



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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## FRIDAY, 17 JULY 2015

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

### REPORT

#### Integrity Commissioner



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Integrity Commissioner a report titled *Annual report 2014-15*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Integrity Commissioner—Annual report 2014-15 [\[817\]](#).

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

#### Questions on Notice



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 114 requires questions on notice to be lodged with the Clerk by the end of question time each day. I remind all honourable members that question time will conclude at 10.30 am today, pursuant to sessional order 1(i).

#### National Pyjama Day



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that today is National Pyjama Day. The Pyjama Foundation has invited members to wear a badge on their lapel today to show their support for children in care and for the work of pyjama angels volunteers and their effort to improve the literacy and numeracy levels of children in care.

### PETITIONS

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

#### Burpengary Pine Village, Bus Service

**Mr Ryan**, from 156 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the feasibility of a southbound bus stop on Morayfield Road for the residents of the Burpengary Pine Village mobile home park and that appropriate pedestrian facilities be installed at the entrance to the village to safely access a southbound bus stop [\[818\]](#).

#### South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre

**Hon. Palaszczuk**, from 355 petitioners, requesting the House to: either gift the not-for-profit South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre the land at 28 Wirraway Parade, Inala; or provide a 20 year lease on the land; and to demolish the existing unsafe demountable building and replace it with a new demountable building [\[819\]](#).

#### Oxley Newsagency, GoCard Facilities

**Mrs Smith**, from 478 petitioners, requesting the House to install a Go Card top up machine at the Oxley News newsagency [\[820\]](#).

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

#### Cronulla Park, Slacks Creek, Greyhound Racing Complex

293 petitioners, requesting the House to withdraw the proposed development of a Greyhound Racing Complex at Cronulla Park, Slacks Creek [\[821\]](#).

#### Ningi and Bribie Island Ambulance Stations, Resources

483 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the new ambulance station at Ningi and the existing station at Bribie Island be fully equipped and manned on a full time basis [\[822\]](#).

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

#### Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Radiation Therapy Cancer Services

**Miss Boyd**, from 1,311 petitioners, requesting the House to keep the Radiation Therapy Cancer Services at the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital in public hands through the provision of a government owned, operated and staffed Radiation Oncology [\[823\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### MEMBERS' PAPERS TABLED BY THE CLERK

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Nicklin (Mr Wellington)—

[824](#) Document, dated 13 July 2015, titled 'The People's Bill'

[825](#) Draft People's Common Rights and Provisions Bill 2014 and list of signatories

Member for Inala (Ms Palaszczuk)—

[826](#) Non-conforming petition relating to a demountable building on land at 28 Wirraway Parade, Inala, owned by the State of Queensland and which previously housed the South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre Inc

## MINISTERIAL PAPERS

### Overseas Visit



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.34 am): I lay upon the table of the House a report of my recent trade mission to the United States of America.

*Tabled paper:* Overseas Travel Report, Report on Trade Mission to United States of America by the Premier and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Palaszczuk), 11-20 June 2015 [\[827\]](#).

### Interim Service Trades Council



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.34 am): On 15 June I tabled a copy of my ministerial direction to the Queensland Building and Construction Commission given under section 9 of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 regarding the establishment of an Interim Service Trades Council. I now table a copy of the terms of reference which form part of that ministerial direction.

*Tabled paper:* Terms of Reference—Interim Service Trades Council [\[828\]](#).

As part of our election commitment to restoring high standards in the plumbing industry, we said that we would re-establish a dedicated plumbing and drainage industry regulatory body within the broader statewide construction industry regulator. The establishment of this Interim Service Trades Council is the first step in delivering on that commitment. Work on it is well underway and we are planning for the new Service Trades Council to be legislated and open for business in early 2016.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### MH17



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.35 am): For those of us in a lucky country like Australia, it is difficult to comprehend the circumstances that led to the death of 298 innocent people one year ago today. When MH17 jet was shot down over the Ukraine 12 months ago, right-minded people across the world were horrified. They were left to wonder how such tragedy could befall so many innocent people in such tragic circumstances.

These were holiday-makers returning home from the trip of a lifetime, loved ones travelling to see their families or people just going about their jobs who became victims of armed conflict through no fault of their own. The world was saddened and shocked. Australia was saddened and shocked. Queensland was saddened and shocked. People around the globe and around the country experienced the hurt, loss and confusion that comes with unexplainable death on such a large and inhumane scale.

In Queensland, those feelings of grief must have been much, much deeper for the families of the eight Queenslanders who lost their lives in this horrific and devastating tragedy. These were mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, wives, husbands, uncles, aunties, nephews, nieces and friends. They were taken from us too soon. Children were left without their mothers and fathers; mothers and fathers were left without their children—all because of a senseless act.

At the best of times, death of a loved one is extremely difficult for anyone to comprehend. When the lives of innocent people are so brutally and so suddenly cut short in such tragic circumstances, it must be almost impossible to comprehend. Pictures revealed in the media today and transcripts of what was said show the sheer tragedy and futility of these events. The pictures do not explain why it happened and, like many other Queenslanders and Australians, we pray for answers soon. Answers

will not bring people back. I hope, however, answers will help give families closure. Today we remember eight Queenslanders as well as other Australians and citizens of other nations. We remember the children who have not been given a chance to grow up. We pay our respects to the families who have experienced inexplicable loss following such a senseless act.

### **Biofuels Cabinet Committee**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): My government is determined to support the increasing diversification of economic growth to make our economy more resilient and to create jobs for the future. Yesterday I met with Vice Admiral Robert Thomas, Commander of the United States Navy 7th fleet, along with Mr Hugo Llorens, Consul-General to the United States, to discuss how Queensland can provide support through our emerging industrial biotechnology sector for the Great Green Fleet initiative.

Other exciting opportunities for Queensland's industrial biotechnology sector include: the target from Virgin Australia for carbon neutral growth by 2020, as well as the moves by Qantas to move towards cleaner fuels; and the seven industrial biotechnology bio-refining opportunities identified by Deloitte Access Economics and QUT that could generate commercial returns, including two opportunities in North Queensland, one in the Mackay area, one in Central Queensland, two in the Wide Bay region and ethanol in the Darling Downs region. Capitalising on these opportunities will require a focused and coordinated approach across government to support an industrial biotechnology sector.

That is why I will chair a Biofuels Cabinet Committee, with the first meeting to be held within the next two months. The focus of this committee will be broader than just the production of biofuels, and will include plastics and other materials that can be produced from organic materials. Other members of the Biofuels Cabinet Committee will include the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Sport and Racing, the Minister for Environment, the Minister for Science and Innovation, and the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland.

Mayors of local government councils with an interest in the sector and leading academics will also be included in meetings of the Biofuels Cabinet Committee. I have spoken at length about the need to diversify our economy. Our biofuels agenda will play a big role in that process. We have already proven through LNG that Queensland has the capability to kickstart new industries. Biofuels has the potential to be a key part of Queensland's economic story into the future, and my government is keen to facilitate this.

### **Council of Australian Governments, Leaders Retreat**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): Next Wednesday I will be attending a COAG leaders retreat being hosted by the Prime Minister. This retreat provides first ministers the opportunity to meet and take time to discuss reform of our Federation, particularly revitalising the allocation of roles and responsibilities between the Commonwealth and the states. Key topics or areas for discussion include education and health, housing and homelessness, and intergovernmental institutional arrangements.

My government is committed to playing a constructive role in these discussions, and I anticipate discussing a range of reform measures that will help to improve how our Federation functions. However, any proposed reforms such as simplifying current Commonwealth-state arrangements must deliver better services and outcomes for Queenslanders, drive economic growth and improve accountability. I am going to this meeting determined to get the best deal for Queensland and the best deal for Queensland families. I am going to this meeting with the specific intention of making it clear to the Prime Minister and his government that Queensland will not miss out.

For these discussions to be successful, it will be necessary for all parties to be respectful and to genuinely seek to understand the views put forward by other participants. On the important topic of reform of our Federation, I look forward to participating in a constructive, genuine retreat with the COAG first ministers to explore options that deliver fair outcomes for all Australians. However, be assured that I will always advocate on the side of Queenslanders throughout this process.

## Families

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.41 am): I would like to speak about our support for families here in Queensland. There are so many services and community groups across this state doing valuable work to help our families. In this year's budget across my portfolios alone we are funding 341 groups which provide help to Queensland's vulnerable people, families, women and young people. But behind all these groups are the stories of individuals and families—stories which are both heartwarming and heartbreaking. We know that cost-of-living pressures have a big impact on families. Help to deal with budgeting can make a real difference in ensuring struggling families can make ends meet.

When I visited the Nerang Neighbourhood Centre a few months back, I talked to the workers who were preparing food parcels for people who were doing it tough. They told me that people were feeling the pinch so much that some people could no longer feed their family or their pets. Many of these people were ordinary families who were just not managing. That is why we have announced \$5.5 million for a financial resilience program which will deliver help with budgeting and money management skills to give people the practical skills they need to avoid reaching crisis point.

Last week I was delighted to be there when the Premier announced that we would be making the world renowned Triple P Positive Parenting Program available to all Queensland parents. Our \$6.6 million investment in Triple P is part of our commitment to provide services to help all Queensland mums and dads cope with the challenges they face in raising children and helping their families to thrive. At the event were the Fuller family from Carina Heights. Richard Fuller said—

My wife and I found ourselves arguing back and forth with our 2½-year-old daughter, Emily. The arguments were escalating and we would shout at her and we didn't think it was right.

So we did Triple P Online. It gave us strategies for dealing differently with the behaviour. None of us really raise our voices anymore. Triple P has made a big difference to our family.

Today, on Pyjama Day, I want to acknowledge the wonderful work that Bronwyn Sheehan and her team at the Pyjama Foundation do to support kids in out-of-home care to develop their literacy and numeracy skills. I know that the member for Bulimba is a big supporter of the Pyjama Foundation recruits and the wonderful pyjama angels who visit children each day to read to them, play educational games and help school-age kids with their homework.

It is vital that we continue our support for Queensland's most vulnerable families—those in need who need extra support—which is why the Family and Child Connect program will be expanded across the state so that in 2016, 19 services will be in place, helping 35,000 families a year. Family and Child Connect services will assist struggling families access a wide range of support services. This is about offering help early to prevent bigger problems developing when children are at risk of harm or ending up in care. The best part of this new service is that families themselves are contacting Family and Child Connect centres. They are recognising that they need an extra hand and are being offered that support. We are determined to make sure that no struggling family falls through the cracks.

## Budget, Tenant Advice and Advocacy Service

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (9.45 am): When we are talking about the budget and figures of tens or hundreds of millions of dollars, we need to remember that every single dollar spent is intended to improve the lives of people. Every single dollar spent on facilities and services is spent to assist Queenslanders. When the Treasurer talks about the Palaszczuk government's budget as a budget for people, it is not a slogan; it is a statement of fact and one we all need to bear in mind. My portfolio of housing and public works is one area of government that can have a huge impact on the lives of Queenslanders. For example, this year we have funded the re-establishment of an independent tenants advice and advocacy service. That is more than \$6 million, but what does it actually—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Everton, I give you notice that if you continue your interjections and disruption of the parliament you will be warned under standing order 253 or 253A.

**Ms ENOCH:** But what does it actually mean on the ground? It means that around 70,000 Queenslanders in public and private rentals will be able to access independent advice and information and, if necessary, advocacy services every year. It means that across Queensland from urban or regional areas, Logan to Longreach, there are thousands of public and private tenants who will once

again be able to access independent support. These are Queenslanders who sometimes face a myriad of different issues involving their rental property, from unsatisfactory living conditions to the threat of being evicted.

As a government, we realise that the best way to stop someone becoming homeless is to give them the support they need to maintain the tenancy they are already in. Not only is it better for the tenant; in many cases it saves the community the cost of more intensive support services. Despite tens of thousands of everyday Queenslanders who rent their home asking for advice and an advocacy service from the former LNP government, they gutted tenancy services and turned their backs on these people. It also had another impact. It meant that across the state 21 local organisations which were providing these services were forced to close down. It meant that more than 90 Queenslanders lost their jobs. The Palaszczuk government's budget is a budget for people, and it is unashamedly so.

### Seniors

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (9.48 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government understands that seniors are doing it tough. More often than not, seniors can struggle with staying on top of their household budgets. In June I was privileged to meet with a group of wonderful Queensland seniors at the Mount Isa Pensioners Association. This group of women exemplify the spirit of so many of our seniors who continue to give back to their communities, making them a better place. What I also heard from this group and from many other seniors I meet across the state is that cost-of-living pressures make it hard to pay the bills, let alone having just a little bit left over to spend on their families.

That is why I am extremely proud of this year's budget, with \$56 million being allocated for core concessions including energy, water and transport for aged pensioners and Seniors Card holders to reverse the federal coalition cuts. Those eligible could get up to a total of \$710 in concessions and 50 per cent off their vehicle registration and TransLink public transport fares.

In total, we have set aside \$347 million in 2015-16 to make sure our seniors continue to receive this necessary safety net. Sadly, we have had to step in because the federal LNP government cut its \$223 million national partnership funding for Queensland concessions over four years. That is right—they ripped money out of the pockets of struggling seniors and they did not even look back. As the Minister for Seniors, I find this utterly deplorable, but really I should not be surprised to see such a move pulled by the federal coalition. Campbell Newman and the state LNP tried the same thing last year. Those opposite did not have a minister for seniors, they cut the Office for Seniors and they allowed the cost of utilities to skyrocket.

As Minister for Seniors, I promised to fight for older Queenslanders to ensure they continue to receive fair concessions, and that is exactly what I have done. Thank goodness our Treasurer—Queensland's Labor Treasurer—recognises the important role seniors play in our community. This funding shows that seniors are a priority for this government and that we care about making things easier for them. Queensland's seniors deserve a fair go, and that is exactly what I will continue to fight for every single day as their minister.

## MOTION

### Amendments to Standing Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.50 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the amendments to the Standing Rules and Orders of the Legislative Assembly circulated in my name be agreed to, effective immediately.

1. Omit Standing Order 22 and insert:

#### “22. Committee transcripts

- (1) A committee may determine that a transcript of its proceedings be made.
- (2) The Chief Reporter and Committee Research Director are authorised to release and publish the transcript of a committee's public proceedings as it becomes available, subject to any express direction of the committee.
- (3) The transcripts of the private proceedings of a committee shall be published (or not published) in accordance with orders of the committee or the House.
- (4) If an error in a committee transcript is reported, the Committee Chair shall direct the transcript to be corrected.
- (5) A committee may order that material be incorporated in a transcript of its proceedings.”

2. Insert new Standing Order 204A:

**“204A. Resolution may be determined outside of meeting by vote on circulated, written motion**

- (1) The Chairperson of a portfolio committee may authorise the committee’s Research Director to circulate a vote outside committee meeting document to all members of the committee.
- (2) A vote outside committee meeting document (“the document”) must:
  - (a) be in writing;
  - (b) be circulated to each member of the committee in person, by post, facsimile transmission, or email;
  - (c) contain an explanation by the Chairperson as to why the motion or motions are being put to the committee outside of a formal meeting;
  - (d) contain the motion or motions put by the Chairperson or another member;
  - (e) contain a choice for the member to indicate whether they are voting Aye or No to each motion proposed;
  - (f) contain a place for the member to sign; and
  - (g) indicate the time by which the member must return the completed document, which must not be less than 72 hours after which the document should, in the normal course of business, have been received by the member.
- (3) A member of a committee may signify whether they are voting Aye or No to each motion proposed on the document by indicating in the place provided and signing the document and returning the document to the Research Director, in person, by post, facsimile transmission, or email.
- (4) The rules regarding voting entitlements and determination of questions that apply to the committee by virtue of statute or standing orders apply and a motion in a vote outside committee meeting document is resolved in the affirmative only if:
  - (a) The number of members who return a completed vote outside committee meeting document is equal to or exceeds the number of members that constitute the normal quorum of the committee for a meeting; and
  - (b) The number of votes in the affirmative exceed the majority of votes required.
- (5) The result of any vote outside a committee meeting shall be confirmed and minuted at the committee’s next meeting.
- (6) A vote outside of committee meeting cannot be conducted in respect of the following:
  - (a) a motion to appoint a Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson;
  - (b) a motion to support or approve an appointment required by statute;
  - (c) a motion to adopt or amend a committee report; and
  - (d) a motion to call for persons, papers or things or summons any person or thing.”

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## INFRASTRUCTURE, PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

### Planning and Development Legislation, Suspension of Consideration



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.51 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee suspend its consideration of the:

- Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity) Bill 2015;
- Planning and Development (Planning Court) Bill 2015;
- Planning and Development (Planning for Prosperity—Consequential Amendments) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

and not report until the House further resolves.



**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (9.51 am): I rise to support this motion. The bills, as you know, Mr Speaker, are private members’ bills that I introduced with a reporting back date that was agreed to by the House of 13 October this year, giving some five months for consideration of the bills. Since then, I have had some discussions not only with you, Mr Speaker, but with the Deputy Premier in relation to them and I have also had representations from members of industry. In those discussions, it has been made apparent that there is more to be gained by a joint consideration of the bills, including the bills that are proposed to be introduced into the House by the Deputy Premier. In terms of resourcing, these are complex pieces of legislation, with the three bills from our side comprising hundreds of pages. So it seems to me to be sensible and reasonable that we do that. I note that you, Mr Speaker, have received some correspondence and I have copies of that here which I am prepared to table.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 16 July 2015, from Mr Greg Hallam PSM, Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Association of Queensland, to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding submission on planning bills [829].

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 14 July 2014, from Mr Chris Mountford, Queensland Executive Director, Property Council of Australia, to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding planning legislation [830].

I think it is important that this matter is brought back to the House and not resolved by the CLA or the committee itself. There are two principles: the first is the reporting back date, which the Leader of the House has just moved be deferred for further consideration; and the second is that it is the House that made the resolution for the reporting back date so it ought to be the House that changes that or agrees to any change to it or suspension in it.

The other issue is that those stakeholders who are interested in this legislation have a clear understanding of what is to happen. Since the decision was made by the committee considering the bills, the stakeholders have been wondering what it is they need to do next. This now puts it clearly on the record that that is the case. They have a clear path forward. I want to also acknowledge the cooperation from the Deputy Premier, in a rare outbreak of bipartisanship in relation to this matter.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (9.53 am): And I will continue the rare outbreak of bipartisanship in relation to this matter. The *Better planning for Queensland* directions paper has been out for almost two months now. During those consultations, it has become clear that stakeholders were involved in quite a comprehensive engagement process under the previous LNP government, and they did not want to see that thrown away.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I know the member for Callide is getting a bit enthusiastic over there because he does have some responsibility for the planning bills that were brought into this House by the member for Clayfield. It has become clear that the stakeholders want some certainty from this parliament. They do not want to be using up their very scarce resources on a number of duplicated processes, so I think this is a mature decision. I thank the member for Callide for engaging with me in this matter, I also thank the parliamentary committee for considering this application, and I thank you, Mr Speaker, for considering this.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Information Paper

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.55 am): I table the Agriculture and Environment Committee's paper No. 1 titled *Review of Queensland government drought assistance measures*.

*Tabled paper:* Agriculture and Environment Committee: Information paper No. 1—Review of drought assistance measures [\[831\]](#).

The committee has this week agreed to a series of reviews to examine the effectiveness of the government's key drought assistance. The committee will conduct these reviews in accordance with the committee's public accounts responsibilities under section 94 of the Parliament of Queensland Act. The committee will be checking that measures are well designed and provide the best possible assistance, while also giving good value for money for the Queensland taxpayer. The committee will also look for opportunities to improve measures at no net additional cost to the government. Our first review will examine the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. We will take submissions for our review until Friday, 28 August, and our intention is to report findings and recommendations by February next year. The committee encourages all honourable members to contribute to this important and timely work.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.56 am): I give notice that I will move—

That the proclamation made under the Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014, subordinate legislation No. 2 of 2015, tabled in the House on 26 March 2015, be disallowed.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, we have time for two private members' statements.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.57 am): When the parliament sat on Tuesday, there was a serious cloud over the financial competence of this government and there was also a serious cloud over the future of the Minister for Police in this parliament. As we head into the last sitting day of this week, there is still a very, very serious cloud over the financial competence of this government and a very serious cloud over the future of the Minister for Police in this parliament.

Indeed, when we came into this place on Tuesday, some things were very clear: that this government had no plan for infrastructure, other than the LNP's plan; that this government had no plan for jobs, other than to put unemployment up over the next three years; that this government had no plan to get the AAA credit rating back; and that this government had no plan in the long term, other than to increase Queensland's level of indebtedness. Its only short-term answer is to raid the crucial reserves which had been put away as good housekeeping to look after the future obligations of Queensland's public servants and taxpayers.

In so far as the Minister for Police is concerned, we have some very, very serious questions which go unanswered. This police minister continues to be an absolute embarrassment for this government—whether it be improperly contacting witnesses, or whether it be around the Ipswich communications centre and the dispute with local members, councillors and the federal member. Today we have a set of circumstances where the minister has reportedly said to the deputy mayor out there that she was in possession of information which would see particular actions being taken against the mayor and that the mayor was ultimately going to end up in jail. She said that he had serious questions to answer, and this has been confirmed by the deputy mayor and validated by the mayor as well.

We have a police minister who is constantly bungling and stumbling and who is becoming a cloud over the Palaszczuk administration in Queensland. This government cannot even level with the people of Queensland. When the Premier and the police minister have risen to their feet in this parliament this week to ask legitimate questions about whether there has been a false declaration made to this parliament or a committee of this parliament, they have refused to answer the question. The very least that the minister and the Premier could tell the people of Queensland in this parliament is whether there has been a false declaration.

This government apparently prides itself on probity, in setting the highest possible standards. The highest possible standards are not obfuscating in this parliament and not hiding things from the people of Queensland. I think the time has come for this Premier to act against this police minister, and the latest revelations today against a very, very well respected public official is the last straw.

### Liberal National Party

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.59 am): Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition wasted an ideal opportunity, just like he has wasted one today, to come clean to Queenslanders about what their plan actually is. He spent 51 minutes yesterday complaining about a measured and responsible budget, one that has been widely well received by business, industry, unions and community members. He spent just nine minutes on a half-hearted approach to provide what he himself called an outline for a framework. It is a plan for a plan. When our plan is a plan for jobs for Queenslanders, his plan is a plan for more jobs for more politicians. Of course, he did not rule out asset sales. He said that he is going to see if he can persuade Queenslanders to do asset sales in the future. He made the startling revelation that he was going to continue what they were doing in government. That worked out very well!

The Leader of the Opposition also said that he is going to move on from Campbell Newman's four pillars to five pillars. He has added, very conveniently, knowledge based industries, which he has again borrowed from the Premier, who has been talking about Advance Queensland for more than a year. It has been confirmed that he had no plan about lowering debt. He is still scaring public servants, the same people he said back in 2009 were going to be 'de-necessary'. He is so bereft of ideas as opposition leader that he has had to try to claim some of our policies as his own. We know what he has done around social benefit bonds. Obviously there was a little birdie, as the member for Caloundra

says, whispering in his ear, telling him what our policies were. The worst thing is that he says the LNP would continue to deliver services. What a furphy. The LNP had forecast in 2014-15 to actually run a deficit. So I do not know where these continued operating surpluses would have come from.

They have no plan, they have failed policies and they have no ability to tell us how they are going to pay down \$10 billion of general government sector debt if they do not support our plan. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to take the same obstructionist approach that his mate Tony Abbott took in opposition and is now taking in government, he really is well suited to moving to Canberra. He has also spent more time talking about 2009 than 2012. More accurately, he spent more time talking about the last three times he delivered the budget reply as opposition leader than any future plans. There has been no new policy since he resumed his own old post—no new ideas, no initiatives. It is just like Marty McFly: back to the future.

Only Labor has a plan to deliver jobs—jobs for the future—with Advance Queensland but, more importantly, jobs now, not more jobs for politicians. What we do know is that it is snowing in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate today. The policy freeze continues.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 10.30 am.

### Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (10.03 am): My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services. I refer to the ministerial code of conduct, which states—

Ministers must give accurate and truthful information to Parliament, and correct any inadvertent error at the earliest opportunity.

I ask the minister: has she made any incorrect declarations to this parliament including its committees and, if so, has she made any corrections, as required by the ministerial code of conduct?

**Mrs MILLER:** Mr Speaker, I have written to the Clerk in relation to this matter and have sent a copy to you.

### Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** My second question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to two recent identical RTI requests seeking information on contacts between unions and ministers. While one cabinet colleague respected the requirements of openness and provided 300 pages of information—and thank you very much, Treasurer—in contrast, the police minister has provided zero, alleging it is too onerous. I ask: will the Premier direct her police minister to make the information available, consistent with the principles of accountability and transparency?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As I understand, the member opposite, who is the Leader of the Opposition, has been here for more than a quarter of a century—

**Ms Trad:** Twenty-six years.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Twenty-six years, I am told. He has also been a minister of the Crown. I think the Leader of the Opposition would understand that right to information decisions are not made by ministers. There is a startling revelation. The decision is made at arm's length by a right to information officer of the department. The Leader of the Opposition would also be aware that there is an appeal process that is also made to the department. That is my understanding of how right to information works in this state. So perhaps the Leader of the Opposition should get the facts right before coming in here—

**Mr Rickuss:** So the minister didn't have anything to do with it?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The decisions are made at arm's length.

### Budget, Respite Services

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Arts. Will the Premier inform the House of budget measures aimed at assisting the elderly and their carers?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I would like to thank the member for Maryborough for the question. I love talking about this budget because this budget delivers for Queenslanders. It is a budget about jobs; it is a budget for jobs for the future but, fundamentally, this is a budget about people. We have heard this morning from my ministers how passionate they are about ensuring that people get the very best

services that they deserve from government. The people of Queensland will always cast their judgement on how a government delivers the services in their regions. That is why we went to the election campaign with a very clear policy about improving respite services for families of people with dementia. We know that there are more and more seniors and other people who are affected by dementia and at times it can cause issues with families such that that time of respite is desperately needed.

That is why I am very pleased to announce that my government will be putting in place \$20 million over the next four years to provide those respite services for families across the state. This is my government delivering. This is an important initiative and one of which I am incredibly proud. I know the member for Maryborough would have people in his electorate who are going through issues at the moment, and this respite will give the families a much needed break. It is not just in Maryborough; it is right across Queensland.

This is a caring government. This is a budget that puts people first, because my government is determined to ensure that the needs of families are looked after. This is a good first step. This is a wonderful first step in terms of ensuring that people throughout the state will get the help that they need. I expect that in the future we will enhance our commitment, but this is the first step in making sure that the \$20 million gets out the door over four years and provides that respite that is needed for families across the state.

### **Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to the ministerial code of conduct, which states—

If a Minister is the subject of an official investigation into a matter of serious impropriety or alleged illegal behaviour of a serious nature, a Minister must accept that to whether the Minister should stand down is a matter of discretion for the Premier.

I ask: given that the Minister for Police is currently being investigated for serious impropriety involving the signing of a statement, will the Premier use her powers to stand the minister aside?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Kawana for the question. As I have said, the matter that he is raising in this House is a matter before the committee, and that is the rightful place and the committee will be addressing that matter. I find it ironic that the member for Kawana would stand in this House and talk about integrity, let alone accountability—the man who picked the fights with the legal profession. The contrast between the member for Kawana and this Attorney-General, who has been out there working with the profession and who does not raise confidential discussions in public—

**Mr STEVENS:** I rise to a point of order under standing order 118. The Attorney-General was not mentioned at all in that question; the question was about the police minister.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. I think in the context of having a question asked by a member in this place, it has been well and truly a practice that has occurred over many, many years in this place that ministers answering questions can, and indeed do—and I know I have seen and I have read of occasions where those opposite have—reflect upon the history and background of the person asking the question. If we are not going to allow for that—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have tried to indicate that, whilst I am Speaker, ministers are required to ensure their answers are relevant to the questions. I think we are all familiar with the last government. I would ask the minister to please move on to the next question if you have nothing further to add. I now call the member for Mirani.

### **Local Government**

**Mr PEARCE:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier inform the House about the government's plans to support local governments throughout Queensland?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Mirani for his question. I know that he is a very strong advocate and champion for regional Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government knows that, in terms of regional economic development, local government are our critical partners. Local government are at the forefront of working with local communities, particularly out in rural and regional areas of our vast state. That is why the Treasurer was very keen to make sure that in this budget he brought forward funding for the Building our Regions package, some \$200 million, which will start to be distributed this financial year. This is a very big boost for regional Queensland.

I am very pleased today to announce that the 2015-16 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program is now open. This means that local councils can now access some \$23 million to get critical infrastructure built in their regions in order to address some of the more pressing issues that they now face. We know that 80 per cent of the state is confronting drought right now, and this funding program acknowledges the impact of this widespread drought. Things like watering stations at stock points in drought declared areas will be eligible projects under this program. We are acting now to support Queenslanders in dire need. The Palaszczuk Labor government has made it very clear that we are governing for all of Queensland, and this means particularly in drought-affected Queensland.

Unlike those opposite and unlike the federal Abbott government, which has essentially turned its back on some parts of our state, I turn particularly to the announcement I made earlier this week in relation to iconic projects in Central Queensland. We know that, after Tropical Cyclone Marcia, Central Queensland councils put up a very well-informed proposal to have some iconic projects funded by both the state and federal governments, but we know that the federal government completely abrogated any funding responsibility in this respect. We also know that the federal government was brought kicking and screaming to the issue of the use of day labour in reconstruction efforts after natural disasters. We know that, after very heavy lobbying from the Palaszczuk Labor government, they finally acquiesced and said that Queensland councils could use day labour for the next three financial years.

Local councils are very clear about who was on their side and who was standing up for them when it came to making sure that their workforces could be used in the very critical and important work of reconstruction after natural disasters. It was that side of the chamber, not this side of chamber, who were deaf and mute.

### **Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services**

**Mr WALKER:** My question is to the Minister for Police. This morning's press refers to a signed affidavit by the deputy mayor of the Ipswich City Council which quotes the police minister as saying that the mayor of Ipswich will 'end up in jail' and 'there is a lot to come out yet'. I ask: has the minister, as police minister, referred any serious matter that she has knowledge of to the police?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. The matters that the member for Mansfield refers to relate to suggestions of statements that were made some 12 months ago before the minister was appointed to that high office, and I ask for your ruling, under standing order 113, whether this question is in order.

**Mr WALKER:** I rise to a point of order. My question is during her time as police minister has she referred these matters to the police.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. Perhaps the member for Mansfield could have asked that question then.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. My understanding is the question from the member for Mansfield is to the police minister. It relates to her current term as police minister, not matters involving her actions or allegations. I call the police minister.

**Mrs MILLER:** In relation to the claims in the local paper, I deny these claims. They are untrue.

### **Budget, Health**

**Mr KELLY:** My question is for a great Labor health minister and Minister for Ambulance Services. It gives me great pleasure to ask a question about the budget. Will the minister update the House on performance data relating to outpatient waiting lists contained in the service delivery statement?

**Mr DICK:** I am delighted to take this question, because I am sure the member of Greenslopes will be interested to know that yesterday we were treated to a budget reply from the Leader of the Opposition which dealt with this very issue. What did the Leader of the Opposition say in the budget reply yesterday? Quite properly, I suppose, nobody remembers. He said—

The member for Woodridge has been given \$361.2 million over four years to reduce waiting times for outpatients, but there are no performance measures.

Yesterday he said that there are no performance measures. Buzz! Sorry, Mr Speaker: wrong again! The Service Delivery Statement contains actual reporting on the state's performance for those patients across categories 1 to 3. The Service Delivery Statement goes on to say—

The Government convened a Wait Times Summit and is currently undertaking further consultation with the health sector, which will inform work around the target/measure for future reporting.

So what do we have? Performance measures are included in the budget, and the budget contains a solid commitment from this government to consult with experts and develop meaningful measures for future budgets. But that is not all that was contained in this SDS. We got a direct insight into what the self-proclaimed 'fixer' of the health system in Queensland on the other side of the chamber thought about Queenslanders waiting for outpatient appointments.

In last year's budget the member for Southern Downs included performance targets for outpatient waiting times, and can you guess what they were for category 1, member for Greenslopes? These are urgent patients. What did the former minister think the time should be? What did he think the percentage should be for those people who are seen within the clinically recommended time? Was it 90 per cent? Was it 80 per cent? Was it 70 per cent? No. No. No. Was it 50 per cent? No: 48 per cent was the target that he set—less than half of urgent outpatients to be seen within clinically recommended times. What did the visionary Health fixer say about semi-urgent category 2 patients? Was it 90 per cent, 80 per cent or 70 per cent? No. Was it 60 per cent or 50 per cent? No. Was it 40 per cent? No: his vision for Queensland was 33 per cent—one in three semi-urgent patients should be seen within the clinically recommended time.

That is his vision for Queensland. I do not think it is good enough. I will not agree to that figure of one in three while I am the Minister for Health. We will be realistic, genuine and open with the people of Queensland. We will target this as a genuine approach for our government to address the 100,000 people that he wanted to ignore as health minister—

*(Time expired)*

### **Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services**

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the police minister. I refer to her previous answer in response to the question without notice asked by the member for Mansfield, and I ask: is the police minister asserting that the deputy mayor of Ipswich has made a false sworn declaration which could leave him subject to criminal sanction?

**Mrs MILLER:** In case they were not listening earlier, I deny the claims and they are untrue.

### **Budget, Tourism Industry**

**Mr WILLIAMS:** My question is to the Minister for Tourism. How will my electorate of Pumicestone benefit from the Palaszczuk Labor government's investment in tourism? What is the reaction of the tourism sector?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Having Bribie Island in his electorate, he knows just how important tourism is to his electorate and to every single electorate in Queensland. That is why when we went to the election we promised to restore funding to Tourism and Events Queensland. This government understands how important it is to support tourism and the jobs it generates in this state—a \$23 billion industry supporting over 200,000 Queenslanders each and every day, generating an income in communities right across this great state.

When we came to office we saw just how much those opposite had cut from tourism. We knew that they had cut funding to Tourism and Events Queensland but we were not aware exactly how much. That is why I was very pleased in our budget to deliver more than \$400 million to tourism in Queensland.

There is a key difference between us and them. We will put our money where our mouths are. We know that tourism is important to this state. That is why in our budget we have committed over \$400 million—

**Ms Palaszczuk** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I take the interjection from the Premier. This money will help grow tourism and tourism jobs. It is not just us saying what a great budget this is for tourism. All of our key industry stakeholders have welcomed the restoration of funding delivered in this budget. The Tourism & Transport Forum has said—

I welcome the Queensland government's decision to restore funding to Tourism and Events Queensland over the next four years. Reversing the former government's planned funding cut was a key ask of TTF in our Queensland election agenda and we are pleased the Palaszczuk government has listened to the industry.

What does the Queensland Tourism Industry Council have to say? It states—

With the funding certainty for Tourism and Events Queensland over the next four years, that gives more confidence to our industry.

Restaurant & Catering Australia CEO John Hart said—

A long-term approach to tourism and major events funding provides tourism and hospitality operators with confidence to invest in their businesses. This drives ... activity and it creates jobs ...

Everyone in our industry is saying that this is a good investment and that this is an investment that will create jobs.

I take this opportunity to correct another mistake the honourable member for Southern Downs made yesterday in his speech. Don't let facts get in the way of a good yarn when you have been here since 1987!

**An opposition member:** '89. Don't let the facts get in the way!

**Ms JONES:** Sorry, that is right. I forgot. I was 10 when he entered this parliament. Sorry. I forgot about that.

**Mr Dick:** She was in grade 4.

**Ms JONES:** I was in grade 5. We saw the member for Southern Downs say that the \$400 million came from the federal government. Not one cent came from the federal government. It is \$400 million from the Palaszczuk government—

*(Time expired)*

### **Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services**

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the police minister. I refer to the minister's previous two answers where she asserted that the deputy mayor of Ipswich made a false declaration, and I ask: will the minister now refer this matter to the police?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question of the member for Maroochydore contains an imputation. She has inferred a meaning from an answer given by the Minister for Police. There were no statements that she made reference to. Certainly the member for Maroochydore should know better and should understand the standing orders. Under standing order 115, Mr Speaker, I suggest that you rule the question out of order.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I am happy to rephrase if you rule it is needed.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I would prefer you to rephrase the question because it certainly does appear to be in conflict with standing order 115.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I refer to the police minister's previous two answers where she seemed to indicate that the declarations of the deputy mayor of Ipswich and her were in conflict.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The words were changed to 'seemed to indicate'. That is still an imputation.

**Ms SIMPSON:** If I could finish the question—

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I suggest, Mr Speaker, that you sit down the member for Maroochydore.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, I will ask you to ask your question once more, please.

**Ms SIMPSON:** I ask the police minister: will she refer this matter to the police?

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

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Speaker, I am happy to put the preamble again, but I keep getting interrupted by the member opposite.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, one moment. I will hear the point of order from the Leader of the House.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** My point of order is that that is an entirely different question.

**Ms SIMPSON:** No, it is not. It is the same question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not need your assistance. Thank you.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** That was my first point of order. I have a further point of order. We then had the situation where the member for Maroochydore had sat—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, please resume your seat. I asked the member for Maroochydhore to put her question. The member for Maroochydhore has put her question.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Police Minister, I refer to your last two answers, and I ask whether you will refer—

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is another question again. This is the fourth attempt.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, I know it is Friday. I ask you to resume your seat. I have asked the member for Maroochydhore to put her question again. She started to put it on a number of occasions when you rose to points of order. I am now finally asking, for the last time, the member for Maroochydhore to put her question without any interruptions. I call the member for Maroochydhore—last time.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the police minister. Minister, I refer to your previous two answers to questions and I ask whether you will refer this issue to the police for investigation.

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

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I do not need your assistance. Leader of the House, I hope this is a relevant point of order.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** It is, Mr Speaker. I waited until the member for Maroochydhore had finished asking her question which is what you asked me to do, which you would ask anyone in the House to do, and I draw to your attention that the member for Maroochydhore directed her question directly to the minister and said things such as 'you' directly to the minister which you would not allow. I ask you to ask the member to direct the question through the chair. The member for Maroochydhore would have sat herself down, I can assure you.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. Members, the time is 10.29 am. I announced earlier that question time will conclude at 10.30 am. Member for Maroochydhore, if you used the word 'you'. I would ask you to rephrase the question one last time.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. My question is to the police minister. I refer the police minister to her previous two answers. Will she direct that this matter be investigated by police?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, the time is 10.30 am. Question time has expired.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members were aware. I advised that question time would conclude at 10.30 am. Question time has concluded. If members want to take this matter further, I am happy to receive correspondence.

## STATE DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS ORGANISATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 July (see p. 1371).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.31 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (10.31 am): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the State Development and Public Works Organisation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015. My contribution to this debate will focus on three things. Necessarily, I will have to provide members of the 55th Parliament with an explanation of what occurred in the 54th Parliament when, as the former minister for natural resources and mines, I introduced the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill, which was considered and agreed to by the previous parliament on 9 September 2014. This will be necessary because Labor, the Greens and others have been very successful at creating a

mythology about exactly what happened and how it happened. I fully concede that I have been unable to counter the dishonesty and the misinformation spread by people such as the member for South Brisbane, the Friends of the Earth, Lock the Gate, the Environmental Defenders Office and now, unfortunately, the dishonesty and mistruths being spread by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Nevertheless, I will deal with that matter in detail.

The second thing that I will do is deal with the inaccuracy of what the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines said in this House on Wednesday when the bill was introduced and during the debate about whether or not the bill should be declared an urgent bill under the standing orders. I will be dealing with the remarks of the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and, for that matter, the Deputy Premier that were the subject of their contribution when the minister introduced the bill into the House and during the debate on whether or not the bill should be declared an urgent bill under the standing orders. Despite their self-professed expertise and experience on this issue respectively, they demonstrated very little understanding of the facts about what is contained in this bill.

Finally, I will spend a bit of time talking about what is really motivating the totally unjustified move to declare this bill an urgent bill and have it circumvent the normal processes of scrutiny that would ordinarily occur through the relevant portfolio committee. We will have a look at the dark, smoke-filled back rooms and how this Labor government and some of its masters in the green activist movement are ordering legislation on demand.

Before I deal with these matters, I will deal briefly with the other matter that is contained in this bill which is not contentious and which is supported. The bill proposes to amend the Land Court Act 2000 to address issues arising from the recent Supreme Court decision in BHP Mitsui Coal Pty Ltd v Isdale. As I understand it, the Supreme Court has found that certain matters referred to the court under the Mineral Resources Act and the Environmental Protection Act were not proceedings for the purposes of the Land Court rules. Rather, in dealing with these matters, the Supreme Court found that the Land Court was performing an administrative function.

The explanatory notes accompanying this bill indicate that the Supreme Court ruling has created some uncertainty about the scope of section 35 of the Land Court Act which provides protection and immunity for Land Court members when presiding over the matters deemed to be proceedings. The explanatory notes accompanying the bill suggest that urgent amendments are necessary to put the statutory protection for Land Court members in performing all of their judicial and administrative functions beyond doubt, which I am advised reflects the legal position that was thought to have existed previously, and the LNP is quite comfortable with this request. My colleague the member for Mansfield, the shadow Attorney-General, will make a contribution to the debate about this matter. He has consulted with the Bar Association and the Law Society and has been briefed by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and, as I understand it, he is satisfied that the requests for these amendments are fair and reasonable.

So first things first. What happened in this House on 9 September 2014? There has often been a repeated allegation that I snuck this amendment through at five minutes to midnight when the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill was debated in this House on 9 September 2014, and this is patently and demonstrably untrue. The Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and the Deputy Premier dishonestly repeated this allegation as late as Wednesday, and by now they should know better than to have repeated that allegation. It is true that the amendment was moved and voted on at five minutes to midnight on that day. However, importantly, this was not the first time that the House and all of its members had had their attention drawn to the amendments. I happened to bring with me to the debate today the *Hansard* record from that day when, during the second reading debate on the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill, I rose to my feet at 3.53 in the afternoon and in the course of making that contribution I said, and I quote from *Hansard*—

The bill also proposes to amend the requirement for public notification of mining lease related environmental authority applications. Proposed low-impact mines which meet specified eligibility criteria for a standard or variation application will no longer be subject to notification requirements or potential objections to an EA. Where the mining project does not meet these eligibility criteria—for example, all coal and large scale mines—a site specific application will be required for the EA. For these mining projects, current notification processes are proposed to be retained.

Objection rights are also preserved for any person who has made a submission on a site specific application for an environmental authority, either through the notification process for that EA or an associated environmental impact statement process. Such persons will be entitled to appeal to the Land Court concerning the grant of that EA. Therefore, the public will still be able to object to the grant or conditions of an EA for any medium to large size mine that requires a site specific application for their EA.

That contribution dealt with matters that were not coordinated projects through the Office of the Coordinator-General and explained the provisions that would be in place for notifications and objections processes for mining leases and specifically for environmental authorities for projects that were coordinated. Then I said the following—

The only exception is where the project has gone through the Coordinator-General's EIS process. Any conditions directed by the Coordinator-General to be placed on the EA are not subject to objection rights. I will be moving an amendment during the consideration in detail stage to clarify this as the Land Court currently has no power to vary these conditions. This will ensure objectors are clear about the scope of grounds for an objection. I will also move another amendment during the consideration in detail stage so that where an objection has been lodged, which the Land Court does not have grounds to consider, the Land Court has the power to strike out these objections early in the court process.

So when I rose during the second reading debate—clearly, six hours or more before I moved the amendments—I explained to the House the nature of the amendments that I would be moving. Then at the conclusion of my second reading speech, as is the practice, I tabled in the House the explanatory notes accompanying the amendments that I would subsequently move during the consideration in detail stage at the end of the second reading debate. Since this House has been meeting, the consideration in detail stage has been after the second reading debate. As the then minister, I had no control over when this House would go into the consideration in detail stage of that bill. Earlier in that debate—clearly, six hours before I tabled and moved those amendments—I tabled my explanatory notes accompanying those amendments. That is documented in the *Hansard* record of the second reading debate of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill, which occurred in this House on 9 September last year. So that myth is busted. The mythology that has been created by people such as the member for South Brisbane, the Greens and others has now been proven to be demonstrably untrue. I am very pleased that I have been given the opportunity in this House to deal with those misleading allegations.

When I did get an opportunity to move those amendments, despite them having been on the table and circulated for the advice and information of all members, during the consideration in detail stage of the bill no-one asked any questions of me, which every single member of this House is entitled to do. The Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, who was a member of the House at that time, did not say anything. The Deputy Premier, the member for South Brisbane, did not say anything. The police minister, who was formerly the shadow minister for mines—my opposite number in the previous parliament—did not say anything. The former member for Mackay, who was previously the shadow minister for state development, did not say anything. Yet all of them had the chance to do so. I cannot answer for them as to why they did not ask me a question. That is a matter for them. But the fact of the matter remains that none of them did. Yet, very clearly, the *Hansard* record shows that all of the members had access to those amendments six hours earlier before I moved them in this parliament. But they either did not bother to read those amendments or they were not concerned about them at that time until later when they thought that they saw a political opportunity to become concerned about them.

The second matter that I have to deal with today is what occurred on Wednesday when the minister introduced the bill and moved that the bill be declared urgent under the standing orders. On Wednesday, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines said that the primary amendments in the bill deliver a key election promise of the Labor Party, which was a commitment to restore community objection rights in relation to mining projects. The minister claimed that these rights were removed by the former LNP government via the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, which inserted a new section 47D into the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971. Both of those statements from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines are demonstrably untrue.

Section 47D of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act certainly did commence on 24 October 2014 and it is true that it now applies to all existing and newly declared coordinated projects. However, it did not have the effect of preventing any objections to the Land Court being made about an environmental authority application for a proposed mining activity that had been the subject of the Coordinator-General's assessment, as was claimed by the minister. It could not do so, because this capacity did not exist prior to the amendments that I moved on 9 September 2014.

Let me try to explain it slowly for the benefit, firstly, of the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, but indeed for all the other members of the House. Prior to the amendments that I moved on 9 September 2014, it was possible for an individual or another entity to lodge an objection to the conditions in an environmental authority for a resource project that had been assessed by the Coordinator-General. However, what the minister, and the Greens and everyone

else who likes to perpetuate this mythology do not like to tell anyone is that the Land Court did not have any jurisdiction to alter those conditions. So what was occurring was that individuals or groups were lodging objections to EAs that had been issued by the Coordinator-General and a period of time was then passing before the Land Court sat to hear the matter. When the Land Court heard the matter, the court would then advise that it had no jurisdiction to hear an objection that pertained to conditions placed on an EA for a resource project by the Coordinator-General. The amendment that I moved on 9 September 2012 clarified the matter so that an objection could not be lodged in the first instance and that the time and the money of the applicant, the respondent and the court was not unnecessarily wasted.

The explanatory notes accompanying the bill make it clear that the purpose of this bill is to repeal section 47D of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act. If that is true and this amendment is just a straight repeal of the amendment that was inserted in the act on 9 September last year, then it will simply restore the status quo—that is, that an individual or a group may lodge an objection in the Land Court. What this amendment does not propose to do is bestow the rights of an individual or group to have that objection heard and decided upon in the Land Court. Prior to the amendments that were agreed to by this House on 9 September 2014, the Land Court did not have any jurisdiction to consider conditions placed on an EA and, if this House agrees to this amendment today, it will not have any jurisdiction to do so, because it is a straight repeal. It will take us back to the situation that was in place before I moved the amendment on 9 September last year.

So if the minister wanted to bestow a new right to have a matter not only lodged but also heard and decided upon in the Land Court, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines would have to bring an amendment to this place to amend the jurisdiction of the Land Court to enable it to hear an objection to conditions on an EA for a resource project that had been determined by the Coordinator-General. The minister has not done that. The minister has brought into this House a bill that proposes a straight repeal, to take us back to where we were before.

The minister proposes simply to repeal the amendment passed on 9 September last year which clarified that the Land Court did not have the jurisdiction to hear objections relating to conditions in an EA for a resource project determined by the Coordinator-General and as such prevented one from being lodged in the first instance. As I said before, that was to save the time and the money of the applicant, the respondent and the court.

If the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and government MPs do not want to believe me and do not want to accept the proposition that I am putting then perhaps they will consider the opinion of the Land Court in relation to this matter. I refer the minister and government MPs to the proceedings of the Land Court in the case of RTA Weipa Pty Ltd v The Wilderness Society (Qld) and Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. It is a recent case which was heard in March 2013. The decision was delivered on 3 February 2014 by Cochrane, a member of the Land Court. He said at paragraph 33 of his judgement, referring to the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act—

The consequence of those two sections read together is that any condition contained within a Draft Environmental Authority which is a condition required to be inserted by the Coordinator-General's report is immune from objection.

The Land Court has given us a decision. Cochrane, sitting in the Land Court, has given us what we need to know about this amendment: that conditions placed on an environmental authority for a resource project issued by the Coordinator-General are immune from objection in the Land Court.

I have another relatively recent decision from the Land Court, Hancock Coal Pty Ltd v Kelly & Ors and Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, for the information of the minister and government members of this House. It was heard in September and October 2013 and the decision delivered in April last year. The member of the Land Court was Smith who, in section 330 of his decision, said—

I have dealt with the operation of the SDPWOA earlier in this decision. As indicated, it is beyond doubt that this Court cannot recommend conditions which are inconsistent with Coordinator-General decisions.

It cannot hear those matters. Taking the decisions of Cochrane and Smith together, the Land Court cannot hear objections to conditions placed on an environmental authority for a resource project by the Coordinator-General. Sometimes life can be ironic. I have found myself in this position today during the course of this debate because if members do not believe me and do not believe two decisions in the Land Court maybe members opposite will be more inclined to listen to and take advice from one of their fellow travellers.

**An opposition member:** Are you right there?

**Mr CRIPPS:** I am okay. I am about to refer to a decision of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines which was submitted by the Environmental Defenders Office in response to a mining lease notification and objection initiative discussion paper which when I was minister my department released in the lead-up to the drafting of the MERCPC bill.

**An opposition member:** Are you right?

**Mr CRIPPS:** Yes, I am okay.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Grace):** I do not think the member necessarily needs encouragement from the gallery, please. Thank you.

**Mr CRIPPS:** No, I do not.

**An opposition member:** We are concerned about him.

**Mr CRIPPS:** I am rather nervous putting forward a submission that was submitted to my former department by the Environmental Defenders Office. The submission that came to that discussion paper circulated by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines in relation to the proposed changes to the notification and objections process for mining leases and environmental authorities reads as follows—just remember, members, this submission was made to the discussion paper back in March last year, well before the bill was entered into the House. The Environmental Defenders Office said—I never thought I would do this—on page 12 of annexure 1—

Statutory judicial review rights are not available for the EIS process for Coordinated Projects as are available for the EP Act process. This removes a key check and balance in our democratic system. There are no opportunities to statutorily review the Coordinator General's decisions throughout the EIS process, even if he acts improperly, or illegally or otherwise outside of his power. This means that the Coordinator General is effectively immune from challenges on the statutory grounds set out in section 20(2) of the *Judicial Review Act 1992* (Qld).

If members do not believe me and do not believe two decisions in the Land Court, maybe government members will believe one of their fellow travellers in the EDO: that conditions placed by the Coordinator-General on an environmental authority for a resource project cannot be objected to in the Land Court. The amendment that has been brought today by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines is a straight repeal, it takes us back to where we were before I moved the amendments on 9 September last year, and it does not propose to bestow any new rights on any individuals or entities or groups or organisations to actually lodge and then have a matter heard and decided by the Land Court. The misrepresentation that has been put forward by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines in the explanatory notes accompanying the bill and in his commentary on this issue since the election has been disgraceful.

That brings me to the last matter that I want to deal with and that is what this bill is really about. Given that I have demonstrated that the effect of the amendment does not achieve what the minister claims it will achieve, this is all about the intimate relationship that exists between this Labor government and the extreme green movement in this state. We do not need any more evidence because it is patent for all to see, but if we do need any more evidence we only have to go to the introductory speech from the minister when he introduced this bill into the House on Wednesday where, in the course of introducing the bill, the minister specifically cited—which I thought was an extraordinary thing to do—the petition received by the member for Nicklin on Monday, allegedly from over 4,000 Darling Downs residents, urging the government to reinstate the mining objection rights that were stripped away from them last year by the former LNP government—I am quoting the minister's introductory speech in that regard. The minister went on to say he understands that residents of the Darling Downs are concerned about the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project. That is an accurate sentence if taken by itself. People from the Darling Downs are very concerned that it will not go ahead.

The member for Condamine, the member for Nanango and the members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South in particular understand the importance of this project to the local communities on the Darling Downs. We might have had a 4,000 signature petition delivered to the member for Nicklin on Monday—or something similar to a petition which was delivered to the member for Nicklin on Monday—which I understand has been tabled this morning. I would love to scrutinise that document a bit and I would love to see how the assertion made by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines that it has been supported by 4,000 residents from the Darling Downs actually stacks up to some scrutiny when we have an opportunity to have a look at this document and see where these people come from.

I know that the member for Condamine, the member for Nanango and the members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South can testify to the strength of feeling in the community on the Darling Downs about what this project actually means for potential job-creation opportunities on the Darling Downs. I know that the member for Condamine, the member for Nanango and the members for Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South all understand the strength of feeling in communities such as Oakey, where they desperately want this project to commence so that jobs can be guaranteed for their families, their businesses and their community into the future. I am relishing the opportunity to scrutinise the document that today has been tabled and presented to the member for Nicklin and that claims to represent 4,000 people on the Darling Downs, because I do not think it will. I do not think it will stand up to scrutiny when we actually scrutinise the claim made by the minister that 4,000 Darling Downs residents have supported that particular document. It will be interesting to see.

This is what it is all about: the cosy relationship between the Labor Party and the green movement in Queensland. This bill is not urgent because it will restore nothing in terms of objection rights of individuals, groups, entities or organisations in Queensland. It will give them an opportunity to lodge a piece of paper and then the Land Court will eventually sit and the Land Court will say, 'We have no jurisdiction to hear this matter or to decide on it.' The Labor Party is putting forward an amendment that proposes to reinstate a paperwork process. It is a bureaucratic process that will waste the time and the money of the applicant, the respondent and the court. Isn't it typical of Labor to defend a process that champions paperwork and bureaucracy, as opposed to a process that gives decent opportunities, transparent opportunities and meaningful opportunities for people to have their say about potential resource projects in any part of Queensland?

As I was saying before, if government members are not going to believe me and they are not going to believe two decisions in the Land Court, they might believe their fellow travellers in the EDO. If they are not going to believe all of those people, who will they believe? This bill delivers nothing but the opportunity for an individual or an entity to lodge a bit of paper. If the minister were serious and he wanted to bestow some objection rights on individuals, groups, organisations or entities to have a matter heard and decided upon in terms of an EA, with conditions imposed upon it by the Coordinator-General, he would have brought in an amendment that did that, but he did not. He brought an amendment that is a straight repeal of what existed before. The claims that he has made outside of this House and inside of this House that it has some other effect are demonstrably untrue. For that reason, this House should not support the provisions in this bill that relate to the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act.

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (11.03 am): I rise to support the bill introduced by the minister. The State Development and Public Works Organisation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill now before the House will realise an election commitment of the 2015 state election to reinstate the rights of objectors to what was in place prior to the commencement of section 47D on 24 October 2014. It is only right and just to restore objection rights, as we live in a democracy. In a democracy we should have equality of rights and privileges for all and natural justice should be afforded to all. Thousands of men and women have lost their lives defending the rights of the people of this country to be able to object to things that they may not agree with. On Wednesday night I was pleased to hear from the opposition that there was a rally of 800 people in Oakey. I heard the former minister talking about wanting to see the names of those people. It does not matter where they come from. If people have a concern about—

**Mr Rickuss:** It was claimed that they come from the Darling Downs.

**Mr PEARCE:** I do not care where they come from.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Lockyer, the member for Mirani has the call. This is going to be a long day.

**Mr PEARCE:** I do not care where those people come from; they have a right to put their signature on a petition if they want. This bill is about democracy and natural justice. It is about repealing section 47D of the act, which will give communities the right to make objections to environmental authority applications for mining proposals that have been evaluated by the Coordinator-General. This amendment bill is about being inclusive and getting the balance right. There is a need to support appropriate mining and the jobs and infrastructure that come with those projects. I have benefited from mining project jobs. We need to have those things, but we cannot take away people's rights if they have concerns. I will go on to that a little later.

I say to those people who want to yell out and carry on that there is a need to protect our water and there is a need to protect our rich farmlands, unique wildlife and landscape. Those are the things that members of this House should be taking into consideration. I am a little disappointed in members on the other side of the House wanting to continue—

**Mr Rickuss:** We know where you stand on mining.

**Mr PEARCE:** I know where I stand and at least I have the guts to stand up here and say it, so I am not really worried about what the member thinks. I want to look after what I am supposed to be looking after, which is the people affected by the ongoing decisions made by mining companies and the things that they do after an approval has been given. Before that happens, people who have concerns have the right to make an objection. When the mob opposite took that right away, they removed from the people of Queensland a democratic right as individuals and community groups to have a say, and I am very disappointed and angry about that.

We are a country with a rich Indigenous cultural history. Indigenous groups need to be heard. Don't members opposite want them to be heard? Their concerns need to be addressed. People who want to lodge an objection must be free to do so.

**Mr Cripps:** That's not what the bill is about.

**Mr PEARCE:** It is about what you put in the—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Mirani, please take your seat.

**Mr PEARCE:** I was being provoked.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** This is going to be a long day. I will not have debate across the chamber. Member for Hinchinbrook, you were heard in relative silence and I ask the same respect be shown to the member for Mirani.

**Mr PEARCE:** There is an urgency for this bill to be passed. Landowners and communities need to have certainty and peace of mind, knowing that they have the right to appeal an environmental authority application for mining. They must know that they can do that. Not everybody cares and not everybody wants to do it, but there are people in our community who have seen years and years of mining and understand the consequences of the accumulative impacts of mining. They need to have the right to speak up. Unlike the LNP, which pushed the current legislation through in the dead of night, the Labor Party has consulted with stakeholder groups to outline and discuss Labor's election commitments and the introduction of legislative changes to repeal section 47D.

I was surprised that the member for Nanango spoke so vehemently against this bill on Tuesday night. As the shadow minister representing farmers she owes farmers her support in voting for this amendment legislation to ensure they have every opportunity to engage in the application process where mining leases are proposed on their land or on land surrounding their property.

I have a lot of farmers in my electorate. I come off the land. I understand why they want that right. Those opposite cannot take away a person's right to appeal against what is going to happen to their land or their property. Go out there and talk to some of them and see how they feel. I have had a lot of people talking to me about it. They were not very happy at the time. I think most of them have forgotten about it now.

**Mr Cripps:** That is not what this bill is about. You don't understand what you are talking about.

**Mr PEARCE:** It is about taking away the rights of people to object to a mining lease. I am not talking about a little hole in the ground like you keep referring to. I am talking about a mining lease that has been approved by the Coordinator-General. We know that having mining leases approved through those processes already—

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Callide, you made comments when you were not even in your seat. Can we please just get through this. Would everyone please respect the standing orders of the House.

**Mr PEARCE:** I will give the member for Callide a tip—don't start. If you rattle a dog's chain long enough the bloody dog will bite you. Let me tell you that.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PEARCE:** I should not have said that. I withdraw the word 'bloody'. Those opposite need to understand what happens when a mine kicks off in an area. I do not think anybody on that side of the chamber has any idea what happens. I have been in the industry. I have represented mining communities and farmers for the last 35 years. I have an idea what is happening.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr PEARCE:** Don't start. I am telling you, I have a big one to drop on you if you keep going.

**Mr Seeney:** This is to stop the mines.

**Mr PEARCE:** This is not to stop the mines.

**Mr CRIPPS:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I respect the comments you made before, but surely relevance and not misleading the House about what a bill actually does comes within the scope of the standing orders and should be respected by all members when making contributions to a second reading debate.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Hinchinbrook. If we could listen to the member for Mirani in silence I think we would be able to determine that. The member is referring to the bill.

**Mr PEARCE:** How many members opposite—there are not many of them here; they are out grazing, I suppose—understand that a grazier can lose good grasses and pastures because of the dust? Why should a farmer next door to a mine not have the right to object?

**Mr Cripps:** They do.

**Mr PEARCE:** No, they do not. They do not in terms of an open-cut mine that has been approved by the Coordinator-General. The people on the lease have a right, but not their neighbours. They are the ones who are not allowed to have a say. Those opposite took that right away from them.

They can lose their valuable pastures to coal dust. It is as simple as that. Environmentally sensitive ecosystems can be seriously impacted by mining operations. People in the regions who know that that happens because of what they have seen in the industry have a right to lodge an objection. But the legislation of those opposite does not allow that to happen. What we are trying to do is remove that legislation and give people some comfort and give them a right to have a say. Members stand over there because they have a right to have a say. What about giving the people of Queensland the right to have a say.

**Mr Cripps:** You're not doing that?

**Mr PEARCE:** Yes, you have done that and we are going to fix it. Flood plains and watercourses outside a lease can be interfered with. Water is the most important commodity and lifeblood of rural Queensland. They need to know that they have permanency of a water supply. If they have a concern they have a right to lodge an objection and get it sorted out.

Flood plans and watercourses outside the lease can be altered. It can make a lot of difference to downstream water users. They know that from looking at mines that have been developed in the past and listening to their neighbours. The legislation that those opposite put in place results in them not having a right to lodge an objection. That is wrong.

I will stand here every day and fight for people's rights. I have done my little job for this country. The role I have played was doing what servicemen have done in the past—that is, going in and defending the rights of people. Do not take those rights away. There are so many problems. There are so many issues. There is so much to be concerned about. At this point people have no way of raising concerns.

What those opposite said to the people of Queensland in October last year is, 'We do not want you to object to what a mining company might bring to the area. We don't want you to object. We are going to look after our friends the mining companies.'

It was interesting that concerns were voiced last year by groups such as Cotton Australia. Are they mad? AgForce also expressed concerns. I like AgForce because they are a good group of people. Were they mad? Were they wrong? Those opposite cannot say that they were because they know that they are right. The Basin Sustainability Alliance expressed concerns. They are reputable people who understand what coalmining brings to a region.

I have been out there. The cumulative impacts are devastating. These people have a right to lodge an objection to whatever they think might result as a consequence of a coalmine being built in their area.

**A government member:** They're just looking after their mates.

**Mr PEARCE:** They are looking after their mates. The member for Hinchinbrook came into this place on Wednesday night and started complaining about the urgency motion being moved. We are not bringing this on to be shift. We are not bringing this on to be smart. We are bringing this on because people have had enough of not having the right to make an objection.

The urgency motion is what the LNP disputes. It is a game they are playing. They put the same sorts of motions through the parliament when they were in government. I understand that about 18 urgency motions were moved. This debate is nothing more than a stunt.

**Mr Cripps:** That is true.

**Mr PEARCE:** Not from us. You are the stunt master of the House. Landowners and the broader community do not want this restriction on their ability to challenge decisions that potentially could lead to serious consequences.

Like I said earlier, I was raised on the land. There is something special about being a person who has worked on the land, worked in cropping areas, worked amongst livestock, built fences, been with the flies in the dust. Something gets in your blood when you are raised on the land.

I can tell honourable members that there is no way I would have supported the inclusion of section 47D or any other section that would restrict the rights of the people of Queensland to object when they need to. Why did members on the other side of the House—in particular, former National Party members; I am not sure where they all are at the moment—who have a lot of respect in the bush and are held in high regard in the bush support legislation that takes away the rights of their constituency? These are the people who put them into this place, who financially backed them and who vote 1 for them in elections. Why would they want to turn against those people?

One of the things that disturbs me about this farce is the apparent lack of knowledge about what happens when a mine pops up in your area. You have to live close to a mine to understand the impacts. If you hear that another mine is about to be built 10 kilometres down the road and you do not adjoin that mine or the mine is not on your lease—you could be two properties down—but you use the water that flows down that creek, you have a right to object to the intent of the approval. That is just common sense. It is courtesy. It is decency. We are proud of having that right in this country. To the members on that side of the House who are out there in their electorates talking about being loyal, hardworking National Party members: I just cannot understand why you would stand in this place and support an amendment to legislation that takes away people's rights. I cannot understand that.

Whatever argument the member for Hinchinbrook puts up, whatever he says in this place, there is no doubt that that part of the legislation takes away people's rights.

**An opposition member:** No, it doesn't.

**Mr PEARCE:** Well, you ought to have another read.

**Mr Cripps:** No, you need to.

**Mr PEARCE:** I have read it and I have letters from plenty of farmers across Central Queensland who object to your actions in taking away their right to object. I could imagine how you would perform, member for Hinchinbrook, if somebody took away your rights. You would perform like a lost monkey. You would perform because they are taking away your rights. Respect the people of this country. Respect the fact that they have a right to object—to object to you, to me, to legislation or to whatever. Section 47D is in your legislation. We are going to take it out. Hopefully the people of Queensland and people on the land will start to think differently and see through what is happening with regard to legislation that was put through by the LNP.

There are other issues as well. Don't worry, we will get to them soon—things like the taking of water from underground. Do members know about the Blair Athol Mine at Clermont? They had to buy out all of the adjoining properties because they drained their water reserves from underground. If I am living in Dysart or Blackwater and I hear that there is going to be a mine built on my property or on the adjacent property, I would want to know what the impacts could be. I know what the impacts are from my observations, but I have a right to ask the questions. Don't say they have a right, because they have not. For little mines it is okay, but for mines approved by the Coordinator-General people do not have the right to lodge an objection if they believe that there is something that is going to impact on their lifestyle.

Go out into the coalfields and look at places like Dysart and Moranbah. People in those areas have to live with the dust. The dust is in your house every day. Don't people have a right to object to the potential of that happening to them? That is all I am arguing for—people's right to lodge an objection to what may happen as a result of a mine going ahead in their area.

**Mr Walker** interjected.

**Mr PEARCE:** You ought to go out and drive through those places. If you want, I will take you for a drive through those places to have a look. I went out and saw people on the land at Blackwater several years ago and the dust was carrying 11.5 kilometres in the air. It was all over their swimming pool and in the house. People had to leave a big bin with socks in it so that when visitors came they could put some socks on and walk inside because they were being affected by the operations of that mine. We tried to do something about it but we could not.

People must have a right to object. I will object to anything that I do not believe in and I will object strongly on behalf of my constituents. You do not have a right to take away my constituents' right to object if there are concerns about the development of a mine in their area. I do not care what you say. You can shake your head and carry on like I said before, like a lost monkey, but you cannot deny that your legislation has done exactly that—it has taken away people's rights.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (11.24 am): I was not going to make a contribution to this debate because I thought the subject was well and truly covered by the shadow minister, the member for Hinchinbrook. I congratulate him on the intellectual response that he has prepared to a bill before the House that is without any doubt another one of those payback bills that we see in this place after every election when the Labor Party are successful. They come in here and they pass pieces of legislation that do not stand up to logic, that do not stand up to the sort of intellectual rigour that the member for Hinchinbrook has applied to this bill, and they never intended to. They never intended to stand up to that sort of intellectual rigour because they are about election payback, and this one is certainly about election payback for the last election.

We have seen them before. There has been a whole string of them—the Wild Rivers Act, the Vegetation Management Act, and the wildlife protection act was another one I think. Over the years I have been here I have seen them all. After every election when the Labor Party win they come in here and they pay back the green movement, and that is what this is about.

I was inspired to make a contribution to this debate because of the gibberish rantings of the member for Mirani. I have to put on record some of the facts, because there were no facts in the address that was made by the member for Mirani. Unfortunately, my old mate the member for Mirani sees the world from a particular perspective, and I cannot let the record go uncorrected.

Can I say to the member for Mirani and every person who has any concern about the objection rights that anybody has to these projects that the reality is that there are a whole lot more opportunities to object now than there were when the member for Mirani was last in government. When the member for Mirani was last in government, he was an advocate for the mining industry—which was somewhat misplaced I think, but he had an interest in the mining industry. If he or anybody wants to look at the situation that exists now in comparison to the situation that existed then in relation to the opportunities that stakeholders—whoever they might be—have to object to any particular issue that might arise from the proposed establishment of a mine, there are much greater opportunities now than there were when the member for Mirani was last in government.

Let me go through the legislation that has been introduced since then that the member for Mirani seems completely unaware of. It is called the Regional Planning Interests Act. What it did was to take the situation where people had a right to have an input from the end of the process to the beginning of the process. So, rather than getting engaged in court battles and making lawyers and barristers very wealthy, the Regional Planning Interests Act provides a whole range of opportunities for people to have an input, to have their issues addressed at the beginning before the mine is established, before the lease is issued, before the environmental authority is considered. It is a planning process that did not exist, member for Mirani, when you were last here. There was no such thing. It did not exist.

Now those landholders that you stand up and purport to be concerned about have access to a planning process that people in urban areas have had access to for generations. So somebody in an urban area that is concerned about a development in their street has access to a whole range of opportunities to have an input. They have access to the Planning and Environment Court to have any of those decisions contested. But rural landholders never had that in the past; now they do.

**Mr Cripps:** And who gave it to them?

**Mr SEENEY:** It was not because of the Labor Party, member for Mirani, but because of us. We promised that we would do it before we came to government and we did it. We did it. We consulted with all of the stakeholders in the mining industry—stakeholders who had been at each other's throats for a long time. It was a degree of anger and disaffection unlike anything else I have ever seen in the Queensland community. We entered into a consultation process with all of those people. We brought all of those people together and agreed on a piece of legislation that provided those provisions. It provided opportunities for all of those people. Whether it is the people whom the member for Mirani purports to be concerned about or whether it is the Greens who are behind this particular bill, they are all involved. We had unanimous support for that legislation because it avoided conflict situations at the end of the process and it provided enormous opportunities for people to get involved at the beginning of the process which they did not have before.

The rantings of the member for Mirani that we heard this morning are complete and utter garbage. Rural landholders, in particular—the people whom I represent, the people whom I care about and the community that I come from—now have an opportunity that the Labor Party never gave them. In 14 years in government they never gave them that opportunity. They established the resources industry across areas of Queensland where the resources industry had never existed before, and they never gave those rural people the opportunity to have the input that they deserved. They never gave those rural people the opportunity to have the input that they have now after three years of LNP government.

I say to the member for Mirani that I am happy to take him through that legislation because I concede that, like all planning legislation, it is complex but it needs to be complex because the issues are complex. It needs to be complex so that all of those people have the opportunity to have their voices heard and to influence the decisions before they are made, not just object to them after they are made.

The other point that I want to deal with is the reason the Land Court does not have the ability to overturn a condition that is applied in an environmental authority by the Coordinator-General, because that is really what this is about. The member for Mirani indicated in some detail that the Land Court was advising us in government—

**Mr Cripps:** Hinchinbrook. I'm from Hinchinbrook.

**Mr SEENEY:** The member for Hinchinbrook, I am sorry. I have the member for Mirani on my brain. The member for Mirani is a vastly different politician. But there is a reason and, once again, it is about understanding the process. When an environmental impact study is conducted and the Coordinator-General considers that environmental impact study, it is a long and comprehensive process. In fact, the minimum is at least two years. Some of them take five years to go through that process. It is an incredibly comprehensive process and it provides opportunities for input. It provides a number of opportunities for input from all stakeholders. It provides opportunities for the consideration of expert advice from a whole range of different professional stakeholders, but it is an incredibly comprehensive process. When you get to the end of that process and the Coordinator-General applies some conditions, to suggest that those conditions could then be overturned by a Land Court hearing which would go for—the shadow Attorney-General would know—a week at the outside, I would suggest—

**Mr Walker:** Less than that.

**Mr SEENEY:** Less than that. The longest Land Court hearing would go for a week. Land Court hearings probably go for a lot shorter period of time than that. The Land Court would not claim to, and they do not claim to, have the expertise that is involved in the Coordinator-General's office in considering the outcomes of that long and comprehensive process that runs from three to five years. That is the reason that there is no provision for the Land Court to overturn those conditions that the Coordinator-General might apply to an environmental authority. And it has never been there, a point made by the member for Mirani. The provision has never before there for the Land Court to overturn the conditions that result from that long and comprehensive process. Nobody in the Land Court has ever suggested that they should have.

**Mr Nicholls:** Hinchinbrook.

**Mr SEENEY:** Member for Hinchinbrook, I apologise. Nobody in the Land Court has ever suggested that they should have. What members of the Land Court suggested to us as the government was that it was pointless having an opportunity to lodge an objection to those conditions because they did not have the ability to overturn those conditions and they should not have the ability to overturn those conditions. The poor old minister has been sent in here today with a piece of legislation—

**An opposition member:** At Jackie's bidding.

**Mr SEENEY:** Yes, at the behest of the Socialist Left, at the behest of the crazy loonies on the Left, he has been sent in here today with a piece of legislation that is all about philosophical payback. It will not do anything to provide objection rights to people that are effective or that can achieve anything. We did that in the Regional Planning Interests Act. We provided them with an avenue that was effective and that enabled them to have an influence on decisions before they were made, not fight about it in court after they were made.

The people at whose behest the minister is acting in introducing this legislation today are all about delay. They are all about using this provision to further delay these projects. They are not about getting a resolution. They are not about finding a consensus position. They do not have any concern for the Queensland economy or for the jobs of people in places like Acland. They just want another opportunity to delay the process. That is all this does. It does not provide any opportunity to make the outcome better. I say to the minister that he should think carefully about that. This is just about delaying the process. It is not about making the outcome better.

If you want to make the outcome better, then point out to the stakeholders the provisions that now exist in the Regional Planning Interests Act. Point out to the stakeholders the opportunities they have in the consideration of the regional development authority that is necessary under that act. Point out to the stakeholders the opportunities they have to participate in the comprehensive environmental impact study process that the Coordinator-General undertakes. Point out to the stakeholders the opportunities they have to participate in the process around the issuance of the mining lease.

When you get right to the end of the process and the environmental authority that the Coordinator-General has issued is then objected to in the Land Court, which cannot overturn that condition, it is a nonsense. It is a complete and utter nonsense to suggest that you are doing anything to enhance the process or to provide greater opportunities for people. What you are doing is enabling these anti everything groups to frustrate the economic development that Queenslanders need, to take away the job opportunities that people in Queensland need and to take away the economic returns that this state needs to bolster the budget of your colleague the Premier.

I say to the minister: be aware of what you are doing. Do not come in here and sprout the sort of nonsense that I heard you deliver to this House in the second reading speech because I think you are better than that. I think this issue deserves better examination than that. This parliament deserves to look at these issues in a much more comprehensive, professional and intellectual way than what we have seen from this minister and this government until now.

This particular bill, I am told, was instigated by the proposal to expand the Acland coalmine in Toowoomba. I want to say a couple of things about that, once again motivated by the member for Mirani. There is a lot of discussion in the resources industry about rehabilitation. When you travel around the resources industry in Queensland, there are good examples of rehabilitation and there are not so good examples of rehabilitation. If anybody wants to have a look at what can be achieved in the area of rehabilitation, the one place you need to go and look is Acland. It is the best example of rehabilitation that you will see anywhere.

I wish that every mine in Queensland was able to have the same outcome from their rehabilitation efforts as the Acland mine has been able to achieve. It is an incredible example of what can be achieved, but it is what the industry should aspire to. It is what all of the mines across Central Queensland should aspire to, but they do not. To suggest that Acland is the reason for this is once again completely misunderstanding the situation that exists at Acland. They are industry leaders in terms of returning the land that they mine to a productive state. They are an operation that has almost unanimous local support. I have spent a lot of time there with the local community. I know there are a small number of people who are passionately opposed, but they have almost unanimous support amongst the local community. They are industry leaders in the area of rehabilitation. They have gone through a number of different application processes to reduce the size of their initial application down to a much smaller footprint to avoid sensitive areas and to ensure they are able to maintain that community support.

So it is a complete and utter nonsense to suggest that this bill is needed because of the proposed Acland development. It is simply another one of those green payback bills that gives an opportunity for all of the antimining groups to vent their spleen. We have seen it today with the member for Mirani, and no doubt we will see it from organisations like the Environmental Defenders Office and the World Wildlife Fund. It is important, however, that this House knows the facts when it considers this legislation, and I am happy to put the facts on the record today.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (11.42 am): I feel quite inadequate standing in the House now after the passion that has been shown by the members for Hinchinbrook and Callide. It was particularly good to see the member for Callide back in such fine form and assisting the House in the way that he has. I had the good fortune to be his assistant minister when we first came to government. He taught me a lot and he is an adornment to this House, and I think his argument has shown that.

Before I get onto the legal bit, which is what I want to speak about, I want to say that it was interesting to hear the member for Hinchinbrook talk about the petition which, as he said, reportedly contained the signatures of 4,000 people from the Darling Downs. I asked whether I could look at the petition, and I have done that and I have read it, and it is interesting that it says that the 4,000 signatures are on behalf of the residents of the Darling Downs. So even on the face of it, the petition does not claim to be from people who live on the Darling Downs. It may be 4,000 from the Darling Downs, or it may not be. There are no addresses in the document, but no doubt we will see just how much that stands up to scrutiny.

I am not good at compelling and passionate, as the members for Hinchinbrook and Callide are, but I can do reasonable, considered and logical and that is what I am planning to do now. Part of this bill deals with the protection of members of the Land Court, in particular, whether they have privileges, protection and immunity when they are conducting their affairs in court. As was pointed out in some of the speeches on the second reading, a particular court case of BHP Billiton Mitsui Coal vs Isdale called this point into question. I have had the benefit of a briefing from members of the Attorney-General's Department, for which I thank her, and I have spoken to the presidents of both the Law Society and the Bar Association, and I have taken my own advice, and that is always risky. They say that a lawyer who takes his own advice has an idiot for a client, so I rely more on what I have heard from others. I am satisfied, as is the opposition, that those provisions in the bill that do adequately protect members of the Land Court are required and the opposition will not be opposing those provisions.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (11.44 am), in reply: I thank the honourable members for their contributions to the debate today. I actually was touched by the sincerity expressed by those opposite and also by my colleague the member for Mirani. I understand that they have a wish to make sure that Queensland prospers, and as state development minister I, too, want to see Queensland prosper in a very efficient way. But removing the rights of people to object to projects is no way to foster economic development in this state and to foster good sovereign risk in this state as well.

This bill will implement an important election commitment this government made to restore community objection rights that were removed by the previous government in the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014. This government recognises that there needs to be a balance between development and the rights of the local community and landholders, particularly landholders. This bill is the first step in delivering the government's election commitment to restore community objection rights removed by the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014. Further changes that are needed to address the remaining uncommenced provisions in this act are being considered to ensure our commitment is fully met.

The government is listening to community concerns that the previous legislation limited landholder and community rights, and the amendments contained in this bill seek to rectify this as soon as possible. The government made an election commitment to restore those rights as soon as possible not only to the local landholders in the community but to the wider catchment, Indigenous groups and those concerned about environmental issues.

The government acknowledges the recent media coverage and the petition from over 4,000 residents given to the Speaker. The community are calling to have their rights restored to object to mining projects, specifically in time for the New Acland Coal Mine Stage 3 Project, which is currently in the environmental authority assessment process. There was no alternative to the amendments being considered in this current sitting if there is to be any chance for concerned members of the community to exercise their democratic right to have their say on this mine expansion proposal. By proceeding urgently now, we have ensured that no project has seen people's objection rights taken away by this unfair provision brought in by the former government. By repealing section 47D of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971, the community will no longer be prevented from making an objection to the Land Court about an environmental authority application for a proposed mining activity that has been subject to a Coordinator-General's assessment.

The repeal of this section will importantly restore community objection rights relating to environmental authority applications for certain mine proposals that have been evaluated by the Coordinator-General, by restoring the status quo prior to the commencement of section 47D on

24 October 2014. The amendments to the Land Court Act 2000 will provide clarity and certainty to the Land Court in exercising its jurisdiction in relation to a range of matters referred to the court—in particular, matters referred under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994.

There is a critical public interest in ensuring that the Land Court members and other participants in these matters are appropriately protected and can carry out their roles without fear of personal liability. The bill ensures that the statutory protection and immunity that was previously thought to apply in matters referred to the Land Court will be put beyond doubt. The bill also provides mechanisms to ensure that any other limitations on the Land Court's capacity to deal effectively with these referrals can be expeditiously addressed through transitional regulations and rules. The transitional regulations will operate as an interim measure until more permanent amendments can be made to the act.

I would like to address comments made two evenings ago by the opposition during the debate on the urgency motion for this bill. It appears that the opposition did not understand the legislation when they sneakily introduced section 47D and they do not understand the legislation now. The Palaszczuk government understands how the legislation works and that is why we are repealing it—to restore fairness and equity. The opposition were unashamedly diminishing the legitimate role of the Land Court with their comments. The Land Court plays a key role in the project development process. Denying the Land Court the ability to be informed about objections essentially diminishes its role.

The point is not that the Land Court cannot recommend changes to a Coordinator-General condition—that is true but is simply a distraction. It is a flimsy and flawed excuse for introducing section 47D. It is a shallow and misconceived argument to use to try to take away people's rights to object. That point is not a sufficient reason to take away people's objection rights. It is not a valid reason to change a long held right to object.

The fact is that the Land Court does not just meet and deliberate on Coordinator-General decisions; the reality is that the Coordinator-General does not approve or grant an environmental authority. The Land Court's role is to make a recommendation to the administering authority on whether an environmental authority should be granted and with what conditions. In doing so, it has always been the proper and thorough process that the Land Court has all the relevant information available to it to assist with its deliberations. The Land Court considers the project and environmental authority in its entirety and makes overall recommendations to the administering authority. The Land Court is also able to recommend additional conditions or recommend that additional conditions added by the administering authority under the Environmental Protection Act be amended provided that the additional or amended conditions are not inconsistent with any Coordinator-General conditions.

The Land Court provides a critical forum to review environmental impact statements and environmental authority decisions and, if necessary, recommend additional controls. It also has the scope to recommend refusal of a project despite the findings of the Coordinator-General. It is, therefore, fictitious to allege that considering objections to an environmental authority is outside the Land Court's jurisdiction—fictitious—as the former government did last year when they introduced section 47D. In fact, the Land Court plays a very important, legitimate, key role and people have a right for their views to be made known to the Land Court.

Finally, we are talking here about members of the public; we are talking about landholders and farmers, whom members opposite purport to represent, not only environmental groups as the opposition tried to falsely paint. Even the member for Nanango stated that every person has the right to be heard. This government is not sneaking through any amendments and is not removing accountability or transparency. We are listening to the community and ensuring that their rights are restored. We are listening to farmers; we are listening to landholders. A truncated process is required because of the timing of the upcoming mining project of New Acland—and members opposite know that—which is currently in the environmental authority process. The legislation needs to be passed and in place so that Queenslanders can have their say. This is why these matters are urgent.

The previous government progressed numerous amendments to legislation during the consideration in detail stage of debate, often unrelated to the bill before the House. Significant amendments to the Industrial Relations Act 1999 and the Local Government Act 2009 were tabled at the last minute during the consideration in detail stage of the sustainable planning and other legislation amendment bill 2014—amendments that were completely unrelated to the planning bill being considered by the House. Yesterday the Parliamentary Library advised that on 18 occasions in the

54th Parliament the previous government declared bills urgent and did not refer them to a committee—no debate, no nothing. At this stage in the term those opposite would have had three of these bills passed by way of urgency motions. I table the advice for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Parliamentary Library and Research Service Brief, undated, regarding bills declared urgent under standing order 137 and not referred to committee in the 54th Parliament [832].

The amendments contained in this bill to the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act and to the Land Court Act are associated and are required urgently. The amendments to restore community objection rights must be in place in time to be applicable to the New Acland project. This is not about the government's view on a particular project or its merits. The New Acland project simply would have been the first one impacted by section 47D and it is all a matter of timing. Other mining projects considered recently by the Coordinator-General would also have been captured. From the outset, the opposition has put forward section 47D on the justification of time savings to a project. Supposed time savings with section 47D do not exist. In fact, it could be a worse outcome for everyone. Let's test the flakiness of their assumption.

In the case of the New Acland mine, this project will need to go through a Land Court hearing, anyway. There are 30 objections to the mining lease application that must be referred to the Land Court. The mining lease application and the environmental authority application were notified together. In line with current practice, the Department of Natural Resources and Mines is waiting for a decision on the environmental authority application so that matters relevant to the Environmental Protection Act and the Mineral Resources Act are referred together.

In the scenario that section 47D is not repealed, only the applicant can request that the environmental authority application be referred to the Land Court. However, it is highly likely that opponents to the project would challenge a decision of the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to not allow objections to the environmental authority decision. This is particularly the case given that it is new and controversial legislation and the recent record of legal challenges to large mining projects by NGOs. In that outcome, the Land Court hearing of the mining lease application objections is likely to be significantly delayed until a legal challenge is resolved.

This is not about the merits of any project or assessing them. It is irrelevant how many marches there were supporting a project or whether a project was supported or not and by whom and when. Projects are assessed under normal statutory processes. It is purely about people's ability to object to an environmental authority and the Land Court being able to hear these objections. There are many good examples where the longstanding processes have worked effectively and added value, with people's rights to object an integral component. I would like now to turn to specific issues raised by the members.

The member for Hinchinbrook confirmed that section 47D amendments were moved and voted on at five minutes to midnight. He confirmed it. His excuse was that it was just mentioned a few hours earlier that day. What he did not mention is that there had not been any consultation whatsoever with stakeholders. Even the Queensland Resources Council was surprised. The key argument he put is that the Land Court cannot challenge the Coordinator-General's conditions, but the court's role goes well beyond that. The member was trivialising the Land Court's role and not telling the full story about what it does and what it can do. In fact, the president of the Land Court has said that the Land Court still has the power under the EP Act to recommend conditions that deal with the same subject matter as conditions imposed by the Coordinator-General. The president of the Land Court said that this can occur when the court's recommended conditions do not contradict or lack harmony with the Coordinator-General's conditions. I table an extract of the president's decision.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from *Xstrata Coal Queensland Pty Ltd & Ors v. Friends of the Earth—Brisbane Co-Op Ltd & Ors, and Department of Environment and Resource Management* [2012] QLC 013, pp. 17-24 [833].

More to the point, the member for Hinchinbrook has admitted that rights were removed whether or not the Land Court had jurisdiction. The Palaszczuk government remains committed to delivering resource developments by balancing them with the rights of local communities. The right to object goes back through the ages. We are talking here about restoring a long held right to object and have a submission heard by a relevant court or tribunal, which shows how draconian and inequitable section 47D actually was. The right to object to an environmental authority we are restoring was not just some recent new ability for landowners and the public. It was not just some recent legislative amendment that was not working. Objections to an environmental authority for a mining lease were always referred to the Land Court or its predecessors.

Originally, the environmental conditions for mining leases were contained in the mining lease itself and a third party had the right to object to the mining lease under the Mineral Resources Act 1989. The Land and Resources Tribunal was replaced by the Land Court through amendments made in 2007 and was phased out between August 2007 and December 2011. In January 2001 amendments commenced which moved the environmental licensing of mining across—

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Callide, if you want to interject, I suggest you return to your seat. You know the rules of the House. Thank you. The minister has the call.

**Dr LYNHAM:** In January 2001 amendments commenced which moved the environmental licensing of mining across into the Environmental Protection Act 1994. Part of the amendment which effected this change included that the administering authority under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 must refer the objection to the Land and Resources Tribunal.

The facts and history clearly show that the right to object has always been there in some form. At a whim and out of the blue and for no defensible reason, the former LNP government removed it. In many ways it is symbolic of how they set policy on the run and how they operate overall, riding roughshod over fundamental basic rights and dismantling long held democratic traditions and proven project assessment processes.

Those opposite are trying to falsely paint this as being all about the green movement. This shows their narrow-mindedness and lack of appreciation of how important these objection rights are, especially to land holders. If they listened and heard the public reaction, they would understand that this is about the right of anyone to object. As AgForce told the committee—

For co-existence to work there needs to be a robust process to ensure agricultural producers' rights to have control over what happens on and around their land.

AgForce continued—

It is vital that landholders directly affected by a mining lease can have unresolved matters of importance dealt with by an authority capable of providing an outcome.

You tell us you are supposed to be representing these people. What a myth! We are restoring the status quo. We are giving people back their rights—rights they have always had and are entirely entitled to have. I commend this bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Clause 5—

 **Mr CRIPPS** (12.03 pm): I can only imagine the level of embarrassment amongst senior officers of the Department of State Development and senior officers of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines following the contribution of the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines to the debate on this bill and his demonstrable lack of understanding about the content of the bill, which he has introduced into this House, and the effect of its provisions. I can only speculate about the level of embarrassment that they are now feeling following the performance of their minister in this House and the contribution that he has made to this debate in the face of demonstrable evidence that the Land Court is unable to hear and decide on objections to conditions on an environmental authority for a resource project imposed by the Coordinator-General.

Despite my contention that that is the case, two decisions of the Land Court itself stating that that is the case and also the opinion in a submission made to a discussion paper circulated by one of the minister's own departments, the EDO, stating that that is the case, the minister comes in here and asserts something otherwise. It is quite extraordinary. Despite what I am sure was professional and comprehensive advice provided to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines—probably by both of those departments—that the Land Court has no capacity to hear and decide objections lodged in the Land Court to an environmental authority with conditions placed on it by the Coordinator-General, he has still come into this parliament notionally to meet his and the Labor Party's obligation to the Greens. Because they made an election commitment to repeal

section 47D, he has to go through the pantomime of coming in here and moving amendments to restore the ability of individuals and organisations to fill out and lodge a form. But that form to lodge an objection does not bestow upon that individual, organisation, entity or group the right to have the Land Court hear and decide that objection because it has never had that jurisdiction.

I demonstrated that clearly in my contribution to the second reading debate on this bill. I presented the House with two Land Court decisions and the opinion of the fellow travellers of the Labor Party, the EDO, that that was the case. In the face of irrefutable evidence I would ask the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines if he is able to present any evidence. Give me a decision of the Land Court where it has heard an objection to conditions placed on an environmental authority of a resource project that have been placed on that EA by a Coordinator-General. I have given him two decisions of the Land Court demonstrating that that cannot happen. In effect, I suppose I am issuing a challenge to the minister to demonstrate that what he is saying is true. He cannot provide any Land Court decisions where that Land Court member has heard and decided an objection based on conditions placed on an environmental authority by the Coordinator-General relative to a resource project. The minister now has an opportunity to comprehensively demonstrate beyond doubt that he can provide some evidence to this House and its members—who need to make a decision about this amendment—that the Land Court has ever heard and decided objections for conditions on an environmental authority issued by the Coordinator-General.

I am only asking that he meet the same level of proof that I have provided to the House during the second reading debate on this bill, and that is a fair and reasonable request. In the course of the debate I ask that the government—with all of its resources and all of the advice that the minister is able to acquire from his departments—provide some evidence that the Land Court at some point ever has heard and decided on objections contained in an environmental authority for a resource project, those conditions having been placed on that EA by the Coordinator-General. I think that is fair and reasonable. You could not be more fair and reasonable about asking for some evidence.

Here she is: the puppetmaster! She has finally joined us just on cue. I could not have organised it better.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order!

**Mr CRIPPS:** Clause 5 is the amendment in the bill that gives effect to the undertaking that the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has purported that this bill will achieve. Clause 5 is where he should come in and put up or shut up. I think it is a fair and reasonable proposition that he should have to meet at least that burden of evidence that I have met during my contribution to the second reading debate.

In the time remaining to me I will return to a matter that was raised by the minister during the course of his introductory speech for this bill. He said twice on Wednesday—*Hansard* clearly bears this out; I draw it to his attention—that the petition submitted to the Speaker on Monday represented the opinion, the wishes or the will of 4,000 residents of the Darling Downs. The shadow Attorney-General, the member for Mansfield, alluded to the fact that, despite some cursory scrutiny of the document, we are unable to ascertain the origin of the signatures on that piece of paper. The minister might like to take the opportunity during the course of this debate to correct the record, because he cannot demonstrate that his statement is accurate.

This is important, because what this document does and says was referred to by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines not only in his speech when introducing this bill but also to justify moving that this bill be treated as an urgent bill under the standing orders. He used this document as a crutch to justify the introduction of this bill in the first place and then he used this document as a crutch to try to say to this House that this was an urgent bill.

The minister has misrepresented what is on this piece of paper. He has misrepresented its origin and he has misrepresented what it represents as far as it being the expressed opinion—supposedly—of 4,000 people from the Darling Downs, in the electorates of Condamine, Nanango, Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South. He cannot demonstrate, from the document that was tabled by the Clerk, that his statement was correct. It is important because he has misrepresented what it says and he has misrepresented supposedly the expressed will of people from that part of this great state of Queensland.

We know the situation to be something other. We know because of our representation of that area of this state. The members for Nanango, Condamine, Toowoomba North and Toowoomba South all know the true views of people who live in that part of Queensland. The Minister for State

Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has misrepresented what that document represents. He might like to take the opportunity to correct the record as to what the document represents.

I urge members to think about what the minister did on Wednesday in relying on this document when he introduced the bill and also said that it was an urgent bill for the purposes of the standing orders—when he outlined why we needed to deal with this bill during budget week. I urge all members to think about that and demonstrate that they are capable of thinking independently.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I do wish to correct the record. As members will be aware, the petition was tabled just this morning. When I made those comments on Wednesday I was referring to secondary reports. If I need to correct the record, which I will, I will correct the record to the extent required to satisfy the member for Hinchinbrook.

I would also like to correct the member for Hinchinbrook in his assertions. I have tabled the opinion of the president of the Land Court, and that is there for the member for Hinchinbrook. It notes that, despite the Land Court being able to change a Coordinator-General's condition, this does not mean it does not have any role and that it should not hear objections. It can recommend additional conditions or it can recommend that additional conditions added by an administering authority under the EP Act be amended, provided that the additional or amended conditions are not inconsistent with any Coordinator-General conditions. In fact, in relation to GVK's Alpha project the Land Court recommended additional conditions. It is not about the Coordinator-General conditions. The Land Court can recommend additional conditions. It is an important body. Also, the minister responsible would like to hear the Land Court's decision. It helps the minister responsible—my colleague the Minister for Environment and Heritage—to decide on any recommendations he might have to make regarding the environmental authority.

Also, the Land Court's role is to make recommendation to the minister on whether an EA should be granted, with what conditions. In doing so, it has always been the case that the court should have all of the relevant information available to it including any objections from relevant landholders, any objections from relevant farmers or any objections from those in rural communities. Hearing objections to an EA is within the Land Court's jurisdiction, as outlined. The Land Court quite clearly can make recommendations to the minister on whether an EA should be granted and with what conditions.

I also refer to the member for Hinchinbrook's comments about a lack of consultation, or the minute-to-midnight amendments. We have met with local farmers. We have met with groups involved with coalmines. We have met with everyone involved in the New Acland process. We consult. We listen. We make considered decisions. We do not rush. We are not arrogant. We do not exhibit hubris, as do those opposite.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** The point I wish to pursue continues from the point raised by the shadow minister a moment ago. We have before us this non-conforming petition. I do welcome the fact that it has now been tabled in the parliament as that does allow us to be further elucidated as to its contents and the motivation in bringing forward this bill, which has now been declared urgent.

I come back to the assertion made by the minister in his second reading speech. He did say that one of the reasons the bill should be declared urgent and considered is that these people were from the Darling Downs. He has further clarified that this morning and indicated that that may not necessarily be the case. I would like to know if this is the non-conforming petition, with all of the material, including the consolidation of the names, as was presented to the minister or presented to the Speaker. As I understand it, on conforming petitions it is not unusual for people to give their name, their signature and their locality.

The assertion has been made that the people who signed this non-conforming petition are from the Darling Downs. Now we hear that they may not necessarily be from the Darling Downs—or some of them may not be, or a significant number of them may not be. Obviously some of them would be. Minister, was there any material that accompanied the names attached to this document that would indicate where these people live or originated from, or has that been taken out? That is what I would like to know. Is this the way this non-conforming petition was presented?

Indeed, if the names have been consolidated in some way, with the removal of their address and locality, would the minister be so kind as to provide this parliament with a similar spreadsheet indicating their locality—not necessarily the address of the person right down to their PO box or their physical address but certainly the locality? If they come from Oakey, Toowoomba, Pittsworth or my area on the southern Darling Downs, we would appreciate knowing that.

We do know that in this day and age with petitions things are being claimed that are not necessarily true and a false impression is given. That is not to take away from the fact that obviously some signatories would be from the Darling Downs, but we just want to know whether this document is as it was presented. Has there been any attempt whatsoever made to verify where these people come from or has there been removal of their locality, where they live? If so, can we have access to that information?

**Dr LYNHAM:** As far as I am aware, it is a non-conforming petition. That is why it is a non-conforming petition.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Dr LYNHAM:** That is true. As I have also said before, I have been to the district. I have met with concerned landholders. I have been to the coalmine. I have been to New Acland. I have met with the owners of New Acland. I have met with the people in the area.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** I do not believe that the minister has properly responded to the questions and the concerns that I raised. There are a range of reasons as to a matter and why it is not a non-conforming petition. One of the reasons this may not be a non-conforming petition is that the wording is not appropriate for a conforming petition. We know what the wording is. We know what the wording is for a conforming petition. There have been many occasions where I and other members of parliament on both sides have sought leave in this place as part of an adjournment debate or whatever the case may be in order to table non-conforming petitions because the wording is incorrect. The wording of this petition is incorrect because it just has here 'a bill', 'a people's bill', which in very interesting circumstances and unconventional circumstances was presented in the red chamber last year in abuse of what is the convention in this place and a failure of any sort of respect to this place, as I understand, and that of course is a concern. So the wording is incorrect. That does make it a non-conforming petition.

The question that I have—the concern that I have—is this: has there been any consolidation or omission of the locality of these people as part of the preparation of this information, this bill and its accompanying information for presentation to the parliament this morning? Will the minister undertake to seek advice from the Clerk? This is what I just simply want to know. Is this exactly in the form as it was presented? Was there any information that was provided as to the further identity of these people in terms of where they live? I am not asking for their actual address—1 X Road somewhere or other—but simply where do they live? What is their postcode? What is their locality? I do not think that that is unreasonable because that is consistent with any number of conforming petitions which have been brought into this parliament and presented in the past. I simply want to know: is this all the information? That is very easy. Is this all the information? If that is the case, then I accept that. But we just want to know if that is the case. Therefore, if that is all of the information then, of course, it is an enormous leap then to turn around and say that all of those people have come from the Darling Downs. If it is not all of the information, then can we have access to all of the information because it might help inform us as to the honesty of various statements and the motivations of various statements which have been made here during the course of the introduction and the passage of this legislation and during the debate?

**Dr LYNHAM:** That petition is not my document. I did not table it.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Dr LYNHAM:** The urgency required was that we would allow every Queenslanders the restoration of their rights to object to any proposed mining project. The urgency was required for that reason.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): I call the Leader of the Opposition, but I warn the Leader of the Opposition that we are here to debate clause 5. I have given you a fairly good go. We are not here to debate the petition; we are here to debate the merits of clause 5. Unless you have something different to raise in relation to clause 5, I will rule you out of order and I will put the clause. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr SPRINGBORG:** The only way we can debate the merits of clause 5 is to understand the merits of the argument that actually led to the presentation of clause 5 into this parliament. My simple question is: can the minister assure the House that all of these people actually come from Queensland? Can we have—

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition has defied your ruling by immediately coming to the point of raising the matter of the petition. I suggest that we move on to deal with clause 5.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. I think that we have debated clause 5 at this stage with no new issues being raised. That being the case, I will put the question.

Division: Question put—That clause 5, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 46:**

**ALP, 43**—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, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Pyne, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

**NOES, 42:**

**LNP, 42**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, McVeigh, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 5, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 6 to 13, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.31 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.31 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 16 July (see p. 1550), on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (12.32 pm): In last year's budget reply I compared the then treasurer to Indiana Jones. He was the one who was getting Queensland out the financial snake pit that the previous Labor government had thrust on all Queenslanders. He was paying down the debt, expenses had been reined in and infrastructure was being built. Included in all of that were vast improvements in transport, health, education and law and order, just to name a few. A record amount

of money had been committed to child safety—\$406 million over four years—after the LNP government had undertaken the commission of inquiry. Why was that inquiry established? Because for years Labor had neglected this crucial portfolio, with the budget being tripled over a 10-year period but at the same time record numbers of children entering into out-of-home care. The portfolio was at risk of collapse. Under the former LNP government, the previous budget also achieved a predicted surplus. For the first time in a decade, a surplus was in sight. Queensland was on track to be the hub of activity and the envy of the other states of Australia.

This year, I have named the Treasurer David Copperfield. He is the David Copperfield of treasurers because this budget is an illusion. It is a budget that is bad for jobs, it is a budget that is bad for growth, it is a budget of tricks, manoeuvring and the raiding of public servants' long service leave and superannuation. Worst of all, the promise to pay down the debt turns out to be a debt-shifting exercise. Come on! Surely, even government members do not believe that moving debt around actually reduces it? If that is how they all manage their own finances, it is a scary thought.

The electorate of Mount Ommaney is no better off with the delivery of this budget. In fact, I would go so far to say that my electorate is being punished. Nothing new in this budget is being delivered to my electorate except a slug on car registration. The budget claims that the substation upgrade at Jindalee is occurring. That upgrade is three-quarters completed. There is a \$2 million commitment to lane alignment on the Centenary Highway. That project was announced on 3 September 2014. In fact, between the 2012 and 2015 budgets, Mount Ommaney was a great beneficiary.

Sadly, this budget lacks vision. As the Premier lives in my electorate, it is disappointing but not surprising to note that the No. 1 piece of infrastructure, Sumner Road—a key piece of infrastructure that needs upgrading desperately—has not been funded. It has been talked about for over 10 years. In my first term I committed to fighting for this funding and I had secured it had the LNP been re-elected. As I said, the Premier, who lives in my electorate, would surely understand the frustration that the congestion that happens currently on a daily basis is creating and how crucial this duplication is, especially when the industrial estates at Darra and Seventeen Mile Rocks as well as the Sumner business estate is so reliant on access to the motorways. By not upgrading this infrastructure, we are stifling job creation and productivity.

I acknowledge that the health minister has committed to continue funding for the public beds at the palliative care unit at Canossa. But that is because the former LNP government had reopened them and funded them after the previous Labor government had closed them.

I turn now to my shadow portfolio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and multicultural affairs. Firstly, I find it very interesting that I had to search hard in all the budget papers and all the Service Delivery Statements to find a mention that we had a Multicultural Affairs portfolio. I was going through all the budget papers and then I suddenly spied it under the Service Delivery Statements of the department of communities. On page 2 I spied a tiny little paragraph that said—

Departmental overview

...

Advancing strategies that enable social and economic opportunities for women, seniors, young people, and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including a Multicultural Queensland Charter and Advisory Council.

There was another reference to multicultural affairs on page 8, where the Service Delivery Statements claimed the following in its highlights for 2015-16—

Additional funding of \$770,000 per annum will support the implementation of Multicultural Recognition Legislation. This investment will also enable the promotion of a Multicultural Queensland Charter and support a Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council to engage with stakeholders across Queensland.

What does that mean? Can I interpret that to say that we are defunding the EECQ and setting up a rival? Is that what is occurring? The detail that this government has provided regarding the plans and directions of this important portfolio is so lightweight and flimsy that it is disrespectful to the hardworking multicultural groups in our state.

I turn now to the portfolio of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Again, there are some grave contradictions in the Service Delivery Statements. Firstly, why would the government reopen old wounds regarding stolen wages? In 2008, an exhaustive search was conducted by the previous Labor government after all the claimants had come forward. As a result of the surplus set aside in a trust, QATSIF scholarships were formed. The main purpose of QATSIF was to provide scholarships to advance the education of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. In its first year,

106 students took up scholarships. QATSIF is now in its sixth year and, this year, 1,306 scholarships were awarded. Members may recall Aunty Ruth Hegarty. When I attended the QATSIF graduation earlier this year she told me that, in the beginning, she had been a staunch and vocal opponent of the trust being set up. In time, she then saw the benefits of QATSIF. I see a contradiction in the Service Delivery Statements in that, although the government is talking about jobs, education and supporting our Aboriginal community, it then wants to go and open up old wounds. That is placing the scholarships in jeopardy and this is a great concern.

My next point is on page 2 of the SDS under the heading 'Departmental Overview'. It refers to generating real change in employment opportunities for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people. I believe that here again is a contradiction because, if we go to page 5, it refers to the targets in economic participation and the number of jobs for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people. The target in 2014-15 was 300. In 2014-15 the actual was 832—well above the target level. Then if we go to the 2015-16 target estimate we are back down to 400. The question has to be asked: why is there such a low expectation in this vital area which contradicts generating real change in employment opportunity? I just do not understand that and I will be looking forward to asking more questions on that at the estimates hearing.

My last point is in relation to page 4, 'Service approach'—

Strategic objective 2: Growing emerging businesses and increasing home and land ownership.

Again, there appears to be no performance measures. How do you plan to grow emerging businesses if you do not have anything to measure it against? Again, this is a portfolio that I think needs a lot more in-depth explanation.

Quite simply, I believe that this budget is duping Queenslanders. I believe that this government has no plan. I believe it is a tricky budget; it shows this government cannot be trusted. It is borrowing for the future instead of investing in the future. Raiding Public Service long service leave and superannuation is not a plan. It is a magician's trick—an accounting trick—that burdens future generations of Queenslanders. I do not believe that this budget does anything to address unemployment or boost business confidence. It is business that drives the economy. It is business that does the employing. It is business that provides the foundation for the growth that Queensland so desperately needs. We on this side have a real economic plan to kickstart this economy. We are about paying down the debt and delivering job creation infrastructure. Even ratings agencies Moody's and Standard & Poor's have pointed out that this budget will do nothing to address the high debt. As I said, I give this budget about as much credibility as Bill Shorten's appearance at the royal commission into trade unions.

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (12.43 pm): I rise today to speak in support of this first budget by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the honourable Treasurer and cabinet on delivering a true Labor budget, a budget that delivers on jobs, delivers on education and health services for Queenslanders and, importantly, a budget that retains in government ownership our revenue producing assets while reducing debt in a sensible and stable way. Queenslanders can breathe a sigh of relief upon hearing this budget. After the high of the State of Origin win last week Queenslanders can continue to be happy to know that our great state is a winner not only in rugby league but also now in economic terms.

This budget will deliver on what is a priority always for Labor governments: jobs for Queenslanders. There is nothing more important to us than to keep Queenslanders in decent jobs that are safe, secure and rewarding. The Working Queensland program will deliver on our promises and will do this through the important tasks of skills development, fostering emerging and innovative industries and by supporting investment in infrastructure. It will help build new businesses leading to jobs now and jobs for the future. This budget will focus, as promised, on the restoration of those front-line services like health and education—services that suffered so much at the hands of the LNP cruel cuts.

This budget brings a record increase to health, delivering more nurses across the state. We will also deliver on nurse-to-patient ratios, an initiative that not only saves lives but also provides Queenslanders with quality health care. This budget also gives our new nurse graduates a future they deserve and one that we all need them for. This budget also brings a record increase to education and training which will provide more teachers and better classrooms and helps with restoring TAFE to its rightful place in our training agenda. Our teachers are at the forefront of preparing our children and jobseekers for their future and it is too important to let them down. My local schools will be amongst the first to benefit from the new funding.

The best part of this budget's focus on jobs, health and education is that all this is being done while leaving my industry, the electricity supply industry, in strong government hands. In doing so this secures the safety, supply and affordability of our electricity network for all Queenslanders and job security and safety for the men and women who work in the industry.

The people of Kallangur are winners in this budget. We have secured over \$4 million to complete the replacement of a new fire and rescue station at Petrie. We have \$4 million for additional classrooms at Pine Rivers Special School. We have funding for flashing lights at Narangba State School and Pine Rivers Special School. Over \$5½ million of funding is committed to assisting people with a disability and their families to access support services and funding for seniors in the Home Assist program to help them remain independent and safe in their homes. Funding is provided in 2015-16 to commence the construction of the Bruce Highway-Boundary Road interchange. And the final funding for a third rail line between Lawnton and Petrie stations which will allow the Moreton Bay Rail Link to integrate with our existing network.

As a result of Labor's election promise to commit to an extra 875 teachers in this term of government, my electorate is expected to receive up to 13 new full-time-equivalent teacher resources over the next three years across local state, primary, high and special schools. I am also happy to inform the House that funding has been provided for my election commitment to a project plan that will focus on what can be done to restore and rebuild lost local community services. This funding, whilst it is only small in budgetary terms, will give me the resources to kickstart the consultation and planning around an integrated community hub at Kallangur that will rehouse lost local community and youth services. Over recent years in Kallangur we have gradually lost many of our community services and private businesses to high-growth areas like North Lakes. For many of my constituents this means being unable to access library, youth groups, banking and even JP services. Many of our great community organisations are in need of suitable premises to conduct their good works. Thanks to this funding I will now be able to consult widely with the community, police, churches, business, local youth and family services and council to decide the type of facilities and services that will best provide what the area needs and to put together a well-considered plan to set about restoring and revitalising the heart of Kallangur. This is all great news for Kallangur.

I am very pleased to see that my neighbouring MP and friend Nikki Boyd has managed to secure a much needed upgrade to Strathpine station. It has been a long time in coming, I know, and I hope in the not-too-distant future to be able to deliver similar news to my own electorate in relation to Dakabin station. I commit to continue to lobby with tenacity for a similarly necessary upgrade to Dakabin and that will not stop.

A few short months ago the people of Queensland faced the very real prospect of a mass fire sale of public revenue producing assets like our electricity supply industry by the LNP, a sale that came without any guarantee of affordability, reliability or safety. Workers faced more of the same from an arrogant, uncaring LNP—fear for their jobs, wages and their conditions like health and safety. Health workers protested in the streets against cruel cuts to service delivery, our classrooms began to become more crowded and resource deprived while also facing potential losses of land and assets to the private sector.

A few short months ago, Queenslanders made a decision to vote for a Labor government that would deliver for the people of Queensland and provide funding for infrastructure, education and health, as well as creating jobs now and into the future. It was the right choice and this budget shows it to be so. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.49 pm): I join the House in discussing the appropriation bills. I have now been in this House for about 11 years and this is my 12th budget. To my recollection, I have never seen a Health budget that is reduced on prior years. In fact, every Health budget is a record budget. Every year it is a record budget. In the budget, it is not the amount of money or the inputs that really count; it is the human outcomes that should be the catalyst to assess whether or not a particular budget is correct, satisfactory and delivers what it should. We need to start adopting a mantra of not focusing on the size of the budget as the only KPI; we need to focus on the human outcomes, particularly in the Health budget, as the KPI.

Many members opposite have talked about health cuts. With respect, no-one has actually pointed to where the budget was cut in the past three financial years under the LNP. As I said, over the past three financial years there have been record budgets. There have been no health cuts in relation to the amount of money put on the table by the LNP, nor were there any cuts under the ALP in the past

24 or 25 years that it was in government. Many opposition members have attacked the budget, but I will not stand for that in regard to health. It is absolutely incorrect, because one particular section in the Health budget actually reflects the truth of the past three financial years under the LNP. The SDS, at page 32, refers to the financial performance of the health system. The Department of Health commits to ensuring good outcomes. The SDS states—

This commitment has been demonstrated through significant improvements in productivity and efficiency which have led to the generation of surpluses over the last three years while still delivering increased activity across the system. This control will be maintained over the current financial year.

There it is, in the budget papers. The government's SDS states that the last financial years were not just good; they produced a surplus and also delivered increased activity across the system. The past three financial years have now become the benchmark because of that last sentence: 'This control will be maintained over the current financial year'. That is written in black and white. The LNP government's budget delivered outcomes that were of a standard that the current government wishes to emulate. A reflection of that nature can only be positive for the former health minister, Mr Lawrence Springborg. In my opinion, it highlights quite clearly that the work that he did was of such a nature that the ALP now says that it wishes to emulate those outcomes. You cannot get a better accolade than that.

In this House we often hear the term 'the patient's journey' used to define when a patient enters the health system. It might be defined as when the patient first goes to the GP, the hospital or the ED. I propose an alternative: the health journey of every patient in this state begins in the womb. It begins at conception, because it is in the formative years of our lives that we develop the practices and the outcomes that affect what we do and how we act, and the outcomes on our health as years go by. It is about time we focused on the fact that the health journey starts in the womb and not somewhere else. If we can prevent the early onset of chronic disease through early-years education and processes, coming back to the mother and the father and then taking that through to the schools, while promoting exercise, we may not need go to the acute phase.

For a long period we have defined the health system in compartments. For a long period we have seen health as a number of interlinking components. The health system of the future is going to be different. It has to be different because, despite our record budgets, the experts have real concern that the outputs are not commensurate with the dollar value that we are inputting. How then do we focus on the hospital of the future or, more importantly, what do we say is the hospital of the future? What will be a hospital in 10 years time? In this House previously I have asked this question: can we continue to keep building hospitals like the Sunshine Coast public hospital at a cost of \$2 billion? Is that something that we can continue to do going forward? Certainly I concede that I am no expert in this field. What role do the primary health networks, in place as of 1 July this year, play in the development of a collective approach to health outcomes in conjunction with the HHSs? No-one seems to quite understand—and I certainly do not—what the role of the PHNs are going to be going forward. As they are the primary health networks, it is critical that they are integrated into the state system, principally with the HHSs. In time to come, what will be the role of GPs? In many senses, they are the front-line service providers across the state. What will be the role of universities going forward? What role will they play in research and development so that we understand where we are headed in the process of rolling out a new health system? More importantly, and I think critically, what will be the role of the community going forward? Those factors and others need to be considered to develop a health strategy that looks forward towards the next 10 years.

There are a number of matters in the SDS that I wish to quickly touch upon. One is the question of outpatients. At estimates I will be very keen to talk with the health minister and the DDG in relation to what those outpatient figures represent and, more importantly, what the percentiles are to be and why we cannot focus on those at this point in time. The LNP has made a commitment that we will enter into the wait-time guarantee again. It is about time that we considered how we combine elective surgery waiting lists and outpatients for a seamless journey. I suspect that they are segmented along the way. We need to have a new system in place, so that outpatients are not distinct from the surgery waiting lists and that there is a one-body approach to deal with all the issues associated with those patients moving forward.

I wish to touch very quickly upon the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. I think we can now say that we have put to bed the allegations that there was some funding black hole on the Sunshine Coast. In fact, on both sides of the House the funding is identical. It was and is identical. The same amount of money will be spent over the same period. It was scaremongering by the minister.

In my own electorate, I highlight the Currimundi Special School, which has been granted funding of \$1.4 million by the government. For many years, Mr Alwyn Green has been the principal of Currimundi Special School. You will not find a more dedicated teacher or human being in regards to children with special education needs. That man needs to be congratulated for the great work he has done. For many years he has stood by those children and he has done an exceptional job.

In conclusion, this government has no plan, it is raiding the super funds, it is going to take away long service leave entitlements and it has no plan to attack unemployment or boost business. There are some good things in this budget, but they are very few. At the end of the day, the Health budget needs a lot of work to achieve the outcomes and the long-term planning that we need to establish a health system that we can rely upon in 10 years time.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.30 pm.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (2.30 pm): I rise to speak to the government's 2015-16 budget handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday, 14 July. Previous budgets of the LNP government delivered essential infrastructure and services for the people of Cleveland and Queensland, while repairing the debt and deficit-laden government finances.

In government we delivered fiscally responsible budgets in the face of the difficult economic circumstances we inherited from 14 years of Labor governments. We reduced Labor's debt while investing what was available in schools, hospitals and roads, among other things. We made significant progress in restoring the finances, growing diverse economies and revitalising front-line services. In real terms we increased spending in front-line services like health, education and police.

At the end of our term in government we had reigned in Labor's debt and deficits and left the state's finances in a healthier position than the way we found them. We turned an unsustainable situation that we inherited into a more sustainable one.

With the change of government, the Labor Party inherited a more stable economic situation on which to build. They have an opportunity now that we never had. However, unfortunately, instead of continuing our successful financial strategies they have reverted to type and have brought down a bad budget that increases deficits, increases the debt burden on our children and grandchildren and only delivers for unions.

This first Labor budget is bad for the economy, it is bad for jobs and it is bad for growth. Cumulative over the next three years we see that economic growth is 0.5 per cent lower, employment growth is down 1.75 per cent and unemployment will likely remain at 6.5 per cent. It does not produce the jobs now nor in the future. It does not build confidence in the Queensland economy.

It is a budget of tricks and raids on public servants' long service leave and superannuation entitlements. Despite the assurance from the government, the budget papers reveal that Labor will rip \$3.4 billion from the long service leave fund. The raid on public servant superannuation has no mandate as Labor did not tell Queenslanders they were going to do this before the election.

Of the funds raided, only \$2.6 billion will be applied to debt in 2017-18, but debt will continue to rise. The debt shuffle from general government debt to government owned companies will not pay down debt in any real terms and does not provide a pathway back to a AAA credit rating that the previous Labor government lost.

In my electorate of Cleveland this budget effectively delivers an infrastructure freeze. The government has admitted that in the budget there are no major projects for mainland Redland City. This admission is most evident in the government's own Brisbane regional budget statement that I have here. We all have a copy of the regional budget statement for Brisbane. It has a map in the middle of it. It outlines 17 things that the government is wanting to deliver.

Members can see that across the eastern side of the map—the bayside area of Redland City—there is nothing. There is nothing except towns, areas and suburbs named Cleveland, Sheldon, Victoria Point, Redland Bay and Mount Cotton. All the way through Redland City, the mainland of Redland City, there is nothing at all. We have an infrastructure freeze. That says it all.

There is a freeze in terms of Health infrastructure for Redland City. The government's Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3, states that \$1.3 billion will be spent on capital purchases for the Health portfolio, including several identified major projects at Queensland hospitals.

But what is revealed with respect to the greater Brisbane region—that the Redlands and my electorate of Cleveland is a part of—is that no capital funding appears to be set aside for Redland Hospital. The government appears to be planning a drought for capital Health spending in Redland City.

No commitment to the Redland Hospital expansion by widening the hospital precinct footprint on government land north of the current site is evident. The Metro South board was in the process of securing the surplus and unusable greenfield TAFE land north of the hospital to set it aside for the long-term expansion of Redland Hospital—in response partly to my initiative to lock that land away for the hospital precinct—using the QTAMA legislation to achieve that very important outcome.

After five months of no apparent progress on that matter, plus the undoing of the QTAMA legislation, and now with no apparent funds set aside in the budget, the situation is unclear. I call on the health minister today to confirm whether my land acquisition proposal for locking that land away for future hospital expansion is still in process or whether it is no longer being considered.

The budget suggests that there are no capital projects being planned with regard to the Redland Hospital like an intensive care unit, a further rehabilitation area, a wing or a separate area with more beds or even a car park area. There are no plans that can be made out from this current budget. I would be happy for the health minister to explain if that is not the case.

The local health achievement that I was most satisfied with under the LNP government was the establishment of a new \$5.9 million palliative care service or unit at the Redland Hospital. This new health service includes an in-hospital five-bed palliative care service based at the Redland Hospital itself, plus additional in-house or in-home capacity all based out of the Redland Hospital. This was a hard fought for initiative that over a number of years working together with the community we were able to achieve in our time in government.

We also completed the construction of the new emergency department at the Redland Hospital, including a paediatric section and 10 new short-stay beds, among other things. The joke however at the Redland Hospital was that when Labor did the initial planning of the emergency department expansion they forgot to budget for the recurrent costs to employ the additional ED nurses and doctors. So there was no money left to employ anyone when it was opened.

**Mr Crandon:** So they call that a joke now?

**Dr ROBINSON:** It was the joke going around. Under the LNP government more ambulance officers and new ambulances were provided at Cleveland and Birkdale stations. A new and better ambulance station was built in Cleveland to replace the old one that burnt down. It is not clear from the budget papers whether Cleveland and Birkdale stations will receive anything in the future. We will have to wait and see whether my ambos will be supported to do their jobs, I guess.

The Labor government's budget reduces the increase in Health spending to a mere 4.1 per cent. This is substantially less than the increase in Health spending in the last LNP budget. So we see that Labor has reduced the rate of growth of Health spending by cutting funding, in all likelihood, from areas like Redland City and Redland Hospital. People are receiving no identifiable infrastructure funding.

This compares poorly to the substantial investment in capital and recurrent funding at the Redland Hospital under the LNP government. Under the LNP government we got our fair share of Health funding, but under this Labor government we are getting a hospital infrastructure freeze in Redland City. Sadly, this budget not only imposes an infrastructure freeze on capital expenditure at the Redland Hospital but it cancelled the LNP's Mums and Bubs initiative. This initiative supported new mums at one of the most vulnerable times in their lives. Now this government has cut that support for our mums and their babies.

There is also a freeze on education infrastructure in Redland City. The government's Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3, states that Labor will make capital purchases of some \$427 million in schools across the state. But none of this funding is identified for projects in Cleveland schools. Cleveland schools do not appear to be receiving their fair share of capital funding—again, we see an infrastructure freeze in Redland City. It seems that, with less than 50 per cent of the seats, Labor electorates will receive some 60 per cent of listed education capital funding. That explains why Cleveland does not appear to be receiving our fair share.

Under the LNP government, important capital works occurred like the construction of the Cleveland State High School year 7 building and the Bay View State School indoor auditorium. But there are still challenges remaining that this bill should be addressing in my view, like the indoor multipurpose auditorium for Cleveland High. It is one of only two state high schools, I am told—I believe—that is without a hall or auditorium in which the whole school can assemble undercover. Almost 1,900 students now attend Cleveland District State High School and soon it will be 2,000. An undercover auditorium is badly needed.

Under the LNP government, Cleveland schools loved receiving the Great Results Guarantee funding. It is a pity that from 2016, at least, there is no guarantee of the guarantee. Labor has also failed to plan for the 443 extra classrooms statewide that our students will need over the next 10 years. Some of those additional classrooms will soon be needed at Cleveland State High School. In time a new high school will likely be needed in the southern Thornlands area. I call on the government to investigate this and respond to these emerging needs.

The last LNP government budget contained an increase in education funding of seven per cent over the previous year. The increase in education funding provided improved education for Queensland children. The Great Results Guarantee initiative invested millions of dollars in the schools of the Cleveland electorate, together with our fair share of the \$300 million school maintenance program.

The installation of flashing school lights at Wellington Point State High School, Wellington Point State School, Thornlands State School and Redlands Special School has improved safety for our children going to and from school. Star of the Sea Catholic School and Redlands College have a commitment to receive flashing school lights in the near future as well.

There has also been a freeze on public transport and major arterial roads in Redland City and the Cleveland area. The government's Capital Statement, Budget Paper No. 3, states that there will be \$3.9 billion spent on transport and main roads across the state. But again the infrastructure freeze upon Cleveland and Redland City means no funding for major transport and main roads infrastructure.

The government has provided no funding for the Eastern Busway, as the former Labor premier Bligh and the current Premier when transport minister standing by her side promised to do. They promised to do so, yet there was no funding from the state coffers in the forward estimates. They have no funding for the rail duplication to Cleveland station, despite the Labor candidate in the 2012 election promising, as part of an election promise, that they would duplicate the rail line to Cleveland station. I call on the government to fulfil that commitment of one of its candidates. They have no funding for upgrades and car parking at Ormiston and Birkdale stations. There is nothing for public transport.

**A government member** interjected.

**Dr ROBINSON:** I am happy for the member to point out where it is in the budget, but it does not appear to be there. There is no funding for major arterial roads that are already suffering from traffic congestion. Labor's solution to traffic congestion in Redland City is more cars on the roads and less public transport. There are no dollars for Rickertt Road in a joint funding arrangement with the Brisbane City Council. It is admittedly a Brisbane City Council road but in the past it was jointly funded with state funds and Redland City Council funds for the Redland City side of the road—so there are no funds there. There are no funds for the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road duplication, no funds for Old Cleveland Road, no funds for Mount Cotton road—nothing.

In comparison, the LNP in government continued to invest in things like the Eastern TransitWay, provided an additional 450 seats at peak time on the Cleveland line and upgraded the Cleveland station. Probably the biggest achievement of the LNP government in Redland City was the planning of Toondah Harbour. This PDA PPP development and transport hub is a \$1.3 billion mixed commercial-residential-marina and ferry terminal project that was made possible by the LNP's Economic Development Act. It will generate 1,000 jobs per annum in the construction stage and many jobs beyond that ongoing in tourism, hospitality and small business. But those jobs will not replace Labor's job losses on North Stradbroke Island. So the securing of this project by the LNP in our time in government should not be used as a reason for this government to impose its infrastructure freeze upon Redland City.

In terms of shutting North Stradbroke Island mining down by 2019, I want to make just a few comments—and much more in the future will probably need to be said, and also in terms of Toondah Harbour there is much more to be said. This year's state budget has delivered bad news for North Stradbroke Island residents. Without consultation they have discovered that this government will legislate to shut mining down by 2019, sacking up to 600 workers in direct and indirect jobs—and 50 of those are Indigenous workers with very dignified, well-paid jobs. I am proud of the Dunwich community as one of the finest examples of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people living together. One of our best communities is now going to have up to 50 Indigenous jobs taken away by a decision of this Labor government, and I think that is an absolute shame. I do not see how that in any way closes the gap that we see here in Australia and in Queensland, when many of us with a background like me in Indigenous education have tried to do what we could. This is an absolute disgrace.

I call upon the Premier to intervene and to listen to what the local people are saying. There has been outrage, an outcry, on the island from all segments across-the-board with a few exceptions. The chamber of commerce and the Australian Workers' Union have come out and condemned it. It is an interesting day when the Australian Workers' Union comes out and supports the same thing that an LNP member of parliament is saying. I think if that is not sending some warning bells to those opposite about this decision, I do not know what is. I ask them to consider that and give it further thought before the final decision is taken.

Labor has decided in this budget to put up some \$20 million for the short-term problem, but this will not make any significant dent in the major gap that will be caused by another recession that will happen on the island. I do not have time in this speech to address that in any great detail, but I intend to in the future. I just hope that we can find a bipartisan solution to this so there is not this chopping and changing, stopping and starting—a new date and then another date—so that people can have some certainty about their lives, their businesses, their homes. The prices of homes are going up and down. All of that is very disruptive to their lives. I believe there is a better way to go forward on this.

The \$20 million will not go very far. What will be needed is hundreds of millions of dollars over the next five or so years if 2019 is still the date of when it is going to happen. Everybody is against it. Brisbane Marketing has come out and said that you cannot have a replacement economy with tourism in that period of time. They have come out and said that the previous Bligh plan could not be done in that time frame either. Much longer lead times are needed to grow tourism and that is a very important thing. We would need apparently something like five Tangaloomas almost instantaneously to substitute for the economic loss that would come from the mine closing in such a short period of time. It is not workable. Nobody believes that it really is. I call on the government to think about that and for us to try to come up with a bipartisan solution, and I would be very happy to be a part of making that happen.

In terms of recreational fishers and boaties, there is not much for them to see in this budget. We had a good record while we were in government with the \$50 million Marine Infrastructure Fund. About \$1 million of that was spent on new boat ramps and upgrading boat ramps and floating walkways in the Cleveland area, which was received very well by recreational fishers and boaties. But, unfortunately, this government has cut \$10 million out of their recreational fishing with its cuts to the Marine Infrastructure Fund.

It was a \$50 million fund. I had something to do with putting together the policy a little way back. That \$50 million over four years has become \$30 million over three years. So it has gone from \$12½ million per annum to \$10 million per annum. In anyone's terms, that is a \$2½ million cut per year and \$10 million over the forward estimates for four years. It is a disgrace and it will not be received well by recreational fishermen across Queensland. I am sure they will be very unhappy when they find out that Greens preferences have once again put them backwards. Who knows about the Labor tax on fishing that may be coming with the recreational fishing licence that has been discussed?

In conclusion, much was achieved by the LNP government in the Cleveland electorate. I am very proud of what we achieved, but this infrastructure freeze from this bad budget that has been imposed by this Labor government on the people of Cleveland is unacceptable. I will continue to fight for our fair share of Health, Education Transport, Main Roads and every other state government area that exists.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (2.50 pm): I rise in support of the budget and the appropriation bills. Finally, after three long years Queensland once again has a government that cares about people and that likes people—finally. We went to the last election promising Queenslanders a better way and by golly this budget delivers a better way for Queenslanders. Not only does it deliver on our election commitments; it delivers a budget surplus, it delivers a reduction in net government general debt, it restores front-line services, it creates jobs now and for the future—and I think this is the thing that upsets the opposition the most—and it does all of those things without privatising our most profitable income-generating assets. I think that upsets them the most.

All through this budget debate the opposition members have been so miserable. They are so sad. It is like a dove of Eeyores—'Oh, Madam Deputy Speaker, I'm so sad. Oh, Madam Deputy Speaker, I'm so disappointed with the budget. Oh, Madam Deputy Speaker, this is such a horrible budget.' Like poor old Eeyore, this is a poor excuse of an opposition. Not only can't they see the good in this budget; they have forgotten so quickly all the damage they did to Queensland when they were last in government. They have forgotten the higher debt that they delivered. They have forgotten the higher deficits that they delivered. They have forgotten the higher unemployment that they delivered. They have forgotten the 14,000 public servants that they sacked?

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** I hear a couple of interjections. I always love reading the financial parts of the budget. If we look at page 197 of Budget Paper No. 2 we can see when the biggest net operating deficit in Queensland's history was delivered. It was the 2012-13 financial year when they were in government. The biggest net operating deficit in Queensland's history was the financial year of 2012-13 when they were in government. The highest level of net government debt in Queensland's history was under them. They have forgotten so quickly. They have forgotten those 14,000 public servants that they sacked. How short their memory is.

Thank goodness we now have a government that likes people, that cares for people and that will be delivering a better way for Queenslanders. We have heard them being so sad about this budget. We have heard them say how horrible it is. I wanted to go to some of the budget initiatives to see how sad they really are about these things. Are they so sad about the record spend in Health—\$14.2 billion, an extra \$2.3 billion for front-line services and improved health outcomes? Are they sad about that? If they are, they should go out to their communities and say, 'We won't accept that. We don't want a record spend in Health.'

Maybe what they should be doing is sticking up for Queenslanders by standing up to Tony Abbott and their LNP mates, because their LNP mates in Canberra are the ones who are cutting money out of the Queensland Health budget. They are the ones who are cutting \$11.8 billion over the forward estimates from the Queensland government growth funding spend in Health. If they are so sad about this budget, if they are so sad about the record spend in Health, they can go out to their communities and say, 'We don't want a record spend in Health. We don't want \$14.2 billion in Health.'

Let us see if they are all so sad about the Education budget. It seems that they are very sad and disappointed about the record spend in Education, the \$12.4 billion record spend—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! Unfortunately, there is a bit of banter going across the chamber that has nothing to do with the member for Morayfield's speech. Members know better, as this is against the standing orders. I ask members to cease that. The member for Morayfield has the call.

**Mr RYAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I was speaking about education. Maybe if the other side listened for a moment it might learn something. The education component of this year's budget is delivering a record spend—\$12.4 billion for schools, teachers and students all over Queensland, particularly in the Morayfield electorate. I am very pleased to see that this budget will deliver extra teaching resources for the schools of the Morayfield electorate. Also, importantly, it confirms the funding for some additional classroom facilities at the Caboolture Special School, the biggest special school in Queensland. We have almost 250 students at the Caboolture Special School, and I pay tribute to the principal and staff, particularly the teachers and teacher aides, of the Caboolture Special School for the good work they do for the wonderful kids who attend the Caboolture Special School.

The budget also confirms funding for the Trade Skills Centre at the Caboolture Special School. The opposition will probably also be a bit sad and disappointed about the Trade Skills Centre because their federal colleagues opposed the trade training centres program, but thank goodness for the previous federal Labor government and the current Queensland state Labor government that we will be delivering that Trades Skills Centre for the kids of the Caboolture Special School. We also see in this year's budget that there are some funds available to refurbish the Special Education Unit at the Morayfield State High School.

I wonder whether the opposition members are also so sad and disappointed about this budget which delivers record money to assist in domestic violence prevention. It is a great initiative being led by this government to make sure that families receive the support they need to provide safe households and safe family environments. Some of the really exciting things that I see in the social services space—the space where we see that this government really truly does like people—is a return of funding for tenancy advice services. I pay tribute to Enhanced Care, which is based in the Moreton Bay region, which is providing a tenancy advice service right now. They continued to provide that service for the last three years. Despite the other side cutting funding to tenancy advice services, we had a wonderful organisation that without any government funding continued to provide tenancy advice services for the people of the Moreton Bay region and, more broadly, throughout Queensland. I pay tribute to them and welcome the announcement that additional funding will be provided in this budget for tenancy advice services all over Queensland.

I also welcome the news that funding will be provided to restore diversionary courts such as Murri courts and drug courts. This is very important funding for some very important initiatives which provide alternative support options for some of our most vulnerable Queenslanders. In particular, I see that funding will be restored for youth justice conferencing. This is probably one of the most important things that we do in the justice space—providing direct support and direct assistance to young people who may come in contact with the criminal justice system.

The interesting thing about the youth justice conferencing arrangements in Queensland is that they are world leading. In fact, I find it very humorous that at the time when the previous government was cutting funding for youth justice conferencing there were international jurisdictions from all over the world coming to Queensland to say, 'Tell us how to do youth justice conferencing. It is the best thing in the world. Tell us how to do it. Teach us your program. Show us the system.' At the very same time they were cutting funding to youth justice conferencing, the world was saying, 'We need it.' Thank goodness this government is restoring funding for youth justice conferencing.

I wonder if the opposition members are also so sad and disappointed about the additional funding which will be provided for drought assistance for our rural brothers and sisters in Queensland. I wonder if they are so sad and disappointed about the money which will be provided to construct a \$30 million state netball stadium. I tell you who is not disappointed about that, and that is the 1,500 young ladies who played netball at the Suzuki Challenge Carnival at Caboolture last week. They were very excited about the commitment by this Queensland Labor government to provide \$30 million for a state netball stadium.

We know what the LNP members are really sad and disappointed about and it is something they cut when they were in government—that is, the funding for Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Thank goodness that has been confirmed in this budget because for the local people in the Morayfield electorate, particularly those young people who are desperate to find jobs, Skilling Queenslanders for Work will deliver. It will provide them with the support they need to find a job and get into the workforce. I wonder really if the LNP members are so sad and disappointed about the \$1.2 billion operating surplus that this government will deliver and the reduction in net government general debt.

**Mr Rickuss:** Mark, can you really say that with a straight face?

**Mr RYAN:** I can. It is in the budget papers, mate. Here it is.

**Mr Rickuss:** It is written on a piece of paper.

**Mr RYAN:** It is a document—\$1.2 billion operating surplus. Wow, what a good government we are! This is a good budget for the people of the Morayfield electorate. It is a good budget for Queenslanders. I ask all members of this House to support it.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.01 pm): I rise in response to the 2015-16 budget that has been foisted on the state of Queensland and on Queenslanders by this government that simply has no plan. As far as the Coomera electorate is concerned, sadly, there is really not much to say because there is nothing new in the budget for the Coomera electorate; it is just what we already knew. We had already announced many programs and many things. For example, the exit 54 upgrade had been announced before and there has been 12 or so months of preparation. The local Main Roads people had been working on the planning and what have you, and they had been out on the ground for six months leading up to the announcement in January this year. I note that the main roads minister said the other day that the LNP could not deliver it in three years but he delivered it in six weeks. He is a bit of a dreamer if he thinks that is the way things happen.

In the first three years that I was in this place, which was from 2009 to 2012, the two major issues I constantly pushed on—and I got absolutely no support, by the way, in that period from the member for Albert at the time in that last Labor government—were exit 54 and of course the increase in numbers on the rail line to the Gold Coast to get rid of that term the 'Bombay express'. We got the 'Bombay express' fixed during our term of government, our first term. We increased peak-hour services by 34 in 2014, and that was after an additional 10 were delivered in 2013, so 44 new services in that period. That got rid of the 'Bombay express', and we found the money for exit 54 from all sorts of places and were able to pull that together as well. This government is taking credit for that—but, anyway, if they want to go out there and spin those sorts of yarns, that is fine.

The budget mentions stage 3 of the Pimpama State Secondary College. Yes, that is in the budget and it was always going to be in the budget because it is stage 3 and that Pimpama area is the fastest growing area in Queensland, with tens of thousands of additional residents moving into the Coomera

electorate and the vast majority of them moving into that Pimpama area. There is also some money in the budget for stage 2 of the Pimpama State Primary College. Once again, we knew that was coming. It is just a revamp and a reannouncement of the money that we knew was coming all along. The same thing happened with the Coomera Rivers State School—precisely the same thing. Also, the planning for the duplication of the Helensvale to Coomera rail has been underway for some 12 months. It is a commitment that we made some 18 months ago. It was in previous budget papers, and now it has been claimed by this government as part of their budget for the people of Queensland. It makes sense to continue all of this spending. It makes absolute sense because the Coomera electorate is by far the fastest growing electorate in the state, with just over 39,000 voters on the day of the election in my electorate, which was the highest number of voters anywhere in the state. So I thank the government for staying with the plans that the LNP put in place. Funding for school maintenance is again something that we introduced. Why? Because of the neglect of the previous Labor government. We introduced it, and I thank the Treasurer for continuing to make those funds available to the schools.

May I put a suggestion out there? The government might want to start looking at some of the more disadvantaged schools, and I have a number of them in my electorate that I am constantly working with to try to find them some money. We need to understand that disadvantaged schools are typically in disadvantaged areas and therefore it is very difficult for them to raise funds locally. It is extremely difficult for them to run a profit even in their tuckshops; it is extremely difficult for them to run fundraisers and so on. So perhaps we need to see a bit more consideration given to those disadvantaged schools. I would love to talk to the education minister about providing some assistance for some of those schools in my electorate.

I congratulate the Treasurer for continuing all of those additional sensible funding LNP initiatives. It was sensible for them to reconfirm our LNP commitments, but I do condemn his decision to go back to the past. What do I mean by that? One of the most important things for this Treasurer in the first few months of this new parliament was looking after his union mates. Who are they? His union mates are the Plumbers Union—in fact, I think they are his only mates in the union, or they are certainly the only ones I am told are in his faction. They are his biggest friends, so one of the most important things for him was to make sure—wait for it—that those union mates were the only ones in Australia who could fit water meters. It is all right for the water industry to put the water pipes past houses and what have you, it is okay for the rest of Australia to allow the water industry to fit those water meters to those pipes, but not in Queensland. In fact the union told us in committee that the only people capable of fitting water meters in Queensland are fully trained plumbers. No-one else in Australia feels the same way, but the plumbers of Queensland are the only ones capable of doing it in Queensland. Mind you, the water industry has been fitting water meters for the last 14 years and there have never been any problems or issues. But now, going forward from here, they are the only people who can fit water meters in Queensland. That was a big win for this Treasurer because they were his only mates in the union.

Don't worry about jobs, don't worry about growth, but do worry about your union mates. Don't worry about the future for Queenslanders, raid their superannuation, raid their long service leave entitlements; but make sure you look after your union mates and make sure that they can fit those water meters because they are the only ones capable of doing it. Give yourself a funding holiday on that long service leave, give yourself a funding holiday on that superannuation fund, but make sure you look after your union mates.

On the subject of the raid on superannuation and long service leave and the suggestion that the Queensland Investment Corporation would be looking to invest in infrastructure and the like in Queensland, I have to explain something to the Treasurer. The QIC is a fund manager—it is a responsible fund manager—and it will not invest in his harebrained ideas. The other day an article in the *Australian Financial Review* stated—

... at the end of the day, any asset we invest in on behalf of a client—be it a government client or a non-government client—needs to make sense from an economic point of view.

I hope the Treasurer is reading this material. It goes on—

Clients aren't going to want us buying assets that don't make any sense.”

Remember that that money that QIC is looking after belongs to clients. It is not their money; it is not the state government's money; they hold it on behalf of their clients and they will not invest those dollars in things that simply do not make sense.

I have promised my colleagues that I will try to keep things short in this particular delivery. If honourable members opposite would like to urge me to go on, I am happy to do so.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** Okay, I will go on then.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** All right, you have got me. I will go on.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! Please, members, would you stop interjecting! The member for Coomera has the call.

**Mr CRANDON:** I do have a meeting to go to, so in conclusion—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** It is a very important meeting and then I have a meeting with the chair and other members of my committee. It is really important that I be at that meeting before I go to the meeting with members of my committee—Di Farmer and others. We cannot be late for the first meeting because we have to be at the second meeting, which is really important, too.

Just to wrap up, this government has no plan. It has a tricky budget that shows that it cannot be trusted as it is borrowing from the future instead of investing in it. It is as simple as that. The government is sending forward the responsibility for funding the entitlements of superannuants to the people of Queensland in the future. I suggest that, by the time the last man standing wants to get his money out of that super fund, the Treasurer would be retired. We would probably all be retired by then. It does not matter; we will just send that debt forward.

Raiding public servants' long service leave and superannuation is not a plan. It is an accounting trick that burdens future generations of Queensland. The budget does nothing to address unemployment or boost business confidence. On the subject of business confidence, we have a situation on the Gold Coast, something that I have spoken about in this place before, and that is this: in the 2009 to 2012 period we had something in the order of 350 applications for development. Over the 2012 to 2014 period—not quite three years because the statistics I have from the council go to 24 November—that number was more than double. That comes back to business confidence. It comes back to developers being confident in the government's plans. I hope that we are able to maintain the momentum, particularly for the Coomera electorate, and business confidence so that they will keep going forward, particularly given that we managed to get exit 54 up. That means a billion dollar investment in and around that area over the next few years. I am sure this government will take the credit for that even though we put all of the mechanics for that in place.

In contrast, the LNP has a real economic plan. I would urge everyone opposite to go and have a read of it—and it is available online. We have a real economic plan to kickstart the economy, pay down debt and deliver job-creating infrastructure. If we are fortunate enough to be voted back into government at the next election we will lift Labor's infrastructure freeze and reduce payroll tax, increasing the threshold by \$100,000 each year. We will reintroduce the surgery wait-time guarantee, tie family car registration costs to inflation, stop Labor's soft-on-crime approach and reinstall the Royalties for the Regions.

Going back to that soft-on-crime approach, we are not talking about those poor beggars who find themselves in difficulties as a result of their drug addictions and so on. I am not talking about people who are gathered up by the crime gangs of which we had so many down on the Gold Coast. I am not talking about those people. I am not talking about the people who are, if you like, victims themselves of these crime gangs. I am talking about being soft on the crime gangs, soft on the business end of crime. We will stop that soft-on-crime approach. We will reinstall the Royalties for the Regions program that has been ripped out by this government and establish a Queensland regional finance and insurance corporation.

In conclusion, I urge the Treasurer to please go back to the drawing board. It is not too late. This is his first budget. He has only been doing it for five minutes. He led the people of Queensland astray when he said he was not going to touch superannuation. A couple of years ago he said no, he would not touch any of that 'superannuation stuff'. He led us astray in that regard, but it is not too late. He can undo what he has put in place. Just do it quietly. He does everything else quietly. He does it underhandedly. You can do this underhandedly as well. Just do not tell them. Just unwind it all. Do not make the mistakes. It is not too late. It is his first budget. It is a failed budget, but he can reconsider things and I urge the Treasurer to do so.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (3.16 pm): I stand this afternoon to support this Appropriation Bill and also the 2015-16 Palaszczuk Labor budget. My congratulations, firstly, go to the Treasurer on this balanced budget, a Labor government that will see the economy grow over subsequent years and deliver jobs for Queensland; a budget that will deliver on our election commitments which Queenslanders endorsed at the 2015 election; a budget built on jobs, not on jobs gouging like the former LNP government. Is it not great to have a maroon flavour to this year's budget, particularly on the back of the Queensland State of Origin win last week?

Despite a \$3 billion writedown in mining royalties over the next four years, this Labor budget will grow the economy, deliver innovative reforms and restore funding in front-line services. There is a record amount of \$14.2 billion in Health, up by four per cent, delivering 400 new nurses and 4,000 new graduate nursing places. Due to doorknocking many homes in Ferny Grove and meeting many nurses who reside in my electorate, I know that this will be welcomed. There is a record amount of \$12.4 billion in Education, up a massive 7.2 per cent, providing for 875 teachers of which there will be additional teachers provided for in Ferny Grove as the community expands. There is \$10 billion plus in infrastructure works funding, creating 27½ thousand extra jobs in our state. We know that under the former LNP government full-time employment fell by 6,300, with 29,000 additional Queenslanders joining the unemployment queues.

There is \$24 million in Skilling Queenslanders for Work, facilitating 32,000 Queenslanders to get back into work. That is a welcome outcome for many of the sacked public servants in Ferny Grove who felt the cruel axe of termination under Campbell Newman's government. There is also \$2.1 billion for Police, providing extra police, car replacements and new body-worn video cameras, making evidence more credible and helping to protect the hardworking men and women of the police force.

I know that, unlike they would have been under those opposite, no-one will be worse off. Just prior to the state election on 21 January this year, the now president of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers, indicated that Campbell Newman had lied over a promise of funding for an antiviolence campaign. At that time he had promised \$20 million in funding to administer the new Safe Night Out precincts. For three and a half to four years I had the brilliant opportunity to be an industrial officer with the Queensland Police Union and to represent the good men and women of that particular union. Mr Leavers went on to say that despite the promise the police force had not received one cent from Mr Newman, and he claims that Campbell Newman looked him in the eye and lied to him. This is the credibility and the standard delivered by the previous LNP government to the men and women of the Queensland Police Union.

Something else close to my heart are my grandchildren Xavia and Marley, who live on the northern beaches in Cairns, the Great Barrier Reef. I am impressed with the extra \$100 million to protect our greatest natural wonder. Additionally, the restoration into tourism of \$128.3 million will go a long way in attracting visitors back to our great state.

As a White Ribbon ambassador, I am very impressed with the commitment of \$31.3 million to reduce the effects of domestic and family violence in our state.

Queensland retirees will continue to receive a concession on energy, water and transport thanks to the budget measures of this Palaszczuk Labor government. This Palaszczuk Labor government is covering a \$52 million shortfall after the federal government's mean-spirited cuts to pension scheme funding.

Locally, Ferny Grove and Ferny Hills state schools are the beneficiaries of budget funding for upgrades to the tuckshop, uniform shop and flashing school zone safety lights. On speaking to both principals of Ferny Hills and Ferny Grove state schools regarding these projects, they have relayed their gratitude to our government.

Stage 1 of the Ferny Grove to Samford cycle link, a long-term Labor initiative, is coming to fruition. I know cyclists and families will be impressed to see this project get off the ground. The redevelopment of the Lomandra day use area as a mountain bike hub, including the removal of inappropriate facilities and the improvement of car parking signs and maps, are all examples of Labor funding into Ferny Grove.

Conversely, this is not a budget that seeks to sell our assets; nor is it a budget that cuts service entitlements, thousands and thousands of jobs, health initiatives or education from our children. This is a good budget. This is a traditional Labor budget. The ink on the Borbidge-Sheldon election review is hardly dry, and the Leader of the Opposition still disregards the concerns of the members of the LNP not to pursue the sale of assets. He is still prepared to consider asset sales. In a recent interview the member for Southern Downs did not rule out privatisation in the future. He said that, if voters become

comfortable with the idea, he is prepared to go ahead with it. What does 'comfortable' mean in the eyes of the LNP and their leader opposite? He went on to spruik the LNP's new fiscal strategy, adding manufacturing and services and knowledge based industries to the former state government's four-pillar economy. What does the Leader of the Opposition know about manufacturing? Maybe when he gets down to Canberra as the member for Maranoa he can have a quiet word in the ear of Tony Abbott about manufacturing, because we on this side of the chamber know the LNP's record on manufacturing. Many of us on this side of the chamber, particularly those who have worked for unions and drive Australian-made vehicles—the Fords and Holden Toyotas that are all manufactured in South Australia—know that within a couple of years they will be made overseas. That is the commitment of the LNP to manufacturing.

Let us not forget the defence industry and the fact that, most likely in a couple of years, we may see Australian navy personnel operating Japanese-made submarines because, like you, the Abbott government is not concerned about manufacturing in this country. It is quite disingenuous to tell Queenslanders that you believe in manufacturing. What an absolute joke! On that note, it is a great honour and privilege to stand here in this chamber today and support the 2015-16 Queensland Labor budget.



**Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (3.25 pm): I am happy to be here in the Queensland state parliament.

**An honourable member:** It's not federal!

**Mr CRAMP:** No. Just checking. It is an honour to stand here today as a representative of the good people of Gaven and to be given the opportunity to speak up on their behalf in reply to Labor's Queensland's state budget for 2015-16. Before moving on to the finer details within my reply, I would like to focus on my community for a moment. As soon as the budget papers arrived, I was eager to see whether this Labor government had been listening to the needs of our community. Sadly, on a number of issues they have not. I am resolute that I will not stop fighting for the needs of the Gaven electorate—not when we have community members crying out for improvements within our community, most notably improved safety and infrastructure.

More generally, one of my concerns for my fellow locals in the Gaven electorate is that this budget does little to reduce cost-of-living pressures. I recently took to the streets to speak to local residents about Labor's increase to car registration fees. Suffice to say that not one person I spoke with was happy to hear that more money had to be allocated to these bills. Simply seeking to fudge the figures by including CTP costs from third parties does not change the fact that it is still an increase of over twice the rate of inflation.

I made a commitment to the people of Gaven that I would work hard to make our area the safest place to live, work and raise a family. I stand to be corrected, but I am extremely disappointed to have not found any funding within this budget to address increasing the QPS presence in the northern Gold Coast corridor, improving access and egress of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services station at Nerang and installing school flashing safety lights at Jubilee primary school at Pacific Pines. Despite my disappointment of not seeing these initiatives supported in Gaven, it would be remiss of me not to mention that the electorate has received funds towards the expected Commonwealth Games upgrades for the Nerang bike trails and the Carrara precinct.

I will also continue to see to it that the infrastructure needs of local sporting organisations are met, including: Pacific Pines Power AFL, Carrara Saints AFL, the Mudgeeraba Nerang Cricket Club and Pacific Pines Football Club. These clubs, like many in the Gaven electorate, are continually increasing in membership and require assistance to ensure that they have the facilities and infrastructure to cope with this seemingly endless expansion. I am therefore pleased to see the continuation of the previous LNP government's Get in the Game grants, albeit under a rebranding. Nevertheless, I have already commenced distributing this information to sporting clubs in the Gaven electorate, and I will seek to assist the clubs in any way that I can so they are successful with their grant applications.

With regard to funding for local schools, I know from my engagement with Nerang State High School that they will be happy to hear of extra funding for extensions at their great school. Park Lakes State School are also receiving funding within this budget for additional accommodation. I just hope that these funds address the issues I have been advocating for on their behalf. There are issues around car parking, school drop-off and pick-up areas and the need for additional amenities close to the prep classrooms. I will be meeting with the principal in the near future to make certain these issues are being resolved from within these funds.

What is extremely disappointing is the ongoing refusal by this Labor government to commit to installing flashing safety lights at Jubilee Primary School at Manra Way, Pacific Pines to ensure the safety of students, staff and parents at the school and people living around the school. Upon commencing as the LNP candidate for Gaven I worked hard with all of my community to understand their needs and how I could assist. The Jubilee Primary School, being an ecumenical school, is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when the community comes together for the common good, which in this case is the education of the children of our community. It is very disappointing for me that the Labor candidate for Gaven at the last election failed to even engage with this fantastic school let alone consider this important issue worth noting as a community safety matter.

**Mr Rickuss:** He did give some Churchillian speeches in the end.

**Mr CRAMP:** I can imagine. What is far worse, though, is that, even though I have brought this to the attention of the Labor government, they continue to fail the Jubilee Primary School and the Pacific Pines community by refusing to install these flashing safety lights. I will not cease my advocacy on this issue until the lights are installed.

This budget highlights millions of dollars being spent on Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. I welcome this investment to ensure the safety of Queenslanders and the brave men and women of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. However, it seems that the Labor government does not value community and officer safety in the Gaven electorate. The Labor government decided not to install emergency stopping lights and corresponding road signage and markings when the Nerang Fire Station was originally constructed, effectively failing to provide for the safety of fire officers and motorists in the Gaven community.

A wonderful community advocate for Nerang, Mrs Gloria Jones, wrote to all candidates for Gaven some months before the election highlighting this serious safety issue. Whilst the Labor candidate's idea of action was to have a photo of himself taken outside the Nerang Fire Station for his Facebook page, I spoke with Gloria, who highlighted the absolute need to rectify this issue. I immediately brought this to the attention of the then minister for emergency services, Jack Dempsey, under the previous LNP government. Minister Dempsey not only took the time to come and meet with Gloria and fire officers but also, after listening to their concerns, agreed that this was an issue that would be rectified, regardless of whether or not I was elected. Now that Labor have another opportunity to correct their lack of duty of care, they still refuse to ensure that Nerang fire officers are safe as they proceed code 1 from their station to attend an emergency situation in our community. They are also willing to place residents in the Gaven electorate in danger as, without these emergency stop lights and the required road markings and signage, motorists are not provided the necessary warnings to be prepared to allow fire service appliances and vehicles the opportunity to safely enter and exit Nerang Fire Station.

Recently I even sought to highlight this matter to the Labor government in the hope that it might take the time to understand how dangerous this section of very busy road is. I placed a question on notice to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services asking whether the government would commit funding to provide adequate safety measures for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services vehicles exiting Nerang Fire Station on Beaudesert-Nerang Road including: installation of emergency-stop traffic lights, which are activated from within the fire station by fire personnel when responding to emergency situations; the provision of appropriate road markings for the traffic lights and a keep-clear zone immediately outside the access/egress of the station on Beaudesert-Nerang Road; and the installation of prominent signage on the eastern and western sides of the Nerang station to provide early warning to oncoming traffic to be prepared to stop for emergency vehicles.

What was the minister's answer to address the concerns of the Gaven community? Well, besides confirming that at the time of construction they actually did not consider such safety measures to be of any importance for the Gaven community or for the fire officers at the Nerang station, the minister also noted—

... in consideration of crash statistics and visibility, no current works are programmed for the site.

Based on the minister's answer to my question, I can only be dismayed that the minister needs actual road traffic accidents to occur, potentially causing injury or worse to residents and officers, before she considers safety in the Gaven community to be important enough to take action to rectify Labor's short-sightedness. As an ambulance officer for 14 years, I find it abominable that this government has sought to place a human value on this much needed safety measure. I can assure the minister that it would be far better to provide these safety measures for the Nerang Fire Station prior to any accidents occurring.

Unlike the current Labor Minister for Emergency Services, former minister Dempsey had true compassion for the safety of our communities and for the officers he represented. With reference to yesterday's speech by my colleague the member for Kawana, I can assure members that it is not only the people of Bundaberg who wish former minister Dempsey were still in this House.

As I have previously noted, prior to my time in this chamber I proudly served the people of Queensland as a Queensland Ambulance Service officer for 14 years. In 2014 it was with great pride that, as the LNP candidate for Gaven, I hosted the then health minister, Lawrence Springborg, to announce two new fully equipped QAS acute ambulances for the Nerang station. This valuable addition to resources was born out of cost efficiencies from the prudent management of the health department by then minister Springborg. These new units will greatly assist with responses to emergency situations in the ever-increasing population of the Gaven electorate and the Gold Coast region.

I, and in fact all communities of the Gaven electorate, will therefore be greatly interested to see, with the allocation of this Labor government of \$23 million for the purchase of 155 ambulance vehicles, if they consider the care and safety of the people of the Gaven electorate to be of significant importance and deliver these units. Or will they continue to overlook the care and safety of Gaven residents, as per their current lack of action over the urgent safety requirements for the Nerang Fire and Emergency Services station?

Public transport is also an ongoing concern in the Gaven electorate. I have been meeting with local stakeholders and community members regularly on the issue. Unfortunately, it appears that the former member did not advocate strongly enough to ensure public transport services were made available to meet the needs of the residents of Gaven who rely on these services to get to and from work, medical appointments or even recreational trips outside the electorate.

Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 would have made an integral contribution to the ability of Gaven community members to connect within the community and across the greater Gold Coast area. It has also been widely publicised in the community that time is running out for this government to take decisive action to commence construction of this vital infrastructure to allow completion in time for its use during the 2018 Commonwealth Games, being held on the Gold Coast. Based on the absolute lack of detail provided in this budget, it is clear that the people of the Gold Coast, and the organisers of the Commonwealth Games for that matter, will more than likely be very disappointed if they are expecting completion prior to the games, as this government is only willing to provide cheap talk on light rail but has committed not one cent to this project.

The Commonwealth Games being held on the Gold Coast in 2018 is something that I sincerely hope all Queenslanders will feel a part of and share in. I recall the exhilaration of family and friends when the Gold Coast was announced as having won the right to hold the 2018 games. At the time I was certainly not even close to thinking about standing here representing my local community, so my understanding of winning the games bid had no influence or aspect of politics. I have to say that my attitude towards hosting the games is still the same today.

I believe that some things rise above politics, and this fantastic event that brings people and countries together in friendship is certainly one. For those of us living in the Gaven electorate, though, there is an extra air of excitement, knowing that our electorate holds Metricon Stadium, the home of the games, and that Nerang in the heart of our electorate is hosting the mountain bike events. Whilst I understand that this is an unbelievable opportunity for the Gold Coast to shine to the world, I will be working hard to ensure the Gaven electorate reaps the rewards of being part of this event. The \$83.5 million for the Carrara Sports Precinct, including Carrara Sports and the Carrara Indoor Stadium, along with \$1.2 million for the Nerang bike trails for the mountain bike races certainly represent a great start and I know will be very welcomed by the Gaven community.

During the election campaign I unfortunately had to endure listening to Labor denigrate the LNP's positive environmental record. I certainly did not buy their diatribe and drivel. Fortunately, nor did many people in the Gaven electorate. How amazing that this Labor government had sought to attack the previous LNP government's environmental policy, only to detail in this budget its absolute decimation of funding, by some \$8 million, for acquisition of land for nature refuges. This cut is absolutely dwarfed by the catastrophic slashing of funding for the protection of our koala populations in Queensland, from over \$17.7 million under the previous LNP government to just \$1.6 million from this Labor government—a cut of over \$16 million. Congratulations! I will be very interested to speak with local environment groups in the Gaven electorate over the coming months to highlight how little this government actually values protecting the environment, especially our native wildlife.

Law and community safety is by far the most important issue to the people of the Gaven electorate, and I spoke about this at length in my maiden speech. As a member of this great LNP team, I proudly stand on a very solid platform of performance in this area. The good people of Gaven will always be grateful for the exceptional work performed by our Police Service in shutting down organised crime, in particular the outlaw motorcycle gangs on the Gold Coast. The ability of the Queensland Police Service to achieve such success is a direct result of the tough stance taken on crime by the previous LNP government. But it unfortunately comes as no surprise to see this Labor government wasting no time in moving straight into cutting the funding for grants and reducing manpower by some seven positions to combat organised crime and outlaw motorcycle gangs. As I noted in my maiden speech in this parliament, outlaw motorcycle gangs have closed their clubhouses in the Gaven electorate and I can assure those opposite that the communities of Gaven do not want to see a return to the bad old days.

I cannot state how absolutely underwhelmed I am with the Treasurer's actions and management in this budget. Like many of my colleagues on this side of the chamber, I am absolutely dismayed that the Treasurer has the audacity to raid \$3.4 billion from funds that are set aside explicitly for public servants' long service leave and then to stop paying approximately \$2 billion in contributions over the next five years to the defined benefit scheme—effectively a raid on superannuation. This reeks of a Treasurer bereft of any innovation or prudent fiscal management strategies who has instead resorted to a desperate cash grab from the futures of hardworking public servants. The Treasurer's actions on this matter show little regard for not only the future financial situations of public servants over the coming decades but all Queenslanders and future Queensland governments that will not have the financial safety buffer that has been built on and never taken from by successive governments from both sides of politics until now.

The Treasurer's misguided argument that shifting \$4 billion of government debt to government owned corporations somehow makes the debt disappear would be laughable if it was a hypothetical situation. But it is not. In fact, it is very serious and should be worrying for all Queenslanders that this action is even being contemplated. The most likely outcome of loading our electricity providers with more debt will be job losses and higher power prices for Queensland consumers. Whilst the Treasurer spruiks of running continual surpluses during their term in government, it has been noted quite clearly by my colleagues on this side of the chamber that the ratings agencies beg to differ. Instead they anticipate larger deficits and an inability for this government to balance the books. I am not a betting man. However, if I was I would definitely be betting on the ratings agencies. I will agree with the Treasurer on one point though: this budget has all the trademarks of a Labor budget—poorly planned and executed financial strategies; the bloating of the Public Service, with the Labor government directing departments to hire at least 10,000 extra public servants over the next four years; and wages increasing approximately \$1 billion this financial year alone, all leading to increased debt and increased costs of living and a Queensland that is both poorer financially and poorer for the experience of enduring this inept Labor government until the next election.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation) (3.43 pm): Today I am pleased to rise to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2015-16 Queensland state budget. Our government's budget is unashamedly a budget about people. It is our road map for implementing the better way for Queensland that we promised at the election. It puts people at the heart of government service delivery in the area of housing and restores dignity to social housing tenants—people whom the former LNP government treated as nothing more than contractual parties to a lease agreement. The Palaszczuk government understands that we cannot get quality health and education outcomes and strong employment opportunities unless we get the basics like housing right. Our government's first budget is also a pro jobs budget. The budget centrepiece, Advance Queensland, is at its heart a jobs plan. It is a plan for jobs now and jobs for the future.

As the member for Alger, I am passionate about the opportunities and services that this budget delivers for the residents of my electorate. As a former high school teacher, I know the value of education in helping young people reach their full potential. It is very exciting to see my electorate is expected to receive up to seven new teacher positions over the next three years. The budget also provides more money for families, children and individuals living with a disability in the electorate of Alger, and I welcome those allocations. I will continue to work hard over the coming years to fight for the resources Alger residents need to keep our community a vibrant part of South-East Queensland that we choose to call home.

As Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Science and Innovation both of the departments in my portfolio have benefited from the measured and responsible initiatives included in this budget. Support for some of our more vulnerable residents has been the focus of the Housing and Public Works budget. A massive capital spend of \$435.6 million is allocated in this year's budget, which is an increase of \$84.6 million over and above the capital spend in the LNP's last budget. However, despite this, the shadow minister, the member for Southport, last night tried to create the false impression that there had been a reduction in capital expenditure by selectively cherrypicking certain capital figures from the budget papers. Unfortunately for the member for Southport, he misquoted his own former government's capital grants figure from the 2014-15 budget in the process. He was only a mere \$19 million out! In order to assist him, I have checked the facts for him. If the member for Southport had done his own homework and looked at page 64 of the 2014-15 Capital Statement for Housing and Public Works, he would have found his \$19 million error for himself.

I also want to respond to the Leader of the Opposition, who yesterday claimed that standard disposals of properties which are no longer required as government employee housing are asset sales by another name. It is disappointing to even have to respond to such an absurd suggestion, but for the record I am happy to advise the House that the disposal program the Leader of the Opposition referred to is in fact business as usual and necessary to efficiently manage the government's employee housing portfolio, particularly if we are to ensure quality housing is available to attract and retain skilled employees such as health workers, police and teachers across the state. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

In relation to the electorate of Algeester, the allocation for additional teachers is very welcome.

This commitment is part of the Palaszczuk Government's initiative to let teachers teach, provide more curriculum coordination time, more teacher release time and more specialist teachers in high schools.

As Member for Algeester I am committed to assisting people with a disability and their families access the support services they need as they move through different stages of their life.

That's why I am delighted to welcome the \$6.6 million of funding allocated to disability services across the Algeester electorate.

Helping people with a disability to stay living in their own homes is also a priority with \$800,000 allocated to provide support to assist people with a disability or condition that restricts their day-to-day living, to do just that.

I was particularly happy to see The Spot Community Services at Parkinson will share in funding of \$619,000 to support families to safely care for their children in Algeester.

Local residential care service providers will also share in almost \$4.3 million to help ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay.

Also, Pallara State School will receive more than \$12,000 to continue to provide the additional classroom spaces that they need.

In the portfolio of Housing and Public Works, this year's increased capital spend includes more than \$183 million will be allocated to the government owned social housing portfolio of more than 60,000 properties across the State.

The department will commence construction of 274 dwellings, purchase an additional 32, and complete construction of another 258.

Queensland's Indigenous communities will also benefit from this budget, with \$129 million allocated toward social housing within these communities.

This funding includes \$112.8 million through the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH).

The NPARIH funding will be used to construct new dwellings and carry out works on the existing social housing portfolio in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Construction of 60 dwellings will be commenced and 207 more will be completed with this budget allocation.

There's a number of other important initiatives in the Housing Budget for the next 12 months, including:

Funding of just over \$9 million through the Employment Related Accommodation Program (ERAP) to commence construction of a facility in Townsville to support young people from Indigenous communities pursuing employment, education and training opportunities.

\$5.6 million has been allocated to construct a facility in Cairns to provide specialist supported accommodation for rough sleepers.

\$2.76 million has been allocated for the support component of two new women's shelters as recommended by the Taskforce for Domestic and Family Violence.

This Budget also continues this government's work in delivering our election commitments.

As I mentioned earlier, the tenant advice and advocacy service will be re-established with funding of \$6.6 million to enable tenants to access free independent and impartial advice.

Abolishing this service was one of the more short-sighted actions of the LNP, leaving Queensland rental tenants without independent advice in an area where disputes can be complex, confusing, and intimidating.

We expect this new tenant advisory service will assist 70,000 clients per year from 2016-17.

An interim tenant advice and advocacy service went live at the start of June and will help thousands of Queensland tenants in both public and private rental properties.

Another important election commitment was that we would ensure fairness is reinstated in the public housing system

Our review into this is underway, and is looking at a range of issues, such as what income is assessed when rents are calculated, the "Temporary Absences Policy" and the LNP's three-strikes policy.

This Budget allocates \$21.3 million to Government Employee Housing, including \$11.9 million to build a significant multi-unit development on Thursday Island to support Queensland Health's Chronic Disease Centre.

\$9.4 million has been allocated to upgrade the existing Government Employee Housing portfolio, which includes over 3,000 dwellings.

Ensuring good quality housing is available to attract and retain skilled employees such as health workers, police and teachers is a priority for our government which wants to be able to deliver government services across Queensland.

I can also advise the House that \$6.2 million has been allocated to undertake a roof repair and upgrades to associated structural elements on the Cairns Convention Centre.

Mr Speaker, one of the most exciting initiatives in this year's Budget is the Palaszczuk Government's \$180 million Advance Queensland plan.

Advance Queensland is about catching the next wave of economic opportunity that previous Labor governments built through their Smart State initiatives.

That wave is the creation of new industries of the future that will employ Queenslanders by translating the outcomes of research and development into commercial opportunities.

Advance Queensland is also about educating and training our young people to fill those future jobs.

It will help our state move beyond our traditional strengths and continue our transition to a knowledge-based economy with new industries, and the new jobs that come with them.

Advance Queensland will continue to strengthen our research talent base, build a thriving startup culture and encourage a vibrant venture capital sector.

The Advance Queensland plan has a number of key elements:

- A \$50 million Advance Queensland Best and Brightest Fund to develop, attract and retain world-class talent—both scientific and entrepreneurial;
- A \$46 million Advance Queensland Future Jobs Strategy, which will open the door to new industry/research collaborations, tackle the big innovation challenges, focus on translation, and deliver 10 year roadmaps for industries with global growth potential;
- A \$76 million Business Investment Attraction package, which will encourage a new wave of Queensland startups, support proof-of-concept projects, and attract co-investment through the Business Development Fund;
- And \$8 million will be set aside to give us flexibility to respond as new opportunities arise, especially as we develop roadmaps with industry partners.

We recognise that we must become a place that commercialises our innovations—we don't want to continue to export the ideas and the jobs that come from turning those ideas into products—we want to keep them here.

The Advance Queensland initiative will help make our state a place where industry, universities and government work together to take those great ideas and turn them into investment-ready proposals that attract investment and create jobs. We will be creating the entrepreneurs of the future.

By making innovation and knowledge-based industries a key focus of this Government, we are intent on delivering a new era of opportunity for Queenslanders.

The budget will also provide more than \$50 million for the rollout of the Government Wireless Network (GWN) in South East Queensland.

The GWN will provide an integrated and secure digital radio communications network for Queensland's public safety agencies—Queensland Police Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and Queensland Ambulance Service.

This Budget also continues the State Government's support of public libraries across Queensland.

Our libraries play an important role in educating our children and in the cultural life of our State, so it is important to ensure access to resources for all Queensland families.

In 2015-16 the Budget will provide \$68.3 million to the State Library of Queensland, including more than \$23 million for public libraries grant funding which supports more than 320 public libraries.

Queenslanders in rural and remote areas will also benefit from the \$850,000 allocated to the Rural Libraries Queensland network.

This will help ensure these communities have 24/7 access to online resources such as ebooks and magazines, online learning, resources, and family history services.

Mr Speaker, to have a successful economy into the future, we need to drive digital innovation and transition to a knowledge economy.

This Budget will help deliver that future for Queensland whilst also bringing the most vulnerable Queenslanders with us.

I commend the Budget to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.47 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill, my first one as the member for Gregory.

**Mr Pearce:** Good on you, mate.

**Mr MILLAR:** Thank you. The budget is one of tricks and raids and proves once and for all that the Labor Party has no plan for Queensland. It is smoke and mirrors. What it fails to fundamentally achieve is to pay down any debt and reduce the debt burden built up by the former Beattie-Bligh-Fraser Labor governments. It is history repeating itself. What we have is a Labor government that is making it up on the run. How can those opposite sit here and say that they have a plan to reduce debt when all they are doing is moving debt to government owned corporations? That is like shifting your current credit card debt to another credit card. Guess what? You still have debt. It feels good for a little bit, but you still have debt. Coming from an agriculture background, we deal with debt on a daily basis but rarely would we see a farmer shift debt to another credit card and say, 'Well, that's all fixed. We don't have debt anymore. It's all gone. I'll put it on another credit card. The crop has failed, the drought's got us, we're in debt. Here's a good idea: I'll head into the bank, fill out one of those long credit card forms, slip that in and get a brand-new credit card and debt fixed.' Thank God the Labor government does not operate a farm! I do not think the drought will get you; I think it will be your financial management that will send you down the gurgler. But the sad reality is that it will be everyday Queenslanders who will feel the impact. My disappointment with the Palaszczuk government's first budget is a lack of funding and real commitments to Central and Western Queensland. The seat of Gregory is 330,000 square kilometres and covers the Mitchell grass, gidgee and mulga country in the west and south-west and has what I call the best grazing land in the state in the very productive black soil and brigalow country in the east, including the golden triangle and the Emerald irrigation area. It also has what I call Queensland tourism's jewel in the crown—outback tourism in the west—and the resource rich coal from the Bowen Basin in the east.

As members can see, the seat of Gregory is a very powerful economic generator of the state of Queensland and for the Queensland government. But the Labor Party's first budget seems to have forgotten the people who live west of the range—people who live in the regions away from the coast, away from the south-east. We only have to look at the capital works projects for education and training to see that not one cent is being spent on any school in the electorate of Gregory—not one cent.

**Mr Rickuss:** How many schools have you got?

**Mr MILLAR:** We have 57 primary and high schools in the seat of Gregory. They are great schools educating tomorrow's doctors, nurses, accountants, auto-electricians, plumbers. They are great students—

**Mr Power** interjected.

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

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Miss Barton): Order, member for Toowoomba North. Member for Logan, I reminded you yesterday that the standing orders of this House require that if you wish to interject you must be sitting in your own seat.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Lockyer, I do not need your assistance.

**Mr MILLAR:** Madam Deputy Speaker, thank you. For the benefit of the member for Logan, yes, there are great students there who, like many before them, will carry on making sure that the seat of Gregory continues to be one of the economic generators of the state, paying its taxes, paying its royalties to the state's coffers.

So you would think that the Labor government could find some capital works for those important schools—maybe to add some more classrooms? An undercover area for sport? But it seems no. So I call on the Minister for Education to join me in my electorate. I am happy to take her to some of the

schools in my electorate, including the Blackwater, Capella, Clermont and Emerald schools and schools in the west of my electorate such as the Jericho, Alpha, Barcaldine, Blackall, Longreach, Ilfracombe, Jundah, Quilpie and Windorah schools and even the school of distance education.

**Mr Stewart:** Springsure.

**Mr MILLAR:** And Springsure. Absolutely. I take that interjection from the member for Townsville. He is a former teacher at Springsure and he is certainly passionate about Springsure. So I take that interjection.

The Palaszczuk government's first budget is full of reannouncements of the LNP's commitments, including funding for the Alpha community hospital and road funding for the Blackwater-Rolleston Road and the Tambo-Springsure Road. These funding announcements were fully costed and funded by the previous LNP government. Until now, the only question was whether those projects would fall victim to Labor's redirection of funds to the south-east.

A classic example of Labor trying to claim credit for something that was announced by the LNP government is the Alpha community hospital, which was announced five months ago by the LNP in the state election campaign. Although I welcome this funding, which the community needs, it is disappointing that, despite the fact that the funding was in place, it has taken so long for the Labor Party to commit to this project.

Unfortunately, the news is not all good. Blackwater Hospital urgently needs upgrading. The LNP had committed to funding \$300,000 towards this upgrade. I also cannot see line items for funding that had been announced but which have now disappeared. There was \$27.5 million for projects in the mining communities and a promised \$7.5 million for funding for remote communities.

I will give credit where credit is due. I thank the government and the Minister for Agriculture for continuing to commit to DRAS funding—\$40 million for this financial year and I think it is over \$50 million over the next three financial years. That funding is so desperately needed. As we now have our third failed wet season, we desperately need that funding. In saying that, I would also like to acknowledge the former minister for agriculture, John McVeigh, who committed nearly \$100 million DRAS over three years. I remember when the drought started in the north when the gulf fires ripped through the savanna basalt country in the cape in December 2012. The member for Toowoomba South, then the minister for agriculture, was straight up to that area to visit graziers and kick-start the funding so that they could buy bales to keep breeders alive. So I acknowledge the efforts of the current Minister for Agriculture, who has continued to travel through drought affected areas and who continues to make sure that government support is available. I would also like to acknowledge the shadow minister for agriculture, the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, who has also made many visits to the electorate of Gregory and all over the state to make sure that drought and the impact that it is having on graziers and small businesses in the west is heard loud and clear.

But I have to ask the current Premier and the Minister for Agriculture: what happened to the wild dog funding that the government promised to fast-track when the Premier visited my electorate earlier this year? It has been well over two months now. All I see is glossy brochures spruiking the budget and that there is \$5 million for the wild dog and cat population to protect Queensland's agriculture. I am not quite sure if the minister or even the Premier understands that we do not really have a cat problem out in the central west; we have a wild dog problem. I have not found anything in the budget documents to say that there is fast-tracking of that funding. Where is that funding? On behalf of the people in the west, I ask the Premier and the minister to fast-track that funding now—not tomorrow, not next week; today. We need it today. They promised it. How about delivering it.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr MILLAR:** I take that interjection. I look forward to it. In May at Camden Park in Longreach the federal drought package was announced. There was \$10 million for pest and weeds, with a priority for drought affected areas such as Queensland. So federal funds are now available. The state government has to put in its share and administer the funds. So the Labor government needs to write back to the federal Minister for Agriculture so that we can get this going. Wild dogs are causing a major economic production loss for our woolgrowers and it is having an impact on our beef producers. Pest and weed funding is a priority for fencing—that is post and wires. This funding will provide jobs for local people in drought affected areas. This assistance is about buying locally and employing locally. That is what this funding will do. I cannot stress enough that we need the agreement fast-tracked so that we can start work. Time is of the essence. The state government needs to get the department to move now. An amount of \$10 million is sitting there. Barnaby wants to sign the cheque, but he cannot if the Queensland government is dragging its heels.

I turn now to roads and, again, give credit where credit is due. I also welcome the \$40 million over two years for the Western Roads Upgrade Program and the \$12.1 million for the Outback Way. I thank the government for that. Road funding is a major employer for Western Queensland towns and partnering with local councils is the best way to provide that employment. But can we make sure that the work is carried out by locals, including local councils and local contractors—not contractors from the south-east? The money from this road funding needs to stay in the west and it needs to be used to employ people in the west.

I am also grateful for the \$3.4 million for our agricultural colleges, the Longreach Pastoral College and the Emerald Agricultural College. Along with the resource sector, agriculture is the lifeblood and the economic generator of my region. The Labor Party has been quick to stipulate the increase in the number of Public Service jobs, but it will not say that it cut 130 positions from the department of agriculture. That is not surprising because, when it was last in power, the Labor Party did not even have a department of agriculture. It was sucked up into a super department called DEEDI. Yes, the last time the Labor Party was in power it did not even have a department of agriculture. It did not think that agriculture deserved to have a department dedicated to protecting our valuable resources through biosecurity, increasing our yields and crops and growth rates of beef through research and development. It was the LNP, under former minister John McVeigh, that had to rebuild the department from scratch. John McVeigh walked into 80 Ann Street and had to put the department together. He had to bring it back and get it going again in the right direction.

Finally, this budget has fallen well short of providing a secure direction for Queensland. It does not pay down debt. In fact, Queensland is going to creep back to being \$78 billion in debt. Standard & Poor's and Moody's say that Queensland will not regain its AAA rating with this budget. That means more money wasted on paying the interest bill. That is more money that we could have put towards more front-line services. But, no, it is a budget full of glossy brochures, pictures of the Treasurer with hard hats and fancy pie charts. Yes, it is a typical Labor budget: full of spin and with very little substance.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.57 pm): The Palaszczuk government has a clear and unwavering focus on jobs. Many of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in this state will benefit from enhanced employment opportunities that our government is providing through the 2015-16 budget. This year, the expenditure of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services grows by 6.5 per cent to \$2.7 billion. We are rebuilding the community sector and returning its focus towards the families we support.

As many members of this House know, combating the terrible scourge of domestic and family violence is a priority for me and for the Palaszczuk government. In addition to the terrible human cost, domestic and family violence is estimated to cost the Queensland economy up to \$3.2 billion every year. Through my community involvement I have seen firsthand the pervasive effects that domestic and family violence has across a community. Since becoming Minister for Communities and Minister for Women, I have met many incredible people working in the field of violence prevention—women such as Amy Compton-Keen, who is the director of the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre Gold Coast and who has spent decades working in this area and coordinates what is referred to across the country as one of the best models for an integrated approach to domestic and family violence. Under this model, every agency that impacts on domestic violence prevention and support—from police and corrective services to education and counselling—works together to support the victim and hold the perpetrator to account.

I have also met many brave victims, including a woman anonymously awarded the Heroic Woman of the Year Award at the Gladstone Women's Health Centre Inspiring Women's Award breakfast. This woman literally crawled out of her last beating with just the clothes on her back and she was supported to create a new life. She is now giving back and helping to support others like her in her local Gladstone community. I want to ensure that at the end of my term we have far fewer women and children living in fear and we have more places for them to go when they need help. That is why I am so pleased the Palaszczuk government will invest more than \$65 million to reduce domestic and family violence in Queensland. My local electorate of Waterford will also be receiving close to \$1 million to respond to domestic and family violence, including court based services provided by Centacare at Beenleigh and perpetrator intervention services provided by YFS at Slacks Creek.

Our community groups and services are the backbone of the support we provide for our state's most vulnerable. The 2015-16 budget provides funding for 341 community organisations. This includes \$20.1 million for support services to assist young people to connect with positive family support, stable

housing, jobs, education or training and to live a safe, healthy life as well as funding for a financial resilience program to help Queenslanders deal with cost of living and the expansion of the number of rest and recovery services in drink-safe precincts to reduce alcohol related violence.

We will also support Queensland women to achieve their best through funding the Office for Women to support a range of leadership initiatives as well as better engagement with women and women's networks across the state to address gender inequality and the development of a Queensland Women's Strategy to be released during Queensland's first Women's Week in March 2016.

A number of improvements have been made in recent times following through on the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry recommendations. But we all know more work needs to be done. The 2015-16 state budget continues the Palaszczuk government's commitment to place early intervention front and centre of its approach to helping Queensland families. We will provide more than \$930 million to support Queensland families and help protect vulnerable children. The safety of children must be paramount. Where they cannot remain in the home, we must provide a supportive and stable environment. Our foster and kinship carers play a crucial role in making sure these kids reach their full potential. I am pleased that our budget has support from key stakeholders. The CEO of Peakcare Queensland, Lindsay Wegener, says that in this budget there are—

... new initiatives that we think have great potential.

In particular, we're very happy about the increase in family support services being provided in different areas of the state.

The opposition questioned the government's commitment to family support services, but our commitment to child and family reforms is there in black and white in the budget papers: \$54.5 million in 2015-16, which includes funding for six new Family and Child Connect Services. We will take the best advice available and decide locations of these vital services in partnership with the sector.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated into *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

#### Triple P Parenting

Mr Speaker, we know that every family has times where they need help. Where some simple strategies would reduce the stress in their home. That is why Queensland Mums and Dads will now have access to a state-wide free support to help their families thrive with the \$6.6 million innovative Triple P Parenting program. The two year trial will give Queensland families voluntary access to a range of programs including an online program, topic-specific seminars, parent discussion groups and one-on-one consultations, to more intensive, small group-based and individual programs. At the launch of this fantastic program, I met a mum constituent of Di Farmer whose son has special needs. She told me this sort of support is essential to her, and to many people she knows. Also, online parenting community the Parenthood endorsed the initiative, saying it will 'enable parents across the state to gain access to evidence-based parenting support.'

#### Neighbourhood centres

Mr Speaker, our Government believes in building leadership capacity and capability in our communities. This is why this year's budget includes additional investment for our much-needed and much-loved neighbourhood centres. Mr Speaker, I have visited many neighbourhood centres across Queensland and seen first-hand how they strengthen social cohesion and wellbeing in our communities. My visits to cyclone affected towns in Central Queensland very early on (in my role as Minister for Communities) cemented in my mind the importance of neighbourhood and community centres as a hub for the provision of support when disaster strikes. The same is certainly true of the Ravenshoe Community Centre recently. We have committed \$12.2 million over four years to fund a new capital upgrade and replacement program for these community hubs in our towns and suburbs. These centres have been neglected for too long and we will work together with them to invest this funding in the smartest way possible. This funding is in addition to \$14 million in support for 121 Neighbourhood Centres around the state, some of which have lost vital Federal funds.

#### Multicultural funding

Mr Speaker, over the past three years, Multicultural Affairs has not had the attention that it deserves. The Opposition has said it didn't understand what the budget meant for Multicultural Affairs. I'm happy to explain. The budget highlights the development of a Multicultural Recognition Bill and Multicultural Charter and appointment of an Advisory Council. All things called for by the sector and ALL OPPOSED BY THE LNP IN GOVERNMENT! And they accused US of being disrespectful to our Multicultural Communities! The Palaszczuk Government is committed to genuine consultation with Queensland's array of multicultural groups. In addition to legislation to enshrine their recognition, Queensland's multicultural community will, for the first time, have access to guaranteed \$1 million recurrent funding to stage events and projects that celebrate and promote cultural diversity. More than a million people are expected to participate in more than 100 funded events and projects across Queensland this year alone. And there is additional funding to support the introduction of a Multicultural Recognition Bill.

#### Local budget items

Turning now to my electorate of Waterford. We are a growing community and economy, but our expanding city needs jobs to prosper. I want to see a reduction in disadvantage, and I want our social services to be even more capable, sustainable and connected. And to provide rewarding jobs and careers. I am so pleased the Beenleigh Courthouse will get a \$1.4 million makeover

courtesy of the 2015-16 State Budget. It's a partnership with Logan City Council to complement their multimillion dollar makeover of the Beenleigh Town Square. Mayor Pam Parker says they see these sorts of partnerships as being very important for the revitalisation of Beenleigh's CBD and I am pleased we can work together to deliver for the community.

Mr Speaker, I want Waterford's young people to be able to fulfil their dreams and aspirations. And this starts with better investment in our schools. I am very pleased that \$100,000 will be going to Waterford State School and Beenleigh Special School for classroom refurbishments and upgrades. Schools in Waterford are also set to welcome up to 10 additional teachers over the next three years as part of the Government's election commitment to 875 additional teachers across the state; and, Loganlea State High School's much valued Guidance Officer will now be funded Full Time. And our Government will be investing \$11.4 million over four years to re-establish a primary school nurse service across the state, starting in Logan. When the Premier and I met with St Joseph's Tobruk Memorial School P&F, we heard first hand from the mums and dads how important the school nursing service was in detecting hearing and vision problems in young students. Angela Houghton, P&F President at St Joeys said: "It is something that the school system has really missed, especially here at St Joseph's. It opens doors for kids to be able to see nurses, who outside of school, might not be able to see nurses regularly. We can't wait for the school nurses to come back" pledge.

Mr Speaker, I am also happy to announce that we will be getting \$839,000 to enhance safety on local roads in Beenleigh including improvements to the intersection of Milne Street, Honeyman Street and Buna Street. As well as \$4.81 million in building works for the Logan Hospital Emergency Department; and continued access for Waterford's pensioners to concessions on energy, water and rates bills, which can deliver up to \$710 in savings annually for eligible pensioners.

#### Conclusion

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government cares about people. We know that creating jobs and investing in our community sector is the gateway to social and economic empowerment across our great state of Queensland. Mr Speaker, we have a plan and we are delivering on it.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.03 pm): The budget sets the priorities of a government. This is where the rubber hits the road. This is where a light is shone on the flowery weasel words of the government's spin. This is where the government is judged on whether it will really fund projects to make this state, all of this state, including the regions, grow and prosper. Unfortunately this budget does nothing. It is a budget using sleight of hand and tricky accounting measures, changing debts from one column to the other. It is a budget of tricks and raids on public servants' long service leave and superannuation. It is a budget which shows debt will continue to rise every year. It is a so-called jobs budget which, in fact, its own projections indicate will barely make a mark on the unemployment rates. It is putting the future of generations of Queenslanders in doubt because it fails to address the fundamental issue of underlying debt and the need for targeted, sensible and stimulatory infrastructure.

Gympie is a growing region which needs a focus on capital expenditure and prudent and shrewd planning. Its needs are a direct result of that growth. Government investment and support is needed for infrastructure and projects that will provide the environment for people to live and invest locally. The focus needs to be on infrastructure. The focus needs to be on local infrastructure projects, maintenance and improvement of existing facilities. The focus needs to be on providing support and incentives for individuals and businesses to grow and invest in the local area. The focus needs to be on providing a healthy economic and work environment and reducing overregulation through knee-jerk green and red tape, which drives people from operating business.

In recognition of this I welcome the government's commitment to continue funding the Bruce Highway upgrade and the ambulance station at Rainbow Beach. However, there is nothing new in the budget for Gympie because both of these projects were LNP commitments. All the government has done is to reannounce last year's LNP commitment to fund \$113.1 million for the Bruce Highway Cooroy to Curra upgrade of section C. Let me repeat that: the Bruce Highway funding was announced last year. The documents also highlight \$25.5 million for Bruce Highway roadworks—funding which was, in fact, for the previously announced early works package for section C at the Keefton Road and Six Mile Creek rest area intersections. The government's much vaunted highlights for the Bruce Highway upgrade are for works which are 80 per cent funded by the federal government and had been announced and pledged months ago. In fact, the government is trying to claim in its summary of the expenditure in the Wide Bay region that it has somehow committed \$624 million to the Cooroy to Curra upgrade, the major portion of which is federal government funding. The Bruce Highway upgrade is jointly funded with the federal government which is providing the lion's share of those funds and laying claim to it reeks of treating the people of the Gympie electorate as mugs. The result? No real commitments.

Let me go on to the only other announcement for the Gympie region. While I welcome the expenditure on the Rainbow Beach ambulance station, which the Minister for Health mentioned in parliament yesterday, this government is only providing \$300,000 this financial year for the station. Yet as long ago as January this year the LNP had already committed \$1.5 million for construction of the ambulance station with another \$400,000 for specialist ambulance vehicles. In fact, planning had already started by January and the entire project was scheduled to be delivered within 18 months. The result? The Gympie electorate is shortchanged by \$1.6 million.

The government is using this budget to pay back union supporters and special interest campaigners rather than delivering for all Queenslanders. It is trying to fob off Gympie with projects and programs that are already on track. The government's year-long infrastructure freeze remains in place. Regional funding for the Wide Bay region for capital spending has been slashed by 33 per cent compared to last year's budget—that is, \$330 in every \$1,000 of funding in the region has been ripped away from the families and businesses of the Wide Bay. The budget is about paying back union supporters with pork-barrelling in the Bundaberg and Maryborough electorates. In the government's own brochure highlighting the Wide Bay region there are five specific projects for Bundaberg and another three for Maryborough. Gympie deserves its fair share. Gympie needs support for local road and bridge infrastructure, support for local business ventures, support to upgrade our local hospital and to continue the rigorous and successful school maintenance regime which has seen backlogs significantly reduced. This will only be achieved by targeting direct expenditure on a number of projects throughout the region. We will not be fobbed off with redirecting funds that were previously destined for this region. We will not be fobbed off with reannouncements of the previous government's commitments and rebadging federal government funds as their contribution to the region.

The key challenges for an electorate like mine are addressing the high levels of unemployment, flood-proofing and making safer our road network, raising the education levels of locals so that they have better chances of securing meaningful work, differentiating ourselves from other regions in attracting tourists and providing quality facilities for health and education. Unfortunately none of those priorities made it to the budget.

There was nothing for the release of the Gympie Hospital master plan, which was due in February and has now been delayed. The hospital master plan would have addressed the future of the primary health services to meet community expectations in the region. It was to help reduce patient travel to Brisbane for treatment. It was to address building maintenance issues, the need for new facilities and the co-location of a CT scanner on the site, the upgrading of existing buildings that are deteriorating and new buildings to provide a coordinated approach to delivering health services. They have committed \$1.3 million to replace CT units at Bundaberg and Hervey Bay hospitals. We cannot even get a commitment for one, let alone replacing them. Clearly the government has put the health needs of this region on the backburner.

There was nothing about raising the Coondoo Creek Bridge to help flood-proof the region. We all know the Gympie region floods probably more than most other regions and towns in Queensland. We need to flood-proof the arterial road links for times of natural disaster. Residents of the Cooloola Coast are cut off during times of flood, as the bridge is the only access out of the region. Students in grades 11 and 12 are cut off from schools as there are no schools for those years on the Cooloola Coast. There was nothing for stabilising the foreshore at Tin Can Bay. The Tin Can Bay foreshore on the Cooloola Coast is gradually being eroded and is in pressing need of stabilisation and restoration. If the works do not take place, the footpath will disappear into the water. The Gympie Regional Council urgently needs an injection of \$1 million to undertake those works.

There was nothing about providing funds for a pedestrian crossing on Glastonbury Road near Gympie South State School to make it safer for the high volume of pedestrians and school students crossing that busy road. There are 29 schools in my electorate. I am encouraged that in the past three years under the LNP government much of the school maintenance backlog was cleared, making them more conducive to learning. In fact, this government has announced a \$300 million maintenance fund that Steve Wardill of the *Courier-Mail* said 'looks and sounds similar to the maintenance fund its predecessors had in place'.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Mr PERRETT:** I take that interjection. Absolutely. It is also great to see the flashing lights being installed outside the Chatsworth State School on the Bruce Highway. That was another commitment of the previous LNP government.

There is nothing about supporting the University of the Sunshine Coast to expand its campus in the Gympie region to make tertiary education more accessible to locals and grow the region as an educational destination. Education qualification levels in Gympie are among the lowest in Queensland, with only 13.5 per cent of people having a bachelor degree compared to 21.6 per cent in the state. With the local unemployment rate at 2.1 per cent above the state average, the University of the Sunshine Coast provides more opportunities for local students and mature-age adults to improve their learning outcomes, helping to address their ability to secure fulfilling careers. Almost 70 per cent of the students at the Gympie campus are mature age, demonstrating that the previous lack of a local higher education facility had delayed their chances of further education.

There was nothing for the new Gympie fire and rescue station. Lead times and time frames mean that we need a commitment now for planning. There was no mention of funding for the iconic Mary Valley Heritage Railway. The LNP government had committed \$2.6 million to assist restoration of the line and stock of the iconic Mary Valley Rattler. It makes practical and prudent sense to help the rail, which is a major and defining feature for attracting tourists to the region. In last year's budget the LNP had set aside \$2 million to give to the Rattler company once a business plan was prepared and accepted. There was no mention of the railway in this year's budget and I am concerned that the funds have been lost in the sleight of hand and accountancy tricks that define the Labor Party's budget.

There was nothing about tackling the region's above-average unemployment rate by making it easier for the region's 4,200 businesses to do business and employ people. There was nothing about allocating funds to upgrade the Mary Valley Highway so that the B-doubles can access forestry and other businesses from the Mary Valley Link Road.

Not one of those things made it into the state budget. Gympie has been ignored. We have gone to the cupboard and it is bare. I had my highlighter pen ready to identify local projects. Unfortunately, the cap is still on the pen. All we have is rebadging, recycling and reannouncements. Where has the money gone that was previously destined for Gympie? All Gympie has asked for is a fair share.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.14 pm): What a pleasure it is to speak on the Palaszczuk Labor government budget for 2015-16. In this week's budget, we have seen the start of a return to fairness in Queensland. We have seen a return to a time when working Queenslanders were assured of having the sort of services they deserve in the year 2015. This budget comes after Queensland has experienced three years of the closure of government facilities, of nurses and midwives being sacked, and a government at war with the state's senior doctors. In that three-year period, the Leader of the Opposition and then minister for health sacked over 4,500 people from the health sector. That included 1,800 nurses and midwives, people on the front line of our state's health system. It became a time when the government of the day, presumably in all seriousness, could boast that it was giving people a guarantee that their surgery would be performed within the clinically recommended time, but only if they had obtained an appointment first. That completely ignored the fact that there were over 100,000 people waiting beyond clinically recommended times for such an appointment. That was not a wait-time guarantee; it was a wait-time gimmick. Their program to address waiting times for surgical operations was based on advertising and public relations, not on surgery.

By contrast, this budget sets up the sort of health system that will be the hallmark of the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is a no-frills system, with an emphasis on service delivery and meeting the real health needs of Queenslanders. This budget has sought to restore balance to the health system with significant investments in front-line services, preventive health and patient safety. In the current fiscal year, the Palaszczuk government is investing a record \$14.2 billion in Health. This is good news for people all over Queensland who rely on our public health system. It represents an additional \$2.3 billion over four years to make sure health and ambulance services keep pace with the ongoing growth in demand for services. We are tackling critical areas such as the waiting list for the waiting list, which was an area ignored by the previous LNP government and brushed aside by the Leader of the Opposition when he was the minister for health.

While the Leader of the Opposition's approach to the problem of people waiting for medical operations was based on a public relations gimmick, this government is investing \$361.2 million over four years to improve access for Queenslanders to specialist outpatient appointments. The big difference between the approach of the previous government when the Leader of the Opposition was the minister for health and this government is that we look at the entire patient journey. Generally, that journey involves a visit to a GP who then recommends an outpatient specialist appointment, who then recommends surgery. The approach of the previous government was to ignore the first part of that journey, which cut out over 100,000 people who were waiting longer than clinically recommended to see a specialist at an outpatient appointment. The additional funding of \$361.2 million will be phased over four years, with \$71.3 million in 2015-16.

I will be quite clear about this: keeping waiting lists to a minimum will be a challenge for whatever government is in office in Queensland. The reason is not just that we have an ageing population and a growing population, but that over the next decade the federal Abbott coalition government will be ripping billions of dollars out of the Queensland health system. However, now we have this budget commitment,

we will develop a sensible phased strategy to tackle the significant number of outpatient long waits in the Queensland health system. We are not arrogant enough—and let us face it, there was very great arrogance in the last government, which was led by perhaps the most arrogant and out-of-touch premier in Campbell Newman that our state has ever seen—to think that we have all the answers here. We will undertake this work in consultation with health experts who deal with waiting lists on a daily basis.

The \$361.2 million funding in the 2015-16 budget is in addition to the initiatives totalling \$60 million that have already been announced in March and May this year, which were internally funded. The budget brought down by my colleague the Treasurer also delivers on an election promise for this government to put more nurses in hospitals. We are investing an additional \$212.3 million over four years in important nursing workforce initiatives to improve patient safety and healthcare outcomes in Queensland's hospital and health services.

As part of these commitments, over the next four years we will employ up to an additional 400 experienced nurses to help patients navigate the health system. We will offer up to 4,000 additional places to new Queensland nurse and midwifery graduates, and we will legislate, for the first time in our state's history, mandatory nurse-to-patient ratios in acute wards.

Research shows that nurses have the biggest impact on patient safety and better healthcare outcomes for patients. Strengthening the nursing workforce leads to shorter periods of stay in hospital, improved clinical outcomes, reduced waiting times and better access to care. That is why we are investing \$101.6 million over four years in addition to internal funding to rebuild and expand our nursing workforce across the state.

These 400 nurse navigators will help patients navigate an increasingly complex health system by focusing on the patient's entire healthcare journey rather than on just a specific disease or condition. The government is also providing \$110.7 million over four years, in addition to internal funding, for up to 4,000 nurse and midwifery graduates. Sixteen new nurse educator positions will be established to support these graduates as they enter Queensland's nursing and midwifery workforce which will support effective local implementation of the graduate program.

The Palaszczuk government is also a government for all Queenslanders regardless of where they live. Consequently, we will also invest an additional \$180 million over four years to refurbish and modernise ageing and outdated hospitals in regional Queensland—hospitals that were left languishing for three years under the LNP. This investment will fund vital upgrades and repairs at the Roma, Hervey Bay, Gladstone and Caloundra hospitals. These upgrades will drive jobs for regional Queenslanders, with approximately 940 construction jobs being created as a direct result of these upgrades over four years.

As part of this investment, structural defects and a range of clinical functionality and backlog maintenance issues will be addressed at Roma Hospital. Hervey Bay's emergency department is to be expanded to meet increasing demand for services. Gladstone Hospital's ageing emergency department will be upgraded. Caloundra Hospital will be refurbished to accommodate service delivery changes associated with the commissioning of the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital.

There is more to the Health portfolio than just hospitals. That is why the Palaszczuk government will invest in preventative health programs that keep Queenslanders healthy and out of hospital. In Diabetes Week I am proud to be the minister responsible for the Health for Life program which will invest \$27.2 million over four years to make it easier for people to identify and take action on risk factors for diabetes and chronic disease.

We will reopen the Biala Sexual Health Clinic in Roma Street and develop a statewide sexual health strategy, with an additional \$18.5 million invested over four years.

This is unashamedly a Labor Health budget. It is not obsessed with budgetary matters, as the LNP was, but on providing real front-line services to real people. The Labor Party in office has a proud tradition of supporting the public health system. I am proud to be a member of a government which is continuing that tradition.

I also put on the public record a number of issues in response to matters raised by those members opposite. What a debate it has been to hear the cant and hypocrisy and the outright dishonesty of those members opposite when they have deliberately misrepresented the budget.

What did we hear from the member for Beaudesert and the member Cleveland about programs such as the Mums and Bubs program? They had the temerity to stand up in this House and say that the program had finished. That is what they said. In their speeches in this debate on the budget they had more front than David Jones to stand up in this House and say that that program had been axed.

Labor is committed to ensuring the Mums and Bubs program continues and that mums and bubs receive the best possible health care. We are not discontinuing funding for the Mums and Bubs program. I can confirm that funding will continue to flow. That program sees new families and newborns receive a home visit shortly after birth. We hope to expand on that with our new nursing program and therefore expand the delivery of services in the community.

The school nurses program will take nurses back into schools to help children, particularly in cities like Logan—

**Ms Fentiman:** Hear, hear!

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the minister and member for Waterford. It will take nurses back into cities like Logan to help families of children identify problems which may impede their learning. It may assist their educational pathway by identifying health problems earlier.

At page 14 and 15 of the Service Delivery Statement we outline the service standard on the number of in-home visits to families with newborns in accordance with the Mums and Bubs program. It is a service standard that is being discontinued. It is in the Service Delivery Statement. It is an activity measure which is essentially a data collection mechanism. An opportunity to create a more meaningful and comprehensive reporting service has been identified and is currently in the process of being developed.

The people of Queensland need to listen carefully to those members opposite as they go out of their way to misrepresent the budget and misrepresent what the Labor government is doing to build jobs for now and the future, to restore front-line services and to stimulate our economy, particularly in areas that were left languishing by the LNP, including tourism.

There are a number of initiatives in this budget to support the electorate of Woodridge. Those initiatives include assisting the Springwood Australian Football Club re-turf their oval. That is significant investment of \$100,000. There are other initiatives to support vulnerable families in the community of Woodridge. We are doing what Labor governments do. We are standing up with and for vulnerable people to assist them.

There are other investments in this budget that will help the hardworking businesses in Woodridge. I had the great privilege during the election campaign of meeting an extraordinary number of hardworking people in the electorate of Woodridge—self-employed businessmen, tradesmen and women, professionals in our schools, our healthcare clinics, our hospitals and our childcare centres. These are people who work extremely hard. The focus of this government is to support those people—to support hardworking, aspirational Queenslanders who want to make a better life for themselves and their families. That is why I commend this budget to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (4.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution in the debate on the Appropriation Bill. As I have done every year that I have served in this place, I would firstly like to go through the benefits that we are most grateful for and thank the government for them on behalf of my electorate.

The first area is feral animal and pest management. It is a very big part of what we do. It combines environmental interests with production and business interests. Our main business is cattle production. We have a gargantuan infestation of prickly acacia across the beautiful, open Mitchell grass plains throughout Western Queensland. It is a terrible scourge on the environment out there. Every dollar in this area counts at the moment. It provides good employment. It is good for the environment and it holds the topsoil together better when there is Mitchell grass on those plains and not prickly acacia. It is a relatively small amount of funding which is not commensurate with the size of the problem, but it is money that is there so we appreciate that.

Not much needs to be said about wild dogs. They are not a big issue in the cattle country up north. Controlling feral pigs and the like is a big issue. There is \$5 million in funding for controlling feral animals and pests. That is very helpful.

When it comes to the drought relief assistance package, I would like to say that I am grateful for the money—the same as under the previous government—but that package is pretty much useless and in no way commensurate with the size of the problem out there in Western Queensland, particularly in my electorate with those larger parcels and most people not being able to access the drought

concession loans. One officer in particular out there said that he has given up trying to get people to even apply for the household assistance package because so many people are ineligible for it, and a lot of people have stopped bothering to apply for it. I do not even make much effort myself spruiking that package anymore, because it has run out of steam and goes no way to solving the issue. Whilst we are grateful for some money being available, a lot needs to be done in that space. I would like to come back to that later in my speech.

There is \$8.1 million for the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program. That has been a good program that fits in well with pest management, burning off and that sort of thing up there in the gulf. It has been a very successful program, and I commend and give much credit to previous governments for supporting that and to those people for the job they do.

There is \$470,000 for stock route management. A big part of the drought is that people—not for some time but now more than ever—are putting cattle on the road, on the stock routes. That means they need water facilities every so many kilometres, and a lot of those water facilities have been left to run down, so a lot of people cannot effectively use those stock routes. So that money is very helpful as well.

The centrepiece of this budget for Western Queensland—and I think all of Western Queensland should be very grateful—is the Western Roads Upgrade Program. That is an excellent initiative for Western Queensland. Many councils should be very, very grateful for that money. I think a lot of mayors and probably a lot of members of parliament were doing a lot of soul searching 12 or 18 months ago when the rural crisis was really starting to bite. Councils were not getting their rates in. Shops in towns were getting nothing through the till, and that is still the case. Councils thought, 'We have a bit of a problem here because, if people are losing jobs in town and no-one in the cattle industry has any money, they are not spending any money. How do we stimulate the economy?'

There was talk of approaching the federal government for a large stimulus package to give rate relief to councils. I think everyone landed in the same place—that the main business in most of these towns is councils. They are the main employers and their main business is usually roads. So putting money into roads in these regional councils is a really effective way of stimulating those local economies and keeping the towns alive and keeping people out there. It is good, smart spending by the government, because if you build a road it improves productivity. You have more trucks moving around the country. It certainly enhances our productivity.

When sections of the Hann Highway were upgraded by the government some years ago, one cattle producer said that it made a difference. From loading on his property to loading and unloading in Hughenden used to take 12 to 13 hours; now he does it in about four or five hours. When you fix these roads, you can multiply that by thousands and thousands of cattle producers out there. We believe that more can be done all the time, but I acknowledge that good progress has been made on these roads over the years. There has been continual improvement. The whole industry works a lot better. I believe that we have a good, strong competitive industry out there in the cattle industry because of a lot of effort that has gone into improving roads in the past. So it should be acknowledged that the Western Roads Upgrade Program is a great contribution.

Part of that is the TIDS program, which has gone unheralded to this point, but it is a pretty big thing. A lot of mayors said to me after the last election, 'Rob, for goodness sake, if you can get the TIDS money back ...' I know that it was part of the Labor Party policy before the election to take it from \$30 million—in fact, I only found out today that it had been up to \$40 million under the previous government; that had been reduced and that was a big blow—up to \$60 million in 2016-17. But now we have \$70 million in TIDS for 2015-16 and again in 2016-17. That puts a lot of wind in the sails of the councils out there and they should be very appreciative.

I show my appreciation to the government on behalf of those councils today because I know that means a lot to them. You have ensured the survival of a lot of these businesses in town at least for the next few years. I think there will be a lot of people breathing a sigh of relief once they realise the impact of this once that has been properly communicated to all of those contractors and others who live in western areas. It is a big thing and it means a lot to Western Queensland. I think it was well placed for the member for Gregory to also show his appreciation. Anyone from those sorts of electorates realises what those packages mean. I see the roads minister in the chamber, so I pass on my thanks for that package.

An infrastructure project that was not in the budget that I think could still be of great benefit to not just the people in my electorate is the upgrade of the Hann Highway. The Hann Highway is part of the blueprint for the federal government. They have identified it as a strategic project. We are still very

optimistic that, once things are worked out with the federal government in terms of the way that project is rolled out, it will go ahead. I know that it has been identified by this government as significant. I know that it has been put in the white paper by the federal government. There is a lot of impetus behind that project. I think it is a very good case in point for a nation-building project. You may not realise the full benefit of it now, but it will stimulate industry and growth at both ends of that corridor. I think the rest of Australia would see benefits from our state putting money into that project. That would be something that requires funding down the track as it needs to be done. Water supplies in my area that need funding were also missed in this budget—the Forsayth Dam, the Normanton water supply and the Mount Isa water supply—and that situation desperately needs to be addressed.

I want to make some general comments about the budget. I appreciate, as I did with the last government's budget, the propensity to address debt and fiscal balance. I think the general public have had their appetite satisfied. Certainly they have been influenced by the media that fiscal balance is the be-all and end-all in the budget and in the government's handling of the budget. It is certainly very important, but in terms of the policy platform I think industry policy can be a dirty word and often gets lost in the mix. Whilst there are always infrastructure projects out there that help, if the conversation starts with fiscal balance, I do not think that is the best strategy. I think the conversation needs to start with what is the important infrastructure that needs to be built that will stimulate industry and then let's look at funding it. Debt funding for industry-building infrastructure builds jobs, builds revenue and stimulates the economy in the process. Numerous commentators will support the view that there is adequate capacity for public debt to fund infrastructure, but it must be the right infrastructure.

You will hear ad nauseam—and I think it is pertinent in the context of the redistribution debate—that we are underrepresented in western areas. Like it or not, in Queensland a lot of our industry opportunities are west of the Great Dividing Range. Paradoxically, you might say that the population is not there. With the growth in FIFO and centralisation, there is less and less population in my seat—which is why there will be an argument to expand the size of my seat.

We are having a discussion about the northern white paper because the rest of Australia acknowledges that very much of the growth potential exists in the north of Australia. I see it as I drive past it weekly in my electorate. Everyone there from all walks of life acknowledges it and knows it must happen at some point in our lifetime, and it will happen whenever a government wants to take advantage of that. Things do not happen quickly but they must happen. Public debt is not always the best, but it is a perfectly acceptable way to make these things happen and may be absolutely necessary to make these things happen. That is the only way I think that you are truly going to take the budget forward and build the revenue that is so desperately needed.

Whilst the debt has been contained in this budget, there is still a growing problem in employment. All of those projections may seem ambitious in the context of what we see and feel out there in the general public. I think there is a desperate need to unlock some industry, and that is why we have to be talking about things like ethanol. It is not huge but it is a new industry and it opens up the door for providing that floor for agriculture and providing a base for new jobs, and that is what people want to hear.

If we are preaching to the general public out there or putting ourselves on the TV screen, they do not want to hear the same old rhetoric about creating jobs from thin air; they want to know exactly how that is going to happen and through what industry. The general public understand industry. They understand that, if there is a new product being put out there that is breaking into the market, like ethanol, then it must mean new jobs. So I think that is a good case in point. Whilst it is not a gargantuan industry, it is effective, it certainly has a place in our economy and I think there are great opportunities there.

I would like to focus on one thing that is not addressed in this budget, but is a big part of our economy and our industry and our ability to achieve balance of payments federally—that is, our capacity to provide profit and earnings through agriculture. There is a rural crisis at the moment and it is a rural debt crisis. Our rural industries are competitive; on their own, they are competitive. At the moment, there is a big debate about foreign investment. Foreign investment is fine just so long as our own Australian farmers and those people living out there in the Mount Isa electorate, for example, have the same access to subsidised capital that all of these other countries do when they come and buy our farms. The capital they are using is actually more unproductive than the capital we have because it is subsidised. If people do not believe you support industries, well do not let these people use subsidised capital to run it inefficiently on Australian soil.

We have farmers and families who do a good job. They are very productive at running these places, but rural debt is ballooning out of control. That is not because they buy up properties; it is because they borrow money in hard times to try to feed their cattle, or they go into overdraft during these droughts when they have prolonged periods where they have no income. That has happened in Western Queensland for three years now. We have a \$4 billion beef industry—and that is the last figure I heard—which is pumping all of these taxes and income into the Queensland economy but it is severely compromised at the moment. In fact there is not much revenue coming off it at the moment. With the reconstruction board, these industries can be saved. It is a cost-effective way for the Queensland taxpayer to keep the best equipped people to perform land husbandry on those places out there; it is the best style of management and the most effective management we can have. More importantly for me, it will at least preserve whatever communities we have out there. We have already lost a lot of people out in western areas, but it will at least preserve the communities. What is the alternative direction we can go in out there in Western Queensland? If we do nothing—as is happening right now—and just continue with the current drought assistance, we will see a completely different picture down the track.

I refer to a radio forum last week on the ABC where the Bulloo shire mayor and the Paroo shire mayor said that it was not that they were against foreign investment, but if a large institutional investor buys these places and amalgamates them, they do not necessarily manage them better but three or four families are taken out of our towns and that is what really hurts us. That is a big problem in a social context and also in an economic context in the longer term. Once you lose those people off the land, they will not magically flood back once the market improves. The market will not bring all of these people back, and we are losing hundreds of years of experience from people who know how to run proper stocking rates and know how to look after the country out there. The alternative is employed management from super funds or foreign owners who put people on gap year to manage these places. That employed management is never going to be the same as the unit we have out there. There is a solution for all of this, and it is a reconstruction board to address rural debt which is a very big part of the Western Queensland economy. Once we go west of the Great Dividing Range, particularly in the northern areas, we are talking cattle and mining. Once we can do that, that is a big step forward.

I need to address mining. There have been some good advancements in this term, and some credit must go to the last government in terms of the copper smelter emissions. That has been delivered and that helps stimulate mining. That is nothing to do with the budget, but mining is a big part of what the Mount Isa electorate gives to this state. The QRC document I have says that it contributes \$2.5 billion and about \$300 million a year in royalties to the state—that is royalties alone before we talk about payroll tax or any other taxes they generate for the state. All things being equal, we pay our taxes like everyone else in Queensland but we then contribute another \$306 million a year in royalties.

If we want to go back and talk about infrastructure and competing for infrastructure, the rail line in Mount Isa is always a great case in point. There was an accord signed in about 1996 with Queensland and the rest of Australia saying that all of our trains should run at 80 kilometres an hour. What has happened in Queensland since they corporatised all parts of Queensland Rail and broke it up into these different entities? All the maintenance crews that used to be in the small towns of Julia Creek and Richmond no longer exist, so we have a private contractor trying to fill in all of the gaps along the line. What happens is that the lines out there warp from the heat, the black soil and the wet and the trains have to go slowly so that they do not roll over. We had something like 12 rollovers in a short period a couple of years ago when we had to increase the capacity to get ore to the coast.

There are 'slow down' signs all along this rail line now which is forcing a lot of people to try to put trucks on the road to cart all of their produce to the coast. The last time I checked the GRP coming out of there was \$15 billion. So we now have all of these trucks taking this produce to the coast and that can cost up to three times more. What is that doing to their competitiveness when the produce is put on the road? These trucks are ripping up the Flinders Highway, and the Flinders Highway now has 'slow down' signs all the way along it.

So we have trains that now operate at 40 kilometres an hour because there are 'slow down' signs along the line because they are not improving the track and instead they are just, at best, stopping it from completely collapsing. The quality and standard of that line keeps diminishing so people are going on the roads, but now the roads are being flogged. We are going backwards. We have a north-west mineral province putting in \$300 million a year in royalties, and that rail line as a key piece of infrastructure is going backwards. Those things have to be fixed if we want to improve competitiveness, if we want more mines and more industry along those lines. That is a good use of infrastructure—not more tunnels in Brisbane and more soft infrastructure.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (4.47 pm): I rise to support the appropriation bills and to congratulate the Treasurer for his hard work. This is a responsible and measured budget—a budget that reflects true Labor values and puts the best interests of all Queenslanders first. It is a budget I am very proud of. It is a budget that delivers jobs now and jobs for the future. It contains the right decisions in Queensland's interests, and it is unashamedly a work based on Labor principles—one that clearly demonstrates there is a better way for Queensland and Queensland families.

We will not take the LNP's lazy approach of selling assets to raise a quick \$37 billion. Queenslanders, with their innate sense of fair play and decency, roundly rejected this approach, leaving the LNP exposed as a policy-free zone. Their latest desperate attempt was a glossy affair cobbled together at their state convention, clearly designed to boost their party membership. They have come up with no plan—no alternative plan. The LNP has done nothing to improve the budget bottom line—no plan to create or sustain jobs—and, breathtakingly, it leaves the door open for asset sales into the future.

My government's budget champions health and education as the fundamental platforms for what Labor governments are all about. My government has unashamedly refocused attention on these key portfolios as we restore social justice in this state for those in danger of falling through the cracks. We will apply all of our energy and acumen to the crucial task of building the state and restoring essential front-line services. That is what we promised at the last election and this budget delivers to the people of Queensland.

As the Treasurer stated—and, again, I reinforce it today—we will manage the state's finances responsibly. My government expects a \$962 million surplus for the 2014-15 year, and over this financial year alone a \$1.2 billion surplus is forecast. We are confidently predicting surpluses of over \$2 billion in the following two years. Combined surpluses over the next four years will be \$6.9 billion, the largest surpluses in the nation and achieved in the face of reduced royalty revenue and a \$396 million writedown in payroll tax.

Economic growth is forecast to improve from two per cent in 2014-15 to 4½ per cent in the next two years, stronger than any other state in the country. Unemployment averaging 6½ per cent in 2014-15 is far too high. Our enduring challenge is to get this down. Since the election the trend unemployment has fallen to 6.3 per cent with 23,100 full-time jobs created. Creating jobs is our No. 1 priority and it is fundamental to our economic agenda.

Job creation is the core of our Working Queensland jobs plan and the \$180 million Advance Queensland package, measures that will deliver jobs now and create jobs into the future. I have boosted my \$50 million election commitment for Advance Queensland to \$180 million to fully fund its programs to bridge the gap between great ideas and the jobs that they can lead to. It will enhance and build on the impressive legacies of Labor governments to grow our recognised expertise in areas such as medical science, biotechnology and robotics and share the expertise worldwide and by unlocking our untapped start-up potential to run innovative ideas into new products and services. The breakthroughs and discoveries that I am confident will be made will enable the economic benefits to flow through the economy to everyday Queenslanders, creating new, additional jobs. I am pleased to say that the Advance Queensland policy has been warmly welcomed by all stakeholders and the business community. The policy includes the \$50 million Advance Queensland Best and Brightest Fund, the \$46 million Advance Queensland Future Jobs Strategy and the \$76 million Business Investment Attraction package.

I have seen firsthand the hardship and dire struggles in our hinterland and our regions. My government has heeded the pleas of the mayors in the outback. Nearly \$5 billion will be spent in the regions over the next four years, and \$200 million is brought forward to deliver critical infrastructure and create jobs. We have also committed \$52 million for drought relief measures.

Our \$10 billion infrastructure spend in this budget will support 27,500 full-time jobs and includes \$500 million in new funding for new schools, mainly focused on education maintenance and hospital refurbishments. These are all local projects supporting local jobs. Those are jobs for carpenters, plumbers, electricians, painters and other tradies. Nearly \$4 billion has been allocated for roads and transport projects.

I make no apology for repeating that job creation and job protection is at the heart of what this government is about. Our Working Queensland program will nurture and assist the right conditions for growing jobs and kick-starting new businesses. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a key priority of this initiative. We will provide \$240 million over four years getting up to 32,000 Queenslanders back into

meaningful work and boosting their skills. To plan for the workforce of tomorrow, my government will establish Jobs Queensland, providing \$40 million over four years for an independent statutory authority to provide us with the advice on skills demand and long-term workforce needs.

My government will invest \$34.5 million over four years to restore our TAFE system to its rightful place as a premier provider of vocational education and training in Queensland. We will quickly restore TAFE's reputation as a quality training provider by establishing an independent training ombudsman to investigate complaints made by students and apprentices. To encourage our employers to hire more apprentices and trainees there is a payroll tax rebate of 25 per cent on their sign-on wages. In addition, their wages will be exempt from payroll tax up to 30 June 2018. This incentive comes with a commitment of \$45 million over the next three years.

Health expenditure rises by over four per cent this financial year to a record \$14.2 billion and in education, a record spend of \$12.4 billion, up over seven per cent this year, is central to shaping our future. An amount of \$248 million will be outlaid over four years to employ 875 more teachers, including 275 specialist high school teachers and over \$14 million has been budgeted to hire an additional 45 guidance officers.

My government is determinedly committed to reducing the devastating effects of domestic and family violence. We have allocated \$31.3 million over four years to addressing the devastating consequences of DV. This includes two much needed 72-hour crisis shelters for women in Brisbane and Townsville at a cost of nearly \$20 million over four years.

A strong tourism sector is vital to Queensland's economy and this budget restores the previous government's cuts, providing much needed funding certainty. An amount of \$400 million will be dedicated to tourism and events over the next four years to drive growth. We have an additional \$100 million over five years to protect our tourism icon, the most priceless natural asset, the Great Barrier Reef.

My government's first budget also delivered for my electorate of Inala with a heavy focus on education. I am very proud to represent the people of Inala in the Legislative Assembly. It delivers \$2.2 million to construct an early years centre at Serviceton South State School and \$2.7 million for a trades skills centre at Glenala State School that will be used by students from surrounding schools. Additionally, there is \$1.4 million for local service providers to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay, including funding for foster and kinship care and residential centres.

In conclusion, my government's first budget sets the right course for Queensland to again become the pace-setting state for economic growth. Despite fearmongering from those opposite, our valuable public servants' superannuation and all of their entitlements are safe and they are protected. My government's first budget reflects the Treasurer's measured, responsible approach to balancing the books and charts a prosperous way forward. It will get Queenslanders back to work. It will initiate jobs for the future. It will restore growth and optimism. It will greatly advance Queensland. It will boost confidence in our state. It is the better way. It is the Labor way. I take great pleasure in commending the bills to this House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Order! Before I call the next speaker, I inform honourable members that there will be camera operators recording footage in the chamber. I call the member for Hervey Bay.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.56 pm): Well, well, well, what can we say about this gerrymander budget? It is propped up by the unions, it is propped up by the conservationists, it is propped up by the KAP and it is propped up by the boys up the back. That is what this gerrymander budget is all about.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SORENSEN:** I should not use that word. Look at the headlines that I have been collecting such as 'A cosy state of the union'. This is where the word 'gerrymander' was first mentioned. The article states, 'Government warned of "new gerrymander" over alliance.' That is from one of the Labor guys down in New South Wales, Michael Costa. That is a pretty good indication that we do have a gerrymander here and it is certainly well and truly alive. This government is rolling out the red carpet for the unions. It states—

Union delegates will be given taxpayer-subsidised office space, telephones, computers, noticeboards and other facilities—

**An opposition member:** Is that in the budget?

**Mr SORENSEN:** Is that in the budget? Where is that in the budget? Please direct me to the line in the budget that shows that the government is going to donate this money to the unions. Tell us. If it gives them an office, is it going to be the penthouse in the tower of power? Is it going to put them on top of the tower of power? Jackie has got all of that lined up already. Where is that item in the budget? At least the government has been honest about the conservation groups and the fact it has given them \$50,000 in the budget.

**Ms Jones:** That's what you gave them, Ted.

**Mr SORENSEN:** So what? We were just following you. But at the end of the day, where is that line in the budget? I would like an answer. Where is it? Don't all just sit there with a dumb look on your face: tell us! This is what always amuses me about the budget. On 2 March the Premier said that the Labor government would not sell major assets. Then on 5 March the Deputy Premier Jackie Trad said that Labor would not sell strategic assets. Then on 12 June 2015 the acting Premier Jackie Trad said she would beg, borrow or swap assets. Tell me the difference between selling assets and swapping assets, because I am not quite sure. Then on 15 June the Treasurer said he was going to mirror the Hawke and Keating era. What did Bob Hawke and Paul Keating do? They floated the Australian dollar, deregulated the banking industry, privatised the Commonwealth Bank and introduced the Qantas Sale Act. Are you going to mirror that? That is kind of interesting, is it not? At the end of the day, there is poor old Curtis up the creek without a paddle. I have another one here too.

**An honourable member:** Go back to the other one.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, I will go back to the other one. This is a good one. This is Curtis Pitt saying that they will spend more, earn less and reduce debt while retaining assets. Can you follow that? I will say it again. He says that they will spend more while earning less and reduce debt while retaining assets. Can you understand that?

**Ms Leahy:** 'Pitless'.

**Mr SORENSEN:** 'Pitless' all right. How can you do that? That is unbelievable. I have never seen anything so ridiculous in all my life. To say that you are going to spend more, earn less and you are going to have a good budget—

**An honourable member:** Smoke and mirrors.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Smoke and mirrors, you can say that again.

**An honourable member:** Smoke and mirrors.

**Mr SORENSEN:** This is a good one too: 'Fighting for the reef'. This is a \$50,000 campaign, and it is all about the environmental groups out there that have been fighting about the reef for the last 18 months. I reckon what happened there was disgraceful. Have a look into the Thomas Foundation. I guess most of you know about it because old Ralph Willis was one of them. He is raising money in London to run a campaign to say that it is your last chance to see the reef. These are the campaigns these green groups run against us. This reef is around 2,000 kilometres long. Who dredged the Gladstone harbour out onto the reef? Through the chair, can I ask the education minister if it was under her watch when they dredged—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner):** Order! No, this is not question time. I will refer you to the Appropriation Bill.

**Mr SORENSEN:** What is it going to cost us to try to counteract this whole stupid campaign by these groups on the Barrier Reef? They spent \$50 million on it. Those guys over there are propping these green groups up to do this to our tourism industry. That is going to cost us a huge amount of money, and I just cannot believe some people. Mr Mackenzie up there in Townsville got on board with the green groups, and now he is telling the green groups that they need to shut up.

We have to go to these European countries to make sure that we can get those tourists coming back to Australia. The backpacker industry is a huge industry up and down the Queensland coast, and we really have to make sure that we keep that industry alive because there are hundreds of jobs. I know they are not unionised jobs and that is the reason members opposite do not really care about them, but look at the con jobs and the dishonesty of these green groups. This one is not even in Australia; it is in the Philippines. This is just deliberately dishonest propaganda and vandalism of the tourism industry in this country, and yet you guys support the green groups. They prop you up all the time.

**An honourable member:** Power at any expense!

**Mr SORENSEN:** Power at any expense; that is about right. But it just makes me sick that every time the LNP government turned the dredging back onto land, what did the Labor government do? It dredged the harbour in Gladstone and pumped it out into the ocean, and it cost the commercial fishermen millions of dollars because the first time they saw trouble was when they brought back live trout into the Gladstone harbour and they all died. That is how they knew there was a problem in the Gladstone harbour. What did the Labor Party do? They pumped it all out into the ocean and into the reef. They did not give a stuff. But where were the green groups then? Nowhere. Not one of them stood up and said, 'You're not supposed to do that.' Think about it: why didn't the green groups start with their activists then? Because they come under the control of the ALP here in Queensland, and the only time they ran a campaign about the reef was when we were in government. It is disgraceful and shocking to have this gerrymander propped up here in Queensland to just play stupid politics with industries like the tourist industry and the commercial fishing industry. Because they are not unionised industries, you could care less about them. Why do you not care about that? Look at the scallop industry in Hervey Bay. It is a big industry. For some reason or other, the other day they strolled down to this processing plant. They are not allowed to dump scallop shells into a dumping area that has been designated for a long time. They have been doing it for 40 years that I know of.

**A government member:** Can you bring it back to the budget?

**Mr SORENSEN:** It is the budget. I could lose up to 100 workers just in the one factory in Hervey Bay if this stupidity continues. Do you think that is funny? I do not. Jackie thinks it is funny.

**Ms Trad:** I think you are funny, Ted!

**Mr SORENSEN:** Jackie thinks it is funny. She just said it was funny that we do not care about the commercial fishing industry.

**Ms Trad:** I said, 'You are funny.'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner):** Order! Take your seat, member for Hervey Bay. When there is order and when I bring you back to the subject of the debate on the Appropriation Bill, I will give you the call. I call the member for Hervey Bay.

**Mr SORENSEN:** I just sort of realised that the fishing industry was an industry. We do have jobs in that industry and I do not want to see them destroyed by stupidity. I know that the Treasurer did not say 'agriculture' or 'fisheries' in his budget speech, but the fishing industry in Hervey Bay is worth a lot of money. It is worth a lot of jobs.

**Mrs Frecklington:** It is vital.

**Mr SORENSEN:** It is. It is a vital industry. I mention Royalties for the Regions. The Labor Party candidate who stood against me said that the Labor Party would honour that. Big deal!

**Mrs Miller:** Tony Gubbins?

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes. That is what he said at the meet-the-candidates forum. Are they going to? No. Lies. Sorry, dishonesty—whatever you like to call it. You can go on and on about it.

The other day the education minister was asked a question on notice. She should read the Queensland Teachers' Union newsletter—

**Ms Jones:** I'm glad you are. That's good.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, I did—just to see whether you were right or wrong. You got up and said that the Great Results funding was all still there. But the union says—that is your bosses, remember?—that the budget plan is to pay for the initiatives in education and elsewhere through a range of measures such as scrapping the remaining aspects of the LNP Great Teachers = Great Results plan to save over \$180 million. I reckon the minister should read the Queensland Teachers' Union newsletter.

**Ms Trad:** There are two different programs, Ted.

**Mr SORENSEN:** You reckon.

**Ms Trad:** Great Teachers = Great Results—

**Ms Jones:** And GRG. Two different programs, darling.

**Mr SORENSEN:** That's what you reckon. You are going to do away with that. That was one of the best programs going.

**Ms Trad:** Andrew, help him.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Jackie, arrogant Jackie. This would have to be the best one—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay, once again, I will have you direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr SORENSEN:** This front page would have to be the best one. It depicts Minister Trad saying 'Beg, borrow or swap'. It has a photo of Annastacia leaving the country. 'Captain Jack' is there ready to take over.

**Ms Trad:** Remember when you were on the front page of the local paper, Ted? 'Tin-man Ted'.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, I do.

**Ms Trad:** I preferred your front page.

**Mr SORENSEN:** I know. I did not like him much. Peter Chapman: you had to shift him down to Ipswich to get your candidates in down there. He did not get me out, did he? Poor old Peter Chapman!

**Ms Trad:** We wanted you back.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Anything like that, Jackie. No troubles, Jackie. I will remember you when you are sitting on this side of the fence again.

**Ms Trad:** You'll still be here.

**Mr SORENSEN:** No worries. At least I do something in my area—not like you. What do you do except prop the unions up?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay, you will direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr SORENSEN:** One good thing about the budget is that they are looking at expanding the emergency department at Hervey Bay Hospital. There is only \$20 million in this year's budget for the four areas. Our area has an ageing population. The hospital and medical needs in areas like ours are a lot greater than they are in some other areas. I cannot see how the amount budgeted, with the increase we see this year, will meet the needs of those people, especially when we consider that a new dental clinic and a new cancer clinic have been built in both Bundaberg and Hervey Bay. I just cannot see how the budget is going to provide the expenditure needed for our city of Hervey Bay when you take into account the tourist population coupled with the growth in Hervey Bay every year. I just cannot see that budget working. As people know, end-of-life medical needs are greater than at other times of life.

Around 17 per cent of the workforce in Hervey Bay is in health and allied health. It is a very serious matter. I believe that we do need more funding for hospitals in the Wide Bay area for that reason. We are struggling all the time to keep up with growth pressures. I would like to see more money spent on maintaining the facilities we have and on making sure that we keep up with growth, the ageing of the population and the tourist numbers through town. Those numbers never really show up in the statistics. We could have thousands of people in Hervey Bay. At tourist attractions such as Fraser Island car rollovers do occur, meaning the helicopter service has to go over to pick up injured people. It is sometimes very hard to get people off Fraser Island and the helicopter is required.

I will make one more comment. I could not understand John Bjelke-Petersen coming to Hervey Bay and telling people to put the LNP last on their ballot paper. I never thought I would see the day that the LNP, Clive Palmer and John Bjelke-Petersen would all be cuddled up in the ALP bed. It is a scary thought, I know. It is one that bugs the hell out of me.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (5.16 pm): I thank the member for Hervey Bay. I just woke up the member for Callide! He was looking a bit relaxed up there in the back corner. I will pick up the pace after that contribution.

Labor came to government determined to deliver a better way for Queensland. We said that we had a plan to grow the economy and to deliver jobs—jobs now and jobs for the future. We said that there was a better way—one that did not involve selling the state's income-generating assets. This budget delivers on our commitments to Queenslanders.

This budget reflects our commitment to ensure that every child, regardless of where they live, has access to quality education so that they have the confidence, skills and knowledge to seize opportunities. It confirms our commitment to growing tourism in Queensland. There is \$400 million in the budget, honourable member to Hervey Bay, to do just that. It proves our determination to deliver the best Commonwealth Games ever. It demonstrates our government's commitment to Queensland's small businesses—the backbone of our economy—to invest with them to grow jobs.

We are investing a record \$9 billion in Education to deliver more teachers, more guidance officers, more maintenance funding and more funding to build new schools and early years learning centres right across Queensland. Our budget boosts supports for students and improves access for students with disability to kindergartens.

In one of the largest investments in the Queensland state schools' teacher workforce, we will spend an additional \$152.4 million over three years to put more teachers into classrooms. We value our teachers and the great work they do each and every single day in our schools. That is why we will deliver 875 extra teachers above growth, bringing the total number of new teacher positions over the next three years to 2½ thousand. Every state primary school, secondary school and special school will benefit from the extra teachers funding, including in the electorate of Nanango. Despite the member for Nanango saying yesterday that there was no money whatsoever in the budget for schools in Nanango, I want to assure all schools in Nanango that there is definitely money in this budget to keep their schools open and functioning, with more teachers and more support staff.

These new teachers will be in our classrooms when school commences for the 2016 school year. Importantly, we know from listening to schools that they want to use these extra positions to not only reduce class sizes but also support leadership roles in schools, taking some of the pressures off teachers and principals. We are going to increase deputy principal positions and head of department positions so that we can strengthen curriculum support and improve learning outcomes. Teaching principals in our small schools, mostly in rural and remote areas, will be given support to devote extra time to planning and working with teachers in their schools. I sent an email to many of our teachers right across Queensland and I am getting some feedback from them already. I received an email from a teacher at Cloncurry State School who said—

Over the last couple of years I have become more and more disillusioned with Education Queensland, but this news sounds so positive and encouraging.

Another teacher from Marian State School said—

Brilliant news thanks, so desperately needed, well done

I thank them for that feedback.

We know that our schools are having to address more complex issues as they work to support all of our students, and this budget delivers on our election commitment to boost guidance officers in our schools. Through our investment, we will bring the total number of government funded full-time-equivalent guidance officer positions to more than 550 in the Queensland state education system by 2018. Our budget includes a massive \$763 million investment in state school maintenance and more than \$456 million for capital works. This is an increase of \$89.1 million on last year's Capital Works Budget, Mr Deputy Speaker Hart—and I am glad you are impressed—and, unlike the LNP that did not build one school—not one school—outside of South-East Queensland, we will.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** State school. Sorry, I will correct that: state school. As the proud member for Cairns said in his speech, this includes \$25 million for the long awaited new special education school in Cairns to open in 2017. We know that the fastest growing region in Queensland is in north-west Townsville—the rapidly expanding Northern Beaches—and this government will deliver the funding needed to build a new primary school and planning for a new high school in the city. It is interesting to note that the other day in his speech the shadow minister for education said that dollars do not count and that money does not matter. I say this to the shadow minister, and I even imagine that the member for Hinchinbrook would join me in this: I am pretty sure that the families of Townsville think that this matters and that these dollars are important. This is part of the \$500 million initiative of our Statewide Schools and Hospitals Fund—new schools which will provide an economic boost through health and education projects. Our maintenance boost will see a \$70 million injection on top of the normal maintenance spend to help address state school maintenance backlog and meet the Auditor-General's recommendations. The LNP claimed at the last election that it had fixed the maintenance backlog, but we know that after three years we inherited a \$260 million backlog. Its plan—and I welcome the fact that it did put in additional funding for maintenance—was a bandaid solution. The LNP had no long-term strategy. We are using our maintenance dollars in a smarter way with introducing asset life cycle assessments and bundling work packages and we already have a Roma schools trial underway right now. We know that the funding that we are putting into maintenance will support more than 2,000 jobs right across this state.

It is not only in the education sector where we are seeing investment with new teachers and jobs being delivered through our capital works and maintenance spend, but I want to see more jobs in the tourism sector as well. That is why, as members have heard, we are restoring the funding that was cut by the LNP government to tourism. Before coming to government we knew that the LNP had cut funding for tourism, but we did not know by how much. What we were shocked to discover was that the plan under the LNP was to cut Tourism and Events Queensland funding in half. I am proud to be delivering a \$400 million Tourism budget over the next four years that will deliver certainty and security to the Queensland tourism industry. I hope that the honourable member for Hervey Bay also sees this as a benefit to the tourism industries in his community, because he is absolutely correct when he says that there are tourism jobs up and down Queensland's coastline and we want to work with that industry sector.

Once again, we have listened to industry and we are delivering. This budget delivers a four-year funding guarantee for Tourism and Events Queensland and will give industry the certainty it needs to drive new investment in tourism and events that will draw more visitors to Queensland. Of course, this budget delivers on the \$10 million extra for the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund—I note the member for Cairns nodding—and our \$100 million protection package for the Great Barrier Reef to further strengthen Queensland tourism. We want to ensure that leading into the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in 2018 Queensland's tourism industry is supported because the Commonwealth Games will create up to 30,000 jobs and will give a \$2 billion injection into the Queensland economy. It was a Labor government that secured the bid for the Commonwealth Games and a Labor government that will deliver the Commonwealth Games.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the member for Surfers Paradise for his genuine commitment to the Commonwealth Games. We have already been working in a bipartisan way to ensure that we deliver the best possible Commonwealth Games for the people of the Gold Coast and the best possible Commonwealth Games for the people of Queensland, and I thank him for that. However, I do note that the only bit that the honourable member for Surfers Paradise has not given me any support on is some suggestions in terms of the mascot. There is a mascot competition running at the moment and he has been very supportive in every other way. I was thinking, when you look around this chamber there is just so much inspiration. There is 'Timmy the Turtle', 'Crippsy the Crab', 'Seeney the Stonefish', 'Stingray Stevens' and, of course, 'Bristle Worm Bleijie'.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! Minister, I think we better refer to members by their correct title please.

**Ms JONES:** Of course, Mr Deputy Speaker. It was in jest. Bristle worms are actually listed on the Queensland Museum website as a toxic and dangerous marine animal, so maybe we will not go with that solution! We know that this budget continues to deliver the infrastructure and the investment we need to ensure that we do have a great Commonwealth Games. There is \$174.6 million for development on the Gold Coast and here in Brisbane. This includes capital works grants of up to \$83.5 million for the Carrara precinct encompassing Carrara Sports and Leisure Centre and Carrara Indoor Stadium and \$30.8 million for the Coomera Sport and Leisure Centre. In addition, \$39.5 million is allocated to continue construction of the Queensland State Velodrome for track cycling. When doing a site inspection, I was told already that this will be the best velodrome in the country and it will be right here in Queensland. We are determined, as I said, to deliver the best games ever.

We have put small business front and centre not only with what we have delivered in my portfolio but also with our \$2 million Queensland Entrepreneurs of Tomorrow program which will get more small businesses up and running, \$1 million over three years to assist stay-at-home parents to develop more home based businesses, \$1 million over three years to encourage students to consider starting their own businesses through entrepreneurship and IT skills programs whilst continuing Small Business Week and the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council and the Red Tape Reduction Advisory Council next month. Of course, there is also the signature piece introduced by the Premier which will deliver millions of dollars for small business with our Advance Queensland package. There is so much excitement building and the response from the business sector, in particular the small business sector, has been extremely positive. In finishing I want to say how proud I am to be standing here as the member for Ashgrove.

**A government member:** Again.

**Ms JONES:** Again; absolutely. That is exactly right. I love it when they keep saying that. I am back; that is right. I am here and I am the member for Ashgrove and I am delivering for my local community. I am so excited that this budget includes funding for Enoggera State School to start the

work that it needs on the new performing arts centre. That is recognition of the important work of local teachers and school staff to ensure every child has a great education. Local schools will also benefit from a record investment in maintenance. Across Brisbane this will be an extra \$35.8 million for repairs and upgrades and Ashgrove will also receive up to eight new full-time-equivalent teacher positions over the next three years as part of our new teachers above growth. We are also investing in local sports clubs, and I am very excited that there is over \$400,000 for The Gap Football Club. It is one of the largest clubs in my electorate and it is growing each and every year.

This funding is long overview. I know that it will go to great use as the club upgrades its playing fields and renovates and expands its clubhouse. There is also additional money for the Valley District Cricket Club, which, I believe, is the largest cricket club in the Southern Hemisphere. This funding will be used to construct practice nets and install new lighting and new storage sheds. All of these clubs make a valuable contribution to our local community. Of course, we are continuing the work in upgrading the Walkabout Creek facilities. There is \$1.5 million in the budget to do that.

In finishing, I am very proud to be part of a government that has delivered a measured and responsible budget, a budget that listens to the people of Queensland and responds, a budget that says very clearly that we want to work with industry, we want to work with business and we want to grow the economy. Over the last few years we saw significant job losses. When it came to the unemployment pile, Queensland went to the top. I know that many of the members who are sitting in this chamber today felt compelled to run for parliament because of the high youth unemployment levels in their communities. This budget is putting a down payment on growth. I am very pleased to be with other members of parliaments to speak in support of this budget. I think it is a responsible budget that will deliver a brighter future for Queensland.

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (5.30 pm): This budget is based on a false premise and a false hope. The false premise is that the dodgy accounting practices that were used in framing this budget are being portrayed as legitimate, responsible budgeting. The false hope is that those opposite know what they are doing. Best thing that can be said about this budget is that it continues many of the great initiatives that were introduced by the LNP government—things like the school maintenance program and the focus on addressing hospital waiting list times.

According to one of the reports from the Treasurer that I have seen, the most significant initiative in this budget is to change the dominant colour of the budget papers to maroon. But even that is a change to a format that was established by the Beattie-Bligh governments. I am as proud a Queenslanders as anyone else in this House, but budgets do not depend on pride and jingoism. It is not the colour but the content of a budget that counts. The defining features of this budget are increasing debt, continuing high unemployment and no plan or capacity to pay down the total state debt.

The Treasurer and the Premier have labelled the budget a real Labor budget. Every other member on the other side of the House who I have heard speak refers to this budget as a real Labor budget, as if it was some sort of praise or recommendation. The unfortunate truth is that this really is a real Labor budget in the same way that the Beattie and Bligh governments delivered real Labor budgets, which were reckless and economically irresponsible. As all Queenslanders witnessed under Bligh and Beattie and that other genius, Andrew Fraser, the result was to plunge the state into ever-increasing debt. The last thing this state needs is a real Labor budget. It needs a budget that is fiscally responsible and appropriate for the economic conditions of the time.

Queenslanders have not received that from this budget and they certainly have not received it from the government. At a time of declining revenues, the government is spending more. If we were to listen to the comments that have been made from members on the other side over the past couple of days, we would have heard 'record spending on this' and 'increased spending on that'. I have not heard one iota of comment from anyone opposite about, 'We have needed to trim this in order to save to be able to provide for something else.' There has been no such thing in terms of careful budgeting. Of course, that can only lead to increased state debt. When it comes to budgets, Labor knows only one way and that is to spend whatever is necessary to make itself look good.

Voters are entitled to honesty from the government. Voters expect governments to act in a financially responsible way and not be politically expedient. What Queenslanders have from this government in its first budget is a version of back to the future—back to the future of big spending, big deficits and let the future look after itself, laissez faire fiscal policy, back to the future of the Beattie and Bligh budget blowouts.

Members will not see it in a line item anywhere in the budget, but the biggest cost to taxpayers is the debt that the Labor government owes to unions for their assistance at the last state election. That debt is reflected most significantly in a return to a bloated Public Service. Even with an additional 3,000 public servants, by his own admission the Treasurer acknowledges that this budget will have no impact on unemployment levels. Despite the claims of being a jobs budget, the budget papers reveal that unemployment is predicted to remain at six per cent or more. How can this government claim that it has a focus on jobs when its policies have no impact on unemployment rates? One wonders what its union masters think of a budget that does nothing to support increased employment. In his budget speech the Treasurer admitted that unemployment is forecast to remain at six to 6½ half per cent over the coming years. How can a Treasurer in a government that claims to have jobs as a top priority say that and not be embarrassed? The opposition does not need to point out the failure of this government's job creation policies; the Treasurer has done it for us.

In the Treasurer's speech there are multiple references to jobs for the future. But what about the present? Like everything in this budget, jobs are on the never-never, based on the hope that things will pick up in the future because of private sector investment and that Labor, of course, will then claim the credit. That hope hinges on a prediction of 4.5 per cent economic growth over the next two years. The Treasurer is probably the only economic forecaster in Australia with that level of optimism. The only jobs generated by the glossy 36-page *Jobs now, jobs for the future* brochure is for the designers and printers involved in its production. I hope that the government targets funding allocated to training that is linked directly to jobs. It helps no-one and it wastes taxpayers' money to fund training courses for which there is not an identified job at the end. In the past, Labor has been very negligent in just funding training for training's sake. For the good of all Queenslanders, I hope that it gets it right this time.

Regretfully, for my constituents there is very little in this budget for them. In fact, Noosa was conspicuously absent from the Treasurer's budget speech in initiatives such as the Statewide Schools and Hospitals Fund, which mentioned Roma, Caloundra, Gladstone and the Hervey Bay hospitals, but ignored Noosa. A decision on the future of the Noosa Hospital is needed now to give certainty to the area's population. I urge the health minister to meet with me, as requested many times now, to discuss the issue as a matter of extreme urgency.

Two mentions of allocations for Noosa are welcomed, but they are very small in the overall context of the budget allocation. The provision of \$3.3 million to continue the work at Peregian on the David Low Way bikeway project, which was started by the LNP government, is welcomed. I hope that next year's budget will have the remaining \$6 million to finish off that project. The other capital funding for Noosa in the budget is \$2.4 million to undertake investigations to ensure that Lake Macdonald Dam continues to meet its compliance requirements. Although that money is welcomed, I am sure my constituents may have preferred to have seen some money spent on removing derelict hulks from the Noosa River, providing extra services for the Noosa Hospital or finding worthwhile community use for the old TAFE site.

The budget is not all bad. I commend the government for continuing to fund some of the initiatives that were introduced by the Newman government: \$10.1 billion to continue or complete infrastructure projects already in the pipeline across the state, the continuation of the schools maintenance program, even though the government has given it a new name, and Royalties for the Regions, which has been renamed Building Our Regions.

This budget is really a variation of the old three-card trick. I have done a modern version of it. I have called it Labor's two credit-card trick. At the moment we have the state credit card. It is really worn out. It has been maxed over several times. The poor old magnetic strip on the back does not work anymore. As a matter of fact, it has been used so many times that it is melting away. There is about \$80 billion sitting on the state credit card. What the Labor Party has decided to do is get another credit card and move \$4.1 million out of what is owed on this one and move it over to that one, which in this case is the state GOCs, the electricity providers.

**Mr Ryan:** Table it!

**Mr ELMES:** I will table the debt on it and you can pay it, member for Morayfield. What happens when you have two credit cards is that you have to pay the costs on them: you have to pay the membership costs, the fees and charges and the interest costs. What we will find is that that \$4.1 million that the GOCs have been saddled with, the people of this state will pay the interest on those cards via increased electricity costs while they are still spending about \$270,000 an hour on interest payments on the one that is already maxed out. This is typical Labor economics and it just goes to show the lengths that those opposite will go to in order to lessen a little bit of pressure here, to all of a sudden

find they have got another couple of billion dollars over there that they will spend rapidly. And they are spending it rapidly in this particular budget. It is a generation or two down the track of decent ordinary Queenslanders who want to have some of the best things out of life who will pay for the excesses of this government.

I really have some fears about this budget. I have been privileged to be in this place now for nearly nine years. I have seen a few budgets come and go. I have seen some real Labor budgets. I saw them in the days of Andrew Fraser. There is not a lot of difference, perhaps a couple of zeros in terms of the state debt, between this budget and the sort of nonsense that Andrew Fraser was dishing out to the people of Queensland on all sorts of gimmicky things. Remember, ladies and gentlemen, if you go back to those days, the sort of money that the Labor Party was spending on great projects around the state? The fact that we were not paying nurses, that was a good way to save some money. That saved about \$2.1 million. The Traveston Crossing Dam: there was another investment—\$600 million on the Traveston Crossing Dam. The member for Currumbin would be well aware of that great investment in the desalination plant down at Tugun. That was about \$2.1 billion. The Western Corridor Recycled Scheme; there was \$2 billion spent on that. There was the \$700 million blowout on the children's hospital. There was about \$350 million that Labor spent on the Wyaralong Dam and then decided not to hook it up to the pipeline. It goes on and on and on. They were great projects that have got us to where we are in this state. I really do hope that this government learns a little bit. It has had its fun. Those opposite have sidled up to all their mates. They have given them all the extra money that someone supposedly took away because it was financially responsible to start to try to bring this state back into some sort of economic order. I hope now that they have had their fun there is an approach over the next 12 months to start looking at what is financially responsible, not just for the state today, but for the people who are going to live in this state tomorrow trying to make an honest go of it.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill 2015 and the hard work of the Queensland Treasurer, the Department of Treasury and the ministers of the Palaszczuk Labor government. When we consider the impact of any budget we know that it has both a statewide impact and a local level of impact within our state. Both are important to the state. Both are important to the residents of the state electorate of Logan. Budgets are about now and the future; especially about the jobs now and the jobs for the future. That is what this budget is about.

I want to speak about the future, but so many of the speakers on the other side have been trapped in and have talked about the past. However, before we look to the future we should look a little bit to where we came from to start this budget. I noticed yesterday in this place the former treasurer did the same when he reflected on his own budgets. He said of his own budgets, and here I quote from *Hansard*, that we 'should go down on bended knee and thank the LNP'. I know! The unbelievable arrogance. The former treasurer went on to say that Queenslanders should say 'thank you' to him for his budget. In fact, he said it three times. He said we all should say for his budgets, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' What should we thank the LNP for?

Everyone knows that employment is important. Work brings dignity. At the last election Mr 'Say Thanks To Me', the member for Clayfield, promised that unemployment would be four per cent. So should we say 'thank you, thank you, thank you,' for four per cent unemployment? No. They have one of the worst records on unemployment in the country. Unemployment grew to 6.9 per cent. The voters in Queensland did not say 'thank you, thank you, thank you,' at the last election. They said, 'No. No. No thanks, Tim.' At the last election the public servants, the nurses, the teachers, the firefighters—the people who serve us—were told by Campbell Newman, 'You have nothing to fear.' Just a few short months later tens of thousands of hardworking public servants were sent packing. What were these public servants told by the LNP that they should say? They apparently have to tell the LNP, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you for sacking me.'

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order, members! Order! Member for Logan, just pause it there a second, please. Let us just calm down, folks, and we will get on with this. It is going to be a long night yet.

**Mr POWER:** I do get excited, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, hang on. Is everybody ready to start again? Member for Logan, you have the call.

**Mr POWER:** Instead, at the election every one of those sacked and their families told those opposite, 'No. No. No, thank you.' The LNP promised not to sell our assets. Then, without asking Queenslanders, the LNP budgets of the previous government sold \$10 billion in assets without asking. Then the member for Clayfield had the Strong Choices idea to sell off billions more. The LNP now tells us that we should say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' for their Strong Choices sell-off, but we know instead in January the voters of Queensland very firmly said, 'No. No. No, thank you.'

The LNP promised a higher growth of the economy in Queensland, but instead the cuts and the sackings hurt consumers and sapped confidence. They topped it off with, by the best measure we have, two quarters of negative growth. The LNP says we should say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' for them crashing the Queensland economy. Instead, the people of Queensland have said, 'No. No. No, thank you.' to the LNP.

In the Logan area there were service cuts to the services that Logan families need. There were young mums who, when they had their babies, had their midwifery services cut from the Crestmead Community Centre and the Browns Plains Community Health Service. What were they supposed to say as they travelled on the 560 bus all the way to Loganholme? We were told they were supposed to be grateful and say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' But instead very clearly they said, 'No. No. No, thank you.' Let us look at the buses these mums might need to get to the hospital. The number of runs and routes cut meant that each and every week the buses that serviced the people of west Logan stopped at 3,000 fewer bus stops. So as they waited for buses that were not coming, as they watched as their bus stops were being ripped out of the ground, what were they supposed to say? The member for Clayfield says that they were supposed to say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' But instead we know they said, 'No. No. No, thank you.' When those mums finally got home and they turned the lights on, they turned on the oven to heat up the food and the kettle to have a cup of tea, they could be comforted that the LNP had given them a 43 per cent increase in electricity prices. What would the LNP and the member for Clayfield want them to say? They would have them say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.'

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** However, we know that at the election electricity users from across the length and breadth of Queensland said to the LNP, 'No. No. No, thank you.'

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Logan, take your seat for a second. Member for Logan, you are being very provocative and I am having a bit of trouble controlling those opposite. Can you come back to the long title of the bill, please?

**Mr POWER:** Certainly, I will come back to the long title of the bill. I will stop reflecting on what we were told by the previous speaker, which is that we should get down on bended knee to thank the LNP. I will stop reflecting on the fact that, for all the budget disasters that they presided over, we were supposed to say, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' Now I want to turn to the future. I want to speak to the bright future that this budget looks to deliver.

More seriously, I need to reflect on another government that lost the confidence of the people of Queensland. After the 2012 election, we on this side of the House looked very deeply at our own failings. I have huge admiration for Premier Palaszczuk taking the lead in admitting that we got it wrong when it came to selling off major assets that Queenslanders value and strategically want to keep in public ownership and direct control. We got it wrong and we reflected on that. The then opposition leader, Premier Palaszczuk, led us to relook at our Labor values, reassess our Labor priorities and re-engage with the people of Queensland through listening deeply to them. That spirit of listening is a big part of this budget. The biggest part of this budget is that we have listened. We are listening now and we affirmed Labor's commitment to not sell public assets. This budget shows that, through Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk's leadership, Labor can help the state work smarter through working together. It is a positive budget that focuses on jobs, especially the jobs that are growing right now in the creative software and technical industries, and in educating workers and students through our TAFE's, schools and universities so that they are ready to create and take on those jobs.

We are committed to making our population healthier, not just through increasing our commitment to health but also through \$11.4 million to re-establish—and I am very proud of this—a primary school nurse service in Logan, after it was cut in the last term of the previous government. There is also \$2 million that expands the services for acute and ongoing mental health needs.

Previously, we had announced, and will deliver through this budget, extra funding to reduce waiting times for patients at Logan Hospital who need specialist ear, nose and throat treatment. New in this budget is \$4.8 million to improve emergency services at the Logan Hospital emergency department.

To help Logan residents return quicker and safer to their homes, this Labor budget will improve the Mount Lindesay Highway with \$5 million to improve the intersection of Camp Cable and Mount Lindesay Highway. I will continue to fight for the Mount Lindesay Highway, the Wembley Road overpass and roads in Logan in future budgets.

The education of Logan students is also a feature of this budget, including allocating funding for a full-time guidance officer at Park Ridge State High School and 11 more full-time teachers for our Logan schools. I was pleased to hear the education minister say earlier that those 11 full-time-equivalent positions can be flexibly adapted to the needs of the schools. Logan locals also benefit from funding for the Logan Metro Sports Park fields, funding for the Homestead Park fitness equipment and continuing the commitment to the irrigation system at the home of the Park Ridge Panthers.

I will continue to fight to restore services that were cut during the last term of government and I will continue to fight for the local area. However, it is also important to note that Labor's budget will be in surplus and we will steadily pay down debt. This is a responsible budget. For the first time in 16 years, it is set to forecast a reduction in general government debt over the forward estimates. This is a budget that shows that Queensland can do better through not selling our assets but still paying down debt. Truly we can work smarter by working together to create a better Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.53 pm): There had been much anticipation as Queenslanders waited for this budget and, despite a few leaks and teasers, the Treasurer claimed there would be no frills and no pain. We knew that Labor had no plan, but now we know that they are up to their usual tricks of smoke and mirrors, with no signs of relief from government charges and levies. This first-time inexperienced Treasurer has presented us with a budget of sneaky accounting moves as he plans to pickpocket the long service leave and superannuation of public servants. By raiding quarantined funds, Labor plans to cut spiralling debt by shifting it onto the books of state owned power companies. An article in yesterday's *Australian* newspaper by economist Joe Branigan says, 'The central plank of the fiscal charade is that Labor will treat the equity in Queensland's Government Owned Corporations as a giant ATM ...', thereby forgetting that the responsibility for those businesses ultimately lies with the Queensland taxpayer and not the government.

After having the handbrake on Queensland's economy for the past six months and business and investors holding their breath, there is nothing in this budget that builds confidence in our future prosperity. The 'jobs, jobs, jobs' mantra of this Labor government is also true to form. They believe governments create jobs, not the private sector, and will hire at least 10,000 extra public servants, despite a directive that departments slash more than \$1 billion in spending over the next four years. In fact, 3,000 of those jobs will be created in the Public Service this year, causing a \$1 billion blowout in employment costs, while the rest of the state stagnates and unemployment is predicted to remain at 6.5 per cent.

On Monday, 6 July, the Leader of the Opposition launched the LNP's Real Economic Plan for Queensland, focused on jobs, economic diversity and growth, because we know that a sustainable and growing economy does not just happen; it requires a properly developed plan. However, those opposite think the exact opposite. Having found themselves in government without any plans and realising that they have inherited back their own debt, they decided to load up the ledgers of the GOCs with more debt which, in effect, is just kicking the can down the road. Nothing has changed. The Premier's priority has been putting union bosses in the driver's seat and trying to turn school principals and other public servants into union recruiters under Labor's commitment to union encouragement. Is that why the contract of the director-general of the Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games was terminated five months after this government's election? Wouldn't he toe the line on union encouragement? Did the Premier and cabinet wait and see who signed up the most union members and sack those who underperformed?

I would like to acknowledge the remarkable and innovative efforts of Dr Richard Eden, who has given some 25 years of apolitical and absolutely professional service, which saw him awarded the Public Service Medal in 2014 for outstanding public service to education, training and employment for the period when those opposite were last in government. Yet the Premier has expressed Labor's appreciation by disgracefully showing him the door. It is a tale all too frequently being told as ministers are too busy or too arrogant to treat people with respect.

The member for Ashgrove went to the media bragging that she was managing her workload very well, but it seems that others do not agree. The sudden resignations of Tourism Events Queensland board members, including chairman Stephen Gregg, bring whispers of low morale and a minister who is too busy to show interest. Did the minister ask him to stay? Did she ask him to go? What did he have to fear? The reason Stephen Gregg was there in the first place was that the industry wanted him and I know, because I consulted them. Has the minister consulted broadly to install a new chair of Tourism Events Queensland? Under Labor, the chair came from outside Queensland and the industry felt neglected and resentment was widespread.

Everywhere I go around the state, tales of discontent with Minister Jones prevail. One operator came all the way from the outback for a scheduled appointment and was told that the minister had stood them up and gone to an appointment elsewhere. When in Winton for the new branding launch in this budget, she brushed aside the same person as she wanted to go shopping in Winton. Similarly in Yeppoon, Minister Jones was too busy to visit any tourism operators, who were affected very badly when Cyclone Marcia hit Byfield. Other industry organisations are mockingly told to join the queue for an appointment with this minister because there are 600 in front of them. In Melbourne at the Australian Tourism Exchange, or ATE, the very same minister embarrassed Queensland tourism operators when she shamefully politicised the event and talked down Queensland. Sunshine Coast operators were appalled. They were riding high with a big boost to their domestic visitor numbers. One operator was so disgusted that Queensland's tourism minister would politicise an international industry event that he wrote a media article about it.

May I remind the minister that the LNP doubled the level of funding for regional tourism organisations, which she referred to as regional tourism operators in one of her releases. We doubled it to \$7 million per annum ongoing. I hope the minister has worked out the difference by now and maintains RTO funding.

Earlier this month the minister put out two releases on national visitor statistics on the very same day. One was gloating the fact that there was an extra 900,000 visitors to Queensland. The other was blaming the low numbers to the Whitsundays on the LNP's supposed funding cuts. This minister cannot even agree with herself.

If the minister is genuinely concerned about the Whitsundays, why is she not holding this year's DestinationQ forum there? Why not hold it in the magnificent Whitsundays? They are one of Queensland's big five tourism destinations and are totally dependent on tourism. You would think she would make it a priority. But the local member is from the LNP. According to my colleague the honourable member for Whitsunday she has not even bothered to visit the region once. I have registered my interest in attending Townsville's DestinationQ forum and I will be interested to see how my application is processed.

The minister has made some very misleading claims about supposed funding cuts to the Tourism budget in coming years. I ask honourable members to listen carefully. If we took Labor's election promise seriously, then we would see that she is being untruthful with funding figures and has not delivered on Labor's own tourism election guarantee. Labor's election documents pledged to restore funding they claim the LNP cut from the TEQ budget and provide an additional \$40 million over four years. Minister Jones's claim that the LNP was ripping \$188 million out of TEQ is a complete untruth and exposes her as short-changing the industry somewhere in the vicinity of \$60 million over four years, just so she can claim cheap political points.

The LNP committed to maintain funding levels for Tourism and Events Queensland. In fact, we committed an additional \$60 million on top of Tourism and Events Queensland's base funding for the Queensland first tourism fund for events.

Our January 2013 Drive Tourism Strategy recognised the importance of this market and saw brilliant destination picture signage. Some 300 signs were rolled out across Queensland. In the 2015 election we pledged another \$20 million for more of these and improvements to Queensland's 730 roadside rest areas. Will Labor continue this fabulous tourism initiative? Capricorn Enterprise were recently praising the rollout of these attractive road signs and the success of the LNP'S Drive Tourism Strategy, which concludes this year.

This budget has created doubt about the government's intentions to implement Destination Success, the LNP government's 20-year plan for tourism's future prosperity, in full. A lot of work has gone into the DestinationQ strategy by industry. Where is Labor's commitment to follow through?

All this minister does is carp and moan and she is becoming increasingly loose with the truth. The V8 contract was negotiated under my guidance for three years ending in 2016. The budget for this did not come from Tourism and Events Queensland; it came from Treasury and is administered through TEQ. So her scaremongering that major events could be lost shows how out of touch and uncommitted she really is to tourism.

Of real concern, though, are the Treasurer's comments that funding is guaranteed for events like the V8s. Is this funding now going to come out of TEQ's budget for the first time? If so, it will blow a hole in the extra \$10 million promised each year on top of TEQ's supposed restored funding.

The Palaszczuk government just does not take tourism seriously. Labor have fudged their election pledge of a tourism cabinet subcommittee and one for the Commonwealth Games by combining the two into a three-person committee. This committee is made up of the Minister for Tourism, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer. None have any tourism or Commonwealth Games experience. This trio will only meet quarterly yet the LNP had up to seven ministers on a dedicated cabinet committee and it met bimonthly.

What damage to Queensland's tourism industry did Labor and the Greens' relentless attack on the health of the Great Barrier Reef do to turn people away? Tourism operators say this ongoing negative scare campaign has done enormous damage to the reputation of the reef and visitation. No wonder Labor has put up \$100 million over five years—not in the Tourism budget, I might add. But the amount is truly tokenistic when compared to the LNP's \$35 million per year towards reef water-quality improvements.

Then there's the killing off of proposed ecotourism projects like the Obi Obi zip line. On 28 September 2014 then shadow environment minister Trad said—

We don't think that national parks should be opened up to full commercial ventures. I think it really will make people think twice about coming to Kondalilla ...

The proponents recently cleared another hurdle, but if Trad has her way this project will not ever see the light of day. It was this antidevelopment culture of successive Labor government's that starved Queensland of new product offerings. It was this culture that stalled the development of Great Keppel Island.

What about Trad's decision on North Stradbroke Island to cut mining jobs in 2019 but not start the new development at Toondah Harbour until around the time mining has been forced to stop? All these jobs will be lost. The Deputy Premier said sandminers could swap jobs! What? Miners working in construction without proper training! What on earth would the unions say about that?

Gold Coast Tourism's Martin Winter said that the tourism economy throughout Queensland—in fact, throughout the world—relies on two things. One is a strong and vigorous campaign to tell people why they should come to the destination and the second is in supporting tourism infrastructure. This government has already failed in both areas. They have been campaigning to drive people away from our magnificent Great Barrier Reef and imposing heavy-handed union restrictions that discourage new investment and infrastructure.

Queensland's racing minister is described as the invisible man—a phantom. He gained that moniker for his reluctance to meet with industry groups. However, his brusque manner and disrespectful sacking of Queensland Racing's three boards via voicemail or a staff phone call exposed him as a person unprepared to do a minister's job and one who gets others to do his dirty work.

The member for Rockhampton is part of a government intent on destroying Queensland's \$855 million racing industry, crushing public confidence and using the MacSporran report into atrocious live-baiting practices in the greyhound racing industry to take a swipe at all three codes. Out of the 15 recommendations, the only one that Labor moved to implement was abolishing the three boards, which will do nothing to stop this abhorrent practice. Now the minister is using scare tactics to frighten jockeys and trainers with reductions in educational training and coveted prize money.

Country racing events are in the minister's sights too with a commitment of only one year. The LNP recognised the social and economic value of country racing and revitalised it across Queensland. We remember what happened to country racing the last time Labor was in power. Rather than sit down and talk with industry representatives from Racing Queensland, the member for Rockhampton chose to meet with former deputy chair Barry Taylor three times whilst refusing to meet with others who were prevented from sharing their strategies to improve the financial position of Racing Queensland.

Just like Minister Jones talks down tourism, Minister Byrne talks down racing. I fear his late decision to finally consult with staff from Racing Queensland, the Office of Racing and, you guessed it, unions will not spare some more staff from the scalpel. Whispers of a stitch-up are rife and names like Ludwig and Bentley are frequently uttered.

One of the biggest losers in this budget is Currumbin. It does not even feature on the Gold Coast and Logan regional map in the budget papers. The majority of new infrastructure and roads were already in the pipeline for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, which, I might add, I am proud to say the LNP left well prepared, on time and on budget.

In the lead-up to the 2015 election I made a fully costed, fully budgeted pledge of \$450,000 over three years for the Currumbin Sanctuary Wildlife Hospital to continue its life-saving work treating over 8,000 injured wildlife annually. After an unnecessarily rude response to a question on notice from the Minister for Environment, it comes as no surprise that those opposite have turned their backs on the hospital yet again. When the member for Ashgrove was previously environment minister, she waxed lyrical about koalas but failed to even visit Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary or offer a single cent to assist it, with successive Labor governments exploiting the sanctuary on numerous occasions by using it for cute, cuddly photo opportunities.

Thank goodness for funding allocated by the LNP government, including \$300,000 worth of infrastructure for our picturesque and popular Currumbin Creek to provide better and safer amenities for a multitude of user groups. The establishment of the Gold Coast Waterways Authority by the LNP in 2012 has enabled the provision of new infrastructure thorough community consultation. Over the last couple of months we have had a very popular boat ramp upgraded at Winders Park and a community pontoon installed. Funding has been set aside and the process is well underway to have another pontoon installed up the creek at Preston Park.

It is an undisputed fact that, after years of a limp-wristed approach by Labor to law and order, and specifically the unchecked behaviour of criminal motorcycle gangs, crime on the Gold Coast had reached unprecedented levels. Our dedicated men and women in blue were denied the funding, resources and legislative support they needed and deserved to do their jobs. Morale was low.

Currumbin has a close-knit community that works with our police to keep our neighbourhoods safe, but prior to the election of the LNP we had a government which buried its head in the sand and refused to acknowledge, let alone act, on the escalating problems of hooning and criminal behaviours. This House is well aware of the events that led to legislation being passed in this House that sent an unmistakably clear message to low-life thugs—they could no longer live outside the law; their time was up. Those associated with criminal motorcycle gangs were told, 'You do not own our streets and your behaviour will not be tolerated.' Figures released in late 2014 speak for themselves, with downward trends right across the state, especially in Currumbin.

I stood in this House in 2012 and said that criminals should be afraid of the LNP, that they should clean up their act or get out of Queensland—and they heard it, loud and clear. But comments from Labor's Attorney-General suggesting that the legislation will be watered down and possibly removed are sending shivers down the spines of all law-abiding citizens. The election result on the Gold Coast sent a strong message that people were happy with the tough stance the LNP took on crime. My office regularly received emails from constituents thanking the LNP for introducing the legislation. Now the emails are pleading for this government to listen to the people and to keep these laws.

Police are deeply concerned about bikie legislation being overturned—and already there are signs of a bikie comeback. As I was driving home to Currumbin on the M1 from Brisbane two weeks ago, a patched Mongol zipped by on his bike. Cab drivers were telling me recently that over the past 18 months they have noticed a huge difference when working on night shifts. They feel safe and say there is also that feeling in the community compared to before the new laws were brought in.

Currumbin has its share of public housing and homeless accommodation needs, with some 493 government owned and managed social housing properties. I really hope that some of the funding included in this budget will filter through to Currumbin so those in need will have certainty of a roof over their heads. Blair Athol offers crisis accommodation on the southern Gold Coast, and due to a service shortfall it turned away thousands of people seeking shelter again this year. Again, it would be hoped that we will be getting some relief to address those services.

What has Labor done though as far as cost-of-living measures are concerned? Nothing. They have offered a hike in car registration, whilst the LNP has promised to freeze this to CPI. The former Labor government failed to provide adequate funding to support grassroots sport and recreation. So

today I would like to commend the Minister for Sport for recognising the importance of the LNP's highly successful Get in the Game initiative. Like so many in Queensland communities, I am very pleased to see funding allocated to this LNP program. I commend former minister Steve Dickson for it.

I would like to finish by congratulating the Gold Coast Airport at Coolangatta on its impending \$200 million redevelopment upgrade, with long-awaited aerobridges and extra parking bays. As the gateway into Queensland, we will be able to welcome even more visitors to our magnificent Gold Coast—and let us hope we soon have an ILS to support it.

 **Hon. JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.13 pm): In my portfolios of Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Corrective Services more than \$2 billion is being invested in public safety, and that is to fund extra police on the beat, police vehicles and new equipment for fire and emergency services. The amount of \$28 million is being set aside to deliver 266 new police over the next year. And, unlike the previous LNP government, we will ensure that our police are properly resourced to do what they do best—that is, to help ensure the safety of Queenslanders no matter where they live in this vast state.

In a further boost to safety, nearly 1,000 new and replacement police vehicles will be out and about on our roads, as part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensure our police have access to the resources they need. An extra \$20 million will be invested over four years to help police tackle organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the drug ice. Many parents have told me how their lives have been torn apart by the effects of this terrible drug on their sons and daughters.

Too many young lives have been ruined by this scourge on our society and on our families. It is time to turn these terrible statistics around. That is why we are committing extra funds to give police the help they need to track down and take action against people who are manufacturing and peddling such a dangerous drug. This new funding will also ensure that police maintain the momentum in their crackdown on outlaw motorcycle gangs across Queensland.

We are also investing in the safety of those who keep us safe, with more than \$6 million over three years being spent on the rollout of body-worn video cameras. Unlike the previous LNP government, officers were forced to buy their own body-worn cameras. That is simply not on.

I am also pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in new and upgraded fire stations, new operational equipment for firefighters and new fire appliances. After three years of neglect under the previous LNP government, we are delivering the facilities and equipment our fireies need to keep Queenslanders safe. That is around \$65 million. And I know that you are happy about the fire station in Burleigh, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): It would be lovely to have the roof back on it, Minister.

**Mrs MILLER:** We are investing in new fire stations in Bundaberg—I certainly know that the member for Bundaberg is pleased about that—in Petrie, in Dayboro and in Gordonvale in the state's far north. The amount of \$1.8 million will be spent to complete the upgrade of the Bundamba fire and rescue station in my electorate.

Today I want to pay tribute to the hardworking police, fire and emergency services and corrections officers. Their job is not easy. It is not nine to five and it can be very dangerous. For this, every member in this House owes them a huge debt of gratitude. We should also thank their families who support them because they work around the clock, and those of us on this side of the House know that many work shiftwork and that affects the lives of their families.

I am proud to call the Bundamba electorate home. At its heart you will find decent, working class families—people who look out for each other and reach out to each other when times are tough, with what can best be described in my electorate as old-fashioned goodness in their hearts. That is why I am delighted to acknowledge the funds that have been allocated to my electorate of Bundamba in the Palaszczuk government's first budget. There is more than \$8 million in disability services funding to help people with a disability and their families access the support services they need to make a real difference in their lives.

There is \$1 million this financial year to continue with the establishment of a new substation at Springfield to boost network capacity and improve reliability. The total estimated cost of the project is \$51.8 million. There is more than \$9 million to ensure kids in need of protection have somewhere to stay, including funding for foster and kinship care, intensive foster care, residential care, therapeutic

residential care and supported independent living services for local service providers. There is \$195,000 for individuals and community groups to improve access to individual support services for vulnerable Queenslanders. There is \$12.69 million to purchase land for two new primary schools—one at Springfield West and the other at Redbank Plains. The people in my community are very happy about this.

There is \$1.873 million to complete the two-year \$1.923 million upgrade of the Bundamba permanent fire and rescue station. There is \$25 million for a two-storey, four-learning-space relocatable building; two-learning-space relocatable buildings; a prep relocatable building; and a small relocatable amenities building for the Springfield Central State High School—and what a great high school we have at Springfield Central. There is \$257,000 for the Base young offender support service to provide intensive support to high-risk young people and their families.

Education is very important in my local community. That is why our Palaszczuk Labor government, as part of its election commitment, will provide up to 18 new full-time-equivalent teacher resources in the Bundamba electorate over the next three years as part of 2,500 new teachers across state schools, high schools and special schools across Queensland in this term of government. That is important because, as part of this initiative—which may include letting teachers teach, providing more curriculum coordination time, more teacher release time, more specialist teachers in high schools, more deputy principals and more support for our principals and teaching principals—all schools in my electorate will benefit.

I would like to pay tribute to all of the teachers in my electorate. They do a mighty job and I would like to thank them not only for teaching the students in the classrooms but also for their commitment to my local community. I know that many of these teachers could apply to go to other schools but when they come into our community they love it. They love our community and I know that many of them want to stay even though they travel vast distances from home.

This budget is also about jobs, services, community safety, education and energy upgrades. It is about our Public Service as well. Once again under Labor, we are returning the Public Service of Queensland back to a career Public Service, as it should be. Our public servants, once again under this great Labor government, will be valued and never again will they have to worry about their job security. We value their role. We value their advice. We value having a professional career Public Service. It is also about our Labor values—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs MILLER:** They do not like it, do they? It is about our Labor values of care, compassion, commitment and helping each other in our local communities.

Getting back to the Public Service and the public servants assisting our Treasury officials, today I would like to thank the staff of the Queensland Treasury, the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and the Queensland Corrective Services for their hard work in putting this budget together. I would like to say this to all of the officers involved: well done and congratulations. I have some concluding remarks.

**Mr Minnikin:** Oh, keep going.

**Mrs MILLER:** Do you want me to keep going?

**Mr Minnikin:** Yes. We've missed you, Jo.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order!

**Mrs MILLER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, they love me. Isn't it nice? Budget documents are not just about money. Let us get this clear: budget documents are about values. That is their most important part. It is about values. People in my local community know that I fight for what is right. It is in my DNA. It is the black coal that runs through my blood. It is about principles. It is about values. It is about helping others. It is about compassion. It is about living your life with these guiding lights. It is about living your life with these lights in the sky that are the embodiment of who you are and what you are and your contribution to your local community. It is about caring. It is about sharing. On that note, I would like to say to the House that today I got a message from a constituent that I believe could help every MP in this House and I thought I would share it with them. It says, 'The flower that blooms in adversity is the most rare and beautiful of all.' Amen. Thank you.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Miller, adjourned.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.27 pm): I advise honourable members that the House can continue to meet past 6.30 pm this day and that the House can break for dinner at 6.30 pm or thereabouts and resume its sitting at 7.30 pm. The order of business shall then be government business followed by a 30-minute adjournment debate.

Sitting suspended from 6.28 pm to 7.30 pm.

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL

#### Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 1637, on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.30 pm): If the Queensland budget was a musical it would sound a bit like Redfoo's *Let's Get Ridiculous*. Treasurer Curtis Pitt may not have the fro of Redfoo, but he has some tricky economic moves and his budget just shouts out, 'Ridiculous!' That is probably the last time I am going to put Redfoo and Treasurer Curtis Pitt in the same sentence, but the song is just so apt and it does describe this budget.

It is ridiculous to simply shift debt from one credit card to another and pretend that it is a debt reduction strategy. It is ridiculous for the government to raid the public servants' entitlements and then say that it does not matter because we should trust them to pay it back in the future. Yeah, right—just like they promised previously to restore Queensland's AAA credit rating after they lost it. It is ridiculous to load up more debt against the state's energy assets and say that it will not hurt everyday Queenslanders who pay the power bills.

Premier Palaszczuk has failed her own mantra of integrity and honesty because she did not tell Queenslanders that she was going to do this at the time she went to the ballot box in January. In fact, the Premier and her Treasurer have not used the economic measures that they said they would use and the ones that they are putting in place in this budget they did not reveal; they kept them secret during the election campaign. The Premier and her Treasurer have failed to be completely up-front and the measures they are applying with their current debt and spending appetite are reckless and unsustainable. Regarding the \$3.4 billion raid on public servants' long service leave, an article in the *Australian* newspaper said—

This sort of behaviour would cause a company director to be disbarred.

Even the worst Labor treasurers of the past have never gone as far as to raid these public servants' entitlements. These pots of money are not consolidated revenue; they are the legal entitlements of public servants. It is their money. It does not belong to the Treasurer to use as his personal cookie jar to raid. Touch this and the government is spending other people's money. Spend it and taxpayers still have to fund it in the future. The problem is that when governments get addicted to spending other people's money without a plan to live within their means, to fix their spending habits or to repay existing debts, then the poor old taxpayers have to pay it back at a premium.

I mentioned that this budget's financial strategies were ridiculous. Then I realised I was still giving this government just a tad too much credit by assuming that they thought their strategy was a serious blueprint for the future. No, this strategy is far more cynical than the rhetoric that we have heard from the government. This is a budget for a government on a knife edge which does not know if it is going full term. Senior members of the Palaszczuk government have admitted to me that they did not know if they were going to go the distance.

**Government members:** Name!

**Ms SIMPSON:** This explains why this is not a budget for the future. It is a stopgap budget. I do not think members opposite would like me to name some of those members. The concern is that this is a stopgap budget that is too risky a financial strategy to keep repeating, particularly at a time when the ratings agencies are watching. This marginal Labor government is governing to get by, not governing for the future, due to its circus of problem backbenchers, not to mention the frontbenchers, while relying on Independents and, of course, being indentured to the union officials who control more of the cabinet

than the Premier does. If the song *Let's Get Ridiculous* is the budget anthem, then the movie which best describes the Palaszczuk government's last six months is *Frozen*, considering their infrastructure freeze. Mind you, with the weather today we have probably all been frozen with the snow in Queensland. The government cannot control the weather but they can control the infrastructure build, how they do it and how they ensure it is sustainable and is done effectively.

For most of the first 100 days of the Palaszczuk government the ministers did not have charter letters, in other words, their to-do list from the Premier. If that was not shocking enough, there would seem to be no comprehension that that was an issue. The lack of direction within that first 100 days is now evident in the budget papers. Business was saying that nothing was happening from this government, they could not get in the door, the ministers were too busy and they did not know what their plan was for government. In this budget we now see that that infrastructure freeze meant that there has actually been a downturn in the number of Transport and Main Roads projects that were commenced within the performance standard. Under the LNP's last full year in office, 90 per cent of Transport and Main Roads projects commenced within four months of their scheduled commencement. After six months of Labor, this slipped down to 73 per cent. This is an example of the infrastructure freeze that the Palaszczuk government put in place. I know the main roads minister tried to weasel—rather, Twitter—his way out of this performance measure, but it happened on this government's watch. The LNP legacy from the last full financial year was 90 per cent and this fell to 73 per cent of projects starting on time. The percentage of projects that were completed 10 per cent over time has increased from 10 per cent under the LNP to 15 per cent in this budget.

Labor has failed to fund any major new infrastructure, instead claiming credit for projects started and funded by the LNP, including many projects along the Bruce Highway. Recently I was pleased to be able to do a road trip along the Bruce Highway by truck and see the 10-year action plan underway. I commend our federal colleagues, who have appropriately tipped in the can for this highway project. It is making a difference, but we all know that when a road is 1,700 kilometres long there is a lot more to be done. We will continue to apply pressure to see this action plan and the additional projects across the state brought to fruition. In relation to the projects along the Bruce Highway, there was \$700 million in last year's budget. The Toowoomba Second Range Crossing was an LNP initiative, which we are delighted to see getting underway, and again I acknowledge our federal colleagues. The Gateway Motorway North upgrade is another desperately needed piece of infrastructure that the LNP got underway. Despite Labor's criticism of the LNP's priority, this budget shows that they are largely continuing the projects that we started without a clear framework of the new projects that need to be brought on. We have not seen this government's infrastructure plan to date. The duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line is an example of that. At the last election the LNP clearly enunciated that this was a priority piece of infrastructure. We outlined our plan. I will table an article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily* from yesterday titled 'Commuter fury after another fruitless budget', which is damning of this government for not taking action with regard to the duplication.

*Tabled paper.* Article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, dated 16 July 2015, titled 'Commuter fury after another fruitless budget' [834].

The RACQ came out in support of the policy to duplicate the rail line to the Sunshine Coast. Why would a road action lobby group be active in the space of rail upgrade advocacy? It was because of the amount of traffic that is on the Bruce Highway that should, and can, be shifted to an effective rail system. We need the Bruce Highway upgraded, but rail duplication is also vitally important.

I wish to acknowledge our federal colleagues with respect to the upgrade of the Bruce Highway from Caloundra Road to the Sunshine Motorway. When I looked at the budget I realised that, compared to QTRIP last year, on first blush it looks like there is less money being spent this year. But it is still budgeted for this overall section of the Bruce Highway to go ahead, because our federal colleagues have agreed to ensure that both stages 1 and 2 are completed together, I understand, in 2019. This rephrasing of funding is to achieve efficiencies by constructing stages 1 and 2 at the same time. Stage 1 was to be completed in 2018, but the revised funding arrangements now allow for stages 1 and 2 to both be completed in 2019. Stage 2 was originally meant to be completed later on. I commend our federal colleagues. This is a step in the right direction. But as we know, the pressure and the need to keep on funding the Bruce—and many other pieces of road infrastructure—is vitally important.

The other piece of road infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast that I wish to mention, as my colleagues from the Sunshine Coast have also flagged, is the access road to the new Sunshine Coast University Hospital. There is no plan from this Labor government to provide it, and that is a critical piece

of infrastructure for access to the hospital and also to ensure that sections of the Nicklin Way, which can carry up to 60,000 vehicles a day, do not continue to be so choked that people are caught in unbearable congestion and, in a worst-case scenario, may not be able to get to the hospital in time.

I was most concerned to see the apparent axing by this government of the Safe Night Out Strategy. On the Sunshine Coast we love to have tourists and locals go out and have a good time while remaining safe. The busiest taxi rank in the whole of the Sunshine Coast is at Maroochydore. The issue with the Sunshine Coast is that it is very spread out. It is a collection of many communities with a population of between 320,000 to 330,000. It is the size of a city but it is spread out. Maroochydore has a burgeoning entertainment area and to see this strategy scrapped is, I believe, a backwards step. We had good buy-in from the community and the licensees who had been involved, and I am most concerned that what they have asked for and what they believe is necessary to keep it a safe precinct under these Safe Night Out strategies has been lost. I would urge the government to rethink this.

We have had a 1 am lockout for years with three o'clock closings, and there has been support for that mechanism in our community. I know the issue of how late licences go is contentious. The critical factor is that we have to have the funding and the multidisciplinary approach to ensure that the police, the licensees, the community and all of the organisations are working together and that we have backup support with CCTV and the ability to get people away by public transport and taxis as quickly as possible. The real concern is that this strategy being knocked on the head has left people in limbo.

I welcome increases in TIDS funding for local government in this context: the Labor government gives with one hand while taking away with the other. The criticism from local government has been that they are going to face extra costs with the way this government imposes IR changes against the wishes of local government, which they say could cost up to 1,500 jobs across Queensland. On one hand you kick them in the head, and on the other you throw a few pieces of silver and say, 'Like it or lump it.' I do not think that is the way that local government should be developed and enabled to be locally sustainable and able to effectively respond to the needs of their local community, local employees and the people who pay the bills: the ratepayers.

With regard to disaster relief and reconstruction, I wish to acknowledge all those who have been involved in recent years in this vital area of helping rebuild people's lives. These hardworking men and women, who process disaster relief for Queenslanders at their most vulnerable after being hit by the full force of nature, are now facing staff cuts. In their hour of need, Queenslanders will be waiting longer. This government may think that is okay; we do not. The fact that disaster payment targets and their on time performance measure is going to drop under this government is not good enough. Under the LNP we saw that 97 per cent of disaster payments were processed on time. This government is dropping that down to 80 per cent, and I think that is a shame. It will put extra pressure on people when they are most vulnerable.

The challenge of infrastructure is not met by the budget that we are debating tonight. There are measures that were begun by the LNP with regard to school maintenance and the ability for local schools to be able to manage their local budget, which was a wonderful initiative by my colleague the honourable John-Paul Langbroek, member for Surfers Paradise and deputy opposition leader. We support the ability of local communities to be active in the space of managing their destiny, and schools are certainly a strong part of that. The maintenance program was one that we put in place.

There is so much more that this government is losing the opportunity to do because they have no plan to address the debt crisis in Queensland. Ultimately, all Queenslanders will pay for that. In closing, this is a budget to get by rather than to build. It has no plan to address the state's shaky credit rating and thus no plan to build the infrastructure of the future, let alone pay off the dud infrastructure built by the Bligh Labor government while the current Premier and her Treasurer were pulling ministerial pay packets.

We all celebrate Queensland's wins on the sporting field, but when you look at what is happening in New South Wales we are losing the State of Origin with regard to economic drivers. I am proud of what this state is capable of. I want to see it fulfil its potential for Queenslanders who want to live here, raise their families here, see them educated here and build their businesses here. The crying shame is that we are seeing business confidence building south of the border and not in Queensland because this government does not have a plan to get the fundamentals right. This is a 'get by' budget, not a budget that builds for the future.



**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! The member for Sunnybank has asked me to acknowledge his guests from the Taiwanese community in Sunnybank who are in the House this evening.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade) (7.48 pm): In 2012, when speaking to the first Liberal National Party budget in 15 years, I stated that budgets were all about values. They were about a government's purpose and priorities, but most of all budgets are about people. The Palaszczuk Labor government's first budget is an unashamedly Labor budget. It is a budget with values, purpose, clear priorities and it puts people right at the centre. It values diversifying our economy to futureproof it. It is driven by the purpose of creating jobs now and jobs for the future. It is a budget that puts people front and centre, with a record spend in Health and an increase in Education. It is a budget that prioritises infrastructure spending across our state to make sure we keep building Queensland. It is a budget that values our environment and ensures we have money and policies to protect the Great Barrier Reef and repair it for future generations.

This stands in stark contrast to the first Liberal National Party budget handed down in 15 years in this place by the Newman government. It was a budget that narrowed the ambitions for the Queensland economy to only four sectors. It was a budget that announced mass sackings of Queenslanders. It was a budget that detailed the axing of front-line services. It was a budget that outlined cuts to infrastructure spending across this state. It was a budget that entirely ignored the environment and the Great Barrier Reef.

I am very proud of this budget and the key initiatives, and I want to pay particular tribute to my colleague the honourable the Treasurer, his office and all of Treasury for their work in compiling a strong Labor budget within a disciplined fiscal framework.

I listened to the former Speaker, the member for Maroochydore, and I turn particularly to the issue of infrastructure. When the member for Maroochydore was talking about infrastructure, about an infrastructure plan and about building Queensland, I was struck by the irony, because it was the Liberal National Party government in the last term that failed to deliver one infrastructure plan for this state. The last infrastructure plan that was delivered in Queensland was delivered by the former Bligh Labor government in 2011. There was nothing from those opposite. I will not sit in this chamber and be lectured to by those opposite about infrastructure spending and delivering an infrastructure plan when they quite clearly failed abysmally at doing anything in the infrastructure space.

I am very proud of the Palaszczuk government's first budget in that it delivers over \$10 billion this financial year in infrastructure funding. The government's capital program will ensure a consistent flow of works to underpin jobs growth and economic activity right across our state. This program will directly support more than 27,000 full-time-equivalent jobs, which is a shot in the arm to the Queensland economy. Some 10,500 jobs are expected to be supported by roads and transport related projects, with almost \$4 billion committed to infrastructure and capital grants for Queensland's roads and transport network.

The budget also delivers a significant investment in infrastructure in rural and regional Queensland, with \$4.8 billion of the overall \$10.1 billion to be spent in these areas. The Building our Regions program will deliver a targeted infrastructure program of more than \$200 million over two years to support local government infrastructure projects.

In the area of transport, again I refer to statements made by the former Speaker, the member for Maroochydore, about the Sunshine Coast rail duplication project. I say very clearly: there is 100 per cent commitment on this side of the House to public transport infrastructure in Queensland. We understand that we cannot just build roads; we have to build public transport.

**Mr Molhoek:** What about the light rail?

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection from the member for Southport. I will talk about the extension of Gold Coast Light Rail. Who was it that conceived, funded and planned Gold Coast Light Rail? Was it the Liberal National Party government or was it the Labor Party? I think it was the Labor Party. It will be the Palaszczuk Labor government that stands up and fights for the extension of Gold Coast Light Rail. We did phase 1 when we worked together with the federal government and local council. There is one government that refuses to fund public transport infrastructure in Queensland and it is the federal Abbott government.

There is not one word from those opposite about how the federal government should be contributing to important congestion-busting public transport infrastructure for our state. They are mute. What is the use of having Liberal and National representatives wall to wall if, when it comes to taking on their own, they are silent, mute. What is the worth of Liberal-National members when they refuse to stand up and fight for their communities? There is no use.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I am very happy to talk about all of the public transport infrastructure projects that Labor governments at the national, state and local levels have delivered to the people of Queensland: Moreton Bay Rail Link, Gold Coast Light Rail, the extension of the rail line out to Springfield. All of these incredibly important public transport—

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection from the member for Maroochydore. What did the member for Maroochydore do when her party was in government? What did they do in terms of the Sunshine Coast rail duplication? Nothing.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier's comments are offensive and untrue. We had a plan to build it. You stopped it. I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): There is no point of order.

**Ms SIMPSON:** It is offensive and untrue, Mr Deputy Speaker, and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member finds the comments offensive. Would you withdraw?

**Ms TRAD:** I did not reflect on her personally.

**Ms SIMPSON:** You did mention my title, Deputy Premier. Under the standing orders—

**Ms TRAD:** 'What did her government do?'

**Ms SIMPSON:** If you wish to debate—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We are not going to have—

**Ms SIMPSON:** I find the comments offensive and untrue and I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Ms TRAD:** I did not personally remark on you.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, on the point of order—

**Ms SIMPSON:** You want me to get the *Hansard* pulled? Under the standing orders, it is offensive and untrue. I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore, take your seat, please.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** It will not take me six times. The member for Maroochydore has sought to have a personal reflection withdrawn. I think she is mistaken because the Deputy Premier did not reflect personally upon the member for Maroochydore. She made reference to the member for Maroochydore and then went on to say 'her government'—the government of which she was a member. That is a generalised reference to the former government. That has never been regarded as a matter about which a personal reflection can be taken.

**Mr STEVENS:** On the point of order, that is absolute nonsense from the Leader of the House, who heard it totally incorrectly. The Deputy Premier referred directly to the member for Maroochydore. It is a personal reflection under the standing orders. When a member requests that those comments be withdrawn, they are withdrawn automatically, without argument. The Leader of the House knows that as well.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It was a very close run thing. In the first statement from the Deputy Premier there was a comment about the north coast rail line and the fact that there was not a plan and then there was a point of order taken which I did not consider was a point of order. I am not sure about a direct mention of the member for Maroochydore that came after that. I am not sure that there was. It may not hurt, given that it is eight o'clock on a Friday night, for there to be a quick withdrawal. I would ask the Deputy Premier to maybe go along with that.

**Ms TRAD:** I withdraw whatever remark the member finds personally offensive, but I will reiterate my point. The Sunshine Coast rail line duplication is an important project. It is an important project that this government has always backed. Labor has always backed additional public transport and rail infrastructure in this state. When the Liberal National Party government was in power, it did nothing. It did nothing to progress this project. I will not be lectured to about the Sunshine Coast rail duplication by those opposite when they could not even, when they were on the treasury benches, progress the project at all. I will not be lectured to.

Let us talk about transport in Queensland, because the Palaszczuk Labor government's first budget outlines a plan to improve transport infrastructure and invest in Queensland's future. In contrast, the LNP's only plans for transport infrastructure were totally dependent on asset sales. If you listen

carefully to contributions from those opposite about New South Wales winning the State of Origin in terms of infrastructure spending, what you will hear very clearly from those opposite when they are making those remarks is that they think we should still sell our assets in order to access the Commonwealth's asset recycling infrastructure fund.

Let me make clear to all members in this chamber: Queenslanders contribute a lot in terms of the national budget—whether it be our resources, whether it be our hard workers providing income tax or whether it be through the GST. We have a right to access infrastructure funding that has been quarantined by the federal government. The fact that it is blackmailing us by saying that we have to sell assets when Queenslanders quite clearly said not at one election but two elections they were unprepared for their assets to be sold is absolutely outrageous in its arrogance. Queenslanders do not want their assets sold and they have a right to their fair share of federal infrastructure funding. It is as simple as that.

Let me say quite clearly that, if Tony Abbott wants the next federal election in Queensland to be fought on asset sales, bring it on. I say bring it on. We will do it and we will hold him to account for denying Queensland access to essential and important infrastructure funding that our state has a right to access—that our state, our workers, our people, our resources have contributed to. We will lead that fight because those opposite will not stand up for Queensland, those opposite will not stand up for infrastructure funding, and those opposite still want to sell our assets.

This budget delivers more than \$18 billion to be invested in Queensland's overall transport infrastructure over the next four years. This is particularly under the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program, the QTRIP program. QTRIP outlines planned spending on roads, rail, marine, public transport and active transport infrastructure and will sustain almost 15,000 jobs at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever. The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in our state's roads and public transport network to reduce congestion and improve safety, services and infrastructure for all of Queensland. Some key highlights from the QTRIP program include \$3.9 billion for transport infrastructure in this financial year; \$18.8 billion in the QTRIP program over the four years, as I have said; \$212 million over five years to upgrade train stations in South-East Queensland; \$136 million for the Moreton Bay Rail Link in this financial year; and \$60 million over two years for the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, TIDS—a very important scheme that ensures that council workforces can do work on roads in terms of maintenance and upgrades and new roadworks. That was a very important program that was slashed by those opposite when they came into government.

The state budget invests in public transport, including \$861 million to upgrade and modernise our rail network. There is \$568 million for network infrastructure, including \$72.6 million to continue construction of the third track on the existing network between Lawnton and Petrie stations, \$63.4 million to continue duplication of the Gold Coast line between Coomera and Helensvale stations and \$42.6 million to continue passenger safety and accessibility works, including station upgrade works at Nambour, Alderley, Newmarket, Dinmore, Graceville and detailed designs for upgrades at Strathpine, Boondall and Auchenflower train stations; and \$226.5 million is provided to deliver new and upgrade existing rolling stock across Queensland, including \$51.6 million to construct stabling facilities to accommodate the New Generation Rollingstock infrastructure and \$26.2 million towards upgrading the existing infrastructure to support the Wulkuraka maintenance centre.

The state budget invests in Queensland's rail network to ensure our state keeps pace with growth. As a government we are committed to delivering a better integrated and connected public transport system that meets the needs of Queensland's growing population. We have also committed to a fare review and we will ensure that this review provides a fair, affordable and sustainable fare system in South-East Queensland.

I also announced earlier this week as part of the budget the reintroduction of the Local Fare Scheme, a \$5.6 million program to ensure that those Queenslanders who live in the more remote parts of our state—some parts of this state which, as I remarked at the time, are closer to PNG than they are to Brisbane—can have access to subsidised airfares so that they can gather with families, make medical appointments et cetera. For example, if you want to look at how this subsidy will work and what it will mean to a family of three travelling from Saibai Island to Horn Island to visit the dentist on Thursday Island, they will save \$1,200 based on the current price. The cheapest airfare once the subsidy is applied will be \$99 per ticket plus booking fees. The capped minimum will help safeguard the sustainability of the subsidy while ensuring fares are affordable. The new-look Local Fare Scheme will also be easier to administer and understand for local residents.

In terms of local government, councils across Queensland will be better prepared to face natural disasters and build and upgrade vital infrastructure with \$63 million from the Palaszczuk Labor government's first budget. The Palaszczuk government will deliver a new \$40 million Community Resilience Fund to help councils mitigate against natural disasters and \$23 million through the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program for shovel-ready projects to build vital community infrastructure. I also announced as part of the budget the \$40 million Community Resilience Fund. This was an election commitment that we are delivering through our first budget. In terms of the Community Resilience Fund, I am very pleased to say that this has been very widely applauded and embraced by the Local Government Association. In fact, LGAQ President Margaret de Wit said—

Local communities have done well out the Palaszczuk Government's first Budget ... The Government has also made good on its promise to spend \$40 million on a Community Resilience Fund to support councils mitigate the impact of natural disasters on infrastructure.

The Insurance Australia Group also welcomed the \$40 million Community Resilience Fund announced in the budget, saying—

Building community resilience is one of the strongest tools available to Government and this week's Queensland Budget funding announcement is to be congratulated ... As several communities across Queensland are still recovering from recent natural disasters, this new funding will help local government to better protect local infrastructure, homes, businesses and communities ... The resilience fund will also help reduce the economic cost and taxpayer impacts of future natural disasters such as cyclones and floods.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's first budget also delivers \$23 million this year in local government grants and subsidies, as I outlined to the House earlier. Councils struggling to deal with Queensland's crippling drought will be able to benefit from almost \$23 million in grants for shovel-ready projects that will keep jobs in towns and regions that are doing it tough. Initiatives developed through the use of the LGGSP funds will keep people in our regions. Local initiatives mean local jobs and local spending which will maintain vibrant towns and cities. With more than 80 per cent of Queensland now drought affected, the Palaszczuk government is acting to support Queenslanders in drought affected areas in dire need.

The \$23 million fund from the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program will be vital to the creation and retention of council jobs. Eligible projects that can be funded under this program include water infrastructure, town centre rejuvenation and watering stations at stock points in drought declared areas. Of course earlier this week I also announced that this budget will also see \$40 million delivered to Central Queensland—to Rockhampton and Yeppoon—to deliver on two iconic projects so that those communities can recover after Tropical Cyclone Marcia.

This is funding that was first proposed in a 50-50 split with the federal government under category D of the NDRRA post Tropical Cyclone Marcia but, as I have already reported to the House, the federal government chose to instead abandon Central Queensland and not fund these iconic projects. So the Queensland Palaszczuk Labor government is accepting the challenge of ensuring that these communities can recover by providing them with substantial funding in order to get these projects off the ground.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has listened to calls from industry and local government to provide much needed funding to support stakeholders in the transition to a better planning system for Queensland. Unlike the former LNP government's reform agenda, which included no financial aid for key stakeholders—in fact, no budget to keep the reform process going—the Palaszczuk Labor government will not do the same. We will continue the reform process and we will make sure that it continues, because it is funded.

In the time I have remaining, can I touch on my electorate of South Brisbane. I was incredibly proud to see a number of announcements that I know will make a real difference to my local community and local community organisations—money in the area of child protection, counselling services supporting women and domestic violence services. Over \$6 million has been allocated to continue the construction of the cycleway adjacent to the Pacific Motorway at a total cost of \$27 million. There is over \$6 million for family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point.

I also want to acknowledge that there is a contribution of \$11 million to Brisbane State High School to ensure that the year 7 block is built in time for next year, which is when my son, Leo, is likely to start at Brisbane State High School. In conclusion, this budget is a great Labor budget. This budget is about our values, it is about our purpose, our priorities and it is about the people of Queensland. I am proud to commend this budget to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (8.11 pm): I rise to speak to the government's Appropriation Bill (Parliament) 2015 and the Appropriation Bill 2015. The 2015 Queensland budget has been unfurled by the great Labor magician and trickster, Curtis 'The Great' Pitt, who has delivered his worst sleight-of-hand delusion to the Queensland public—a short-sighted, fiscally irresponsible example of traditional Labor management. It is no surprise that, with this inexperienced collection of union appointees, the budget really is the 'Pitts'.

Much was made by the Treasurer of this budget being a real Labor budget. I would say that it is a real smoke-and-mirrors budget, whereby the trainer-wheels Treasurer has attempted to hide Labor's lack of debt pay-down plans and broken promises from Queenslanders. The government promised a reduction in debt, but it has delivered increasing debt with a sneaky plan to rip out \$3.4 billion from the long service leave fund and raid public servants' superannuation fund contributions. I ask: why would the Treasurer be proud of a record spend when all Queenslanders are seeing is further increased debt combined with detrimental offset payments affecting our future? This is a sneaky plan that even Labor governments of the past did not and would not support. This is a breaking of a long-held trust with the Queensland people.

As we experienced in 2009 with the GFC, global markets experience downturns and the recent volatility not just in Europe but in China is truly a cause for great concern. An amount of \$3.4 billion will be removed from the long service leave fund, but only \$2.6 billion will be used to lower debt. That shows an ignorance of the downturn in the market. This Labor government exemplifies the saying, 'Short-term gain, long-term pain.' That long-term pain will be felt by Queenslanders in the future.

Long-term pain is something that my constituents and, indeed, all Queenslanders associate with Labor governments. The infamous Beattie-Bligh government set that unbearable trend with skyrocketing electricity prices. This tricky Treasurer is using fancy accounting to move debt from the Queensland government to our electricity suppliers—assets owned by the state government, assets they are planning to devalue through an ill-advised merger of which they will not fully release the details. My absolute fear and horror is that the QSuper fund will be used to purchase these merged entities in what I consider would be the worst possible investment of all time of my superannuation and that of thousands of others. I call on the Treasurer to flatly dismiss this avenue as a possibility in any shape or form. Having politicians making investment decisions in relation to public servants' superannuation funds would be like putting an alcoholic in charge of the XXXX brewery.

It would prove even worse if we left those investment decisions up to Labor politicians who have the dubious honour of losing Queensland's AAA credit rating. Mark my words, this budget and this government will be the starring performers in Queensland's next reality ratings downgrade coming soon to a television station near you. What is the effect on the Queensland public? Our Treasurer tells us that there will be no increases in taxes, fees or charges—except for those likely to come from the electricity suppliers.

As the member for Mermaid Beach, I was saddened, but not shocked, by the blatant disregard this clueless Treasurer has shown for the Gold Coast, including Mermaid Beach, with no new funding for one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland. Infrastructure development, with transport being a key part of this development, is an important part of Queensland's economy, the Gold Coast economy and the economy of my electorate of Mermaid Beach. The infrastructure projects that the Treasurer announced in the budget—or, should I say, reannounced—was merely a spruiking of private projects with no government funding, such as the Pacific Fair Shopping Centre redevelopment and the Jupiters casino redevelopment. Furthermore, capital spending for the Gold Coast, Logan and Beaudesert area will be down seven per cent from 2014-15, which is another example of the infrastructure freeze biting.

I am sure that my fellow MPs who represent the Gold Coast are aware that transport remains an ongoing problem for our growing city, as traffic congestion increases as the Gold Coast continues to grow rapidly. But with no funding committed to the Gold Coast Light Rail, it will remain the light rail from nowhere to nowhere. It is the crucial missing link in the success of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Labor talks about being pro jobs—a statement I can question with nearly every project mentioned in the budget started under the LNP. That is not to mention the dearth of funding invested in public transport infrastructure projects, with a slump of 17 per cent—from 90 per cent under the LNP to 73 per cent under Labor—in all projects under \$5 million started no later than four months after the program commencement date. Labor claims to have a plan—'Jobs now, jobs for the future'—when it predicts that unemployment will be 6.5 per cent. That is a cumulative rise over the next three years of 2½ per cent. Labor has hoodwinked the public with its robbing Peter to pay Paul budget, which was hastily put

together by its inexperienced and clueless Labor Treasurer. Already, it is set to fail the hardworking Queensland public. So what are the people of Queensland to make of 'Magic Tricks' Pitt's latest performance? It is more of the same old Labor, with no long-term fiscal plan and false presentations to deceive the Queensland voting public.

That same old Labor is returning fear to the Gold Coast with its softening on crime. The removal of \$1.78 million from the budget of the CCC has resulted in a reduction of seven staff to tackle these criminal motorcycle gangs made up of murderers, arsonists, standover men, drug dealers and other members of the CFMEU. I am sure that many members of parliament would remember how outspoken I was regarding the outlaw bikie gang problem and, in turn, how relieved I was by the positive effect the crackdown on organised crime had by removing many of the scum of the underworld criminal bikie organisations from the thriving Gold Coast nightclub scene. Alas, the security and safety that many of my constituents have enjoyed through those great laws and funding commitments from the previous LNP government will now be under threat from this Labor budget showcasing again our tricky Treasurer and Labor government's weasel words.

I have hope that the Labor commitment to continue the LNP promise to deliver 266 more police members will be over and above natural attrition. But wait, there is more. By slashing \$24 million from the Safe Night Out Strategy this clueless Labor government will see the Gold Coast night-life begin to suffer even more with a likely return of alcohol fuelled violence back to our currently peaceful streets. The LNP government expressed it was time to red card antisocial behaviour when introducing that bill. Well, I say it is now time for a red card for this Labor government and Labor budget.

The Safe Night Out Strategy was a strategy for the future—with over 60 initiatives looking at changing the culture, attitudes and social expectations through education of our young people and high school students before they start to experience the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol. It was a positive for the Queensland public that has now been removed. It was these successful programs that saw business confidence return to the Gold Coast. However, Labor cannot even manage to maintain or improve our economic growth, down half a per cent over the next three years. Nothing in its so-called master plan builds confidence in the Queensland economy, an economy that has taken a further hit. Gene Tunney, former Commonwealth Treasury official and head of Adept Economics, acknowledged that this failed Labor budget does not address our long-term fiscal challenges of getting down debt and returning our AAA credit rating. He stated—

There are a lot of fiddles, a lot of accounting fiddles, in this budget to give the illusion that they're meeting their fiscal strategy, but really it's, it's not a great budget, it's very disappointing.

It was the removal of this rating that saw a hit to business confidence in the past and hearing that it will not soon be returning is surely another blow for our previously growing economy now experiencing a unionised Labor slowdown. Long-term fiscal pain is something the Queensland public are only just beginning to experience the repercussions of from the Beattie-Bligh government. It was their mismanagement and irresponsible funding spree that began a slow decline into the record high government debt we are set to experience. This clueless, unionised Labor government has failed in its promises of jobs, jobs, jobs and debt reduction to name but two and it is failing as a government the people of Queensland. Its smoke and mirrors attempt will not get past the hardworking LNP, it will not get past the media and it will certainly not get past the Queensland public who will condemn it for its shortsighted and irresponsible budget. Nothing in this budget builds confidence in the Queensland economy and debt will just continue to increase.

When the ratings agencies downgrade Queensland's credit rating again, the people of Queensland will understand that we are back to the bad old Beattie-Bligh days of debt, debt and more debt. That is not to mention the return of growth to the Public Service, with 19 new bureaucracies and plans to spend \$1 billion on hiring another 3,000 public servants, removing hard-won savings from the Public Service. We are not Greece yet, but the same principles that have reached their horrible conclusion on the world economy are the same principles this Labor government is using in this budget. This is a government that has not delivered on its promises, it has not delivered on fiscal responsibility and it has not delivered for Mermaid Beach, the Gold Coast or for Queensland.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (8.24 pm): I rise to speak on the 2015 state budget. I stand before you today to speak on a budget that is good for the people of Ipswich and good for the people of Queensland. Before the budget was handed down, the Treasurer pledged to this week deliver what he called a real Labor budget. On behalf of the people of Ipswich I commend the Treasurer for this week indeed handing down a budget that can be proudly called a Labor budget. After three years of neglect from an LNP government with no plan for the economy but to slash and burn this will come as a great relief to the people of Ipswich.

I want to give members an example of how this budget rectifies the last three years of LNP neglect in my electorate. I am proud to say that \$500,000 in this budget will be spent addressing the serious student safety and congestion issues at the Ipswich Special School. There is no question that for highly mobile students there is a need for security fencing at the school. There is no question that there is a congestion problem being caused by the location of the set-down area at the school, with the pedestrian entrance on the busy main road. These problems need to be fixed and I thank the Treasurer for making the money available to fix these problems. The former LNP government did not take these significant problems seriously despite the fact that they posed an unacceptable risk to the safety of students. The Ipswich Special School community, led by Bruce Grigg, the principal, who I commend for his hard work, struggled for years to get something done and no-one in the LNP would listen to him despite the fact that there were LNP members of parliament in Ipswich and in Ipswich West.

I am pleased to see that finally, with the handing down of the Palaszczuk government's first budget, there is a recognition that these children are in need of deserving care. A real Labor budget is a budget that looks after the safety of people like the students of Ipswich Special School and I take great pride in being part of a government that is fixing the LNP neglect of this school over the past three years.

A real Labor budget is a budget that gives help to those who most need it. That is why in Ipswich we are committing \$1.8 million for non-government organisations to deliver specialist homelessness services and \$600,000 to complete the construction of 26 public housing homes. That is why in Ipswich we are committing \$12.3 million for out-of-home care placement services to ensure young people in need of protection have a safe place to stay, along with \$3.4 million for parenting support services and \$2.8 million for counselling services to support the needs of children in out-of-home care.

That is why in Ipswich we are committing \$18.7 million to assist people with disability and their families to access the help and services they need as they move through the different stages of their life. That is why in Ipswich we are committing \$1.14 million to deliver a timely and coordinated response to people affected by domestic and family violence. Too many women and children have died in Australia as a result of domestic violence and these funds for services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children will be very welcome in the Ipswich community.

I congratulate the Treasurer for having the fiscal discipline to hand down a budget that will pay down debt without selling our state's income generating assets. Critically, I applaud him for not cutting crucial jobs like teachers. In fact, Tuesday's budget saw a record allocation to education funding which will allow local schools to employ additional teachers above growth over the next three years. In Ipswich we will be getting the equivalent of an extra 11 full-time teachers. This is very welcome news that will go some way to relieving capacity pressures as well as providing more jobs in my electorate.

Jobs are certainly something that my electorate needs. While last month's figures show that unemployment in Ipswich has dropped, our general unemployment figure still sits above the state average and our youth unemployment rate is even higher. Indeed, youth unemployment in Ipswich more than doubled during the three years of the Newman government's slash and burn and neglect. That is why it is so important that this is also a budget that will provide economic uplift in the Ipswich region. The uplift will be generated in our community when the \$500,000 project gets underway at the Ipswich Special School and the \$7 million in infrastructure for the Ripley Valley Priority Development Area. That \$7 million is part of a \$12 million commitment by the Palaszczuk government for the design and construction of road, water and wastewater infrastructure in this key growth area. The Ripley Valley Priority Development Area is located five kilometres south-west of the Ipswich CBD. It is earmarked to provide 50,000 dwellings to house a population of approximately 120,000 people.

That is why it is so important that in this budget, for the first time, Ipswich's regional budget statement outlines how much of the total budget spend will flow to the local region. We have put dollar figures on exactly how much Ipswich will receive from the Health budget and our school maintenance program and estimated how many local jobs will be supported through our infrastructure improvement program.

The LNP's regional budget statement for Ipswich last year did not have any details for local projects. Unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk government has not forgotten the Ipswich region. The Ipswich regional budget statement shows that the Palaszczuk government has allocated \$483.8 million to infrastructure spending in the Ipswich region. If not for Labor, the neglect that Ipswich got used to from the LNP, whose only plan for Queensland was to slash and burn, would have continued. We are building and upgrading crucial infrastructure, thereby providing uplift for the economy and jobs for the Ipswich region. This is, indeed, a real Labor budget that is good for Ipswich and good for Queensland. I commend the Treasurer.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (8.30 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills 2015. When the budget was described as a traditional Labor budget, a collective shiver ran through the electorate of Redlands. Members opposite claim they have received a mandate for the measures contained in this budget, but no-one I have spoken to can recall voting for an increase in debt and no public servants have contacted me to say that they support their super and long service leave being syphoned off to pay for Labor election promises. In fact, I have had conversations with public servants who are livid with this unprecedented decision.

We have seen the result of successive Labor budgets, the resultant loss of our AAA credit rating and the accumulation of debt to the level where every man, woman and child in Redlands owes \$16,000. The servicing of the interest on that debt is to the tune of about \$150,000 per week, week in and week out, from the taxpayers of Redlands. We have seen the flagrant waste of taxpayers' money, the lack of probity and the complete disregard for the indebtedness of future generations. We have all been affected by debacles such as the Health payroll scandal and the utterly useless Tugun desalination plant.

Labor's decision to raid superannuation and long service leave is a light-fingered approach to fiscal management. By the same rationale, the average punter could be forgiven for thinking that if you see some money lying around and you think you need it you are quite justified in taking it. My advice to Queenslanders is that, when Labor community cabinet rolls into town, keep your wallets in hand and definitely do not display any largess, lest your load be lightened by light-fingered Labor ministers.

After their surprise win in January, Labor is in the unique position of inheriting their own debt problem. I can but imagine the look of horror on faces around the election strategy room when the realisation dawned that Labor would inherit a Labor debt without the capacity to borrow more money. You can almost hear it, can't you: 'Strewth, we needed the Tories to be in for at least one more term to fix up the debt'. In this budget we see family car registration increase by 2½ times the rate of CPI, defended by the incompetent cries of, 'You would've done it too'. The LNP committed to easing cost-of-living pressures and did so.

**Mr Boothman:** We froze it for three years.

**Mr McEACHAN:** Indeed. We put a brake on skyrocketing costs that were a result of Labor's waste, mismanagement and incompetence. The Minister for Main Roads even went so far as to link Labor's registration increase to the lack of infrastructure plans in the Redlands. Recent correspondence from the minister advised me that my fight for funding for the Cleveland-Redland Bay Road could not be realised unless the LNP voted for Labor's registration increase. I unashamedly stand by the LNP's pledge not to slug hardworking families with unfair cost-of-living increases. I also stand by our commitment to building the infrastructure Queensland and the Redlands need. I will not have Redlanders held to ransom by a government with no plans.

However, I would have to acknowledge the continuation of the LNP's Get in the Game program, which is a worthy program that has an important social dividend.

**Mr Rickuss:** They picked that one up.

**Mr Boothman:** Yes, they finally learned something.

**Mr McEACHAN:** They did. Labor says that this budget is about jobs, but one of the most important things they could have done but failed to do for the jobs engine room—small businesses wanting to grow, invest and create more jobs—was to increase the threshold on payroll tax. This measure was sidelined. Instead, Labor has committed to growing the Public Service by 3,000, simultaneously putting more pressure on taxpayers whilst pilfering public servants' long service leave and superannuation, and, to add insult to injury, forcing the business sector to pay more in payroll tax than it otherwise would have under the LNP.

Recently, I was at the Redland Bay Hotel. There was much speculation on Labor's capacity to budget in general, with one fellow uncharitably suggesting that Labor could not organise a chook raffle. In fairness, I spoke up for Labor. Of course Labor could organise a chook raffle. First, they would start with the chook raffle organising committee. Then they would organise the chook raffle organising committee review committee. Then they would put the purchase of the chook out to tender with the proviso that the chook be purchased from a preferred supplier, the CFMAU—that is, Chooks For Me and You. Then Labor would need to borrow to commit record funding for chook raffles and, in doing so, lose the AAA chook raffle credit rating. By the time the chook was raffled, everyone in the pub would be in debt, the chook would have gone off and the nominated charity to benefit from the chook raffle would have gone broke. That is the Labor chook raffle.

I come to the most cynical aspect of the budget: the transference of taxpayer debt from Treasury to taxpayer owned government corporations. I have news for the Treasurer: Redlanders see through this fancy sleight of hand. It is akin to paying down one credit card with another. Redlanders have a right to be disappointed with this budget. There is no provision whatsoever for local road infrastructure, extra funding for local schools, extra funding for our Redland Hospital or extra funding for police. If members opposite need any evidence of that, they need only look at their own budget map. There is a complete void in Redlands. There is nothing.

**Mr Brown:** Straddie.

**Mr McEACHAN:** For the benefit of those opposite, Stradbroke Island is in the Cleveland electorate. For the benefit of the members opposite, the Redlands electorate encompasses suburbs such as Sheldon, Mount Cotton, Redland Bay, Victoria Point, Thornlands, Coochiemudlo Island, Lamb Island, Karragarra Island, Russell Island, Macleay Island and, last but not least, Cornubia and Carbrook in the Logan City Council area. North Stradbroke Island is in Cleveland. What does Redlands get from Labor? Nothing!

**Mr Brown:** Ambulance station.

**Mr McEACHAN:** That was an LNP commitment. I thank the member for Capalaba for his input. The ambulance station on Russell Island was an LNP commitment. The former LNP government recognised the needs of Redlanders and committed funding to fix the maintenance backlog in our schools, put more police on the beat, provide more beds and nurses in Redland Hospital and commit to funding upgrades of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road. This Labor budget spends big on rhetoric, but does nothing for the people of Redlands or, indeed, the people of Queensland as a whole. It is a light-fingered cynical Labor budget from a political party that is bankrupt of ideas and takes more than it gives.

 **Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (8.37 pm): Our government believes in economic prosperity for all. Our first budget demonstrates that we can deliver on our commitment to a better way for Queensland. I congratulate the Treasurer, the Premier and, in fact, the entire cabinet for putting together a budget that will grow the Springwood economy, generate jobs and restore front-line services. I welcome the feedback from my community that they are pleased that all of our election commitments have been included in this budget and have been paid for by smarter savings such as reducing waste on advertising and consultants. Many of those same individuals told me that job creation should be our government's No. 1 priority. Business owners told me loud and clear that more Queenslanders in work means a more prosperous and inclusive future for us all. I also welcome the feedback from the business community of Springwood on the business support measures in our budget. I have been told that they too are confident that our Working Queensland program will help create the conditions for growing jobs and building new businesses, leading to jobs now and jobs for the future.

Before I go any further, I wish to congratulate the Springwood community. Over the past four years, the community has been advocating on many fronts for a better way for Springwood. My constituents have consistently said that they wanted a government that would listen. They said that they wanted a representative that would stand up for them. They said that they wanted a government that would work with them to build our community and our local economy. Springwood residents can be proud of the change that they have delivered. I commend some great locals individually for their advocacy over many months. Their advocacy to their new local representative and to Palaszczuk government ministers made sure that the needs of our community were considered in the development of the 2015 budget.

To the parents, students, teachers, school staff, P&Cs and P&Fs, principals and headmasters of our local schools, thank you for taking the time to meet with me, to write to me and to show me the needs of your school communities. Thank you for inviting the Minister for Education to our community.

Thanks to these people the students of tomorrow will benefit from more teachers to make sure classrooms are not overcrowded, more guidance officers to help young children find their way, safer school zones and significant capital grants. The students of tomorrow will also see teachers who are valued for their important contribution to our community. Our schools will be able to prepare our students for the knowledge based jobs of the future.

School captains Caitlyn and Innes, vice captains Cori, Bridgitte and Josie, P&C leaders Jo, Kevin and Sonja, Andrew and Annette, along with principal Mr Ascot will achieve another great step in establishing a legacy that will benefit children in the community for decades to come. These people have established the catalyst for a whole new era for local schools—congratulations.

The work of the Rochedale Residents for Safe Roads community action group over the last two years will deliver action. Finally, we see a commitment to address the unacceptably high risk to safety at the intersection of Underwood Road and School Road. Our commitment means that we can now move forward with confidence to address this problem.

This group had countless meetings, letterboxed and organised community rallies. In the end it was clearly impossible for the government to ignore them. What made it easier though is that they took the decision to make realistic action possible by choosing to give the Palaszczuk team a chance. They wanted a government that was committed to action. Marianne, Peter, Rebecca, Sean and others, your quest now has unstoppable momentum. It has the support of a Labor government.

This is all part of the most significant infrastructure plan for the first time since Labor was last in government. This \$10.1 billion capital works pipeline will employ over 27½ thousand Queenslanders. We are a government focused on working together with our community to build Queensland. We are not fighting with it. We will support business to innovate to deliver this infrastructure because we know that small and medium sized businesses drive the Springwood economy. People told me they had high expectations of this government.

I am confident that we have set down common-sense measures that will continue our joint quest to build business confidence and capacity, putting this great state back into a position of long-term fiscal sustainability. These measures include: the red-tape advisory and the Queensland small business advisory councils; the payroll tax rebate; the business development fund; our commitment to innovation such as our partnership with locally headquartered QMI solutions, a leading edge productivity focused, capacity building enterprise—welcome to Springwood QMI; our plan to rescue TAFE to deliver the skilled workforce that their clients say they need; our Start Up Queensland program; our commitment to restore tourism and events funding; and a more productive government with a motivated and respected workforce.

We will spend less than we earn. This budget represents a responsible, prudent and innovative approach. But we believe in building a society not just an economy. That is why this budget will support our local community, friendship and sporting organisations—institutions like Logan Women's Health, Suns Cricket Club, Parkinson's Queensland and the Brisbane South Mountain Bike Club. We will support them and we will listen to them.

The equation is quite simple. Our economy will strengthen. We will do it by working together with our community not by fighting with it. This budget is good and the picture is simple. Our growth will be the strongest of all Australian states. Well done to everyone in Springwood who voted for a better way for Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (8.43 pm): Before I start tonight I would like to wish my daughter Brianna a happy 18th birthday. I cannot think of a better place to be spending her 18th birthday than here with you good folks debating the Appropriation Bill. Happy birthday, Brianna.

People might ask what an Appropriation Bill is. Let us be very clear so that people know exactly what it is. It is a statement of how this government will spend the hard-earned working people of Queensland's money, how it will allocate the recurrent expenditure, what it will allocate to capital expenditure, as well as a statement about why the Labor government has chosen to do these things with the people of Queensland's hard-earned tax dollars.

I put it to members that many families and small business owners in Queensland are used to budgeting. They understand that it is hard work to earn a dollar and that it should be treasured and looked after by the people they elect to govern the state on their behalf. Unfortunately, this Treasurer cannot be trusted to look after the hardworking people of Queensland's money. We know that because he never told them about his sneaky plan before the election. He plans in the typical Labor way. He calls this a typical Labor budget. That must be why he never told anybody about it beforehand. We know that when they plan they plan not to tell people what it is they are going to do and then they do it after the election.

Make no mistake, this is a sneaky budget. It contains almost none of the Treasurer's thought bubbles from before the poll on 31 January—no merging of the electricity assets, Powerlink, Ergon and Energex, because the Treasurer knew that would not work. It was just part of a sleight of hand. That sleight of hand was designed for him to make his toxic magic pudding for the people of Queensland.

This Treasurer thinks of himself as a magician, as this House has been shown. This Treasurer, with his preprepared attempts at witty one-liners, also thinks of himself as a comedian. The hardworking people of Queensland who entrust their money with this Treasurer to administrate on their behalf wisely and carefully do not want a magician or comedian.

They want someone who has the capacity to understand that it is a good idea to make provision for holiday leave and that it is a good idea to make provision for retirement and someone who is honest, open and accountable. This week in this parliament we have seen sneaky and underhanded debt, deficit and deceit that the Treasurer and his Labor team have brought forward. That is right; this is a true Labor budget.

So we have a comical magician with a sneaky budget that relies on sleights of hand and fast talking to deceive the people as to what the true intent is. The magician relies on deception and sleight of hand, both of which this Treasurer has shown in this budget.

I want members to imagine for a moment that we are running a small business and that that business finds itself spending more money per year on expenses than it raises in income, a business that has debt at such a level that it urgently needs to be addressed or the interest payments will start to strip the working capital out of the business. The means that the business used to function effectively will be spent on the day-to-day running of the business.

What would we do if we were managing such a business? We could increase sales. In this case, that would mean raising taxes and that has been ruled out. We could curtail the business expenditure so that it was below our income. That would be good management. That was what was seen in LNP budgets. The Treasurer has ruled that out. Good management is not in Labor's DNA when it comes to money. We could sell a capital asset of the business and use it to pay down debt. The Treasurer has ruled that out this time, unlike the ghosts of Labor past that simply lied to the voters and then sold the assets.

Let us have a look at what our sneaky magician has done. Let us assume our small business is a family run business. Soon mum and dad who founded the family business will retire. They have been carefully putting away money over a long period of time to fund their retirement. They have handed management of the business over to their son who secretly wants to be on the stage with his magic tricks. Instead of respecting the provision for his parents' retirement, this Treasurer would spend that money on today's problems and leave his children to fund their grandparents' retirement with their hard work. It is so simple. This Labor Treasurer solves his problem by simply spending other people's money.

In this analogy the Treasurer spends his parents' retirement income on his consumption and leaves his children to look after their grandparents while he runs off to the circus. That is a pretty selfish budget. That is a pretty selfish way to run the state—to spend your parents' money on your lifestyle and leave your children to make sure their grandparents have a roof over their head in retirement. So I say to those members opposite who are so proud of the sneaky magician and his sleight of hand, who are busy laughing at his jokes: remember your children will not find it so funny when they have to pay for your retirement.

If it were the case that this Treasurer just chose to endanger the long service leave and defined benefit scheme of the Public Service, that would be foolish and short-sighted. But unfortunately it is worse than that. In addition to spending his parents' retirement, he will shift some of his mortgage payments to his children's electricity bill so that he can spend that money on this year's lifestyle choices.

So let me just clarify: first, the owner of this small business has spent his parents' provision for retirement and long service leave on short-term business expenses rather than control those expenses; and, not content with leaving his children to fund his parents' retirement, he shifts some of the mortgage payments on to his children's electricity bills. Is it any wonder that small business in this state are struggling when this is the financial wizard we have as our Treasurer. It is an example for them of exactly how not to run their business.

Imagine if a business in this state raided their employees' superannuation. Imagine if a business in this state made no provision for long service leave. Imagine the cries from the union movement if the building companies made no provision for the tradies' long service leave. Imagine what would happen if they took the mortgage borrowings and invested them in electricity assets without giving the person any choice in doing that—so they go to the bank, borrow some money and, instead of paying off your house, they are going to buy some electricity assets with it.

This is not how to run a state. This is not open and accountable. This is not keeping their word that they gave to the people of Queensland, and this is not respecting the people's hard-earned money. As always what we see is a Labor Treasurer who is willing to spend other people's money and one day it will run out and our children will be left with the legacy of this Treasurer's magic tricks.

Now I am not a qualified financial planner, but I do know that under law I am not allowed to use my superannuation to pay my credit card off, and for sure and certain I am not allowed to use someone else's superannuation to pay my credit card off. To take the provisions made for long service and retirement from our hardworking public servants is a disgrace.

This government came to office with no plan and no idea. Now it has a tricky plan and some sneaky ideas—and they are borrowing from your children's future instead of investing in it. People who have served and worked for this state as public servants have had the provision made for their long service leave and superannuation wrenched from their hands in an accounting trick that requires our children, our future generation, to guarantee this Treasurer's spending. This budget does nothing to address unemployment or boost business confidence.

We on this side of the House understand business. We understand that when you take hardworking people's money it needs to be invested wisely. It needs to be treasured. It needs to be protected from exuberance and whim. It needs to be managed well and invested for future generations. We on this side of the House want our children to have a better future and not have to pay for our retirement. We on this side of the House want to leave infrastructure and opportunity for our children, not debt and deficit. We on this side of the House simply want to live within our means and pay back the debt left to us by previous Labor treasurers.

The sneaky Labor Treasurer has given himself a funding holiday. There are a lot of people in my electorate who would like to have their superannuation payments to help them pay off their mortgage for the next five years and help them pay off their credit cards for the next five years, rather than pay for their retirement maybe in 20 or 30 or 40 years. This is a sham and I, for one, aim to expose it for what it is—poor management and poor leadership that will lead to a poor Queensland. If we can be in any doubt, ask the ratings agencies what they think of this plan.

**Mr Costigan:** They don't rate it.

**Mr WATTS:** I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday, who should be in his seat. But they do not rate it.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): That is a very good point.

**Mr WATTS:** A review by the Under Treasurer informs us that we have no chance of handing our children a AAA credit rating. With this sneaky budget, both Moody's and Standards & Poor's have pointed to Queensland continuing with high debt.

I just want to clarify for members in the House why a AAA credit rating is important. It means that not only the Queensland government is paying merchant bankers more money for our loans because we do not have a AAA credit rating but so are all of our local councils. Everybody's rates are also higher in trying to deal with debt because the interest payments are higher.

It means that investors are not confident in the future of our state and the management of our finances. Anything less than a AAA credit rating is letting our children down. The world's capital looks for investment opportunities. It looks for stable government. It looks for areas with reduced sovereign risk, and they will shy away from Queensland if we keep heading down this path every time Labor is elected. Sneaky, tricky governments that have no plan or road that leads to effective repayment of borrowings is the Labor way. That is the true Labor budget.

Let's have a look at a few things that affect my electorate of Toowoomba North. The hardworking people of Toowoomba, the Darling Downs and certainly Toowoomba North have waited a long time for the Toowoomba second range crossing. As many would be aware, they have waited longer for this piece of infrastructure than just about the age of Queensland.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** They have been waiting for a very long time. It took an LNP government to do a business case and announce this project. It took an LNP government to put it in their budget. It took an LNP government to start the procurement process, and it took an LNP government to make sure this project got up. I thank the minister in this Labor government for not letting this sneaky magician steal that money off the people of the Darling Downs and Western Queensland. It is a relief to the people of my electorate and the surrounding area that this road will be built. I urge the minister to ensure high levels of local content and local employment, because that is a major concern for people in Toowoomba and the surrounding area at the moment. I urge the minister to ensure that the conductivity of the New England Highway is only minimally disrupted as this long overdue project moves forward.

Let's have a look at some other capital expenditure in my electorate. The people of my electorate appreciate the continued funding of the Toowoomba central substation. This project was announced by an LNP government. It was in critical need of an upgrade because it was nearly 30 years old and it was failing to supply adequate power to the CBD. It was initiated by an LNP government and funded by an LNP government, and I appreciate the minister not allowing his sneaky magician to steal that money from the people of Toowoomba and continuing the funding of this project.

I am very much looking forward to the education minister coming to my electorate next week to open the Highfields State Secondary College. Everybody in Highfields and Toowoomba is rightly proud of this college—a project that had its first funding announcement during my 2009 campaign. We announced that we would purchase the land. A week later Labor announced they would purchase the land. After 18 months and some protracted discussions, they did purchase the land. But instead of investing in a school on that land after they had spent millions of dollars to purchase it, they just left it sitting there barren and wasting while a thousand kids got on buses to go to a school in town.

The people of Highfields could not understand why they had bought the land with no plan. I told them that that is the Labor way, as they can see from this. It took an LNP government to fund the high school to commence stage 1, and enrolments have exceeded expectations. The school is a fantastic example of what a modern education institution should look like in Queensland, and I hope the minister enjoys her visit. The funding of stage 2 is most welcome and the families of Highfields and Toowoomba North thank the minister for not abandoning them and not allowing this tricky Treasurer to limit their children's future education needs.

There is one great disappointment that I have spoken about many times in this House and will continue to speak about. The Wilsonton Campus of Toowoomba State High School is in a very hardworking part of my electorate. There is in fact only one high school campus in Queensland that has over 800 children—in fact, 850—with no plan for an assembly or sports facility to be built at any time in their future, and it is the Wilsonton campus. This is an incredibly disappointing aspect of this budget.

When I first took up the cause with the Wilsonton campus P&C to pursue their desire for an arts and sports hall, I thought the children of Wilsonton deserved to be treated at least equal to the rest of the children attending the state schools in Toowoomba. I had no idea that the neglect they were facing reached much further than the boundaries of Toowoomba. For 17 years, there has been no such facility on this campus, which opened in 1998. As I said, there is only one school in the state with over 800 children and no indoor facility—and no plan for one and no future funding for one.

It is a \$3.1 million project and I would encourage the minister, when she visits Toowoomba, to take the time to go to Wilsonton. They have no venue for a whole school assembly; they have no venue for indoor sporting activities; they have no venue for key student assessment tasks; they have no venue for fitness, dance, drama, music or school bands wanting to perform to an audience; they have no indoor sports included in their PE program; and they have no PE lessons when they have frequent adverse weather conditions. I can tell the House that in Toowoomba today that whole school had nowhere to shelter. There were 850 kids in temperatures of minus five with the wind chill factor and there was nowhere for them to go. How on earth do these children have a sense of pride in their school, a sense of pride in their suburb, an opportunity to celebrate school success and a sense of belonging? They are being badly let down.

The Deputy Premier spoke earlier about how excited she is for her son to be starting at Brisbane State High School and that they will be building some year 7 buildings. We had a year 7 building constructed last year, but I think Brisbane State High School has somewhere for the children to shelter on a windy day or a rainy day. This school at Wilsonton has not had a whole school assembly for many, many years because there is no facility that can hold them. I have 850 children asking me why the minister would neglect them and leave them shivering in the cold with nowhere to shelter. This area of my electorate is Labor heartland. The government should feel disgraced. These people voted 60 per cent for this government, and it is a slap in the face for them to leave their children standing outside on a windy day with nowhere to shelter. This is the only school in Queensland like this. I urge the minister not to listen just to me. I am happy to get bipartisan support and I will not bring it up again. All I want is for her to announce a facility for these children and she will not hear from me again. I will not gloat or make anything of it; I just want a facility built for these children.

We can show these families that this government will govern for all of Queensland, as it said it would. Remember, these people voted 60 per cent for this government and their children are standing outside—the only kids in Queensland to do so. I urge the minister to reprioritise her capital spending

budget and find it in her heart to give the children of Wilsonton and their hardworking families the facility they deserve for their education. The school is 17 years old with 850 children, and it is the only school in Queensland with no indoor facility.

In the time I have left, I want to mention a few issues. In relation to the Toowoomba Hospital, I would like to thank the minister for looking at the business case that was done last year by the LNP government and allowing the funding for the MRI scanner to go into the hospital. That is a good outcome. I am disappointed the Royalties for the Regions program has not continued. It has done some great work on flood mitigation in Toowoomba and it has helped us deal with the stresses placed on us by the coal seam gas industry and other resource industries in our area. It was a good program that ensured regional services to the centre of Toowoomba could function and operate.

In summary, this government will continue funding projects that were started under the LNP. It has no new initiatives for the people of Toowoomba but it is gladly taking their money, increasing their car registrations and shifting their debt onto their electricity providers so that at some point in the future again—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr GORDON** (Cook—Ind) (9.04 pm): My electorate of Cook is far flung. The tyranny of distance is something we all live with. It is just part of the lay of the land up there. With the distance comes considerable costs for my constituents. Air travel in the cape and Torres Strait is beyond expensive. People in Cape York and the Torres Strait pay the highest domestic airfares in the country. This budget brings relief to residents in the form of a 12-month trial of subsidised airfares. The subsidies will apply to travel within the Cape York and Torres Strait region and to Cairns. Some conditions apply. All subsidised flights must be return and must be booked through local travel agents. Importantly, to be eligible for this subsidy, residents need to demonstrate that they have lived in the region for more than three years, ensuring that people who really need this scheme get this type of service and are the direct recipients of it.

Substantial savings will flow to residents and communities. In the remote and isolated parts of my electorate, people are getting slammed at the bowser, they are getting slammed in the supermarket, they are getting slammed when it comes to electricity prices and they have been getting slammed when it comes to airfares. I have been advised of some examples under this new scheme: a family of four travelling from Aurukun to Bamaga for family or ceremony business will save up to \$1,600; a sporting team of six travelling from Thursday Island to Cairns for competition will save in the vicinity of \$2,400; a family of three traveling from the outer islands of the Torres Strait to Horn Island to visit the dentist on Thursday Island will save up to \$1,200; and a person travelling from Bamaga to Cairns for training can save up to \$400.

This scheme is not directed at a large population in my electorate and it does not necessarily equate to a lot of votes, but it is typical of a budget that I think is about the little people and about investing back into families and communities. I really applaud the Premier and the Treasurer for delivering a budget that I think meets the needs of a small community like the cape and the Torres Strait. This means so much. Over the last couple of days since this announcement was made, I have been overwhelmed by the response via social media and by direct contact to my office and me from constituents in these remote and isolated parts of my great electorate. They have expressed the fact that, whilst it is a small gesture, it is an important gesture, and it is a recognition that government does understand that people in remote and isolated parts of the state do it tough.

These are considerable savings for my constituents which will greatly assist them both culturally and socially and in terms of being able to access a range of services, such as health, training and education in the north. I welcome the trial and thank the government for the initiative. It does address a major disadvantage for Cape York and Torres Strait residents, black and white. I sincerely hope the trial leads to a longer term subsidised airfare scheme for residents in these far-flung communities. I also hope that this attention and this type of policy and decision shapes and influences this government when it does look at providing services and meeting the needs of remote and isolated parts of Queensland. I am very pleased to note that the subsidised airfare trial will commence on Monday.

Provision of education for our young people—or education equality as I like to call it—is the most important service a government can provide. Over the years, successive governments have invested considerable resources in education in the Far North. This budget builds on the investments from successive previous governments and I welcome it. Up to 16 new full-time-equivalent teacher positions will be provided in this term in the great electorate of Cook. These teachers will be spread across state schools, state high schools and special schools in my electorate. As part of this government's ongoing

commitment, we will get extra teachers who can teach and provide more curriculum coordination time, and we will get more specialist teaching in high schools and more deputy principals and support for principals and teaching principals. As well as the increased teacher allocation, special education facilities will be built in Mareeba. I am particularly pleased about that, as I have family in Mareeba who have special needs when it comes to education. So I welcome the investment by the government of a special education facility to be built at the Mareeba State School.

Another highlight for me—and it is a good news story that I have been getting some really good feedback about from the community of Weipa—is a commitment to fund a further \$1.21 million for the trades skills centre at the Western Cape College in Weipa to complete that facility. That facility in Weipa will provide the training, education and skills necessary for the labour workforce in the mining-rich town of Weipa. Students from the communities of Old Mapoon, Napranum, Aurukun and Weipa itself will benefit from this sensible, strong investment.

State schools at Mossman and Tagai, Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area State College currently have part-time guidance officers. Under this budget these three schools and colleges will now have full-time guidance officers which will greatly assist students and teachers at these facilities. All these projects and initiatives are most welcome, but there is much more to do. Education equality is the key to the future for young people in my electorate. Education equality—it is my highest priority. I will be working with the education department, private providers and the community to ensure that every opportunity is made available to young people. I know firsthand how important it is to make sure that young people get all the services and support they need to ensure that, post compulsory education, they can go on to a better quality of life and achieve all they want to. I want to ensure that a first-class education is available at all schools and colleges in my electorate.

The Peninsula Development Road from Laura to Weipa is the lifeline of Cape York. It is used excessively by locals, tourists, miners and the cattle industry. The budget provides \$115.5 million over three years to seal sections of this important road. Everybody deserves a good road, even in regional Queensland. Upgrade of this road is extremely important for economic development of the region as it services the mining, grazing and tourism industries as well as being a local road for its local residents. The upgrades contained in this budget will be of great assistance in this regard and I look forward to an ongoing commitment and collaboration from both the state and federal governments to complete this project and give people in Cape York the road they deserve. While we cannot do anything about the distance, sealing the road improves efficiencies, provides a level of comfort and, above all, greatly enhances safety for road users. Cooktown residents will benefit from a \$2.4 million allocation in 2015-16 to continue to seal the Endeavour Valley Road that links the Aboriginal community of Hope Vale to Cooktown and provides an opportunity for visitors to the region to enjoy a scenic tourist drive.

Rising sea levels is a real threat to a number of communities in my electorate. This is especially so on a number of small islands in the Torres Strait where sea water is already encroaching. It threatens their food gardens, their graveyards—and I have seen photographs and I have been to islands where cemeteries have been underwater—their homes and their villages. It threatens their whole way of life. I can only imagine that if that happened down here there would be blood on the streets. While we are all aware of the reasons for the rising sea levels, which is global warming, the residents of these small islands have no control over that. They can only deal with the symptoms by building sea walls and other mitigating measures to protect their very limited land. It is most welcome to find \$9.6 million has been allocated to construct sea walls and other mitigation works on Saibai, Boigu, Iama, Poruma, Masig and Warraber islands. Once again they are small communities but Queenslanders through and through. This is a massively appreciated endeavour of the government that will assist in the short term. Sadly, like many of their Melanesian and Polynesian kinfolk around the Pacific region, residents of small, low islands in the Torres Strait are totally dependent on the rest of the world to address the problem. For the moment they build sea walls and undertake other mitigation work.

As part of James Cook University, the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine is a world leader in its field. It is pleasing to me to see \$12.8 million has been allocated over two years to establish campuses of the institute at Cairns and on Thursday Island. It is a particular pleasure to know that there will be a campus on Thursday Island. Tuberculosis is a huge issue in the Torres Strait, particularly on the border between Papua New Guinea and the northern islands of the Torres Strait. This is a great boost for our region and one that will bring benefits to the locals and residents of tropical regions throughout the world.

Who can imagine life without our own locally grown bananas? The arrival of Panama disease tropical race 4 strain is extremely serious. Whilst it is thus far restricted to one property in Tully and we have had a bit of scare in Mareeba, the threat is very serious indeed. The disease wiped out the

Northern Territory banana industry in the nineties. We cannot afford to let that happen here. An amount of \$9.8 million has been allocated to tackle this problem, and I applaud the government for their investment to protect this valuable industry in Far North Queensland.

The Indigenous rangers program that has been in place since 2007 gets a \$9.1 million allocation in 2015-16 to employ 65 Indigenous rangers. It is a great initiative. It is a great indication that the government is serious about making sure that Indigenous Australians, the first Australians, have the capacity to play a role in protecting their land. This program has been a huge success and is one that I wish to see expanded and continued.

We are continually told by commentators that times are tough. Against this background, Treasurer Pitt brought down his first budget. As the new member for Cook, I was expecting a no-frills budget and to that extent that is what we got. However, resources have been allocated to areas of greatest need in my electorate, and I do appreciate that. I look forward to working with the government and my community to see the programs provided for in the budget rolled out across my electorate. I will start now to work with my constituents in preparing to identify future priorities for the good people of the great electorate of Cook for Treasurer Pitt's next budget.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (9.17 pm): I am very proud this evening to speak to and commend this budget to the House. It represents a positive and progressive budget which will be of great interest to my electorate. Put simply, it is a kind budget that puts people before numbers while also leaving the state in excellent financial health.

I am particularly excited about the positive focus on jobs and innovation in this budget through programs such as Advance Queensland, a \$180 million investment in innovation, skills, education, business development and start-ups to diversify the Queensland economy and deliver knowledge based jobs now and in the future. Before I talk about some key policy initiatives in this budget, let me talk about the government's budget strategy, our plan for the prudent and responsible economic management of Queensland, and see how this compares to the opposition's tired and discredited strategy of reducing the number of nurses, teachers and public servants whilst selling down the farm in a desperate attempt to balance the books.

The Palaszczuk government was determined to offset spending on all election commitments made during the campaign, and we have delivered. Through prudent economic management, we have managed to deliver on our election commitments whilst not selling state assets with no forced or voluntary redundancies and no new taxes, fees or charges. I am proud to say that, while standing firm on these principles, this government has delivered an operating surplus for every year of the forward estimates beginning with a very healthy surplus of \$962 million in 2014-15.

Our commitment to economic responsibility does not stop there. In 2015-16 we are forecasting a large surplus of \$1.2 billion and bumper surpluses of over \$2 billion in 2016-17 and 2017-18. Let us compare this record to the former Newman government's record. Whilst our government will achieve a surplus of close to \$1 billion in 2014-15, the former treasurer predicted a \$64 million deficit in the same year in the December 2014 midyear fiscal and economic review. Through offsets and reprioritisations we have identified funding of \$2.31 billion to pay for our election promises and achieve a net fiscal budget improvement of \$340 million overall. This was something that the former government could not come close to doing, despite their cruel focus on cutting spending and obsessive concern with sacking public servants. We have also achieved this fantastic financial result without selling state assets—well-run, highly profitable government-owned businesses that provide an ongoing return to Queensland and will now continue to be owned by the people of Queensland, as they should be.

Let me also remind the House that, as part of the former government's budget strategy, the Newman government promoted Strong Choices—an arrogant attempt to have a fire sale of the state's prime silverware and sell \$37 billion in prime assets to fund its wild and unrealistic spending spree. These flights of fancy represented around \$8 billion of pork-barrelling.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Lockyer, we do not need to hear any more of your interjections.

**Mr PEGG**: I can understand why the member for Lockyer is disappointed to hear the facts.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order! Member for Lockyer, I have asked you to cease your intersections.

**Mr PEGG:** The former government, of which the member for Lockyer was a member, took an approach that you would hardly say was prudent or responsible in terms of the economic management of Queensland, so I am not surprised he is upset with what I am saying this evening.

The former treasurer promised the world, although apparently he could not even achieve a surplus in the financial year—unlike this government—and all of his commitments required one-off asset sales by the previous government. Attempting to sell assets for short-term gain was a reckless and irresponsible approach to economic management by an ideologically motivated and desperate government. The truth is that we simply could not afford to lose the revenue coming in every year from these companies, and the budget demonstrates that. Through this budget the government has demonstrated that we are fiscally responsible and that we have a heart—that we care for people's welfare as well as producing surpluses and balancing the books. Let me tell you that with this budget we will produce surpluses in spades.

As the member for Stretton, I am very proud to have the Brisbane Technology Park in my electorate. In 2001 the Brisbane Technology Park was created to support new and existing technology and research companies to progress, become world leaders in innovation and to encourage growth. It was an initiative developed during the former Beattie government as one of its Smart State policies and has since become a location of national significance with respect to its contribution to the economy. Since its inception I am proud to inform the House that the park has developed to accommodate more than 150 national and multinational companies working in industries including biotech, health and medical, mining, communications, electronics and software development. I am also proud to say that this budget builds on these important economic policies as well as our world-recognised expertise in areas such as medical science, biotechnology and robotics—much of which is housed in the Brisbane Technology Park in my electorate—through the implementation of the Advance Queensland strategy.

Advance Queensland represents a commitment to invest in the skills and talents of the future. It is a \$180 million investment in innovation, skills, education, business development and in promoting start-ups to deliver knowledge based jobs now and into the future. Further, the government will intelligently leverage this funding to attract external investment from the private sector and other non-government organisations, aiming to generate a total public-private investment of \$300 million. This is an important program which represents the path to growth, employment and prosperity—a vision of growing the economic pie and strengthening the Queensland economy through using the talents of our best and brightest.

This contrasts sharply with the opposition, who would rather sack public servants, discourage skilled workers such as nurses and doctors from staying in Queensland through attacking their wages and conditions and effectively defunding research institutes, as happened in their first budget. Who could forget the ruthlessness of the 2012-13 budget? Thankfully, we are now past that dark episode in Queensland's history. Our government went to the election promising jobs now and jobs for the future. Again the budget has delivered. We have implemented a Working Queensland jobs plan, designed to create the conditions for growing jobs and building new businesses.

Additionally, funding of \$34.5 million will be provided to the TAFE sector to deliver more core courses, more TAFE qualifications and provide more TAFE teachers. This is something that is really important for my electorate. Ten per cent of the workforce on all government projects will be required to be apprentices and trainees, further encouraging skills development and employment in my electorate, and \$40 million will be allocated to the establishment of Jobs Queensland as an independent statutory authority to further bolster employment in this state.

This is a positive, focused and proactive budget. It is a fair budget that also provides for responsible debt management, significant and ongoing operating surpluses, better services and implementation of all of our election commitments. It does this while ensuring that valuable government assets will continue to be owned by the people of Queensland; that no new fees, taxes or charges will be implemented; and that no forced or voluntary redundancies in the public sector will occur.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, my electorate will also be happy to know that substantial increases in funding to health and education have also occurred in this budget.

Mr Speaker, the former government severely underfunded Queensland Health and this budget finally addresses this. Queensland Health's budget will grow by 4% to \$14.2 billion this year, the largest on record. This will continue to grow across the forward estimates.

Additionally, \$361 million has been provided over four years to address the 'wait for the waitlist'—getting people to a specialist promptly so they can be referred to a hospital for surgery in a timely manner. This is something the former Government simply did not address.

What is particularly difficult is that the Commonwealth has not restored \$11.8 billion in previous health cuts to Queensland—and these savage cuts from the Abbott Government will place pressure on the health budget going forward.

Mr Speaker, this Government made a commitment to our State's hard-working nurses. After being directly attacked by a former government that seems to have had a pathological hatred of public health professionals, we will support up to 4,000 new graduate nursing places.

We will also employ 400 Nurse Navigators across our Hospital and Health Services to work with patients, assisting them to navigate across the health system.

Mr Speaker, this budget also provides some very good news for the people of Stretton regarding educational outcomes for their children.

Queensland's education and training budget is forecast to grow by over 7% to \$12.4 billion in 2015-16. This is again an unprecedented level of growth in the sector.

Additional funding of nearly \$250 million over four years will also be provided to lowering class sizes through providing for an extra 875 teachers, including 275 specialist teachers for high schools.

An additional 45 guidance officers will also be provided for Queensland secondary schools so that every high school over 500 students—including the ones in my electorate that will have access to a full-time equivalent guidance officer.

Mr Speaker, when I talk to the people in my electorate, public safety is always a key issue.

That's why I'm happy to say this budget provides significant investment into the safety of the community for the people of Stretton.

\$31 million over four years has been allocated as a preliminary response to the *Not Now, Not Ever* Report, addressing Domestic Violence issues in Queensland.

Additionally, the government will soon release a draft *Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy* for public consultation and I would encourage people in my electorate to provide feedback on this important issue once this is released.

Funding of \$32 million over four years has also been allocated in this Budget to address alcohol-fuelled violence across the State and a further \$20 million will be provided to the Police to target organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the drug ICE.

Mr Speaker, the people of Stretton can be assured that the government takes law and order seriously and I will do everything in my power to ensure that crime is reduced in my electorate.

Mr Speaker, this is a budget which delivers. It delivers for the people of Stretton, as it does for the people of Queensland and I commend it to the house.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (9.26 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the 2015 Appropriation Bill. This budget is one that should be viewed with great concern, and it is certainly viewed with concern by the constituents of the Warrego electorate. Agriculture, fisheries or forestry were not mentioned once in the budget speech; nor was there a mention of assisting agricultural profitability. It sounds a little bit like this government are not interested in the valuable agricultural industries.

I refer to the drought-affected areas that are doing it really tough at the moment in the Warrego electorate. In May the federal government announced a drought package to be delivered in cooperation with the state government. This is over and above the \$5 million worth of funds allocated in the state budget. There is a \$10 million package from the federal government to address issues with weeds and pests and with priority for fencing to control wild dogs and grazing pressure. Landholders in the local government areas of Balonne, Paroo, Bulloo and Murweh are to be the beneficiaries.

These federal funds are available now. The federal Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, has his pen ready full of ink to write the cheques; however, the Queensland state government has not sent the agreement back to the federal government. The state government has had plenty of time to sign off on this package. It will help buy products locally and employ locals in areas which are doing it really tough. Given that this budget is supposed to be about jobs, one would think that the state government would be keen to have it signed off and delivered. Time is of the essence. The state government needs to stop the departmental procrastination and get the agreement back to Canberra as soon as possible so these communities can receive that assistance and also increase the number of jobs in their areas. The federal government has made Queensland a priority, and the state government is holding up that assistance during one of the worst droughts experienced in some areas of Queensland.

Just as this government is dragging its heels for drought-affected areas and jobs, this budget does little for profitability in Queensland. The thing that is going up, however, is the number of public servants. One billion dollars worth of taxpayers' money will go towards hiring another 3,000 public servants. I will make the prediction here tonight that we will not see too many of those public servants in the Warrego electorate. And, if we do, they will probably come in the form of the tree police.

I have a simple question to help explain this budget. Say that I have two credit cards and I transfer the debt on one credit card to another. Am I better off? According to the Labor government, yes, I am better off. On my assessment I still have the total amount of credit card debt that I started with. This government has also loaded up the balance sheets of government-owned corporations with debt—Ergon included—and then asked them to pay more in dividends. The reality is that total public sector borrowings—that is, the combined debt of the general government sector and the GOCs—will be higher in the future. It will not stimulate growth and jobs in the private sector or small business or in the drought-affected areas of my electorate.

There is a freeze on infrastructure, and infrastructure is critical in this large and decentralised state. I was at a TISB function in Roma where businesses were telling me they were off over the border to New South Wales to tender on Pacific Highway projects, because there was just nothing happening in Queensland and no plans on the horizon. They are chasing work interstate because there is nothing much happening for them in Queensland.

There is also the unprecedented raid on Queensland public servants' long service leave and superannuation entitlements. Some commentators have described this move as too cute by half. It is not uncommon for Labor governments in Queensland to do this sort of thing. The Goss Labor government raided the ambulance funds in my electorate. They raided the hospital board funds and any other hollow log they could find. The Beattie Labor government raided the GOCs—

**Mr Rickuss:** The motor traders.

**Ms LEAHY:** I take that interjection from the member for Lockyer. The Beattie government raided the GOCs and made them revalue their assets, borrow to the hilt and then send a cheque back to Treasury. Labor governments in Queensland follow a similar pattern. Now they are raiding public servants' superannuation and long service leave entitlements.

I am pleased to talk about the Warrego Highway upgrades between Toowoomba and Miles. This comprises 15 projects planned to be delivered by June 2019.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! There is too much audible conversation, members, if you could take those conversations outside. I am struggling to hear the member for Warrego.

**Ms LEAHY:** This program is funded by the Australian government and the Queensland government on an 80-20 funding arrangement. The Warrego Highway upgrades were developed and first announced last year by the former LNP government in partnership with the federal coalition government. I commend the hardworking federal member for Maranoa, the Hon. Bruce Scott, and also the state minister at the time, the member for Indooroopilly, for their work on developing the program in conjunction with the former member for Warrego and me. These projects were at risk of reallocation by the current Labor government, which had no plan and has a freeze on infrastructure. It is pressure from local community groups, like the Chinchilla chamber of commerce and industry, and me that has kept these projects on the balance sheet. I will continue to keep a watching brief on every one of those projects on the Warrego Highway.

The Queensland Health website, updated on 4 June 2014, states—

Master planning for the long-term future of the Roma and Charleville hospitals was completed in mid-2014 and a formal request submitted ... for the construction of new hospitals at each centre.

The site states that the request is to be 'considered as part of future government capital works programs'. The minister's press release this week states that the budget will provide funds for structural defects—those of us from Roma know that there are significant structural defects with this hospital—and a range of clinical functionality and backlog maintenance issues to be addressed at Roma Hospital. Planning has also commenced for the development of new infrastructure at Roma to best meet community needs. It would be helpful if the government would clarify if the planning it is intending in the budget is the same as that which has been referred to as completed in mid-2014, some 12 months ago. I urge the state government to move from the planning phase to the rebuilding and capital allocation for both Roma and Charleville hospitals.

I refer to the former LNP government's Great Teachers = Great Results program, which delivered significantly for the Warrego electorate. It is disappointing that there is no guarantee that the Great Results Guarantee will be funded beyond 2016. The LNP government in its last term invested nearly \$10 million in the schools of the Warrego electorate, and this only just cleared the maintenance backlog left by previous Labor governments. These schools are now hopeful that they will not have to again deal with money that they need for maintenance in their schools being held back.

I am a great supporter of the former LNP government's Royalties for the Regions program, which contained \$455 million over four years and made a huge difference to the roads, water supply and waste disposal in resource regions like the Surat Basin. The state government's Building our Regions program is only half the contribution of the LNP's Royalties for the Regions program.

I note that the government has provided some funding for projects in the Warrego electorate. However, there are many missed opportunities. There is much more work to be done across the south-west region. The budget does not outline any funding to rebuild Charleville Hospital, which is still located in a flood prone area. I also encourage the government to progress the proposal for type 2 road train access from Charleville to the Roma Saleyards. There are a couple of culverts to widen on the Warrego Highway and some corners to widen in Roma. David Scott, from the Livestock and Rural Transporters Association of Queensland, and I have been actively pursuing these upgrades. There is only a small amount of expenditure needed to take a considerable number of trucks off the road and increase safety for young children at the Roma junior school.

Speaking of roads, on behalf of a constituent I raise the issue of the condition of the Bollon-St George road. Randall Newsham travels this road regularly. He tells me that it would have to be one of the roughest sections of road in the electorate. The other words he uses to describe it would have to be unparliamentary. I ask that the government seriously consider this section for further maintenance.

Talking of Bollon, I have been working closely with the Balonne Shire Council, which has been very active in constructing a levee bank around the town of Bollon. To complete these works there is a need for humps over the Balonne Highway—

**Mr Rickuss:** Is that the Bollon barrage, is it?

**Ms LEAHY:** No, it is not the Bollon barrage. They are humps along the Balonne Highway. That will completely flood-proof this community. I ask the government to give consideration to funding to assist that community and completely flood-proof it.

In relation to flood mitigation, I will be working with local governments in my electorate to investigate the best flood mitigation options for the following communities: Chinchilla, Meandarra, Jandowae, Warra, Mitchell and of course Roma stage 2. These communities will flood again. I can advise that the Building our Regions program is really going to get a work-out, because there is a lot more flood mitigation work to be done across south-west Queensland.

There are also missed opportunities in this budget in relation to moving freight onto rail and further developing freight centres like the Thallon uplands rail hub. I urge the state government to take the opportunity to commence a service to western communities on the Brisbane-Charleville railway line, which is not being utilised. It is sitting idle, wasting millions of taxpayers' dollars in maintenance. This project and the greater utilisation of this railway line will be a win-win for jobs, the taxpayer, the cattle industry and the entire south-west region.

I will hold this government to account and keep a watching brief to ensure every dollar allocated to my electorate is delivered to my electorate. I will also continue to fight, along with my local community groups, businesses and local governments, to improve infrastructure and services in the Warrego electorate at every opportunity.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (9.37 pm): I rise tonight to speak to the appropriation bills—and so I should given the lack of substance in this 2015-16 state budget, particularly for the people of Central, North and Far North Queensland and, to be unashamedly parochial, as I usually am, the good people of Whitsunday. In the words of the Prime Minister, this budget is crap.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Whitsunday, I am going to rule that that is just a little bit unparliamentary, if you would not mind withdrawing it.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. I do withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Otherwise we just go down a spiral. Thank you.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Needless to say, in my view the budget is far from acceptable. There is nothing but smoke and mirrors, as we have heard from the opposition in this debate. Deception, debt and a ballooning of the Public Service are all I can see. It underlines Labor's old approach that big government is good government—something this opposition vehemently opposes. That is something that sets us apart.

For the record, this budget is indeed a kick in the guts for Mackay and the Whitsundays. From my observations, spending is down 31 per cent on the previous budget, under the LNP. That is not chickenfeed. For a region that is economically doing it tough, as are many regions across this great

state, we need that like a hole in the head. To see this one only has to walk around the town centres across our region—in communities like Proserpine in my own electorate, Sarina, Moranbah and Bowen in adjoining electorates, and the city heart of Mackay, my home town and the city that I represent in this place.

It is not a good look, especially when one considers that we are talking about the biggest regional economy of the north spanning three local government areas with industries such as sugar, cattle, coal and of course tourism, depending on the community. Make no mistake: as my good friend and neighbouring colleague the member for Burdekin noted in his contribution to this debate, we have some big projects across our region on paper—big projects indeed—to create jobs, to drive industry and to grow the economy, but sadly it is not happening like it should.

**Mr Rickuss:** Tied up in green tape, mate.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Tied up in green tape; no doubt about that. The development of the Galilee Basin in our hinterland is a prime example. When will it happen? Under the LNP, we had hope and optimism. I do not think that that is now the case under this current Labor government. Ditto the expansion of the Abbot Point coal terminal. When will that happen? We are waiting. What about the development of the Urannah Dam? A number of members on the opposition side will know that I am very passionate about that project in the western corner of my electorate—a dam that would be a game-changer for many northern communities. I have been banging on about it for a couple of years. In 2013 I actually visited the dam site—a magnificent site that was earmarked decades ago and a project championed by the former long-serving attorney-general and minister for justice and member for Bowen back in his heyday, the late Sir Peter Delamothé, whose image in the form of a mural in the main street of Bowen always reminds me of this great vision for not only his community but indeed North Queensland. That is what is missing in this budget—funding for visionary projects that can unlock Queensland's potential and in particular the north's potential so that we can experience another golden age in economic development whereby people can earn a quid and get ahead just like the old days. Regrettably, Urannah was not prioritised in the dams plan in the recently released north Australia white paper as was the Ord River stage 3 in Western Australia and the Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River on the Tablelands. While I am pleased to see these projects get the nod, especially the Nullinga Dam, the statistics involving Urannah make for compelling reading. Urannah would have a capacity of 1.5 million megalitres, making it bigger than the Fairbairn Dam in Central Queensland.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** It would be three times bigger than Peter Faust in my own electorate of Whitsunday and four times bigger than the proposed Nullinga Dam. As I have said before, it ain't no turkey's nest. It would provide enough water for up to 30,000 hectares of irrigated farmland downstream on the Bowen River, opening up new opportunities for the next generation of primary producers and allow the north to step up our production of food and fibre to those expanding markets in the Asia Pacific region.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Just a moment, member for Whitsunday. Member for Lockyer, that is three. You are not in your seat, I might add, so please if you could refrain. The member for Whitsunday has the call.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Contrast what I have just said in relation to what we heard from the Treasurer in his budget speech on agriculture. If you had to write it on the back of a matchbox, you could have a game of noughts and crosses. We heard zip! We heard it from the member for Warrego. She prosecuted the case just a moment ago and other members on the opposition side did so as well and so we should, because that is shameful. It reminds me of those dark days under Labor when it dumbed down the department of primary industries when we lost all of those wonderful people that the member for Nanango and the shadow minister for agriculture alluded to in her contribution to this debate. Summing-up on the Urannah project, on the western slopes of the Clarke Range, about 220 metres above sea level, Urannah would provide gravity-fed water in the offing for new projects in the resources sector not only in the Bowen Basin but also in the neighbouring and yet to be developed Galilee. The spin-offs, as I think you would agree, Madam Deputy Speaker, for construction speak for themselves. We do not have cranes on our city skyline in Mackay like I see in Fortitude Valley on my way to parliament. It is not the only provincial city in Queensland where we are lacking in that regard. We need these projects to kickstart our regional economies and to boost jobs right across the spectrum.

We have heard a little about tourism here tonight. I do not want to replicate the efforts of my good friend the shadow minister for tourism, but we still have not seen the Minister for Tourism in the place I call paradise, Airlie Beach. I think that says it all. The Minister for Tourism can say what she wants and what she is doing for tourism, but you have to play a good game, not just talk one. To his credit the environment minister has been there cashing in on the work of his predecessor I might add, and I note that all of a sudden the ears of the member for Glass House have pricked up, and so they should. However, I do not think he will be back in a hurry, because this budget confirms the axing of a number of programs including the Everyone's Environment program. That was a great program initiated by the former LNP government and funded by the former LNP government delivering positive outcomes for people who really do care about our environment. The member for Glass House knows exactly where I am going with this because Libby Edge is a legendary lady in Airlie Beach. She is an environmental crusader and her organisation, Eco Barge Clean Seas, was a most grateful recipient of funding from that program. Sadly it has been dumped by this new Labor government. It has obviously snubbed its nose at the track record of Libby and her hardworking volunteers in cleaning up tonnes of rubbish from the waterways of the Whitsundays, not only on the islands but of course on the mainland. I am sure there are a number of government MPs who are right now thinking, 'Why on earth have we gone down that path?'

**Mr Powell:** Because they're giving the money back to the Wilderness Society.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Right on cue; thank you, member for Glass House. Guess what? Straightaway my ears have pricked up and I have come to life. I can still see the member for Mackay. They were all over her like a cheap suit, and I am talking about the Mackay Conservation Group. Fifty thousand big ones they got out of this budget—\$50,000 from this current Labor government—a bit of political payback as far as I am concerned. Let us not forget their friends down in Central Queensland, the Capricorn Conservation Council, because they got 50 big ones as well and I think their mates in Gladstone picked up the dregs in that they got 25. So how is that for a bit of political payback on the back of those Greens preferences and up-close-and-personal deals that happened coming into 31 January!

Labor's commitment to my region—or lack of—is underlined by the fact that, as I say, spending is down more than 30 per cent. There is no money in this 2015-16 budget that I can see for my area. I have not seen it. I have seen it written about in the *Daily Mercury*, but I cannot see the money for the new bridges across Vines Creek. I see some money for continued planning work which was commissioned by the member for Indooroopilly when he was the minister for transport. He is familiar with the situation at Vines Creek—that is, the two bridges not far from the port of Mackay. In terms of energy, the port of Mackay feeds the Bowen Basin. The member for Indooroopilly gets it. The member for Clayfield gets it. The member for Hinchinbrook gets it. They have been there. We started the ball rolling, and guess what? With regard to the design work, my information is that 70 per cent of it is done. What we need now is new bridges, not a go slow across Vines Creek. It is no good for productivity. If you talk to people at McAleese like Keith Price, Peter Haylock from Emerald Carrying Company or any of those people in the transport industry, they have had a gutful. Their drivers have had a gutful. They do not want to see more plans. The planning is almost done. The bulk of it has been done. They want to see bricks and mortar. Unfortunately, the member for Mackay has come in and basically got the propagandist machine working overtime in conjunction with the local paper, from my observations, and is building on the lack of effort or lack of commitment from her predecessor who sat at the cabinet table. He sat at the cabinet table. What was he doing? Playing noughts and crosses on the back of those matchboxes? We will have to wait to see what happens, but I will not be holding my breath.

Where is the money for other road projects in my electorate? Shute Harbour Road links the Bruce Highway to the Whitsundays—the place that I call paradise—Airlie Beach and the heart of the reef. What about the flood-prone section at Hamilton Plains? Nothing. There is nothing in it for Shute Harbour Road. There is nothing in it for the poor old Mount Ossa-Seaforth Road. All it needs is nine kilometres of bitumen to finally seal the job. The last time it saw bitumen, Vaughan Johnson was the transport minister! We inherited the train wreck, didn't we, financially? Those opposite are talking a good game. I keep saying it: they have to play one as well. There is nothing in it for our region for roads such as the Mount Ossa-Seaforth Road or Shute Harbour Road.

I want to touch on a couple of matters in relation to my role as shadow assistant minister to the opposition leader for North Queensland. I have been to other communities and looked at other roads. I will pay the government a compliment. A couple of months ago I was up on the Tablelands. People

were wondering when the Upper Barron Road was going to be sealed. When were they going to see some action there? I am pleased to say that the people of the Tablelands, particularly at Malanda—people such as Ray Byrnes, the former mayor—would be pleased to see that money. Tonight, I have been speaking to locals up there about some money finally happening there.

But guess what? I was also in communication with my good friend who is at the Katherine show judging the beef cattle, the former member for Barron River. He is disgusted because there is no money in this budget to duplicate the Bill Fulton Bridge on the western arterial in the city of Cairns. For those people who live in Redlynch and Freshwater, that is a kick in the guts. It is also for the people on the northern beaches. The last time there was some action happening on the Captain Cook Highway, I reckon Martin Tenni was holding court in this place. That is a long time ago. The commuters who travel along the Captain Cook Highway between Holloways Beach in the northern suburbs of Cairns and the city have had a gutful. The people of Far North Queensland tell me that the members for Cairns and Barron River are as handy as chocolate firemen.

I want to turn to Townsville, a place that I know so well from my time living there. We have heard about the government announcing funding for two new schools in the northern growth corridor. I am not holding my breath. Do members know why? Because in the northern growth corridor of the city that I represent, in 2001 my predecessor got up in this place and promised a new high school for the northern beaches of Mackay. Guess what? Elections came and went and came and went. Nothing happened under the Labor government—nothing happened. In 2013, that school was opened and built by the LNP government. I salute John-Paul Langbroek, the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition, because he made it happen. It was the first government school that had opened in Mackay since the 1990s. So the talk is good, but I say to the people of Townsville, particularly those residents on the northern suburbs north of the Bohle River: hold this government to account. Do not believe what Labor says; look at what Labor does.

Among other things, I am passionate about sport and recreation. I think a lot of people in this place, no matter their political colour, would also share those sentiments. I am pleased to see the Get in the Game program continuing. It is a great program and it makes a difference. I had a great opportunity to support my good friend the member for Buderim when he was the minister responsible in promoting those endeavours in North Queensland communities—from Mackay through to the Torres Strait. However, in this budget I see no funding whatsoever for sporting venues in my own electorate—nothing from Blacks Beach to Airlie Beach. Our volunteers in that sector would be most disappointed, particularly those who volunteer at our football stadium, the home of the Mackay Cutters; our basketball stadium, which is the home of the Meteors, the Meteorettes and the Whitsunday Sharks netball team; and, of course, the Whitsunday Sports Park in Jubilee Pocket. This week, I was talking to people involved in netball and touch football. They are disappointed, too, because in this budget all they get is a cheese sandwich.

There is nothing in this budget for sport for the northern beaches of Mackay either. Despite so many people living in that part of the world, there are not a lot of sporting facilities there. The people living there have to commute to the city. That is disappointing, particularly for those mums and dads who are trying their best to get their kids involved in sport and recreation.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I hear the interjection from one of the government members about the Whitsunday Brahmans. I was pleased to lobby the Queensland Rugby League to this year bring the State of Origin team to Proserpine, the home of the Whitsunday Brahmans. I was pleased, through Get in the Game, to deliver funding to improve Les Stagg Oval, a place that I have been proudly going to, following Rugby League, for more than 25 years.

We all know that Labor is raiding the long service leave entitlements and superannuation of public servants—we have heard that in this debate from the opposition members, and rightly so—to the tune of \$5.4 billion. Only \$2.6 billion of that is going into servicing debt and that is not going to happen until 2017-18. The government is making it up as it goes. Conversely, the LNP has a real economic plan. Our pledges include lifting Labor's infrastructure freeze—not the freeze outside, not the big cold, but the infrastructure freeze coming from the Labor government—and also bringing back Royalties for the Regions, a great initiative that provided the best part of \$500 million and delivered great outcomes, including an upgrade to the Bowen Developmental Road linking the Whitsundays to the northern Bowen Basin.

I will conclude by saying that the people of North Queensland, the people of my electorate, have no faith in Captain Risky, Darth Vader, Dr Who, Indiana Jones—whatever people want to call them. They do not rate them. They want a government that will really deliver and connect with the people. Unfortunately, what we have seen in this budget falls very short of that. The budget is a lost opportunity. It was a chance for Labor to say, 'Okay, we didn't have a plan when we got in, but we have sorted it and here it is, an economic blueprint that will pay down debt, grow the economy and provide jobs.' But that has not happened. All we see is the opposite. There is more debt and deception, which is typical of Labor governments, in stark contrast to the fiscal recovery work that was undertaken by the former LNP government. As time moves on, the comparison will be chalk and cheese.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.55 pm): Tuesday marked the 150th anniversary of the foundation stone of this building being laid. And so it was that we witnessed the Treasurer lay the foundation for our state's diversified economic future. This first Palaszczuk Labor government budget honours Labor's election commitments to responsibly pay down debt without selling our state's assets or cutting services. It is also a strong Labor budget that is measured and fair. It will grow the economy, generate jobs and restore front-line services with record spending on health and education, picking up the slack in the face of savage federal funding cuts.

This is a prudent and responsible budget that responds to feedback from the many business leaders whom I have been meeting through the Premier's Business Advisory Council and other forums. Indeed, right across the length and breadth of the community, I have heard community members say that they want to have a measured and fair budget. This is indeed a measured and fair budget.

We have taken on the difficult task of fiscal repair and it has paid dividends, with Treasury forecasting a \$1.2 billion surplus in 2015-16 and a \$6.9 billion surplus over the forward estimates. Queensland's economic growth is set to rebound, from two per cent in 2014-15 to a robust 4.5 per cent in 2015-16 and 2016-17—better than any other state in the country. This is a great result and it provides an opportunity to build on it. This growth will help shore up confidence in the Queensland economy for consumers, employers and investors. I say to members to not just take my word for it. A range of industry groups and peak bodies have already lined up to back the government's fiscal strategy and responsible economic management.

But what have we heard from the other side? A continuation of their tradition of talking down the Queensland economy, talking down Queensland's prospects, talking down Queensland's future. That is exactly what the business community and the whole community of Queensland do not want. We want to talk up our economy and make sure that we can continue to see the bright, glowing future that I know we have.

Unlike the LNP, we have a real plan for the future of Queensland, underpinned by a coherent economic framework. But more importantly, this budget restores the front-line services that the Newman government ripped the heart out of. We have allocated a record \$12.4 billion for more teachers, support and better classrooms. This is not just service provision or good social policy; it makes good economic sense to invest in our human capital, thus boosting participation and productivity. On top of that, we have set aside \$500 million in new funding over four years for a statewide schools and hospitals fund to support hospital and school refurbishments in a manner that will boost local economies and jobs for tradies. While I am on my feet, I wish to express my appreciation to the people of the Sandgate electorate for their support and the ongoing encouragement that I have had from so many people across that great electorate since the end of January.

There is a lot of good news in this budget for my electorate of Sandgate. A major highlight is the \$232.4 million in state funding to progress the widening of the Gateway upgrade north to six lanes between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge. Local schools will also benefit from flashing lights to improve road safety at Sandgate State School and Bracken Ridge State High School. Affordable housing at Fitzgibbon Chase will be supported with an additional \$11.9 million to continue the development of this master planned community established by Labor. I am very proud to have been involved in this as the original planning minister when that development kicked off and have seen this community grow from nothing to a model sustainable and affordable urban place in our northern suburbs. Like all good Labor governments we are looking after the most vulnerable members of our community with a \$2.1 million commitment to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay and \$1.2 million to respond to domestic and family violence in the Sandgate community.

I am thrilled to report that around \$2.85 million has been provided for a new trade skills centre at Sandgate District State High School with a focus on engineering and automotive trade training. This is a great investment in high-end skills for young people in my community. I had a chance last year to visit

with some of the students from Sandgate District State High School, as part of this program, ahead of having the trade skills centre constructed at Sandgate District State High School, the Bracken Ridge TAFE campus where they were doing some practical work on some motors. They were really an excited group of young people getting involved and having hands-on experience with some small motors in a program that is supported by an industry partnership with the Yamaha company. It was a very good example of an innovative, good quality, highly professionally staffed state school. The budget will also allow local schools in the Sandgate electorate to employ an additional eight full-time-equivalent teachers over the next three years—more professional quality educators in our community.

While the Palaszczuk government is investing in skills today, we are also supporting the jobs and economy of the future. This is a smart budget for a smart state. It is deliberately focused on innovation through our centrepiece Advance Queensland strategy because we know that we have to diversify our economy by targeting emerging industries. This \$180 million package is a real game-changer and will future proof our economy through capacity building investments in industry research collaboration, commercialisation, venture capital and business development to deliver the knowledge based jobs for now and into the future. As a key plank of this we want to build a start-up state. We want to see more success stories like Red Eye, one of Queensland's fastest growing tech start-ups providing cloud and mobile based design apps to the world.

The former government was blindly committed to four pillars of the Queensland economy that collectively now represent less of the Queensland economy than when they came to office. In their latest so-called economic plan, these economic troglodytes have reluctantly and belatedly acknowledged the role of knowledge industries. While we will always look to build on our existing strengths in areas like agriculture, resources and tourism, our economy is in transition. You cannot deny it, like a global financial crisis; you have to take that on board and embrace it and join the future. As has always been the case, it is only Labor that has the vision and drive to broaden our economic base and to position Queensland to capture the benefits of a global economy and emerging industries. Just as all of our predecessors laid the foundations for this parliament 150 years ago this week, so too this Palaszczuk government budget lays the foundation for a stronger, smarter, more vibrant future for our great state. I commend the Appropriation Bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (10.04 pm): I rise tonight in response to the Palaszczuk government's first budget. Several members opposite have risen and said words to the effect, 'This is well and truly a Labor budget.' Well, it certainly is and I will explain the reasons why. Every budget needs a contextual framework and since being elected this government has stated that it is all about jobs, jobs and jobs. In itself this is a noble goal and one of the key pathways to achieving this is through the budget document. Indeed, Labor's \$1.6 billion *Jobs now, jobs for the future* package will fail according to its own budget. In fact, the word 'job' came up approximately 40 times in Treasurer Pitt's budget speech. As was reported in the media, 40 times as a quantum may be, in fact, more jobs than he actually delivers.

Labor's so-called jobs budget, which was its mantra throughout January's election, will have little impact on overall unemployment. According to the budget papers of the economic tyros opposite, it is expected to remain high at 6½ per cent for the next two years easing slightly, in accordance with the budget papers, to six per cent in the 2018-19 financial year. So, let us try out the old pub test here, shall we? If I offer you a plan predicated on creating jobs and employment and a couple of years down the track the unemployment rate has not moved using your own projections and input assumptions, would you buy this budget as a true jobs blueprint? It is absolute smoke and mirrors by the junior tyro Treasurer, who is a heck of a decent bloke but a career public servant with little exposure to the real business world and who is completely out of his depth. It is fine to concede that he unapologetically accepts the advice and counsel of Treasury officials, but to effectively hand over complete responsibility to bureaucrats and union masters to have almost total input is a complete dereliction of duty.

Yes, the notion of focusing on jobs is noble, but how is this going to be achieved reading the rest of the supporting statements? The budget shows no major dent in the unemployment figures over the forward estimates. It simply reinforces the notion that this government was unprepared and never fully expected to win the last election. Despite what past titular heads and party elders professed, there was no detailed plan. The factionally appointed front bench, from their actions to date as we approach the first six months of the new government, have no clue fiscally. I remind the new chums who have recently found their way into state parliament that the economic mess that the LNP inherited and started to repair still costs this state around \$450,000 per hour in interest alone. The meter is still running hot. We on this side of the chamber would love to have this money spent in our electorates. The funny thing is that eventually creditors want their loan paid back. Who would have figured?

Years of Labor spending and borrowing caught up with the people of Queensland. Despite the resources of Treasury around him, the Treasurer's lack of financial and economic nous knows no bounds. Have those opposite ever heard of funding contingent liabilities? Does this government truly understand how to rework capital on a balance sheet? Does the notion of opportunity cost ring a bell? How about risk spread using the 10-year bond rate as a starting measure? As is evidenced by many of their career backgrounds, why worry about fundamental business concepts when you do not have to take real risks? You do not have to do that when you are maintained by a union funded pay cheque. Interesting, is it not, that some of the culprits responsible for driving the state into the ground with a massive debt burden have come back into the 55th Parliament. Welcome back after a three-year unexpected holiday. Their lack of real-world business acumen truly is breathtaking. Several years ago I tutored economics next door at QUT. The budget is lightweight and lacking in long-term vision and true reform. It merely delays the inevitable fiscal pain. It would not pass as an undergraduate assignment.

There are a few basic precepts that those opposite fail to fundamentally grasp. Throwing ever increasingly large amounts of money into key government areas such as health and education is not a true measure of success. As the member for Caloundra said early this morning, every successive government, whether they be Labor or LNP, will pretty much always go to the people and say, 'Record spend for health. Record spend for education. Record spend for this.' But that in itself does not necessarily pass muster. This document would not receive even a pass mark at QUT. On the large amounts of money, whilst it is noble that key areas such as health and education are being resourced, there is no focus on output measures. Business 101: input is about efficiency, output is about effectiveness.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I am glad that someone is following, because people need some fundamental lessons, quick smart. With Labor trying to keep expenditure growth to 4.1 per cent, on par with revenue increases, budget paper No. 2, page 8, predicted operating surpluses of approximately \$6½ billion over the forward estimates, with Queensland \$962 million in the black for the 2014-15 financial year. Last night, international credit rating agency Moody's said that Queensland's budget position was deteriorating on its preferred measure of using fiscal surpluses, which take the balance sheets of government businesses into account. Moody's went on to state—

The anticipation of larger deficits reflects the impact of falling commodity prices on state revenues, while spending on health and education have been augmented. As a result, the achievement of a balanced budget, which had been projected for 2015-16, will not occur over the next four years.

Herein lies the rub: this budget has been used as a political tool to appease union masters, amongst others, and has been conjured up to play out well from a retail-political perspective. The budget accolades being sprouted by key unionists were akin to getting a note from mum and dad saying how good their child is. The ALP accidentally stumbled across the line on 31 January because—

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** The Treasurer might want to listen to this—hand on heart, we in the last government failed to adequately take people along with us in a steady fashion.

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I had thought that the Treasurer might want to listen to this bit. I will continue. As a government, we failed to take the people with us in a steady fashion, and our tone and style of government was far too autocratic and confrontational. We paid the ultimate political price at the ballot box. However, the one thing that I refuse to do is to abandon the proud legacy that we left across many key portfolio areas, such as reduced dental health waiting lists, public housing waiting list reductions, real reductions in public transport fares—and, as the assistant minister, I was very proud to be part of that team—key reforms in justice and law and order, planning reform and wonderful initiatives in education such as independent public schools and the Great Teachers = Great Results program.

The new eager members across the chamber are giddy with delight and they will be tickled pink with some of the improvements to their local electorates. There is nothing at all wrong with that sentiment, because, after all, politics is about people. However, on this point members on the other side of the chamber have been hoodwinked by their own leadership into thinking that the fiscal principles adopted in this smoke-and-mirrors budget is actually sustainable in the medium to long term. As they will sadly learn, you cannot play catch-up tennis with financial management. At some stage, you have to pay back the piper. This sleight-of-hand budget will come back to haunt the government during the remainder of their time in office. It is a one-off sugar fix that lacks vision and true economic

reform in their quest to chase short-term political populism. This budget fails future generations by avoiding the tough decisions required to be made by this generation. Unfair, intergenerational debt will continue under Labor.

Let us cut to the chase: this budget truly does hide behind smoke and mirrors to disguise its uncertain economic footing. Not content with relying on economic sleight of hand, Labor thinks nothing of casting aside now inconvenient election commitments. The Treasurer's promise of no new tax increases has been shelved. We have seen that recently with the announcement on car registration increases. With this budget, Labor's promise to be a responsible steward has proven yet again to be elusive. The biggest job creator—surprise, surprise—appears to be the government itself, with the Public Service wage bill jumping by about \$1 billion in 2015-16. Even with Labor spending more on bureaucracies, the budget predicts lower employment growth and higher unemployment than the LNP's last budget.

Despite what the Treasurer would have Queenslanders believe, Budget Paper No. 2, table 1.1, 'General Government Sector—key fiscal aggregates' shows that debt will continue to rise year after year. This reckless budget plan includes taking \$3.4 billion from the funding pool set aside for public servants' long service leave and taking—we have heard it before—a five-year holiday from the defined benefit scheme, which will raise approximately \$2 billion, combined with shifting \$4 billion worth of government debt onto the balance sheet of state owned businesses, and electricity prices will undoubtedly rise as a result. In 12 months time, they will all be sitting here shaking and scratching their heads, saying, 'What was that all about?' The seeds of that were sown with the passage of this Appropriation Bill. As if government owned corporations are going to absorb the extra interest and redemption payments without looking to pass it on to consumers. Treasurer Curtis Pitt the younger has insisted that his plan would pay down around \$10 billion in debt.

**Mr Pyne** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Some members do not know their English political history. There is a problem here: overall debt borrowing, including money owned by state owned businesses, will climb to \$77.1 billion by the end of Labor's term in 2017-18, which is around the same figure as when they took office. They will merely come full circle. So much for their much taunted debt repayment strategy. It is myth busters taken to a new extreme. There was a slight hiccup for the Treasurer because, despite introducing a new 100 per cent dividend policy, their election plan to use GOC profits collapsed with changing commodity demand and Treasury figures showing earnings from energy distribution drying up. According to the Treasurer's own budget papers, revenues are set to rise by 4.4 per cent, with current spending to increase slightly below that at 3.7 per cent, a pace which, in turn, relies on a 4.2 per cent rate of growth in employee costs.

The state's ability to meet those targets will be challenging given upward pressures in health care and other social services, and will necessitate strong fiscal resolve to control current spending. Past behaviour is the best way to predict future actions. It does not seem to matter which Labor Party members come or go; in their DNA they all share an absolute inability to understand what expenditure containment and debt control is really all about. They have past form and a proven track record of year-on-year expenditure growth of just under 10 per cent. Labor's prodigious appetite to spend and spend and spend knows no bounds.

Despite the tyro Treasurer, aka 'Captain Risky', ducking and weaving, the budget papers confirm that Labor will rip out \$3.4 billion from the long service leave fund. What, may I ask, will be the outcome of this decision? Out of the \$5.4 billion raided from long service leave and superannuation payments, only \$2.6 billion will be actually used to lower debt in 2017-18. Yet again, despite the smoke-and-mirrors accounting, debt will continue to rise. Treasurer Pitt the younger can run, but he cannot hide from the fact that he is spending a decade of savings in Labor's irresponsible budget. Labor did not tell Queenslanders that they were going to do this trick before the election. It is, indeed, a sneaky trick from an inexperienced and economically illiterate Treasurer.

I do give the government credit for at least one section of the budget. That may be found in Budget Paper No. 2 on page 102 under section 6.1.2, 'Opportunities for reform—processes on federalism and tax reform white papers'. This process presents an opportunity for Queensland to ensure reforms align with objectives to clarify federal-state relations, improve sustainability and efficiency of Queensland's revenue base and address vertical, fiscal imbalance. That is what I am sure we would like to be talking about at 20 past 10 on a Friday night. I have already spoken in this chamber on these issues in past speeches and I intend to do so again in the future as this issue is critical to the state and its overall prosperity in the years to come.

All politics is local so in relation to my electorate of Chatsworth I point out that the traffic congestion on Old Cleveland Road will continue and residents can ruminate this fact as they pay extra for their car registration. I note in Budget Paper No. 3, Capital Statement, that the Queensland State Velodrome funding of \$39.5 million is provided for along with \$3.7 million for the Belmont Shooting Centre as part of the Commonwealth Games preparation. Well done, government.

Over the past three years I have been working tirelessly with the Gumdale State School community to put the motions in place for their much talked about master plan to occur. I lobbied very hard for funding for stage 1. That funding was committed. During my first term I consulted with the wider school community. I am delighted that ongoing funding of \$6.632 million has been allocated to actually continue stage 1 of the master plan for Gumdale State School, as outlined in Budget Paper No. 3 at page 34.

In closing, this budget is disappointing on multiple levels. It lacks vision, an appetite for true economic reform, uses the Walker and Walker model of trading entitlements, uses sneaky book transfers to masquerade as creative accounting, does not adequately fund imperative infrastructure and truly is an undergraduate attempt to mask the essential fact that the ALP stumbled unexpectedly into government with an economic plan written on a few pieces of old A4 paper. Now, some six months later, the old Democratic Socialist playbook is back in operation.

As John Branigan wrote in the *Australian* recently—

There is very little doubt that Queensland's finances will be downgraded again; the only thing that has saved them recently was—

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Listen up, Treasurer—

a credible Liberal National Party treasurer who was able to tell a convincing story of fiscal repair. Despite the balance sheet shuffling, the ratings agencies still know where to look.

I repeat my words from early in my speech. This sleight-of-hand budget will come back to haunt this government during the remainder of its term in office. Sadly, as usual it will be future generations who will also be made to pay a price for this short-term economic sugar fix without fiscal substance.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (10.22 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the consideration of the budget bills because it has been a long debate over the last couple of days, as it is every year. The introduction of the budget and the subsequent reply to the budget by members of this House is an annual recurrence in the parliament. I think I have seen 17 of them now. It is marvellous the similarities that one sees year after year.

You hear some great speeches. I think the speech that we just heard from the member for Chatsworth was right up there in terms of great speeches about a subject that he knows a lot about. You hear speeches such as from the member for Warrego and the member for Whitsunday who spoke particularly passionately about their own electorates. We have heard a range of good speeches in this House in the consideration of this budget.

This year, as in a lot of previous years, you also hear a lot of members make fools of themselves. Haven't we seen that this year! People come in here with speeches that have obviously been written by somebody else, they stand up and read words they cannot say and words they do not know the meaning of and make complete gooses of themselves. Is it any wonder that the Labor Party have perfected incorporating their speeches in *Hansard*. They do not have to practise the big words.

Can I suggest to you, Mr Treasurer, that next year when you come in here you should get somebody to explain to you what those words mean. It was obvious when you introduced the budget that you did not know the meaning of those words. I have seen you in front of media conferences. One thing that is startlingly obvious, besides all the debate about what the budget means, is that you do not understand the words you are using. You do not have to be an expert in body language or an expert in communication to know that. You clearly do not understand the words you are using. I would suggest to you that next year before you come down here and when you do those practises like I know you do for three or four days, that you—

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! Member for Callide, I am willing to give you a bit of leeway. Please address your comments through the chair.

**Mr SEENEY:** I certainly will, but I have always worked on the assumption that the longstanding rule in this place is that if someone interjects then the speaker is allowed to respond. If the Treasurer wants to interject, he is fair game.

I am not going to try to repeat all of the examination of the budget that has been done by so many members on this side of the House. There is no doubt that this is a budget of the union movement. This is a government of the union movement. We can see the hand of the union movement in this budget just as we heard the words repeated over and over again by so many people on that side of the House.

The words that have been repeated most of all are that 'this is a Labor budget'. This is a real Labor budget. This is an old-style Labor budget. In a lot of respects that is absolutely right. There is no doubt about it. This is a Labor budget because it is financially irresponsible. It is a Labor budget because it does take Queensland further into debt. It is a Labor budget because it does pay back all those interest groups that Labor traditionally pays back.

This Labor budget goes much further than any previous Labor budget would ever have dared to go. This Labor budget raids the superannuation and long service leave accumulated funds of public servants whom the government employs.

As I said, I have been here for 17 years. I have seen a lot of Labor governments in this place. I have seen a lot of the Labor icons come and go.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SEENEY:** Can I say in response to my young colleague opposite the member for Ashgrove that there are no Labor icons left in this parliament. The people who represent the Australian Labor Party in this parliament today are not worthy to carry the bags of the people who were here when I first came here. I had a lot of respect for some of those people. I had a lot of respect for people like Jim Elder and Terry Mackenroth and even Peter Beattie and Steve Bredhauer. Suggesting that this Labor team is anything like them is like suggesting that the ball boys at Lang Park are like the State of Origin team.

You lot do not deserve to lace up the boots of those guys who made up those Labor governments. They were people who had some political beliefs and political philosophy. Even though I disagreed with that, they came in here with the best interests of the state at heart. The budget we have seen tonight can be compared to Labor budgets in the same way that this government can be compared to those Labor governments. It is a pale imitation. It is a pale imitation of what we would expect from a Labor government. Nobody would expect a Labor government to raid the entitlements of public servants. Nobody would have expected that.

If you had come in here 10 years ago or 17 years ago when I first came here and said that a Labor government was going to raid the entitlements of Queensland's public servants, you would have been laughed out of the place. Nobody would have believed that, yet that is what this Treasurer has done. That is what this government has done. So, yes, it is a Labor budget in terms of its financial irresponsibility, but it sets a new standard for Labor budgets because it is a Labor budget that plunges to depths of financial irresponsibility that I do not think anyone ever anticipated and that certainly we have not seen in this parliament before.

It puts Queensland back on that debt trajectory that someday somebody will have to address. Someday somebody will have to address it. I have heard all sorts of nonsense from members opposite about how this budget starts the process of paying down debt. Anyone who wants to have a look at that knows perfectly well that it does not. The member for Chatsworth went into that in some great detail, and so have a whole range of members on this side of the House. It is only the loony left of the Labor Party that can believe that if you shift money from one account to another account you are somehow better off. To use the analogy that so many members have used, if you use one Bankcard to pay off the other Bankcard then you are somehow better off. It is only the loony left that would believe that.

Yet I have heard the Treasurer go one step further and suggest that loading up the electricity entities with debt somehow makes them stronger. It somehow makes them better. It somehow helps them. Can I say to the Treasurer: if loading some entity up with debt helps them, please stop helping the Queensland economy. Please stop helping every Queenslanders by loading us up with debt. But I suspect that it is a forlorn hope that he will do that. I know that the debt trajectory over the term of this government will take the total debt back to a level that somebody will have to address in the future, as my colleague the member for Clayfield said in his address.

There is no doubt that the money that has been made available by that financial sleight of hand has been spread well around the Labor electorates. Unfortunately, the electorate of Callide is not one of those, so I do not have a lot to talk about in terms of what this budget provides for my electorate, as so many other members in this place have done. So I will take the opportunity to talk for a minute about what the former LNP government did for regional Queensland generally.

For 14 years we sat in here and, budget after budget, saw Labor governments spend money all over the state but concentrate that spending certainly here in the south-east corner and in the major cities like Cairns and Townsville where they needed to win seats. Regional Queensland missed out year after year after year. We were determined when we came to government that, despite the horrific financial situation that we inherited, we would introduce a Royalties for the Regions program that would seek to redress that failure over so many years. We allocated \$495 million to the Royalties for the Regions program.

When the election was called in January this year, there was between \$30 million and \$35 million unallocated in that fund, depending on the final costings of a couple of projects. The Labor government could not even allocate that money to regional Queensland. They could not even allocate the money that we had budgeted for Royalties for the Regions and the applications that were sitting up there in the office that the Deputy Premier now occupies. So that to me was a real indication of what regional Queensland can expect from a Labor government, and that expectation has certainly come to pass in this budget that we are talking about today.

It is a far cry from the proposals that the Treasurer put to the people of Queensland on the Thursday just before the election. Was it four pages or two pages?

**Mrs Frecklington:** It was two pages.

**Mr SEENEY:** It was two pages.

**Mr Pitt:** It was actually in the middle of the campaign.

**Mr SEENEY:** I say to the Treasurer that it was the Thursday before the election and there were two pages. Where in there, as the opposition leader said, was there anything about raiding the superannuation of public servants? Where in there was there anything about shifting debt to the government owned corporations and somehow making them better? I say to the Treasurer, as he sums up this debate, as he will shortly, that what he could do for this parliament is stand up and read those four pages or two pages, or whatever it was—stand up and read the proposition that he put to the people of Queensland in that week before the election.

We had a proposition, and I am happy to read it because we were up-front with the people of Queensland. It is the nature of this parliament—they call this a debate and sometimes I think that it is misnamed because members get the chance to stand up and say just about anything, and they do. I have sat here and listened to the Deputy Premier and the Minister for State Development say that there has not been an infrastructure plan and that we did not have an infrastructure plan. We had an \$8 billion infrastructure plan—an \$8 billion infrastructure plan—that for the first time in Queensland's history was fully funded. We not only identified the infrastructure but also identified the funding source, and that infrastructure plan was detailed right down to a project-by-project basis.

That was rejected by the people of Queensland—absolutely. I accept that. So now it is time to look at the alternative. Let's take a look at what the Treasurer promised the people of Queensland in that week before the election and compare that to what he has delivered in this budget. Let's see how much progress has been made in this budget in delivering what was in that four-page manifesto that we saw before the election. Of course there is no comparison. There is not even a connection. There are no similarities at all because nothing in this budget that we are considering in this House tonight bears any resemblance to what was promised to the people of Queensland. For that, if nothing else, this government stands condemned and this budget will be judged a failure.

I look forward to the consideration of the details of this budget when it is referred to the estimates committees. I think as we have an opportunity to delve deeper into the budget the financial vandalism, the financial irresponsibility, will become increasingly clear.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy and Water Supply) (10.38 pm): It is quite something to be lectured by the former deputy premier, a man who will now be spending 17 out of 20 years in opposition, lecturing us and telling us about how we should be running this state. I look forward to more contributions along those lines.

First of all, I congratulate the Treasurer, Curtis Pitt, on bringing down the Palaszczuk government's first budget. The budget the Treasurer delivered in this place on Tuesday was a defining moment in the first term of the Queensland Labor government which was elected earlier this year. It establishes a better way than the privatisation push the former LNP government planned for the people of Queensland. It is a budget that has formally buried their plan to sell off Queensland's public assets

and was a judgement on their broken promises, their arrogant swagger and their cost-of-living failures. It is a budget that demonstrated that there is an alternative to selling off public assets and that Queensland does not need to go down that ideological path.

It is a vanilla budget. It is a bread and butter budget, and it is a health and education budget. It is a budget that establishes this Labor government's priorities: jobs now and jobs for the future; opportunities through health, education, renewable energy, protecting our environment, skills and training, and rural and regional Queensland; working with business, working with communities and supporting our front-line staff; police, our ambulance and emergency services; boosting tourism at a time when the Australian dollar is coming down and making that market more attractive for international tourists; growing our economy; importantly, meeting our election commitments, which is something the last government did not do; and, last but certainly not least, reducing the general government debt and delivering a budget surplus and lining up fiscal surplus after surplus after surplus, something the LNP failed to do in three years. This budget outlines \$6.9 billion worth of surpluses accumulating over the forwards.

In framing this budget, the Palaszczuk government had four key objectives for the Queensland community: creating jobs and a diverse economy; bolstering our front-line services; protecting our environment; and building safe, caring and connected communities, not attacking them. In this budget, we have seen expenditure on education, the pathway to opportunity for people, increase by 7.2 per cent. We have seen our health budget rebound, up four per cent, after 1,500 nurses and midwives were sacked by the previous government. We have seen the Advance Queensland plan, with \$180 million of support for skills, for innovation to diversify our economy, for business development, and, importantly, to grow renewable energy jobs—jobs that were lost under the previous government. We lost 1,300 jobs under you lot in the last three years in the renewable energy sector. Other states were growing jobs, with \$6.5 billion worth of investments in South Australia, and meanwhile we are stuck back in the 20th century.

Under the five months of the Palaszczuk government, we have seen unemployment drop already to 6.1 per cent, with 23,100 jobs created. This is in stark contrast to losing six jobs every day under the previous government. We have seen the cost of living come under control. We saw double digit increases in electricity prices year in year out under the LNP, and they are now down to an average reduction of 0.5 per cent in Queensland. This is a welcome relief for Queenslanders. We have seen electricity prices for small businesses fall between 1.7 and 3.5 per cent on average—a reduction of between \$73 and \$135 per year. This government supports small business. We have seen electricity prices for farmers at zero per cent this year, after going up 10 per cent every year under the last LNP government—a government that allegedly supported farmers. We also see irrigators in the same position after constant double digit rises under the LNP, with a zero per cent increase this year, something that will be a welcome relief for them.

We see water in South-East Queensland coming under control also, with six councils having a reduction in bulk water prices and retail costs as well and very modest increases of one to two per cent at the retail end for the other five councils. Importantly, we see in this budget a re-gearing of the energy corporations to levels that are still below the commercial rates that are normal in this sector. We see the general government debt falling by \$5 billion this financial year, giving us interest savings of \$600 million over the forwards.

The opposition members are trying to allege that electricity prices will somehow go up because of this re-gearing. What they do not understand is that the government owned corporation's electricity prices already include of course the WACC, the weighted average cost of capital, which this year is 5.8 per cent. This covers all the capital, whether it is debt or equity, and it is well above the current debt costs. So the opposition attempts to distort, deceive and spread things in the community that are untrue and that are not based on anything that is remotely factual.

What we are also seeing from the opposition is a continued attempt to distort and try to spread fear in the community by trying to misrepresent the situation around long service leave. There are two simple words when it comes to the adjustments in the budget on long service leave—fully funded. When we look at the super situation in terms of the defined benefit scheme, it is fully funded. Let me say that again: fully funded. To see the opposition running around trying to scare people that the Armageddon is going to come is really quite pathetic. It reminds me of Malcolm Fraser telling people to hide their money under the beds back when Bob Hawke was running for Prime Minister. It has that sniff of desperation about it. If the opposition developed policy rather than fear, they might actually understand why they are on that side of the chamber.

This is a very good budget for my local constituency in Yeerongpilly. I am very proud of these highlights: \$107,000 for the Salisbury C&K kindergarten; \$184,000 to renovate the multiuse hall in one of our best public schools on the south side, the Wellers Hill State School; \$1.19 million to ensure children in need of protection have a safe place to stay in Yeerongpilly, including funding for foster care, intensive foster care and residential care services; \$12.8 million to assist people living with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need; \$15 million for the netball centre at Nathan in my electorate to house the Firebirds and, importantly, Queensland netball; and boosts to nurses and teachers, and these are very welcome after the savage cutbacks under the previous government.

I turn my attention now to the comments on the budget made by the opposition leader and a number of his MPs who repeated by rote various phrases from their key lines and themes document. The opposition leader complained that there were no major infrastructure projects that were not planned or were not already being completed under the defeated LNP Newman-Springborg government. This budget certainly includes a number of new important infrastructure projects which were not planned under the previous government, and the \$160 million roads package on the Gold Coast to support the Commonwealth Games certainly comes to mind. This is something the Gold Coast community will value. There might be a lot of LNP members on the Gold Coast but they have not delivered very much over time, and certainly not in the last three years. If we look at the Labor record on the Gold Coast, we can see that it is very strong—whether it is the Gold Coast university hospital, the Commonwealth Games, the M1 or a range of other infrastructure measures. In this budget, we have \$40 million for the western roads upgrade program, \$5 million for the Yarrabah jetty and \$5 million for the sealing works on the Upper Barron Road, something which was ignored by the LNP for three years.

The western roads package is a very important new program. It acknowledges the very difficult circumstances that Queenslanders in Western Queensland are suffering with the drought. It is designed to support those communities out there. They deserve that support, they are doing it very tough and we are supporting them. I acknowledge the supportive comments made by the member for Mount Isa earlier on this package. It is indeed an important and good package for people who really need it at this time.

I might add that there is nothing unusual or controversial about continuing road and transport projects that are worthy, and this government continues to do that in this budget. That is something the previous government did also. However, what we do see is a bewildered opposition which still does not know what hit them on 31 January. We had the Deputy Leader of the Opposition lionising Terry Mackenroth, Peter Beattie, Andrew Fraser and people who came to this House and defeated them time and time again. The thing that comes to mind on this is the absence of conservative icons who come into the opposition debate. Where are the icons and the mentors that they use in this place? They have to resort to Labor ones. It is quite a sad state of affairs when it comes to the modern conservative parties here in Queensland.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition also comes into this place after having said only one month ago that he thought they had a great plan and he still thinks they had a great plan, that is, Strong Choices. However, the opposition leader says, 'We have a new plan here. We released this a few days ago.' What is it? Is it the old plan that he still thinks is a great plan, or is it the new plan? It is a little bit confusing when we see Senator O'Sullivan and Warren Truss, the Deputy Prime Minister, trying to force us to sell assets to get basic infrastructure in Queensland and we hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Surfers Paradise, saying that he still thinks that Strong Choices is a great plan.

So I went to the new plan—not the old plan—and had a look at the so-called Real Economic Plan because I had heard they had added to the four pillars. I had heard that they had added knowledge based industries, a Labor policy, which was a good sign. So I thought I would have a look at their policy. Their policy says—

An LNP Government would grow a more diverse and resilient economy by focusing on five core priority areas to diversify and strengthen the economy ...

So I thought I would go through them and count them. We have agriculture, tourism, resources, construction—that is four—then we have manufacturing, but there is more. They have actually got services as No. 6 as well as knowledge based industries. So their five pillars are actually seven pillars. One has to wonder. If they cannot count to 10 then their ability to contribute in an intelligent way to the budget is rather difficult.

This budget is a strong contrast to last year's budget. In last year's budget those opposite tried to take away the concessions of pensioners throughout this state for rates, power and water bills. If ever there was anything that showed how out of touch with ordinary people they were, that was it. But it got worse. The former treasurer called those people who have solar panels on their roofs 'latte sippers' and 'champagne drinkers'. I do want to thank the member for Clayfield. I am sure that media article was letterboxed widely in my electorate. He certainly gained many votes for me out in the electorate. He is right on form.

Yesterday the member for Broadwater asserted in this House that I had cancelled the installation of flashing lights at Labrador State School and that I had scrapped funding for an intersection at the front of Coombabah State School. This is clearly not true. No funding was committed to the installation of flashing school zone lights at Labrador State School by the LNP under the Newman-Springborg government. It is the same for the \$1.5 million the member for Broadwater refers to as having for the intersection upgrade.

**Miss Barton** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** She does not like to hear the truth. It was never in QTRIP. It was an unfunded election commitment under the so-called Strong Choices plan, which the LNP no longer supports—supposedly. It was completely reliant on the sale of public assets.

These misleading statements were part of a concerning trend from those opposite. In June we saw a conga line of opposition MPs, led by the member for Caloundra and a few others, asking five questions on notice which were premised on an incorrect but rehearsed assertion that the LNP had a fully funded and costed allocation for particular school lights. I need to correct the record. Just because it is in the Strong Choices plan does not mean that it is funded within the departmental allocations. I am pleased to advise that—

**Miss Barton** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! There is a little bit of audible conversation. Member for Broadwater, you have had a good go. We are nearly there. The minister has the call.

**Mr BAILEY:** I am pleased to advise the House that this budget provides the state funding component of the \$18.8 billion that will be invested in Queensland Transport infrastructure over the next four years under QTRIP. That is an increase of \$700 million over the forwards. QTRIP outlines roads, rail, marine, public transport and active transport infrastructure and will sustain almost 15,000 jobs over the same period. The overall QTRIP amount, \$14.9 billion, will be invested in roads, road safety and marine infrastructure. The Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of our safe and reliable road network.

The 2015-16 budget allocations in QTRIP include \$175 million for the Gateway North upgrade and \$172 million for the Toowoomba second range crossing. Both of those projects have more than 2,800 jobs to come online quite soon. We have the Cooroy to Curra upgrade on the Bruce Highway for \$113 million and the Yeppen flood plain for \$33 million. I know the member for Mirani will be happy to see \$12.9 million for the Peak Downs Highway.

I congratulate the member for Mackay on her very strong representations for the Vines Creek bridge. The contribution from the previous speaker for Whitsunday was not correct; this was never funded previously in departmental allocations. It is because of the representations of the member for Mackay to me over the last few months that we have \$274,000 to get that process underway. We will build both those bridges in conjunction with the Mackay ring-road, which is a natural economy of scale decision and is an appropriate use of public funds. That is another example of, 'I was going to do it in the last three years, but I didn't,' from the member for Whitsunday.

Before I veer into some energy areas, I would like to say that we have brought TIDS forward by a year to partner with local governments to get jobs going and get our road infrastructure going. It is popular with mayors all across this state who were very disappointed by the previous government. I will quote some of those mayors. Belinda Murphy from the McKinlay shire in the north-west of the state said that TIDS funding reinstatement brought forward is great news for roads and for local government. The Cloncurry acting mayor, Jane McMillan, said that the state budget's focus on local infrastructure to address local needs and create local jobs can only be a good thing for that shire. We also had praise from Robert Loughnan, the Maranoa mayor in the state's west. We also had Tony McGrady, although he probably has some Labor form.

We are acting to reduce the road toll in this budget. There is funding for the safety mass action plan. There is funding for the cycle networks that we believe are an important part of our road system. I am very pleased to see a cycleway on the Gateway North as well as the Moreton Bay Rail Link, which will be coming online soon, and the Brisbane North cycleway, which is the missing link that cyclists on the north side need. There are also a further 300 new flashing school zone signs across Queensland, a program started under the previous Labor government and the current Premier as the transport minister, not by the previous government as is constantly claimed by those opposite.

I will now make a couple of comments about energy and water. This year's budget invests \$518 million across energy and water. It supports our renewable energy platform. This is a government interested in the transformation to clean energy and for Queensland to benefit from that transformation. We will not be stuck in the 20th century like the previous government; we will work with industry to create jobs and maximise opportunities. One of the reasons those on that side were defeated is that they had no modern policy in terms of energy in this state. They were stuck in the 20th century.

We will continue to subsidise electricity so that everybody right across the state gets the same price. We will also be proceeding with our ethanol and biodiesel mandate to grow Queensland jobs and our regional economy. Importantly, we will also be providing \$2.5 million to support Queensland farmers battling drought conditions by providing relief from fixed charges for electricity accounts that are used to pump water for farm and irrigation purposes. This funding is part of the government's four-year \$52 million drought assistance package.

Our energy investments are substantial. There is \$2.4 billion in energy and water capital costs right across the state, most of it in regional Queensland.

**Mr Pitt:** Isn't there an infrastructure freeze?

**Mr BAILEY:** Apparently, there is an infrastructure freeze and yet we see \$2.4 billion going across the state, whether that is in Tarong, Toowoomba, Gladstone South or East Warwick. We see energy projects like the Torres Strait wind farm and the Doomadgee solar project. Callide A gets an upgrade. Paradise Dam gets an upgrade. The Mount Crosby water treatment plant gets an upgrade.

This is a budget for all of Queensland and yet we see the same old faces, the same old front bench on the other side. There are no new ideas from them. I commend this bill to the House. It is one that delivers on our election commitments and supports Queenslanders across the state.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (10.59 pm): I am just trying to wake myself up after that rather boring speech. I know that regularly he has to come back and correct the record. I would call this the 'hope' budget: there is hope that the royalties in coming years will come back and save him. I would say that is what it would be, because I realised that unfortunately none of the money that they have raided out of superannuation funds and long service leave was in consolidated revenue. I thought it was somewhere else but apparently not, according to this. This budget is really a worry and a concern for the community. They ran up \$80 billion worth of debt the previous time they were in government and now they have started—

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr RICKUSS:** Don't be delusional. No wonder Mark had a holiday for three years: he deserved one. He does not seem to have learned anything since he was away—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Grace): Order! I call the House to order. Member for Lockyer, address your comments through the chair. Please address members by their proper title as well. It is opportune that we get through this. Could everyone please adhere to the standing orders.

**Mr RICKUSS:** The Hon. Mark the mistake from Morayfield—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Lockyer, I just talked about the standing orders and you intentionally broke them. I ask you that you withdraw that comment.

**Mr RICKUSS:** I withdraw that comment. It is disappointing because this government is supposed to be encouraging small business, which is driving the economy of the state. They have taken away the benefits that were going to come from the payroll tax. This is a real Labor budget all right—this is a real Labor budget about debt. The Deputy Premier came in here and talked about middle-class welfare and public transport, but how many labourers do you see on public trains? Not very many. If you look at trains you see that it is middle-class welfare. A lot of the public transport is just pure middle-class welfare. No labourers in my area catch public transport, that is for sure. It really is a shame that this middle-class welfare is so irrational, and yet they have cut some of the fuel subsidies that used to assist country people.

QR has had 150 years to get ready for the QR 150 year anniversary that is coming up on 26 July, and they are so dysfunctional that they cannot even get a train to go from Ipswich to Grandchester. Thousands of punters used to work at the Ipswich workshops and they cannot even support the community of Ipswich, which absolutely loves rail. They are totally ignoring them and it is terrible.

When the Deputy Premier comes in here and says that they are not going to be made to do this about assets sales, this is the attitude that the Hon. Paul Lucas used to have when he used to go down there as transport minister and health minister. All did he was butt heads with the federal government. He never achieved anything, but he butted up against a lot of heads. Unfortunately, regarding the billions of dollars that public servants are going to lose, if you take five million out and you only depreciate your deficit by two, this is pure Labor mathematics.

Then we have the Hon. Bill Byrne over there. Since he has been the minister we have had Panama 4, nearly Panama 4, Mosaic virus, greyhound live baiting and the racing industry collapse. All of these things have been under his watch. It is just a shame that these sorts of things are happening. When it comes to the honourable Attorney-General, we have the legislation for organised crime in chaos, going to go soft on crime and the judges debacle just drags on and on. What a mess they are making. The Hon. Cameron Dick is following in the footsteps of some of those other great health ministers like Gordon Nuttall, Paul Lucas and Stephen Robertson. They just line up. There was a public housing waiting list of 33,000 under the previous government, which we got down to 17,000, but I am sure the Minister for Housing and Public Works can manage to get it back up at least into the 20s. From the whole approach in this budget, I can see that is going to happen. It just goes on. Some of the schools that Minister Jones has are costing \$150,000 a student in my area. I am a bit worried about small business under the minister, because I do not know what experience she has in small business. The minister for DNR showed his inexperience in here this morning when he really did not understand what the legislation was about, but I am sure he will learn.

This Labor budget, like I said before, is a 'hope' budget: they just hope the royalties save them.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (11.05 pm): I have great pleasure today in rising to speak on the Palaszczuk Labor government's first budget. I would like to congratulate the Treasurer on a first-class budget; a budget for all Queenslanders; a budget for jobs and economic development. As a born and bred Mackay local, it has been difficult to watch my beautiful once-thriving hometown struggle under the weight of the LNP's ignorance and neglect over the last three years. But today, thanks to the Palaszczuk government's budget, confidence in our community can be restored.

Mackay's industrial sector has the opportunity to expand and diversify. Vital services that support the wellbeing of people who live in our community will be sustainably improved. Together these initiatives form a strong foundation on which to build a great city—the kind of future Mackay people deserve. Thanks to the foresight and innovation of the Queensland government, Mackay can look forward to this new vision of the future with a sense of genuine optimism.

As a port city, Mackay is the gateway to domestic and international markets. Many do not know this, but the port of Mackay does not rely on coal as a commodity. In fact, no coal passes through the port of Mackay at all. Our port's trade comprises sugar, sugar products, grain, meat products, ethanol, metal and bulk cargo. Our imports include bulk fertiliser, concrete, fuel, iron concentrates, machinery and general cargo.

The Palaszczuk government has committed \$2 million in the 2016 budget to begin the \$10.5 million project to expand the port of Mackay's break bulk cargo facilities, and they have also funded the planning and the building of the Vines Creek bridge. This provides a critical lifeline for Mackay's struggling economy. For the last three years we have seen nothing done about the Vines Creek bridge. The member for Whitsunday claimed that bridge planning was 70 per cent finished. I invite him to bring his plans along to parliament next time, because I would like to see them. When speaking to Main Roads they did not have any plans. I would love to have his plans; I can pass them on for him. Over the last three years the member for Whitsunday also failed to seal nine kilometres of road to Seaforth. That is a shame.

These improvements that the Palaszczuk government has brought to Mackay open up an opportunity for existing businesses to improve productivity through the higher mass levels of heavy vehicles travelling to and from the port and improved supply chains of efficiencies, improving the flow from Paget Industrial Estate servicing the Bowen Basin coalmines. This project will also attract new investment to Mackay. Put simply, the Palaszczuk government's investment in these priority projects means jobs, jobs, jobs for Mackay.

**A government member:** Love jobs!

**Mrs GILBERT:** Love jobs, yes. There is \$6.7 million towards the Mackay substation rebuild, and an additional \$662,000 for the Mackay Gas Turbine rehabilitation will ensure we have power to support our region's homes, businesses and industries. These projects will also generate much needed jobs for Mackay locals.

\$40 million over four years to Grow and Promote Events for Queensland will benefit the Mackay-Whitsunday tourism industry. Tourism operators in the Whitsunday and also in Mackay have told me how excited they are that they now have a government that is taking tourism seriously. For three years they had their budget severely cut.

The member for Whitsunday is so keen on supporting the Whitsundays that, as was reported recently in the Mackay *Daily Mercury*, he has asked to have his electorate office shifted from Proserpine in the Whitsundays to Mackay. I have here an article from the Mackay *Daily Mercury* of 24 June. The article states—

However, Neil Laurie, Clerk of the Parliament, confirmed it was Mr Costigan who had made the request for a relocation from Proserpine.

The member for Whitsunday, by taking his office out of Proserpine, which he said had a high unemployment rate, will be taking jobs out of the Whitsundays. He might need to think about it. He has some friends here. The article continues—

Former local LNP chairman and long-time Whitsunday resident Tony Large, has his doubts.

"It's an injustice," he said. "If the office ends up in Mackay then you've got a three-hour drive to the Burdekin office, which is the next one—it doesn't make sense."

I table the article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Daily Mercury* online, dated 24 June 2015, titled 'Costigan wants to move electorate office to Mackay' [\[835\]](#).

Our young people will benefit from the government's investment in education. Local schools are set to receive 10 full-time-equivalent teachers. Schools will engage curriculum coordination teachers and will have more teacher release time and more specialist teachers in secondary schools. This injection into our schools will help our schools by letting teachers teach. Pioneer State High School and Mackay State High School have also been allocated full-time-equivalent guidance officers. Labor also recognises that educational opportunities need to start in the early years of children's lives. That is why there is \$164,000 to complete refurbishment at the Birralee Child Care Centre. These initiatives have potential to change lives. By giving young people the best possible chance to learn in a supportive environment, we are not only improving the lives and chances of individuals; we are improving the future of their community.

The Palaszczuk government supports young people. I am sure the parents of the junior Rugby League in Proserpine will be surprised to hear tonight that the member for Whitsunday claimed that he took the State of Origin team to Proserpine—after all the work they did to get the team there!

The Palaszczuk government's budget stands out as exceptionally positive in many important ways for our community, but I am sure I speak for all of my community in applauding particularly loudly the \$756,000 investment in Mackay domestic violence services. In our community, we take care of our most vulnerable members. In our community, we will work to ensure that everyone feels safe and secure in their own homes. In our community, we will make sure that everyone knows they have a right to live free of violence and fear. In our community, no-one gets left behind. I acknowledge with particular appreciation the commitment the government has made in this budget to address the issue of domestic violence.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered a budget that will help Mackay to go from strength to strength. On behalf of the Mackay community I thank the Premier, the Treasurer and all of the ministers for supporting my region to recover, reinvigorate and reach its full potential. I have always been proud of my home town and I am prouder still to be working with a government that has a strong vision for the future of our region.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.14 pm), in reply: I would like to thank all members for their contributions to the debate of the 2015-16 Queensland budget. This is a budget which demonstrates there is a better way. It is a responsible budget, a measured budget—a budget that conveys Labor values, rebuilding essential services in education and health.

As we all know, this is a budget of jobs now and jobs for the future. The \$500 million Statewide Schools and Hospitals Fund will refurbish facilities and employ painters, carpenters, tilers and floorers, electricians, plasterers, plumbers and other trades. It is a budget which supports business, with grants of up to \$5,000 for stay-at-home parents who establish and grow home based businesses.

This budget delivers jobs for the future, with a new \$180 million Advance Queensland package for innovation partnerships, support for start-ups and SMEs, and a Business Development Fund. That is why this budget has been well received by so many sectors of the Queensland economy—business, industry, community groups and unions on a unity ticket—backing our responsible and measured budget.

This is a budget that delivers a surplus, not just in this budget but right across the forward estimates. It is a budget that reduces debt without selling our assets. It does not just talk about debt; it acts. General government debt is reduced across each year of the forward estimates—the first time in 16 years. The LNP has tried its hardest to muckrake about our debt action plan, but the figures speak for themselves. Even on the LNP's preferred measure of non-financial public sector debt—or gross debt for those who do not understand NFPS—the budget papers show that total borrowings will be \$2.673 billion less by the end of this term of government than forecast on 18 December by the member for Clayfield. There is nowhere for the member for Clayfield to hide. On any measure, debt will be lower under Labor than the former treasurer himself forecast just six months ago in his MYFER.

The man who outsourced his first budget to Peter Costello is clearly kicking himself for taking the easy way out. This is the man who tried to get away with not reinstating more than \$50 million a year in pensioner concessions cut by the federal government. The same man who now has the PR firm from Strong Choices running his new Queensland Leader website decided to fly the white flag on debt and resort to asset sales. Were these debt-reduction options thought of by the former treasurer? Surely at least some consideration was given to these measures that may represent a responsible plan to deal with debt. We will never know, because Campbell Newman and the member for Clayfield dismissed these options in favour of flogging off our income-generating assets to the highest bidder.

As I said, in his budget reply the opposition leader wasted an opportunity to come clean and tell all Queenslanders his alternative plan. He says that they are government-ready. What nonsense! Instead, he spent 51 minutes complaining about things that happened the last three times he was opposition leader. He spent just nine minutes in a half-hearted attempt to hold up a flaky document that he himself called an 'outline of a framework'—a plan to have a plan. He certainly did not rule out asset sales. In fact, he made the startling revelation that the plan was to 'continue what we were doing in government'. That really did work out so well last time! Campbell Newman's four pillars became five pillars, and then we heard there might even be seven pillars. He quickly added knowledge based industries as an afterthought when he thought the Premier's Advance Queensland strategy was a good idea as it was being well accepted.

The one thing confirmed in every single speech by those opposite was that the LNP has absolutely no plan for lowering debt. Every member opposite who does not support this budget will have to go back to their electorates this weekend and tell their constituents why they support \$9.6 billion more debt under the LNP for the next generation of Queenslanders, with no plan to ever pay it off; \$1.35 billion more in interest payments under the LNP—nearly \$1 million more interest under the LNP every single day over the next four years; and the spectre of asset sales, always in the shadows, ready to be revealed again the first chance the LNP gets.

The budget reply was just a rehash from the same old member for Southern Downs and the same old LNP. There have been more mistruths and more scaremongering in this budget reply from the opposition leader than there are former LNP members of the last parliament. Let us run through them. The Leader of the Opposition claimed that the 'education maintenance backlog had been cleared' under the LNP. The Auditor-General thinks otherwise. He found that there was \$260 million in school maintenance works outstanding. Only Labor has acted to address this, with the budget including \$763 million for school maintenance, including a \$300 million funding boost in this budget. The Leader of the Opposition turned on the spin that somehow this budget would see unemployment rise and employment growth weaken. This is a fundamental mistruth that should be called out for the scaremongering that it is. Latest ABS figures show unemployment down from the over seven per cent highs of the LNP to 6.3 per cent trend and 6.1 per cent seasonally adjusted last month. Some 23,100 full-time jobs have been created since the election.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PITT:** This compares with 6,000 full-time jobs lost over the last term of the Newman LNP government.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh and member for Toowoomba North, I do not want to put you under a warning at twenty past 11 on a Friday evening. I would urge you to allow the Treasurer to finish his response, then we can have a vote and proceed to the adjournment debate. I call the Treasurer.

**Mr PITT:** As the budget papers show, unemployment is forecast to remain stable over the coming year before gradually falling over the out years. Can we do better? Of course and, as I have said, driving down unemployment will be the enduring challenge of this term. Employment growth was 0.5 per cent in 2014-15. It is going to improve to 1¼ per cent in 2015-16 and continue improving to 2¼ per cent by 2018-19. We have already seen in the first six months of 2015 that confidence has returned to the Queensland economy.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PITT:** Retail trade is up, dwelling investment is up and the value of Queensland's overseas merchandise exports rose nearly 20 per cent in the May quarter—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, I warn you under standing order 253A for your interjections and disruptive behaviour. I call the Treasurer.

**Mr PITT:** Merchandise exports rose nearly 20 per cent in the May quarter 2015 driven by LNG exports and crops exports, with grain, sorghum and chickpea leading the charge. The Leader of the Opposition made the remarkable claim that there is no new infrastructure in this budget. Clearly he has not bothered to read the Capital Statement: \$90 million for two new Townsville schools, \$25 million for the Cairns Special School, \$25 million for the Yeppoon Foreshore, \$15 million for the Rockhampton Riverbank, \$100 million for the Townsville stadium, \$30 million for the new state netball stadium and \$180 million to refresh regional hospitals at Caloundra, Roma, Hervey Bay and Gladstone.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, I warn you under standing order 253A for your interjections and your disruptive behaviour. I call the Treasurer.

**Mr PITT:** None of these projects existed in the budget before a Labor government was elected. We know that the LNP has form in trying to claim projects that were not its own—Moreton Bay Rail Link, Gold Coast Light Rail, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, and the list goes on. Members of the LNP were notorious in trying to claim credit for our infrastructure projects when cutting ribbons and smiling for the cameras while at the same they tried to blame us for the debt attached to such projects. They did not like how we paid for them, but they loved the cameras. The LNP has also said during this debate that the budget has had no impact on the state's credit rating. If those opposite knew anything about state fiscal circumstances, they would know that other states have experienced the opposite to what we have seen in Queensland. In Victoria Moody's called the budget a 'credit negative' while Western Australia has recently been placed on negative watch. In comparison, both Moody's and Standard & Poor's have reaffirmed their current ratings for Queensland. Both ratings agencies have recognised the steps we have taken to reduce debt. S&P commented that—

... the budget announcement reveals an improving fiscal position with surpluses over the forward estimates.

S&P acknowledges that the debt action plan is estimated to reduce the state's general government sector debt by \$9.6 billion in 2017-18. Moody's is supportive of the state's new fiscal principles, noting that they—

... should help to minimise fiscal deficits which would lead to an easing in the state's above average debt burden.

It is very disappointing that the LNP decided to use its budget reply to hit the spin cycle, again scaring public workers like it did its entire time in office. The reality, as we have said countless times this week, is that 100 per cent of all workers' entitlements are guaranteed and 100 per cent will be paid out when required. Those opposite know it because obviously they know that these entitlements are enshrined in legislation. The status of the defined benefit fund will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains at least 100 per cent fully funded at all times, and 100 per cent of income-generating government assets will remain in government ownership, 100 per cent in government control and 100 per cent of dividends returning to government. The merger of our energy GOCs will continue to progress. Optimal structures are being considered and consultation is occurring with stakeholders, including the ACCC. Efficiencies will be sought, as we always said that they would. No amount of scaremongering from the LNP will change these facts, but the LNP just simply does not get it. It just does not like dealing in facts.

The Leader of the Opposition tried to claim DATSIP initiated Indigenous jobs were being halved in the SDS. Once again, the Leader of the Opposition has failed to accurately read the SDS. If the member had read the document correctly, he would note a 33 per cent increase in the jobs target that I have set for my department. Our target of 400 jobs is significantly more than the LNP's target of 300 jobs. As the SDS states, the reason the estimated actual from 2014-15 differs from the 2015-16 target is because this measure now excludes the jobs which are facilitated for people from culturally diverse backgrounds which of course now sits with Minister Fentiman's Multicultural Affairs portfolio.

When the honourable member for Mount Ommaney rose, I was hopeful that she would contribute positively to the debate. But, frankly, I was shocked when the member tried to politicise this government's decision to right a historical wrong and reopen a stolen wages reparations fund. How dare she! Our election commitment to reopen the reparations fund includes an additional \$21 million. She even tried to launch a scare campaign about the future of QATSIF—very irresponsible! Let me assure the member and everyone else that QATSIF is absolutely safe. We are maintaining funding for QATSIF through the trust and establishing a new fund for reparations. This just goes to show how much the member is not across her portfolio, and I welcome the estimates process as an opportunity to school her.

Another concerning part of this debate is the continued and unbridled attack by those opposite on the number of public servants in this state. They have been quick to point out that an additional 3,000 public servants will be employed this year. Of course, what they will not talk about is the fact that over 80 per cent of all new public servants employed are front line. This budget proudly includes 875 new teachers, up to 1,000 additional nurse graduates per year, 400 new nurse navigators, 266 police and 75 new paramedics. The member for Broadwater made no secret of her disdain for public servants last night. Remarkably, the member for Broadwater said—

It is not the role of governments to create jobs.

She believes we have an 'artificially inflated' Public Service, even after the LNP's mass sackings. What she failed to mention, of course, is that the budget papers state full-time-equivalent growth is expected to be modest and in line with expected state population growth over the next four years. I would also note that the estimated actual number of public servants over the last 12 months also grew by roughly 3,000 people. This was largely under the LNP and, again, was driven by Health with up to 1,400 FTEs and Education with up to 980 FTEs. As the review of state finances recognised, the vast majority of employment growth throughout the last decade was front line and a result of policies like the Beattie government's Health Action Plan.

The Leader of the Opposition tried to make out that expenses growth averaging 4.1 per cent over the forward estimates is somehow vastly different from the 3.7 per cent the member for Clayfield forecast in his own midyear review. He tried in his budget reply to scaremonger on taxes when in reality taxes per capita have fallen in this budget by \$3 per person compared to the actual tax paid per capita last year. Queenslanders will now pay \$677 less tax per person than the average of all other states and territories. The Leader of the Opposition neglected to mention that revenues are forecast to grow by 4.3 per cent over the same period, hence why we are forecasting a surplus. The comment from the Leader of the Opposition that the LNP would 'continue to deliver surpluses' is also a furphy. The reality is that the LNP forecast a deficit in 2014-15 which Labor has since turned into a near \$1 billion surplus. In the budget reply we saw once and for all that the LNP has no plan other than to reheat failed policies.

Over the past three years those opposite failed in their attempts to implement a proper Royalties for the Regions strategy. So now they are promising that they will do better next time and fund projects in the councils where royalties are generated. Will they still allow state government departments to apply again next time and compete directly with councils? That was obviously not a bright move. In stark contrast, we are getting on with the job, bringing forward \$200 million in Building our Regions funding for local councils and local projects, with the first \$100 million to be provided this year, a one-year bring-forward.

Those opposite failed to properly address the wait for the wait list and instead tried to spend \$20 million spinning propaganda. Now, their only plan is to reheat their failed Wait Time Guarantee, which was really just a plan to guarantee that Queenslanders would wait longer for a specialist appointment before they could get on the real wait list. In stark contrast, we are getting on with the job, with \$361 million in this budget for an Outpatient Long Wait Strategy to address the entire patient journey and reduce the number of people waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist appointment.

It is not good enough that we did not hear one single plan from the LNP yesterday or today about how it will reduce debt. It is not good enough for the LNP members to throw their hands up in the air and say 'We'll just use surpluses.' I challenged the LNP members to demonstrate how they will achieve nearly \$10 billion in general government debt reduction. In his budget reply the Leader of the Opposition proved that he had no answer. It is time for the LNP members to come clean and mention the one plan that they conveniently left out of their budget reply, the two words that did not rate a mention but so clearly lie in wait if an LNP government is ever elected: asset sales. Those opposite claim that they have given up on asset sales, but they have a federal government that is telling us that we have to sell assets to participate in federal schemes, even though the Prime Minister does not know that the Treasurer has already allocated \$800 million to the northern Australia fund. But that is another story. Those opposite claim that they have given up on asset sales, but they are taking their advice from some of the most pro-asset sales economists in the country. Last night, the member for Clayfield bizarrely continued the conversation that he has had with himself about himself since 2012 when he started his own conspiracy theory about Walker and Walker. He takes much joy in docking the record and asking rhetorical questions, then answering them himself.

Both the member for Hinchinbrook and the member for Toowoomba South took great delight in quoting known right-wing economist Joe Branigan's article in the *Australian*. It is worthwhile looking at some of the other articles that Mr Branigan has written to get a sense of what those opposite support. In an article titled 'Newman's cuts will pay off', Mr Branigan said—

The Strong Choices campaign, which showed Queenslanders the unpalatable options if asset sales were taken off the table (such as raising taxes and/or cutting services), has been worthwhile because it has taken a lot of the emotion out of the debate. The article continues—

The proposed asset sales ... are not only a good idea from an economic policy perspective, they are absolutely necessary from a public finance perspective.

Clearly, there are many opposite who still support this view. The chief of the cheer squad, the member for Southern Downs, thinks he might be able to persuade Queenslanders sometime in the future. He thinks, 'They'll come around.'

With this budget, we have proven that there is a better way. Now, the opposition has an obligation to tell the people of Queensland what its alternative plan is. Instead, the opposition members used the budget debate to do nothing more than continue scaring public servants. They have run out of ideas. The member for Kawana spent more time ranting about everything that has upset him since he left high school than he did about commenting on the budget. We all heard the contribution from the member for Callide, who is just simply ageist.

There are a number of thank-yous that I need to make tonight in relation to this budget. In particular, I would like to thank my colleagues the Premier and the Deputy Premier, the cabinet and all the members of the Palaszczuk government. This has been a genuine team effort. I thank my ministerial office, particularly my chief of staff, Jason Humphreys, Lachlan Smith, Marty Philip, Scott Forbes, Bart Mellish, Khiraan Kumar, Chris Fardon, Ben Gertz, Hayley Lockyer, Kendall and the rest of the team. I also want to thank Tim Linley and Joe Begley from the Premier's office. I thank Treasury for its support in preparing this budget, particularly the Under Treasurer, Jim Murphy; John O'Connell, who is retiring after preparing, I think, his 26th Queensland budget; Dennis Molloy; Alex Beavers; Leigh Pickering; Michael Webster and their teams. Most importantly, I want to thank my family. I thank my children, Tristan, Layla and Kobi, for sending me a video wishing me good luck this week, and my wife, Kerry, who does so much for me and my children. She has been a terrific support, not just in the lead-up to this budget but for the entire time that I have been a member of parliament.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered a responsible, measured budget. It is a budget that delivers for all parts of Queensland. In Brisbane, this budget delivers over \$2 billion for infrastructure, including \$232 million for the Gateway Upgrade North. Train stations will be upgraded at Alderley, Newmarket, Graceville, Strathpine, Boondall and Auchenflower to improve accessibility.

On the Gold Coast and Logan, this budget delivers nearly \$1.2 billion in infrastructure towards projects like delivering the world's best Commonwealth Games, including \$160 million in Gold Coast road upgrades, \$130 million for the Carrara precinct and nearly \$40 million for the Coomera Indoor Sports Centre. In Logan, over \$11 million will go towards re-establishing a primary school nurse service and \$40 million will be provided to help build trunk infrastructure in South-East Queensland's fastest growing community of Yarrabilba.

In Ipswich, this budget delivers nearly \$500 million for infrastructure, including new stages of the Springfield Central State High School and Redbank Plains State School. On the Darling Downs, snow is not the only show in town. Roma Hospital will be refreshed as part of our \$180 million Enhancing Regional Hospitals program. Across Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast, this budget delivers nearly \$1.5 billion for infrastructure, including the Nambour Train Station upgrade, continued works on the Moreton Bay Rail Link and a third track between Lawnton and Petrie stations. The budget continues building the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital—a Labor initiated project—as well as refreshing the Caloundra Hospital and delivering new ambulance stations at Kenilworth and Yandina.

In the Wide Bay, this budget delivers nearly \$600 million in infrastructure, including enhancing the Hervey Bay emergency department; \$15 million for the Bundaberg gas pipeline, a local election commitment of the tireless member for Bundaberg; and over \$2 million for intersection improvements at St Helen's School on the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road, which is something that the member for Maryborough has been campaigning hard for.

In Fitzroy, this budget delivers nearly \$900 million in infrastructure, including new improvements to the Gladstone emergency department as part of our \$180 million statewide Schools and Hospitals Fund. Rockhampton Hospital's intensive care unit will also have its fit-out completed. In Mackay, this budget delivers over \$350 million in infrastructure, including the commencement of works on the \$28 million upgrade of the Vines Creek Bridge on Mackay-Slade Point Road. In Mirani, over \$2.4 million has been provided to upgrade the Peak Downs Highway.

In Townsville, this budget delivers two new schools as part of more than half a billion dollars for infrastructure, including the next stage of the Townsville Ring Road. This budget also delivers on our election commitment to rebuild intensive mental health care for young people by providing expanded youth residential mental health and family services in Townsville. In outback Queensland, this budget delivers over \$800 million in infrastructure, including a western roads package that will see local road crews stay on the job, working to improve the Mitchell Highway, the Wills Developmental Road, the Diamantina Developmental Road and the Cloncurry-Dajarra Road.

Finally, and very close to my heart, in Far North Queensland this budget delivers nearly half a billion dollars in infrastructure, including sealing the Peninsula Developmental Road at various sections between Laura, Coen and Weipa. Our \$24 million regional transport boost will fund vital projects, including an upgrade of the Upper Barron Road in the electorate of the member for Dalrymple. In my community, there is the planning and construction of a jetty at Yarrabah to connect the town with Cairns and develop new transport and tourism opportunities.

This is a government that cares, and truly cares, about regional Queensland. In all respects, and across all regions, this is a real Labor budget. It is a budget that does not shy away from the tough decisions that are required to get Queensland back on track. It is a budget that will improve the lives of working people. It is a budget that will improve the health and education of Queensland families. It is a budget that will grow jobs now and jobs for the future. I commend the bills to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a second time.

### **Referral to the Portfolio Committees**

**Mr SPEAKER:** In accordance with standing order 177(2), the bills stand referred to the portfolio committees.

### **SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.39 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 15 September 2015.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.39 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament



**Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (11.39 pm): The former member for Cook and the first Indigenous member of the Queensland parliament would have been extremely proud to see the Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament 2015, which bears his name. During the week of 22 and 25 June, 37 young Indigenous adults participated in the Eric Deeral Indigenous Youth Parliament. They came from across the state and gathered to participate in all aspects of the parliamentary process.

I was very pleased to join the proceedings and, Mr Speaker, I am sure you will agree with me. It all started on Tuesday with a morning tea and then we proceeded to meet all the 37 participants and have a little bit of a question and answer session. At that time we shared stories and heard about some of the young people's backgrounds and hardships that they went through.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock, for the benefit of the member for Mount Ommaney. I urge members to please leave the chamber quietly. This is an important matter that she is speaking to. I call the member for Mount Ommaney.

**Mrs SMITH:** It was wonderful to see the preparation, and I will now name the wonderful organisers who did such a terrific job. I give praise to Brett Nutley and his team—Annemarie Groth, Kate Philipson, Zac Dadic, Kalimna Kane and Peter Rogers. They did such a wonderful job. Over the course of the two days they prepared the participants to experience life in parliament. On the Thursday they actually introduced a bill and debated it, and that was the Youth Education Bill. They were so impressive to watch as they went through that process. I had the privilege of sitting in the chair as Deputy Speaker, watching them debate and put forward their views. They had worked on their speeches. I really have to say that they were very impressive.

Again, in speaking to them and hearing the stories that they shared, I sensed that they came together and bonded well. But what I was most impressed about was the fact that, when they were talking about the problems in their communities or the problems or the challenges that they were facing, they also had suggestions for solutions. I think that that showed their maturity. Again, for young people of 17 to 25 to take such an interest in the parliamentary process and then have the opportunity to come in here I think is a really good grounding and learning process for them.

Certainly I believe that the young people came away from here showing that they have the qualities for future leadership in all roles, even to become parliamentarians in the future. One young gentleman who really impressed was a gentleman from Aurukun who did such a good job overcoming his challenges.

### Sykes, Mr J



**Mr de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (11.43 pm): The Palaszczuk government stands for accessible and quality education, from the first day in kindergarten to our last day at work. Every parent knows that a good education makes our community stronger, fairer and more prosperous. As a Labor parliamentarian, I know that a good education enables young people to participate fully in the economic, social, political and cultural dimensions of our society. But it is more than that. Quality education and training is a basic right and is critical to our future. It is a smart investment in partnership with teachers and parents in the worth and lifelong growth of every Queenslanders.

I am deeply invested as a Labor MP, as a parent and as the husband of a dedicated educational leader, in the success of our education system. As such, I place on the record my gratitude on behalf of the Springwood community to every teacher, administrator, support staff member, volunteer and contributor to education in our community. In particular, today I wish to recognise the contribution of a fine example of education excellence.

Jim Sykes of Shailer Park was recently honoured with life membership of his organisation, the Queensland Teachers' Union, just two weeks ago. Jim not only taught children in their most critical years—in primary school—starting out at Sunset State School in Mount Isa. He later taught at Biloela, Wondai, Marsden, Chatswood Hills and again later in his career back in Mount Isa. But since finishing teaching in 1984 he has also become a tireless advocate for quality education and, working through the Queensland Teachers' Union, he found a vehicle to pursue these aims.

Our government believes in supporting teachers like Jim to deliver an education system that broadens our economic base and facilitates the development of career opportunities for school leavers in new and expanded knowledge based industries such as medical research, biotechnology and aviation. Jim Sykes has been a strong advocate for government action to strengthen a publicly funded and inclusive education system that provides equal access and opportunity to participate in a high-quality and challenging education for all as a basic right.

As a focus for Jim, he and our government share the view that positive educational outcomes for families can be best delivered through supporting the education workforce of teachers and other professionals. That is why it is great that Jim continues to fight for quality education and is a vocal advocate against Tony Abbott's cuts to education funding, despite promising before the last election that he was on a 'unity ticket' on school funding.

I share Jim's beliefs, as I am sure the entire Labor caucus do, that a better community is built through investing in education. That is why I am proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with him against Tony Abbott's cuts to education. Jim was awarded the illustrious honour of life membership of the Queensland Teachers' Union. I take this opportunity to also recognise Jim for his service, his leadership and his support.

### Beechmont Road Upgrade

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.46 pm): I rise to update the House on the Lower Beechmont community's efforts to secure a feasibility study into a future upgrade of Beechmont Road between Elimbah Court and Jardine Road. Earlier this year, as members will recall, I spoke in this House about Beechmont Road and how this section of road desperately needs to be upgraded to secure the safety of Beechmont and Lower Beechmont residents and visitors. Despite Beechmont Road being a major tourist route for interstate and international visitors to Lamington National Park, motorists have been forced to stare down near misses as they navigate this narrow stretch of road. Having visited Lower Beechmont and driven on this road myself countless times, I know firsthand just how dangerous this section is.

The local community has undertaken significant community consultation to identify the next major road safety priority of the community, and this is the stretch that they want upgraded. This is the third major stage of works needed to secure the safety of Beechmont Road, which in 2008 was named by RACQ as the worst state controlled main road. There have been eight fatalities on Beechmont Road in the past decade, six of which have involved motorcyclists. Sadly, two separate accidents claimed two lives in a single day only two weeks ago.

Unfortunately, the Minister for Main Roads has confirmed this section is 'not a priority' for this Labor government after the Better Roads for Beechmont Committee and I wrote to him directly, urging him to take action before another fatality occurs. We asked the minister to undertake a feasibility study for a future upgrade of this section, which would undoubtedly be a sensible step in the right direction. Instead, the minister has chosen to play politics with road safety, refusing to consider a feasibility study and simply crossing his fingers in the hope that yet another fatality will not occur.

He only conceded to 'direct' TMR to investigate options to improve line marking along this section of Beechmont Road. The problem with this direction, as the minister should have been aware, is that his own department has previously advised the Better Roads for Beechmont Committee in a series of 2013 emails that 'there is insufficient space for any centre line marking'. Despite this email trail, which I table for the information of the House today, the minister stated in response to my question on notice last month that he had 'not received' any advice from his department that line markings could not be installed and that his previous advice 'had not changed'.

*Tabled paper.* Emails, dated July and August 2013, between representatives of Better Roads for Beechmont and officers of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, regarding centre-line marking for bends on Beechmont Road between Elimbah Court and Jardine Road [\[836\]](#).

Despite having had 30 days to request an updated briefing note from his department to answer my question on notice, it remains unclear whether the minister chose to do so.

It has become apparent that, as residents of Lower Beechmont are forced to wait in fear for another fatality to occur on Beechmont Road, we have a Minister for Main Roads who is flying blind. I again implore the minister to step out of George Street and visit my electorate to see just how safe he feels when travelling this stretch of road. The safety of my residents should be a priority for the minister, and I will not give up until this issue is addressed. I will continue to work hard with my colleague the member for Beaudesert, Jon Krause, who has some 1,200 residents who drive up to Beechmont every day as well.

### Outback Film Festival

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (11.49 pm): I rise this evening to inform the House about an amazing event I attended late last month—the Outback Film Festival in Winton. I was representing the Minister for Tourism. I had the fortunate pleasure to also have with me the member for Sandgate, who was representing the Premier. I thank the member for Sandgate for his company.

I say to those members who do not know Winton or have never been to Winton that they have missed a gem of the outback. It is home to the Waltzing Matilda Centre. It is where Banjo Paterson first performed *Waltzing Matilda*. It is where Qantas was born, despite what those in Longreach will tell you. It is also home to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum. The member for Sandgate and I had the great pleasure of going to the Jump-Up while we were out there and having a look. It is also very close to the Lark Quarry dinosaur tracks. There are 3,000 dinosaur tracks—the largest collection of dinosaur tracks in the world. Winton used to have a very big sheep industry. The sheep stations have moved to cattle. There are a lot cattle out that way. Winton is home to about 1,000 people.

I have to tell members that they have probably the second best mayor I have met in my life—Butch Lenton. Butch and his proud councillors looked after us. They took us just about everywhere in Winton that we could fit into the two days we were there.

Why is this place and this event such a special event? Winton recently was involved in the filming of the new movie *Goldstone* starring Jacki Weaver. So, ladies and gentlemen, keep your eyes open for that one. It was filmed at this great place.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** I did not get a spot, even as an extra.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** With a head like a dropped pie, what do you expect!

Six days prior to our visit there was a fire at the Waltzing Matilda Centre. Some 90 per cent of the exhibit was saved. That was because of the great work of the fireies out at Winton. The best thing about this is that the people of Winton are resilient. They get knocked down and they get back up again. They made sure that the film festival went on. I applaud them for that.

The second film at the festival was *Last Cab to Darwin* starring Michael Caton from *The Castle* fame—‘Tell him he is dreaming.’ It was shown in the open cinema. Actor and patron of the festival, Roy Billing, officially unveiled the sidewalk star.

### Mount Isa, Gas

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (11.52 pm): I rise to follow up on a question asked in the House this week on gas and a policy for the equitable distribution of gas and the impact that rising gas prices could have on the domestic industry here in Queensland. In no place would the effect be more evident than in the north-west, where we are 100 per cent reliant on gas-fired power.

We failed to build a transmission line a number of years ago to connect us to the national electricity grid. Now we have an oversupply of base load power and an undersupply of gas along the coast and potentially an oversupply of gas and undersupply of base load power in the Mount Isa area. That is policy failure at its best.

We have the prospect of a gas pipeline coming from the Northern Territory, which is good news. All this is to no avail if there is no opportunity for the five, six or possibly seven big mines that are in the north-west region to have access to some of that gas at an affordable price. I think the baseline price now is about \$6 a gigajoule for gas. There is speculation that the world parity price could be as high as \$14 a gigajoule.

We have big problems on our hands in terms of competitiveness. The state of Queensland has an enormous problem. I mentioned earlier in my speech on the Appropriation Bill that there are about \$300 million a year in royalties alone. The mining industry is worth about \$3 billion or \$4 billion to the Queensland economy each year. If we do not have that mining activity we will have a big problem in the state budget.

This is particularly relevant to the north-west. I stress again that the only base load power station is isolated and not connected to the national electricity grid. We are completely exposed to the rising price of gas in Queensland, which is going to happen. It used to be \$3 or \$4 a gigajoule. It might be

around \$6 now. The best people would get at the moment as a speculative price would be about \$14 a gigajoule. That is a big problem for us in the north-west. Power is already expensive. If it jumps up to that we have massive problems. There needs to be a policy on this.

People talk about a gas reserve policy. Maybe that is not the best idea and maybe it is. There are a number of mechanisms that could be applied. The point is that people need access to gas, firstly. A lot of them cannot get supply at this point. Secondly, it needs to be at reasonable price. Like the rest of world has done and like Western Australia has done, we need a gas policy that provides competitive energy to the north-west.

### Stretton Electorate

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (11.55 pm): I have spoken before in this House about the diversity in my local area. My seat of Stretton has the highest proportion of people in the state born overseas. It also has the highest proportion of people in the state speaking a language other than English at home. My local area leads the state in diversity and richness of culture. It is a place where Chinese Lunar New Year and Diwali is celebrated along with Easter and Christmas.

The holy month of Ramadan has been recognised recently in my community. One of the great things that happens during this month is the iftar or breaking of the fast. This is a fantastic opportunity for the community to get together, both Muslim and non-Muslim, to share a meal, to share dialogue and to continue build understanding and community.

I have been privileged to attend a number of iftars in my local area. I want to congratulate Abdul Gelim from the Queensland Intercultural Society on all the work he does to bring the community together. He organises a home iftar dinner program which is an opportunity for community members to attend and share a meal with other members of the Muslim community. The Queensland Intercultural Society have been organising these events for over a decade. The home iftar I attended was attended by the Police Commissioner and other police representatives as well as members of the media. A big thank you to our hosts, Mr Renoir and Mrs Noura Karine, for hosting us and opening their beautiful home and serving us a fantastic meal.

I also attended the Islamic Women's Society of Queensland iftar dinner at Michaels Oriental and congratulate Galila Abdelsalam and all the members of the Islamic Women's Society of Queensland on a fantastic event. The event was attended by a large range of community members and it was great to be able to share fantastic food and great discussion.

It was also great to attend the iftar dinner organised by Access Community Services. I commend Gail Ker and all the organisers. It was great to see Gail receive recognition in parliament last night.

Griffith University held a fantastic iftar dinner at the Nathan campus. As a graduate of Griffith University, it was great to see my former uni host such a fantastic community event. I commend Dr Brian Adams, the Director for Interfaith and Cultural Dialogue, and all those involved in organising this event.

It was great to see in attendance at some or all of the various events the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the member for Logan and the member for Sunnybank. It was fantastic to see them present and showing their support.

Yesterday evening there was a fantastic iftar dinner held in the parliament. It was well attended by many members of this place along with a wide range of community representatives. Once again, the QIS did a fantastic job in organising this event. I look forward to attending future cultural events in my local area. I look forward to sharing fantastic food, great community and fantastic dialogue into the future.

### Collinsville, Renewable Energy

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.58 pm): I rise to inform the House of an important development in the town of Collinsville. It is a good-news story for a town experiencing the effects of a downturn in the mining industry. However, there is a ray of sunshine on the horizon, so to speak. That ray of sunshine is in form of RATCH-Australia's announcement that the Liberal-National federal government's renewable energy target has paved the way for the company's \$100 million Collinsville solar photovoltaic project.

RATCH business development general manager, Anil Nangia, was quoted in the local newspaper, the *Bowen Independent*, as saying that the passage of the legislation for the RET ends a long period of uncertainty which required them to delay the Collinsville project. He goes on to say that this project has the potential to unlock millions of dollars of investment in the Whitsunday region, creating much needed jobs and growing the order books of local companies.

Collinsville Power Station was operating until December 2012 as an intermediate plant fuelled by locally mined clean coal with a total output of 180 megawatts. Its four 30-megawatt and 60-megawatt generator units were completely refurbished in 1998. RATCH has been exploring all options since its decommissioning and closure in 2012.

It is exciting news that the RET outcome will help RATCH to secure an offtaker for the power produced by the company's \$100 million Collinsville solar photovoltaic project. This project will be a major boost to the local economy, which has indeed been struggling. It will mean local purchasing including a wide range of products and services from fencing contractors, concreters, welders, electricians, plant and equipment operators, transport contractors and administrators. The project will have a peak construction workforce of around 40 and could employ up to three permanent staff once complete.

Collinsville is already strategically placed as a base load power station for North Queensland. The 42-megawatt solar power station will feature around 180,000 solar PV panels and supply power equivalent to the annual needs of 15,000 homes. The project is close to the old Collinsville coal-fired power station to take advantage of existing electrical infrastructure, including substations and Ergon Energy's distribution network. The project has already received development approval from Whitsunday Regional Council, which means all approvals have now been provided. RATCH is hopeful of beginning construction early next year and is already looking at ways it can expand to a second stage. If all goes well, this \$100 million investment will be a major boost to the confidence of the local community. The project will not only provide much needed jobs, it will not only power up homes and businesses, but it will also power up confidence in North Queensland.

### Fleetwood, Mr P

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.01 am): Mr Speaker, as members of parliament we are lucky to be part of very special ceremonies and events in our electorates. Recently in June I was lucky enough to be part of such an event. The wonderful—and I mean it—Logan Village State School community invited me to share their ceremony to name the school oval the Paul Fleetwood Oval as a permanent memorial to former teacher Paul Fleetwood. With Paul's wife and family, hundreds of former students, current and former teachers and the wider Logan Village Community, including from the Logan Village Lions and historical society, we gathered on a bright clear day to share, to remember and to celebrate Paul's life. The day was filled with colourful tents, students singing songs and sharing stories with Principal Bunce, teachers who worked with him, his wife Kerry and others. It finished with the unveiling of a permanent sign and memorial to Paul Fleetwood. Paul was a well-respected teacher and sporting coach from 1995 to 2013 when, nearing the end of his teaching career, his life was cut short by illness. A former deputy of the Logan Village school told me that the hardest day of her professional life was to sit down with Mr Fleetwood's class to tell them the sad news that their teacher from earlier in the year had finally lost his battle for life.

I had only met Paul in passing, but it was moving to see the impact that this one teacher made on so many lives. His passion for sport, especially rugby and cricket, was infectious and his passion for the school community made a lasting impact on students. I spoke with one young man that still lived in North Street who was a former student. He was wearing the grade 7 class shirt from the 1990s that his class had made which proudly listed Mr Fleetwood as his teacher. Mr Fleetwood made an impact on him, got him involved in organised sport and was fondly remembered. Local councillor Don Petersen remembered how Paul Fleetwood helped many young people prepare for high school and life. Almost every Logan Village resident under 30 had strong memories of the contribution he made to their lives.

I am inspired by the community of Logan Village State School and by the way they recognise that a school is more than simply the fields, fences, play areas, classrooms and hall. It is, more than anything, made by the people of this community; the way they treat each other, respect each other, and in this case remember and celebrate one of their own. In a way, the Paul Fleetwood Oval is not just as a lasting memorial and legacy of Paul Fleetwood's public service and dedication, it is also a reminder to all of us in this place how dedicated our teachers are and how well respected they are in the community. Indeed, so many great teachers would deserve the wonderful accolades that Paul so deserved. It is not just the teachers, but the ambulance workers, the nurses, the doctors, the town

planners and those others that serve the public in Queensland. We need to celebrate our public servants when they work as hard as Paul Fleetwood did to strengthen the community in which they work.

### **Rainbow Beach Surf Lifesaving Club**

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.04 am): Mr Speaker, when I get the chance to celebrate the half century of a volunteer organisation in my electorate, it reminds me of the stability of the region and the magnificent history of volunteering by many groups in my electorate. Last month I attended the 50-year celebration of the Rainbow Beach Surf Lifesaving Club. It all started at a meeting in the Freemasons Hotel in Gympie in June 1965. The joining fee was set at £1 10. This was a period when a loaf of bread cost 18 pence, a quart bottle of milk cost 21 pence, the premier of Queensland was Sir Frank Nicklin, Dawn Fraser was banned from amateur competition for 10 years, and snow fell in the Clark Range near Mackay.

It was a modest beginning, starting with only a pole with a metal tractor seat on top, surf reel and belt and a committee of 14 members. Today the club of 243 members needs to carry a range of equipment including boats, four-wheel drives, IRBs, bikes, trailers and radio equipment. The club's president, Justin Schooth, oversees an organisation which has in the last year completed 4,866 patrolling hours looking after 26,673 swimmers and more than 83,000 beachgoers. It has had to undertake more than 1,700 preventative actions, 151 first-aid attendances and 18 lifesaving rescues, which means this year there have been zero preventable deaths and injuries in the Rainbow Beach area. Clubs operate because of the immense efforts of its volunteers. Their efforts are what makes the club successful and contributes to safe and enjoyable beach activities for many locals and visitors to the region. A special congratulations to the club's newest life member, Ron Organ, who has played a tremendous part in the club's activities.

Of course they can only run with the magnificent fundraising efforts of volunteers and sponsorship from local businesses. It is a tremendous reflection of the great community spirit that the club receives support from many local and Gympie businesses. Today fundraising is far more sophisticated than the early years, when the club kicked off with the raffle of a suckling pig and a dance at the veterans' hall. Fundraising relied heavily on the humble chook raffle, street stalls and the popular surf girl fundraising, while donations, roadside collections, weekly raffles, local hotel raffles and government subsidies from all three tiers of government have helped. There have been a wide variety of innovative and entertaining fundraising activities, including cabarets, a fun run, Melbourne Cup Day functions, bowls and golf days, charity auctions, sporting competitions and carnivals. Congratulations to the Rainbow Beach Surf Lifesaving Club on your golden jubilee.

### **Trade Skills Centre; Primary Schools, Nursing Service**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.07 am): Mr Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about two important benefits that the state budget we have debated this week will bring to the Woodridge electorate. The state Labor budget passed by the parliament tonight is a budget about jobs. Creating jobs for the Queenslanders that were left stranded by the former Newman LNP government. Creating opportunities for communities like Woodridge by ensuring there are education and training programs operating and available in our community. Through these essential measures we are laying the groundwork that will ensure Queenslanders get back to work. There will be a number of projects delivered in Woodridge as a consequence of the 2015 state budget that will create a more dynamic local economy and a safer place to live.

During the 2015 state election I promised to focus on delivering better education, training and employment opportunities for the people of Woodridge. I am delighted that the Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver a \$2.1 million Trade Skills Centre which will be located at Woodridge State High School. Students from Logan City Special School and Browns Plains State High school will also be able to enrol in courses at the Trade Skills Centre. This is excellent news for Woodridge teenagers, allowing them to develop real world skills before finishing school. The Trade Skills Centre will offer courses in areas that will support our community into the future. These will include courses in automotive engineering, allowing for a career in mechanics. It will also provide courses in transport and logistics. We are a government that supports our young people to learn trades and provides them with those opportunities while still in school. We want to give our young people the opportunity to set their career path while they are at school, and we will provide them with the means to do so.

I am also proud that, as a consequence of the Labor state budget, the primary school aged nursing service will first be provided in electorates like Woodridge before being rolled out statewide. This service will kick off in the city of Logan and will provide vision, hearing and nutrition screening to ensure kids are supported and ready for school. This was a service dismantled by the LNP government, and I am proud to be the Labor Minister for Health responsible for re-establishing and expanding it.

It is critical that, when our kids begin school, parents can have the confidence that they are sending them off fit and healthy, confident of their ability to excel. That is what I am focused on as the state member for Woodridge. Delivering local outcomes for my community that will see our children excel is a priority for me. I look forward to seeing these projects develop in the electorate and to continue to work with the local Woodridge community and my fellow government members as we continue to deliver results for our local communities and for Queensland.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 12.09 am (Saturday).

### **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