: the Labor value that says that all people who work hard and play by the rules deserve to get ahead in life and the Labor value that says that education is an investment, not something to be cut at will. Labor has a proud history of delivering opportunity to families, particularly in the areas of health and education. These policies provide the platform for generations of keen minds to study and obtain a tertiary education, enabling world-class discoveries to occur, the platform for families to save and plan for retirement, and the most important platform of all, free and equal access to the best health system in the world. These are values that say, 'If you come from a working middle-class family but you study and work hard you can have the same opportunity as anyone else.'

I believe in these values, because I know them from my own life. I am one of five boys, so you can imagine growing up would have been interesting in our household. We were a working-class family, but we had parents who knew the value of education. I am sure my mother, who is here tonight, would tell you that it is not easy getting five teenage boys to do their homework each night. But they showed that with sacrifice comes success, so we all studied and worked hard, with our family eventually producing a doctor, lawyer, accountant, soldier and marketing specialist.

I believe in the transformational power of education. I want others to have the opportunity I had. I believe that everyone who is willing to work hard and play by the rules should have a fair go in life. But it is not enough to just say that. Education is an investment. It is an investment by the child, the parents, the local community and the country.

I am a proud product of state schooling, and I am very happy to see the clear commitment that this government has made to employing more teachers in state schools between 2016 and 2018 and ensuring that class sizes are returned to a more manageable level. I know from my own experience and that of my family and friends that these policies will support our students, support our young children and help ensure that others have had the opportunities that I have had.

The other key component in a fair society is providing employment opportunities. The level of unemployment under the previous government was unacceptably high and youth unemployment is unacceptably high in my local area. If someone is willing to work, able to work, and wants a job, we should help them find one. I am very proud to be part of a government that has a clear focus on jobs. To achieve this necessitates job creation by identifying the growth industries of the future and making sure that we have a skilled workforce in order to meet this demand.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work has been proven to deliver real opportunities for Queenslanders. An independent evaluation has demonstrated that each dollar spent on Skilling Queenslanders for Work generated nearly \$8 in return. That is a great return in anyone's language. Young people and the long-term unemployed need access to real jobs as well as the support and training to get there. Skilling Queenslanders for Work will provide the opportunity for a pathway for work.

There is a lot of talk about jobs in politics these days. But when politicians talk about jobs, what are they talking about? Let us think about this for a moment. It is a fact of life in Australia these days that many people have a casual job where at around 5 pm every day they get a phone call, a text

message or an email telling them whether they have a shift the next day. This is a fact of life for many Australian families, living day to day and waiting around every night for that phone call or email. There is no certainty in their life and they can only plan one day ahead.

Talking about jobs is more than just statistics. It is more than a number on a sheet of paper. It is more than a headline. When Labor talks about job creation, we mean good jobs, we mean jobs that come with permanency, fair pay, security and rights. We mean jobs that allow you to plan for your family's future and jobs that are underpinned by a system that protects your rights at work and looks after you if you get hurt at work.

It was while working as a solicitor that I came to fully realise the importance of having an effective system of workers compensation in this state. The previous government introduced thresholds that have restricted the ability of those who are injured at work to make common law damages claims. We are talking about people who have been injured at work through no fault of their own who have had their access to compensation severely curtailed. Of course, those most likely to suffer an injury at work are those workers who are in manual occupations. I know from my professional background that suffering an injury at work can be devastating at both a professional and a personal level.

It is devastating at a professional level because an injury can mean that an injured worker is unable to undertake the job they have performed for many years. It may mean they have to change jobs to a lesser role or, worse, it may mean that they have no job at all they can fulfil with their employer. Workplace injuries can also be devastating at a personal level for the injured person and their family. This is particularly the case where there are dependent children. It can cause a great deal of financial and emotional distress to the injured person and their family.

During the 2012 election campaign, I got a call from one of my former clients who lived in the local area. A few years earlier, he was at work and suffered a back injury. He came to our firm and we worked together to manage his case and help him get compensation for his injury. The injury was serious enough that he was barred from continuing in that type of work. After he received compensation, my role as his solicitor ended.

I had not seen or heard from him in many years. Until he called me that day, I did not realise how much that support and the compensation at that time had helped. It gave him and his family some financial breathing room so he could retrain into a new occupation. He could support his family while he retrained, and then he found employment in a new field. Because he had that breathing space, he was once again at a point where he could support his family, earn a decent living and make a contribution to his local area. The injury was not assessed at being above the five per cent impairment threshold so under the current scheme he would have lost that support. I do not know what would have happened—maybe he would have worked on in pain every day; maybe he would have given up. Every Queenslanders benefits from effective workplace compensation because every Queenslanders can go to work knowing that there is a safety net if they get hurt.

I find it unbelievable that currently in this state we have a situation where a person who is injured at work through no fault of their own can find themselves unable to work due to their injury yet not be able to make a common law claim if they do not meet the thresholds introduced by the previous government. I know from my background representing injured people on workers compensation matters how devastating this can be. I very much look forward to these changes being reversed and fairness being restored for injured workers in this state.

It would not be a first speech if I did not end with a round of thanks. I spoke earlier about what a strong community we have locally and I want to personally thank my friend Lewis Lee OAM for always being such a strong source of support. Lewis is a fixture in our local community and does a tremendous amount of community work. I would like to thank the Hon. Con Sciacca for not only being my first employer on a full-time basis but also being such a tremendous source of advice and support over so many years. I also want to put on record my thanks to Sam Roberts, Greg Moran, Ben Swan and Peter Biagini. I also want to congratulate Anthony Chisholm and Evan Moorhead on the successful state campaign.

Local supporters work so hard in campaigns letterboxing, doorknocking, phoning local residents and handing out how-to-vote cards. The heat then storms and then hail on election day proved their commitment beyond doubt. I would like to particularly recognise James Martin, Merric Foley, Clinton DeBruyn, Chris and Judy Hardy, Khiraan Kumar, David Pass, David Shaw, Monique Bielanowski, Annette Curry, Elliott Thornton, David and Mirepa Weir, Jacques Develder, Tim Van Der

Laan, Andrew and his family, Mark Mitchell, Adrienne Cremin, Sam Catanzariti-Smith, Sam Killorn, Eddie Lei, Shan Ju Lin, Stephanie Kameric, Joe Chick and Deb Hodder for all their hard work on the campaign. Thanks also to Marcus Feaver and Carl Melkonian, Annie and Richard.

I have been very fortunate to have two local federal members who have been great supporters and advisors. I have known Dr Jim Chalmers, the federal member for Rankin, since we were at Griffith University together 17 years ago. He has done a tremendous amount of work for the community in the short time he has been in the federal parliament thus far, and I look forward to working with him into the future. Graham Perrett, the federal member for Moreton, is a fantastic member who is truly in touch with our local community and has provided me with invaluable advice over many years. I also want to put on record my appreciation to the former councillor for Karawatha, Gail MacPherson, the former member for Capalaba, Michael Choi, and the former Speaker and member for Logan, John Mickel, for their advice and support. It is great to see former elected representatives who continue to be engaged in community issues and willing to assist so many.

I spoke earlier about my family and I am truly fortunate to have such a tremendous family who have provided me with such great support during the course of my life. I know that, unfortunately, not everyone is as lucky as me in that respect. Thanks, mum and dad, and brothers Cameron, Graham, Grant and Lachlan. Also, to my granny and Aunt Islay, thank you for supporting me so strongly. Speaking of my family, I got a fairly early experience of the importance of this government to the people of Queensland. It was a personal experience as my family were in the path of Cyclone Marcia. I want to thank the Premier for the fantastic work she has done for the repair and reconstruction and I thank all those who assisted in this effort.

As members would know, our partners make a lot of sacrifices to support the work that we do. I actually met my partner, Nicole, for the first time at Parliament House nine years ago up on level 7, so this will always be a very special place for me. Finally, I want to once again thank the people of Stretton for their support. I will always be your humble servant. You are my boss. I will not hesitate to stand up for you on important issues in this place.

 **Dr McVEIGH** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (9.37 pm): I rise to respond to the Governor's opening speech. Can I say in so doing that I support the amendment to the motion proposed by the member for Southern Downs, the Leader of the Opposition. I also take this opportunity to reconfirm my loyalty to Her Majesty the Queen. I am thrilled, I am honoured but above all else I am humbled to be returned as the member for Toowoomba South for the second time. I certainly thank the constituents of Toowoomba South for placing their faith in me once again to represent them in this chamber. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the Labor candidate in that Toowoomba South campaign, Graham Storey, and I guess the Greens candidate at the same time, although to my knowledge no-one in the electorate saw that particular candidate during the campaign, on polling day or ever since—interestingly enough.

It was certainly a hard fought campaign. I am so pleased that we prevailed, and I am very pleased to be among a strong group of LNP representatives in this House from the Toowoomba, Darling Downs and south-west region. This includes the Leader of the Opposition himself and member for Southern Downs, Lawrence Springborg, through to the member for Condamine, the member for Toowoomba North and our colleagues in Lockyer, Nanango and Warrego.

Can I say it is most pleasing to see the new members in our region in the seats of Condamine and Warrego, Pat Weir and Ann Leahy, join our ranks—two members who have significant experience in their communities and in our great party. I would also like to recognise other new members in the House from the LNP: the members for Gympie, Gaven, Burdekin, Redlands, Moggill and, of course, Gregory. The new member for Gregory, Mr Lachlan Millar MP, is a mate and a former portfolio colleague. He is a farmer, small business man, journalist and, above all, a devoted family man who will make a tremendous contribution during his time in the House.

Toowoomba South and our region thrived under the LNP government. As I reflected in my first speech in this House just three short years ago, Toowoomba South is an electorate that has significant features and issues within its own boundaries and yet has a sense of shared responsibility for the broader region given our catchment of southern Queensland and even into all northern parts of New South Wales to our south. We have residents who work in rural industries, in agribusiness, aged care, education at all levels, health, food and other manufacturing, tradespeople, professionals, government services and retail. We have been a region and we continue to be a region facing significant growth challenges. Be it the need that I was aware of when I was first elected as member

for Toowoomba South for more resources for our growing schools, our numerous aged-care facilities, the fact that the Warrego Highway through Toowoomba across the Darling Downs and further west has needed so much attention and, of course, other issues to do with challenges in land use, the need for flood mitigation, particularly in Toowoomba itself, and the long held need for CBD infrastructure development, these are challenges.

I am so very proud of the progress and the achievements on those same issues under this past LNP government. Be it the big picture issues of upgrades to the Warrego Highway throughout our city and region or the final confirmation of the second range crossing project by the LNP, essential infrastructure is being put in place by the LNP's vision for our region. Be it the smaller infrastructure projects, such as flood mitigation on East and West creeks in our city in my electorate, the scene of devastation just a few short years ago, essential infrastructure is now being put in place. Be it essential linkages, such as road and intersection upgrades completed in key areas such as the newly developed Toowoomba Enterprise Hub to the west of our city and, of course, the inner city bypass nearing completion and, as I understand it, to be opened in the coming weeks, infrastructure is being put in place as a result of the LNP's vision for Toowoomba and Toowoomba South.

Much of this, of course, is a result of the Royalties for the Regions program put in place under the former deputy premier. In the electorate itself I am also particularly proud of the new year 7 block at Centenary Heights State High School, the new language and arts centre at Darling Heights State School in my electorate which has an eclectic multinational population given the fact that it is adjacent to the University of Southern Queensland with its many overseas students and families. I can assure honourable members that the maintenance backlog that the LNP has addressed in schools right across my electorate is benefitting students, teachers and staff throughout Toowoomba South.

As I am sure and I trust all members of this House would agree, it is the focus on some of the simplest and most local issues that are often the most rewarding for all of us as politicians. In my case, Get in the Game funding means that teenage girls at West Wanderers Football Club are set to benefit from their own dedicated change room facilities rather than having to duck out and get changed in mum and dad's car. Grid iron football will be facilitated at Valleys Rugby League Club—that is right; grid iron at a league club—with new facilities again to be used primarily by young women, interestingly enough, involved in these sports. The Toowoomba Hospice, Toowoomba Clubhouse, Lifeline Darling Downs and Mercy Family Services have all been assisted through our programs under the LNP to provide essential services to those in need of assistance in our community.

We had already allocated funding for new drop-off and parking facilities at Middle Ridge and Glenvale state schools in my electorate and I remain very anxious to see that the new government will have the foresight to see these projects through to fruition.

In relation to areas particularly relevant to my new shadow ministerial responsibilities in science, information technology and innovation, in recent years, as an LNP member of this House, I have been honoured to either play a small role in assisting in the establishment of, or simply participating in the activities of, the Australian Digital Futures Institute, the Institute for Agriculture and the Environment and The Institute for Resilient Regions, all under the auspices of the University of Southern Queensland in Toowoomba established over the last two to three years. On the point of science and innovation in relation to tropical pulses and whatever else grabs the attention of the member for Clayfield, I must say I remain in awe of those who are, like the member for Clayfield, focused on research and the future development of important industries right across Queensland, including in my electorate—and I thank him for his vision and contribution to so many of those efforts.

I must say that I remain in awe of the record philanthropic contributions of Mr Clive Berghofer, AM, one of my predecessors as a member for Toowoomba South, to the QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute located here in Brisbane. For too long, Toowoomba missed out under successive Labor governments. Our region has been put back on the map under the LNP and it will be the responsibility of me and my regional colleagues to strive to ensure that Labor, for however long they might be in power, does not cause that level of neglect to my community ever again.

That draws me to reflect on some regional issues that affect certainly Toowoomba and the Darling Downs but of course all regions of Queensland so often forgotten by the Labor Party. I refer of course to issues such as agricultural education, and I know the shadow minister for education, Tim Mander, is keen on this issue as well, as was the former minister for education, John-Paul Langbroek; our agricultural colleges were almost closed down by the former Labor government and yet were

saved by the LNP; the ongoing assistance provided to those affected by drought in our state, and I acknowledge the primary concern there of the members for Warrego, Gregory and other key rural electorates in our state; heading towards \$100 million, four times that ever contributed by a former Queensland government, is what we have budgeted for this financial year, and I am anxious to see that sort of attention continued by the new government; land and water management; hospital and health boards; sensible and sustainable measures to ensure a balance between industry and the environment, whether that was on the part of the Murray-Darling Basin or the Condamine-Balonne from which I come, as does the member for Warrego and the member for Condamine; or further north, of course, the sensible approaches to the Barrier Reef and its relationship with farmers and graziers, such as the former minister for environment, Andrew Powell, and I focused on in a very balanced way with the support and engagement of industry. It is these regional issues that mean so much to the future of Queensland. Those are the issues that I will continue to focus on as a regional member of parliament in this House.

As we all know, no-one running for office can do so without the assistance of key supporters. I put on record my sincere appreciation of and admiration for the efforts of my campaign manager, Mrs Cynthia Hardy. Cynthia and her husband Ben have gone above and beyond the call of duty in seeing the LNP returned again in the seat of Toowoomba South because they believe in our community, our businesses, our families and they believe in the future potential of our region. They and my entire campaign team have done a great job.

Like other members I am dependent on my electorate staff Kevena Franklin, Daurae Fulton—I congratulate her and her husband Lachlan on their recent wedding—and Rae Copeland in my electorate office, who continue to do a sterling job in supporting me as the member for Toowoomba South. In the past term I also had the great honour to work in my ministerial office with Bruce Mills, Lachlan Millar, Terry Ryan, Caroline Bick, Louise Gillis, Stephane Cross, Amy and others with whom I have worked so many long hours in the area of agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

My family continues to provide wonderful support in all of my endeavours. During the campaign I was blessed to have the support of my siblings, my parents and many close family friends, especially on polling day. I take this opportunity to acknowledge that it is my father's 85th birthday tomorrow, so I thank him for his guidance over the years. He is a very, very happy constituent of the member for Clayfield. I remain blown away by the efforts of my children, who put aside their studies, their work, their own activities and their social lives to faithfully join with me on the campaign trail. To Meg, Kevin, Bridget, Annabelle, Marita and Tess: I have never been prouder of you than when you voluntarily put aside your own interests simply to support your father. You are, and always will be, my heroes. Finally, in terms of thanks to those who support me, I must mention my beautiful wife Anita, my best friend and confidante, whose love and undying support is, I can assure you, the one single thing that sustains me.

As I outlined in my contribution to the confidence motion in the new Labor government five weeks ago, I do remain concerned about the future of our state under what is an inexperienced government with no plans for the future. But do not just believe me, Mr Speaker. As the shadow minister for infrastructure, planning, small business, employment and trade has quite rightly reflected, in recent times we are hearing those same concerns from industry and organisations like the CCIQ and the Property Council of Australia due to the fact that there has been a stop to planned payroll tax cuts, and of course we are seeing resources stripped away from Trade and Investment Queensland. I think it is particularly relevant to think about that issue this week, which is Beef Week. I acknowledge that the member for Clayfield—and he is not just here as a prop—is wearing a Beef Week tie.

Particularly relevant and of interest to me now are those involved in research in agricultural technology as it relates to grazing, innovation and the beef industry. The organisers of Beef Week told me when I was there on Sunday evening that there are 1,000 international delegates gathering in Rockhampton, and that is due in no small part to the efforts of the LNP government to deliberately attract Chinese, Vietnamese, Indonesian and Thai visitors, amongst others.

In the face of concerns about the government and its inexperience and lack of plans, I can assure the House that, based on a very strong faith in the future of our region and all regions of Queensland, I will continue to work with my constituents and muster all of my knowledge and energy to strive for what is in the best interests of Toowoomba South.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.54 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Pacific View Estate

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (9.54 pm): I rise to inform the House of yet another way the LNP has secured more jobs and opportunities for my electorate of Mudgeeraba. Earlier this year the Pacific View Estate development in Worongary was given a green light by the state government. This development will create more than 2,700 jobs during construction—builders, carpenters, electricians, landscapers and all of their apprentices—and has the potential to contribute \$3.2 billion to our state's economy. It will also provide approximately 3,500 new homes for families in my electorate and enhance our lifestyle by building more open spaces, parks and facilities, a village centre, restaurants, retail and office space. Plans have been put in place to address traffic concerns by upgrading existing transport options and establishing new ones such as bus routes, cycle lanes and railway connections which will ensure residents are well connected to the city and surrounding estates.

For nine long years this shovel-ready project lay dormant as successive council administrations and state governments sat on their hands and refused to deliver jobs for residents of my electorate. Finally in 2014 it was the LNP which gave this project the green light it needed to proceed, with the then deputy premier, Jeff Seeney, the member for Callide, having used his ministerial call-in powers to assume responsibility for reviewing and approving this project. In making this decision we consulted with representatives from major shopping centres in surrounding suburbs, and I personally knocked on the doors of local residents whose homes were near the proposed development to hear their views. The response I received was one of overwhelming enthusiasm for new jobs and opportunities in our local area.

Whilst the new Deputy Premier, in typical Labor style, has tried to rewrite history, it was the LNP who put the wheels in motion for this approval. This was a project fought for by the LNP, delivered by the LNP and announced by the ALP. It was the LNP who gave the green light to this shovel-ready development after nine long years in the wilderness. It was the LNP who will deliver 2,700 new jobs and 3,500 new homes for my electorate of Mudgeeraba.

Of course this Labor government will neglect to tell the House how their own Labor candidate for Mudgeeraba rallied against this project during the election and made it her mission to stop these local jobs being created. They will not mention how their Labor candidate publicly called the LNP's proposed call-in 'disturbing' or that she tried to ignite hysteria by making absurd claims that the LNP would suddenly drop 10,000 people into the Pacific View Estate overnight. They will not mention how their Labor candidate's one clear promise to the residents of my electorate was to stop developments of this nature going ahead and to cost our local area 2,700 new jobs.

The residents of my electorate are excited about what the future holds, and I am proud that this was yet another project fought for and delivered by the LNP for residents of my electorate.

Anzac Day; Samford Avenue of Honour

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (9.57 pm): I wish to contribute to this adjournment debate by speaking about Anzac Day and the Samford Avenue of Honour centenary commemorative celebrations. On 25 April this year crowd estimates were put at 6,000 to 8,000 people. Starting at 6 am, people arrived from far and wide to gather at the soccer grounds for the march up to the cenotaph. The crowd was so large that anyone standing on the outer edges had no way of seeing much of the proceedings. The numbers showed that community spirit is alive and well in Samford and surrounds.

The master of ceremonies Mark Orreal, Samford RSL Sub-Branch and Avenue of Honour committee member, gave the welcoming speech and introduction. It was also special to have Afghanistan servicemen present, complete with service dogs. Jamie Whitehead, President of the Samford RSL Sub-Branch and also Avenue of Honour committee member, presented the opening address. The Catafalque Party Mounts 6RAR presided over the memorial service. The Anzac spirit has lived on through subsequent wars and peacekeeping missions and continues to this day in the more recent and enduring conflicts that our brave men and women find themselves volunteering for to protect our way of life.

The Samford Avenue of Honour is now complete and its significance will remind us of the Anzac spirit for posterity. The Avenue of Honour has only been made possible through tremendous community support. I extend my congratulations to Mark Orreal, Bill Gibson and Jamie Whitehead from the Samford RSL Sub-Branch for their vision and commitment to mark this Anzac Day 2015 as the most memorable that I have attended. I thank the community organisations that put all of their business differences aside and committed financially to provide this beautiful memorial. I also personally thank Queensland Senator Claire Moore for assisting me in a generous gold-level donation towards the Avenue of Honour.

The day before, I also attended the Ferny Grove State School and listened to physical education teacher Gary Kirby provide a very moving speech about his son, who was killed in Afghanistan. Gary spoke about his son, Private Grant Kirby, who, with Private Tomas Dale, was tragically killed in action in 2010 when an improvised explosive device was detonated while they were on patrol in Afghanistan. As I indicated today in my first speech, I am familiar with Afghanistan, having attended Tarinkot in my previous role. I went to a forward operational base to speak to Afghan locals and hear them personally recognise the commitment and professionalism of our men and women of the ADF. It was a great opportunity to speak to those locals about the contribution our men and women make—sacrifices not only to their families but also in overseas deployments. Lest we forget.

Laura Johnson Home; Water Industry, Dividends

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (10.00 pm): I rise tonight to speak about water charges in Mount Isa and about the dividend that is no longer being returned to the people of Mount Isa. First I will talk about the Laura Johnson Home, which has just received an \$18 million extension. It was interesting to hear the story of how that home was first built by the people of Mount Isa. In the 1970s, an initiative of the AWU at the time saw a portion of people's wages being given to build an old people's home in Mount Isa. It was fully paid for by the people of Mount Isa. That is the way things have worked out there: a lot of people have just dug into their own pockets to build their own infrastructure.

Lake Moondarra was 100 per cent built and paid for by Mount Isa Mines along with the townspeople. Approximately 50 per cent of our other water storage, Lake Julius, was also paid for by Mount Isa Mines. The Mount Isa Water Board was the custodian of that resource and operated from the back of a small arcade from 1973 to 1989. Everything was commercialised in 2000, and from 2000 to 2011-12 all dividends and taxes made from the Mount Isa Water Board were passed by the state government back to the Mount Isa City Council. In the last four years, to 2014, that ranged from a million dollars a year—it was always above a million dollars a year—up to \$2,670,000 a year. That sum is very significant to the town of Mount Isa and the Mount Isa City Council. It is a vital amount of money that comes back to help them.

We have borne enormous costs associated with an outbreak of blue-green algae which, had it occurred in any large metropolitan area, would have been called a disaster and attracted funding immediately. The cell count in the water went from some 100,000 to five million. It led to an impost of \$250,000 a month on the people of Mount Isa. Now we have an \$9.2 million water filtration system—again, all paid for by the people of Mount Isa with no help from anyone.

Now the government has taken the dividend off us, as of last year. This coming year 100 per cent of the dividend will be taken off us. It is unfair for the people of Mount Isa. We are paying for our own things most of the time. The dam was built for and by Mount Isa Mines, and now the people of Mount Isa are putting a million dollars a year back into state coffers. This represents a tax on us and it is unfair. The situation needs to be changed. This measure was instituted by the last government but it needs to be changed now. I will not stop talking about this issue. My campaign will not end until something is changed. I believe that a similar problem exists for the member for Gladstone.

These things are not there to make a profit from. Since the venture has been commercialised it has made a profit of between \$4 million and \$5 million a year. A portion of that is a dividend that must be returned, post haste, to the people of Mount Isa.

Livingston, Mr J

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (10.03 pm): I rise tonight to speak about former Kirwan State High School principal Mr John Livingston, who passed away today. I also acknowledge the kind words today of the member for Surfers Paradise, the former minister for education, with regard to John. I am very aware that the former minister and John shared the utmost respect for each other. I

also acknowledge the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, who visited John only two weeks prior to his death and also knew John very well when he was a former minister for education. I thank the minister for that.

John Livingston was a giant among educators. He was a visionary and a leader who helped shape education across this state. He led his school as a principal in the days of Leading Schools, the first step in school based management, and led one of the first schools in the state to become an independent public school. John also pioneered the formation of a high school on Palm Island which has now become known as Bwngcolman School, a P-12 school.

The Kirwan State High School student population swelled to over 2,000 students. While John did not necessarily know the name of every single one of his students, every student knew and respected John Livingston. John Livingston is Kirwan State High. John was a colleague, mentor and friend to every principal in North Queensland. His passion for Kirwan State High has always been immeasurable. When speaking of his beloved school, John's eyes would light up, his smile would be broad across his face and his chest would swell with pride. He loved everything about his school, from the Rugby League team to the instrumental students, from the academic achievers to the vocational students.

I had the pleasure of joining John on an international tour to South Korea in 2007. While on tour he was a great ambassador for Australia but, more importantly, he continued to reflect the values of Kirwan High. I remember on one occasion on the tour a group of 20 Australian educators were catching the underground train in Seoul in South Korea. John patiently waited for all to alight and then let others board the train. Within 30 seconds of arrival the train was due to depart and, subsequently, the doors started to shut, with John still on the platform. I was a much sleeker version of the man you see today, and I managed to duck out through the doors in time to join John on the platform. As we both watched the train disappear into the dark tunnel with our colleagues, I asked John why he had not jumped on the train with the rest of us. His reply was typically John: 'I was making sure everyone was on board.'

I am sure I speak on behalf of all educators who have worked with John when I say that he has been a good friend. It was good fortune knowing John and good working with John. I am a better teacher, a better principal and a better person because of John Livingston. John Livingston was, above all, a gentleman and a scholar.

Anzac Day

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.06 pm): I rise to reflect on Anzac Day 2015 as we celebrated, commemorated and remembered the centenary of Gallipoli in Glass House. For me it started on the Thursday with a visit to Conondale State School—I will come back to that towards the end of this short speech—and continued on the Friday at Elimbah State School. I make special commendation of the school leaders—Jhett, Caitlyn, Kade and Zoe—who did such a fantastic job of leading the entire school through that special service. On Friday night I joined the federal member for Fisher, Mr Mal Brough, at a very special Anzac dinner at the Glass House Mountains RSL. Those who have been out to the Glass House Mountains RSL would know that it is a true country RSL—a small hall, cramped but so full of vibrancy and feeling. That night they actually recreated meals from wartime. I think I ate rabbit in the first time in forever.

Anzac Day itself kicked off early, as it did for every MP, with a 4.20 am service at Maleny. Everyone has commented on the size of the crowds this year. It is always a special time as I listen to my good friend and soloist Margaret Taylor as she sings *Abide With Me*. I am very grateful to young bugler Katie Jardine as well.

At 6 am in Wamuran I attended another fantastic service put on by the Caboolture and Districts Nashos. Howard Walters did a brilliant job as emcee. The catafalque party was provided by the 3rd cadet unit at Burpengary and led by a former member of this House, Trevor Ruthenberg. It was fantastic to see him out at Woodford, too. Always the highlight at Wamuran is when the Wamuran school captain recites the poem *Sir* to one of the former servicepeople. This time it was Captain Charlee McNeilly. She did an absolutely outstanding job.

I swung by Palmwoods and Witta on my way back to Woodford, where I had the opportunity and honour to be the guest speaker. I presented to the Woodford RSL a copy of those telegrams that former premier Campbell Newman tabled in August last year—from the Prime Minister to the Premier and subsequently from the Premier back to the Prime Minister—acknowledging the commencement of war.

I finished at Glass House Mountains. I again thank president Kevin Beasley and also students of Glass House Mountains and Beerburrum state schools for their stunning wreaths. Anzac Day for me finishes on the couch. Fortunately this year, Collingwood flogged Essendon, so that was fantastic.

If I can come back to Conondale State School, one of the most striking memories that I will have of this year's Anzac Day services was that, as I actually read out the names of their relatives, each student and staff member came out and laid a spring of rosemary at the memorial. It ranged from great-great-uncles and great-great-grandfathers to relatives who have young sons currently serving up in Townsville or who had served in Afghanistan. It is a very special memory that I will hold dear for many years to come.

Murrumba Electorate, Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (10.09 pm): I rise to talk about the return of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program and what it will mean for the people of Murrumba. Labor offered many policies focused on generating employment and jobs during the campaign, but the return of Skilling Queenslanders for Work was one of the most recognised and anticipated Labor policies embraced by my local community. We are currently facing 18.3 per cent youth unemployment in the Moreton Bay council region. This has effectively doubled in the last few years. I believe this is no coincidence, because it has nearly doubled since the LNP stripped these programs out. On the campaign trail many residents said to me that they wanted to get local kids back into work and many residents of Murrumba know that this training program is one of the best ways to do that. Before being abolished in 2012, this program placed on average 330 young people a year in Murrumba into work and into paid training—330 young people each year who got their first chance because of this program.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work was run by four community based organisations in my area: Murriajabree Pty Ltd; Deception Bay Community Youth Programs, which I have been connected to for many years; Redcliffe Area Youth Space; and the Deception Bay Neighbourhood Centre. We often hear that the Deloitte Access Economics report from 2012 pointed out that Skilling Queenslanders for Work returned \$8 for every \$1 invested, and this is why—by putting a massive effort early into their working life, these young people had years extra of working life instead of Centrelink payments. We avoid having to intervene even later in their working life when we would have to expend an even more intensive and costly effort to build the skills of these lost workers. These four organisations worked intensely with those young people most marginalised in our communities. They expended a massive effort over many years, truly believing in what they were doing and placing probably thousands of people into work. I thank them for all they have contributed to our community over the years.

As we heard today from the Attorney-General and Minister for Training and Skills, this government has provided \$240 million over four years to support 32,000 Queenslanders back into work through this program. Over 1,000 people throughout the state have registered to come along to the information sessions about Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I know the information sessions conducted this week at the very fine Caboolture Sports Club at the lakes centre would have been very busy indeed and they would have heard how Skilling Queenslanders for Work will take an integrated approach—employer engagement, skills development and job creation. I am committed to getting jobs for the young people of Murrumba, and the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is one of the best and most effective ways of doing this.

Road Safety Week

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (10.12 pm): Drive So Others Survive, or #DriveSOS, is the theme of this year's national Road Safety Week, which is this week. After recent road tragedies, it is timely that we as a community keep the conversation going about staying safe on our roads. This week should act as a reminder for all drivers to be vigilant and stay safe on the roads and to support the campaign. The campaign is literally being lit up in lights with the Sir Leo Hielscher or the Gateway bridges turned yellow for this week, and this is being repeated on other landmarks around Australia. Road safety is everybody's responsibility, and this week gives us an opportunity to reflect and have that conversation with our friends and with our families and to observe the 'Fatal Five' and what that means and the legacy that, unfortunately, some families carry through tragic deaths on our roads. Unfortunately, this year we have had a terrible Easter road toll and just last week the tragic loss of five people following a serious flooding event. Road safety needs a multifaceted approach to truly change

driver behaviour, including advertising, infrastructure and awareness campaigns. Organisations like Safer Australian Roads and Highways play a valuable role in keeping road safety top of mind and ultimately keep the road toll as low as possible.

The LNP takes road safety extremely seriously, as it only takes a split second to have an accident that will affect or destroy many lives. While in government the LNP government delivered a record \$350 million for the Road Safety Action Plan that provided 60 actions to tackle the road toll. While any death on our roads is a tragedy, we saw a record low road toll in 2014 as a result of our plan of police enforcement and the vigilance of drivers. Remember #DriveSOS—Drive So Others Survive. We cannot allow these tragedies to be forgotten. We must ensure that as a community we all drive so that our roads are safer.

Australian Catholic University

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.14 pm): Banyo has a long tradition and history of Catholic educational training dating back to 1863 when land was first acquired for the Pius XII Provincial Seminary, now St Paul's Theological College, at Banyo in the heart of my electorate. For over 70 years young men trained at the Banyo Seminary for a life of mission and ministry in the Catholic Church in Queensland and beyond. In 2003 the original seminary opened its doors to welcome the Australian Catholic University and the new McAuley campus was established, replacing the former Brisbane campus at Mitchelton. Australian Catholic University, or ACU, has seven campuses across Australia and celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Over the past 12 years, McAuley campus has transformed into one of the fastest growing university sites in Australia with over 5,000 students and in excess of 650 staff. The campus is steeped in tradition, with the original buildings of the former seminary playing a key part in the campus design. But equally McAuley campus is vibrant, innovative and forward thinking with the construction of a new multidisciplinary health clinic, new psychology clinics, early childhood learning centre, outdoor sports court and Indigenous reflective space in recognition of Banyo's strong Indigenous spiritual links. But by far the most significant new development on the site is the construction of 'building T', as it has been known, completed in November last year. This landmark building has transformed the heart of the campus—a state-of-the-art space for postgraduate and professional education for learning, research and public engagement.

While hard to do justice to the aesthetics of the building with words, the three-storey building to be named after St John Paul II is designed in a cruciform plan with a magnificent reflective glass front façade. As you approach the building, you see the adjacent heritage Holy Spirit Chapel and community court reflected on the glass facade of the building. I am far from an aficionado of building design, but it is quite stunning and I acknowledge the expertise of project architects Conrad Gargett in this regard. The St John Paul II building was constructed at a cost of \$25 million by local Banyo builders Tomkins and has been entered into the Master Builders Housing and Construction Awards to be assessed later this month. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the leadership of Associate Vice-Chancellor Professor Jim Nyland, who commenced with ACU at the end of 2011. Professor Nyland has guided McAuley campus through a period of exceptional growth and is a man of vision and distinction. The official blessing, naming and opening of the building will take place on the 28th of this month. I am delighted, as is ACU, that the Premier will be in attendance along with ACU Vice-Chancellor, Greg Craven; the Most Reverend Archbishop Mark Coleridge, Archbishop of Brisbane; Pro-Vice-Chancellor Jim Nyland; and the ACU community to celebrate this momentous event in the life of the McAuley campus.

Carindale District Junior Australian Football Club

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (10.17 pm): Whilst many fans of the Brisbane Lions are lamenting our woeful start to the AFL season, there is hope on the horizon—well, maybe in a few years time! I rise tonight to pay tribute to the mighty Carindale Cougars junior AFL club which celebrated their 21st birthday last week in the pouring rain. The weather was indeed atrocious when I visited the club to help them with their birthday celebrations, but I have to confess that the welcome was very warm. I was impressed by the fantastic club spirit amongst the parents, coaches, managers and the kids. Belmont State School held one of the first Auskick programs in Queensland in the early 1990s. There was great interest, so Mr Murray Bird and Michael McClare, then Brisbane junior AFL development officers, decided to put a team together to enter into the Brisbane junior AFL

competition. In 1993, 11 under-10 players started playing as an 'adopted' team from Morningside based out of Belmont State School. It was a great success and in 1994 the Carindale Cougars junior AFL club was officially formed. The families heavily involved at the time were the Deanes, the Battens and the Roffeys, whose daughter Chelsea Roffey is a prominent AFL goal umpire and actually umpired in the AFL grand final in 2012. Twenty-one years on, the club has over 80 players in seven teams, stretching from under six to under 11. The Cougars are excited to have three girls playing with them this year. Two of them are in under six and one is in under nine.

Talk about success! The club has had its first junior player drafted into the AFL. Matthew Hammelmann was drafted to the Brisbane Lions in December 2014. In March this year the players at the club were delighted to have Matthew join them for a special training session. The children were over the moon to meet a senior player who was truly one of them. This indeed is the magic of junior sport, as it creates role models for young players to aspire to.

The club also has two other past players in the Brisbane Lions Academy. At the club celebrations, they were presented with their winning pennant by former president, Andrew Hopper. There is much fondness for the club from past players, who cannot believe that the Carindale Cougars club has been around for 21 years. The players and their families come from many parts of the Chatsworth electorate that I am proud to serve, including Carindale, Carina, Belmont, Chandler and Gumdale. It is very much a grassroots, family oriented club whose motto is 'Family, friends and footy'. I look forward to assisting the Carindale Cougars junior AFL club wherever possible and wish it all the very best as it begins the next exciting chapter in its football history. I would also like to thank the club President, Mr Alistar Moir, and his executive. In summary, go the mighty Carindale Cougars!

Thomas, Mr D

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (10.20 pm): I am delighted and so proud to rise in the House this evening to report that one of our true local sporting heroes and Yeppoon resident, three-time Pan Pacific champion, three-time Australian champion, three-time state champion and three-time Central Queensland jujitsu champion, Mr David Thomas, is travelling to Los Angeles this month to compete in the world championships. At just 31 years of age, having played several sports throughout his life, David says that it is only through jujitsu that he has been able to learn so much about himself. The Yeppoon electrician took up Brazilian jujitsu just two years ago, but in only a couple of weeks time the talented sportsman will be representing the Capricorn Coast and Central Queensland in the world championships in Long Beach, California.

In October 2014 in Melbourne, David competed in the 2014 Pan Pacific championships and entered in four divisions: two in his 79 to 88.5 kilo weight class and two in the open weight division. David weighed in at 81 kilograms and was at times nearly 50 kilograms lighter than his opponents. He won gold in his own weight divisions and double gold in the open weight divisions, which totalled three golds out of a possible four. In the three days of the competition, David fought 14 times. He is now officially ranked No. 1 in the nation in both divisions. He also holds three Australian titles, three state titles and three Central Queensland titles in Brazilian jujitsu.

David says that his family has always been his focus and that Brazilian jujitsu gave him the ability to combine his love of sport with the loves of his life. Brazilian jujitsu, which is known as the human version of chess, is about strategy and staying steps head of your opponents. Davis says that jujitsu is something that helps him not only physically but also mentally by giving him confidence and life skills. He says that he is always learning and taking something away from every session.

On 27 March in Yeppoon, David's family held a fundraiser and I was proud to make a donation towards the cost of his trip to the world championships. I wish David all the very best at the world championships at the end of this month. In the eyes of Central Queenslanders, David is already a champion. They are so proud to support him on his journey. Achieving three Pan Pacific Australian, state and Central Queensland jujitsu championship titles respectively is an amazing feat in its own right. The people of the Keppel electorate wish David the best of luck in his quest to become the world jujitsu champion. We are behind him every step of the way.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.23 pm.

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