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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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TUESDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2016



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Reply from Governor



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that on Friday, 19 February 2016, accompanied by honourable members, I was pleased to invite the member for Algeester, the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business, to present on my behalf to His Excellency the Governor the address of the Legislative Assembly adopted by the House on 3 December 2015 in reply to the Governor's opening speech, and that His Excellency has been pleased to make the following reply—

On the 25th of March 2015, I had the honour to deliver the Governor's Speech at the Opening of the First Session of the Fifty-Fifth Parliament of Queensland. As the representative of Her Majesty the Queen, I now extend to you and to the Members of the Parliament of Queensland, my sincere thanks for the formal Address-In-Reply.

It will be my pleasant duty to convey to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second the expression of loyalty and warm regard from the Members of the Queensland Parliament. The Queen remains a strong and unifying figure for the peoples of our Commonwealth of Nations, and a sign of our shared beliefs in freedom and democracy.

Within our own community of Queensland, I encourage all Members of the Legislative Assembly in their endeavours to promote the well-being and prosperity of our State. On behalf of the people of Queensland, I trust that your efforts will be rewarded with much success.

I have put on display today, for those who may be interested, the Legislative Assembly's very first Address-in-Reply, delivered in 1860, reproduced from the official papers of our first Governor Sir George Bowen. The sentiments there expressed are remarkably similar, Mr Speaker, to those you have offered today; and that corroborates the enduring stability of our democracy.

And it is a matter of great pride that history should continue to unfold before us today: with Mr Speaker's permission, the Address-in-Reply has been read by Minister Enoch, our first female Indigenous Minister of State.

I table His Excellency's reply for the information of all members.

Tabled paper: Response to Address-in-Reply from his Excellency the Governor [\[205\]](#).

REPORT

Office of the Speaker



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I lay upon the table of the House the *Statement of public disclosure: expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015*.

Tabled paper: Statement for Public Disclosure: expenditure of the Office of the Speaker for the period 1 July 2015 to 31 December 2015 [\[206\]](#).

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 13 for 2015-16 titled *Cloud computing*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 13: 2015-16—Cloud Computing [\[207\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 30 October 2015 the Premier wrote to me alleging that the member for Lockyer deliberately misled the House during his matter of public interest when he made serious unsubstantiated allegations against the Premier. On 18 February 2016 the member for Lockyer rose on a personal explanation, referred to his comments, withdrew those comments and apologised. I will therefore not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Apologies and Explanations

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I would like to remind all members of the great privilege afforded to them in making statements in the House and that this privilege needs to be balanced with the responsibility to take care in making statements in the House. As Erskine May counsels, parliamentary language should reflect good temper and moderation. A member may make their point in parliament without the need to make allegations that are not, and cannot be, substantiated. Members should also take particular care when making their own inferences to make sure that they do not misrepresent their inferences as facts in another body's work. If members during a heated debate make incorrect and reckless statements, they should correct the record, make a withdrawal and/or apologise at the earliest opportunity. A withdrawal or apology removes suspicion that their statements were deliberately misleading.

APPOINTMENT

Deputy Opposition Whip

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.35 am): I wish to inform the House that the member for Mudgeeraba has been appointed the deputy opposition whip.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

19 February 2016—

- [197](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 18, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 28 October 2015 and 1 December 2015
- [198](#) Office of the Public Advocate—Annual Report 2014-15
- [199](#) Magistrates Courts of Queensland—Annual Report 2014-15
- [200](#) Supreme Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2014-15
- [201](#) District Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2014-15
- [202](#) Public Interest Monitor—17th Annual Report for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, pursuant to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Crime and Corruption Act 2001, the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 and the Criminal Code of the Commonwealth
- [203](#) Office of the Public Guardian—Annual Report 2014-15
- [204](#) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions—Annual Report 2014-15

STATUTORY INSTRUMENT

The following statutory instrument was tabled by the Clerk—

Appropriation Act (No. 2) 2015—

- [208](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 8
- [209](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 8, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment (Ms Trad)—

- [210](#) Notice of Decision: Application to Change Development Approval, pursuant to s.369 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application at Springmount Road and Kippin Drive, Arriga

- [211](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment (Ms Trad), pursuant to section 424 of the Sustainable Planning Act 2009, in relation to the Ministerial Call In of a development application by URS Australia Pty Ltd on behalf of FRV Services Australia Pty Ltd for Clare Solar Farm Development at Shadforth Road, Clare (Burdekin Shire Council)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Death of Steve Jones, Motion to Take Note

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): Queensland lost a tireless champion with the sudden death of Mayor Steve Jones last week. Steve was about to recontest his position as mayor at next month's local government elections. Elected to council in 1997, Steve was elected mayor of Gatton in 2004 and then mayor of the amalgamated Lockyer Valley Regional Council in 2008.

Steve stood up and stood out during and after the 2011 floods. When many of us were down, he lifted us all. Steve was recognised in the Australian honours with the awarding of the Member of the Order of Australia, AM, on Australia Day 2013. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Steve gave to the community at large. Theodore Roosevelt once said—

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena ...

Steve Jones was an honest and hardworking man. Steve was a pleasure to work with. He was a community man first and foremost. He was passionate about his community and he gave years of dedicated service. My thoughts are with Steve's wife, Ann, his family, friends and the community of the Lockyer Valley as they mourn their loss. I move—

That the House take note of this statement.

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.37 am): I join with the Premier and no doubt all other members of this place in expressing extreme sorrow and sadness at the passing, tragically and in an untimely way, of Steve Jones only late last week. I first learned about this when I was at a major function with the Premier at the home of Mark and Tracy Stockwell where we were celebrating the significance of Queensland Olympians and their hopefully outstanding contribution in the upcoming Olympics. I noticed Councillor Paul Pisasale, the mayor of Ipswich, who is obviously somewhat concerned about particular events. I remember him coming to me in quite a shattered way and indicating that Steve Jones had just collapsed in his office and he was not in a good way. Indeed, I felt very shocked and I could not believe it at that stage. For someone who is relatively young, someone who is vibrant, someone who is dynamic, someone who has contributed a lot and someone who was an outstanding and larger than life character to be taken in such a way is something which affected many of us.

He was an extremely laconic character; he called a spade a steam shovel. You were in no uncertain terms as to what Steve Jones sometimes thought about you or events that were happening in Queensland. He had a very strong and strident opinion on issues within his community, but I think we all appreciate that his passion was the Lockyer Valley and his community. He had a very, very proud history in agriculture—he was involved with the department of primary industries at the time—and then 19 years of very, very good and outstanding service as a councillor and a mayor in his community. I think many of us can appreciate the great work and leadership that he, along with our very own member for Lockyer in this place, displayed during the tragic events and horrific floods of not so many years ago.

I know from speaking to many people within the community that his sudden and untimely loss in these tragic circumstances has really created a sense of sorrow and disbelief within the community. These are big shoes to fill. It is a big hole to fill within the community, but I know that many people will be comforted by the fact that, upon reflection, they can celebrate a wonderful life of achievement. To Steve's family and to his friends, I wish to join the Premier in placing on record the sympathies and the best wishes and the prayers of the opposition.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Fiji, Cyclone Winston

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.41 am): On behalf of the government and all Queenslanders, I extend my condolences to the people of Fiji in the wake of Cyclone Winston, which has very sadly claimed more than 20 lives. Queensland knows firsthand how devastating natural disasters can be. We have seen on television the damage and destruction which has been caused by Cyclone Winston. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of what is believed to have been the most powerful cyclone ever to hit Fiji. There are reports of winds with devastating speeds of up to 330 kilometres an hour. Aerial shots of Fiji have provided a bird's-eye view of the enormous damage caused by the cyclone, and images on the news have shown trees and powerlines down across roads, houses destroyed and public infrastructure decimated. We know that, as well as the people of Fiji, there are many Australians who may have been affected, and we are also thinking of those people and their families.

Australia's role and response in providing assistance to foreign countries following an international disaster is the responsibility of the federal government. Queensland stands ready to assist with recovery efforts if we are called upon, and we have offered services as part of the federal government's response. I understand that troops have left from Townsville this morning and will soon be on the ground to assist with what they have called an 'uncertain task'. A number of other Australian non-government organisations are working with communities affected by the cyclone. I encourage all Queenslanders to consider donating to organisations such as Red Cross in support of the relief efforts.

State Schools

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): My government is a government which is committed to giving each and every Queensland child the best opportunity for quality education. We are seeing an extra 290 teachers this year, we are making prep compulsory, we are introducing a digital curriculum to prepare students for the jobs of the future and there are more guidance officers starting work in our schools. We are also making sure that communities in Queensland's growing regional centres and their children have access to quality schools.

During the recent Gladstone regional community cabinet we announced that a new high school will be built in Calliope to cope with the growing demand. This is another clear sign that we are a government which is prepared to listen to Queenslanders. Due to the decision to save the land for educational purposes, we are now able to build a new school there which will be ready for students in 2020. As well as Calliope, we have also announced two new schools in the Townsville area and the Cairns Special School. The Cairns Special School was promised by both sides at the 2012 election. For three years the LNP did not deliver on that promise. With Labor in government, that school is now budgeted for and will be delivered to that community.

Yesterday I joined the education minister and the member for Logan to announce another three schools for some of the fastest growing communities in our state. Coomera, Caloundra South and Yarrabilba will all see new schools built by 2019. All up, we will invest more than \$300 million in those seven schools to support more than 900 jobs from Cairns to Coomera. More schools for our kids and more jobs for builders and tradies—that is what my government is all about.

Lockyer Valley, Local Government Election; Jones, Mr S

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.44 am): The death of Mayor Steve Jones is a tragic loss for local government and the people of the Lockyer Valley. His commitment to his community ran deep and he leaves large shoes to fill.

Following the passing of Mayor Jones, the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 requires that the election of the mayor must start again. The act also provides me, as minister, with the discretion to delay the election of councillors. Following consultation with the Lockyer Valley Regional Council, the Electoral Commission of Queensland and the Local Government Association of Queensland, I have decided to postpone the election for all councillor positions on the Lockyer Valley Regional Council, including mayor, until Saturday, 16 April 2016.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind Lockyer residents that they will still need to vote on 19 March in the referendum on four-year terms; however, to avoid residents having to attend polling booths twice in the space of one month I have also directed that the ballot for the election of Lockyer Valley mayor and councillors will take place as a full postal vote for all enrolled electors.

Postponing the council election in the Lockyer Valley is in the best interests of the community. At this sad time the community needs the stability of their council, and it will continue with business as usual. Deputy Mayor Tanya Milligan will be the acting mayor and the current council will continue until the new council is elected.

Finally, I take this opportunity to join with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition in expressing my sincere condolences to Steve's wife, Ann, his sons and their partners, his granddaughter and the Lockyer Valley Regional Council for their loss of their husband, father, grandfather and leader.

National Rugby League

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.46 am): Over the weekend I am sure many got up early to watch the Brisbane Broncos' big win over Wigan on Sunday morning, followed by the Cowboys winning the World Club Challenge by thrashing Leeds early yesterday morning our time. As the Minister for Sport, a proud North Queenslander and a 20-year 'Cows' supporter, it was fantastic to see the Cowboys crowned the best team in the world. It caps a great 12 months for the Cowboys, and I was proud to be on hand to watch them win their first NRL title last year. They are definitely at the top of their game, and I am sure that all members of this House will join me in congratulating them and agree that all Queenslanders are proud of their achievements.

There is more exciting news ahead, with a double-header event on 14 May at Suncorp Stadium which will see the Broncos playing Manly and reigning premiers the North Queensland Cowboys up against the Melbourne Storm—double the excitement, double the value and double the fun! No other venue creates an atmosphere like Suncorp Stadium, which is by far the best Rugby League ground in Australia, if not the world.

Business Development Fund

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.47 am): When we look at the other initiatives of our government, we have been doing some very good work in the space of our \$180 million Advance Queensland policy. This plan, which we announced at the budget, is about delivering knowledge-based jobs for Queenslanders now and into the future. The Palaszczuk government announced a \$180 million investment in Advance Queensland—a plan to diversify the Queensland economy and deliver knowledge-based jobs for Queenslanders now and into the future. The Business Development Fund is a key initiative within the Advance Queensland plan. The fund provides \$40 million over the next four years in dollar-for-dollar matching with the private sector to help young entrepreneurs take their innovative ideas and turn them into commercial realities. We are backing Queensland's innovators.

I am pleased to announce that earlier this month I attended the inaugural meeting of the Business Development Fund investment panel. This panel consists of seven of the nation's most discerning venture capitalists and entrepreneurial experts from a range of industries. At the very first meeting the panel had an opportunity to review nine applications for shortlisting. These entrepreneurs have presented innovative ideas that can help unlock Queensland's potential and create the digital economy of the future, including new apps and software platforms and proposals for new energy technology including electric vehicle charging.

Business Development Fund applications to date have sought funding of \$6.2 million which, if all applications are successful, would see a matching co-investment resulting in \$12.4 million being invested in these innovative Queensland businesses in just seven months since the budget. These start-ups have already secured a commitment of funding from the private sector and have the majority of their assets and employees based in Queensland.

This program is about creating high-value and highly skilled jobs for Queenslanders; it is about positioning Queensland as the place to come for innovation. Let me be clear: this is not a government loan scheme. The government is the co-investor in these innovative ideas, and we expect a return on our investment to grow businesses and jobs for the future. We expect proposals to be in the public interest and offer a good chance of becoming a commercial reality.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to securing a bright future for the Queensland economy. Unlike the LNP, we understand the importance of Advance Queensland's potential by further diversifying our economy and providing the right business conditions for emerging start-ups to succeed. The former LNP government's focus on the four-pillar economy failed to create knowledge-based jobs of the future and saw the Queensland economy suffer as a whole, with around 310 full-time jobs lost each month.

I can assure the people of Queensland that our economic plan is working. Under our plan, unemployment is half a per cent lower under Labor. The Palaszczuk government is continuing to help Queenslanders from all over the state to secure a job and to ensure their children can secure a job for the future.

Over the coming months, the Business Development Fund investment panel will continue to meet with these businesses to discuss their ideas and hear their pitch for government investment. I look forward to returning to parliament throughout 2016 to share the exciting projects and ideas that the Palaszczuk government is helping to bring to life.

Integrated Care Innovation Fund

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.50 am): Queensland is facing a significant increase in chronic disease in the coming decade. With federal funding cuts, an ageing population, workforce pressures and unacceptable inequities in health access to services, Queensland's health system faces significant challenges. To mitigate these challenges we need more efficiency, less waste and better outcomes from the system. The Palaszczuk government's \$35 million Integrated Care Innovation Fund, announced by me recently, is an initiative to do just that. We want patients to be able to move quickly and seamlessly between necessary health services, be they primary, specialised, rehabilitation, acute care or hospital services. We want to harness the knowledge of those working at the interface of hospital and community health care. We want to strengthen the relationships between state hospital and health services and primary health networks established by the Commonwealth government.

We have invited hospital and health services across Queensland to apply for financial support for innovative projects that deliver better integration of care, address fragmentation in services and provide high-value health care. We are particularly keen on applications that support partnerships with primary health networks and other community health providers. We are looking for projects that are locally innovative, rather than an extension of existing services, and that will address existing gaps or issues in service delivery in a new way. Bids will be selected after a formal evaluation by the department's selection committee.

The Integrated Care Innovation Fund will provide financial support to approved initiatives over two years, starting in the middle of this year, with ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Better health integration means better health care for all Queenslanders.

State Schools

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring Queensland children have access to quality education. Yesterday the Premier and I visited the site where the new Yarrabilba community will grow and announced that Yarrabilba, Coomera and Caloundra South will each receive a brand-new school by 2019.

Yarrabilba is one of the fastest growing greenfield communities in Australia. In the coming years the community will grow to more than 45,000 people, with 15,000 dwellings. Our announcement means that children will have access to world-class education facilities in their own neighbourhood. When the school opens in 2019 we expect up to 400 enrolments, and that will continue to grow to up to 1,100 students in the longer term. This new school will help taken enrolment pressure off local schools in the Flagstone and Logan areas.

The new primary school at Coomera will open its doors on the first school day in 2018, as will the new primary school at Caloundra South. As I said, each of these schools will cater for up to 1,000 students. Education is a top priority for our government and we are delivering on our commitment to deliver new schools right across Queensland.

North East Gas Interconnector

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.53 am): For the past year the Palaszczuk government has been getting on with the job of meeting our election commitments, generating jobs and driving economic development. One of the key achievements in my portfolio has been the securing of the \$800 million North East Gas Interconnector pipeline project from Tennant Creek to Mount Isa. This project was seriously at risk of

being lost to South Australia when I flew to Darwin last year. I put the Queensland case very strongly to the Northern Territory Chief Minister, Adam Giles, and the Treasurer, Minister for Lands and Planning and Minister for Mines and Energy, Dave Tollner.

I count it a great win that when construction starts in 2017 that pipeline will head to Queensland's north-west, bringing jobs and energy to feed new and existing industry. This important project will generate 560 construction jobs across the 600 kilometres of pipeline connecting the territory's abundant gas supplies to the eastern seaboard gas markets and joining onto the existing Mount Isa-Eromanga gas pipeline.

This government appreciates that regional Queensland has been the engine room that drives our economy. That is why we have accelerated our Building Our Regions infrastructure program: to keep that engine room ticking over. Under round 1, \$70 million in funding has been provided to 42 critical infrastructure projects statewide, supporting 700 jobs. I have seen how important these projects are for local communities—essential infrastructure like the sewerage upgrades I saw with the member for Mackay at Gooseponds park and the Collins Avenue bridge upgrade that I announced with the members for Barron River and Cairns. Round 2 will offer a further \$70 million in funding for critical infrastructure projects in regional Queensland. I look forward to announcing the successful projects later in the year.

Another key achievement is one of successive Labor governments—that is, our LNG export industry. The foresight and application of previous Labor governments and this government's follow-through is now paying off, as the \$60 billion LNG industry generates royalties, jobs and regional economic growth.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook and Minister for Education, if you persist you will be warned under standing order 253A.

Dr LYNHAM: The Queensland Curtis LNG Project, Santos's Gladstone LNG and Australia Pacific LNG have all made their first shipments from Gladstone.

Our petroleum and gas industry has production worth \$1.9 billion and last year supported almost 145,000 jobs directly and indirectly. The Palaszczuk government told Queenslanders that we would deliver, and that is what we have done—jobs now and jobs for the future.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.56 am): Last Friday I was pleased to announce the results of the second funding round of the reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative. I was delighted to make the announcement with the member for Murrumba at one of our fantastic community based organisations.

Some 183 projects worth around \$30 million will be delivered across Queensland that will provide nationally recognised training, skills development and job opportunities to over 5,900 unemployed and underemployed Queenslanders. Community sector driven projects will be delivered from Atherton in the Far North of this great state, Townsville in the north, Dalby on the Darling Downs, Cherbourg in the South Burnett, Rockhampton in Central Queensland, Maroochydore on the Sunshine Coast, Ipswich and Logan, down to Beaudesert and the Gold Coast. It is very satisfying to see the coverage and how many locations where changes will be made to people's lives by giving them a chance to gain skills and work in their local communities. We have been committed to bringing back this initiative and, just over a year later, we are already training people, supporting people and ensuring they have employability skills that lead to jobs.

The next round of funding, for 2016-17 projects, is now open, with \$60 million available again in 2016-17. Applications will close on 7 April 2016. All up, in 2015-16 we have committed around \$60 million across the suite of programs that make up Skilling Queenslanders for Work. We are already seeing the impact of this worthwhile investment as people progress through the local programs.

Applications for funding can now be made via a new online application portal. Eligible organisations can apply for program funding in a secure, cloud based environment. One of the key features of the new application process is that users will access information securely at any time and from any device. Mr Speaker, to see for yourself or to encourage local community organisations to apply, you can visit the department's website at www.training.qld.gov.au/sqw.

Police and Emergency Services, Recruitment

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.58 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to creating jobs in Queensland. We are on track and on target to deliver an extra 266 police officers by the end of June this year. Today I am pleased to announce that police strength in Queensland has grown by 1,080 officers and planned police recruitment activities are on track to meet our election commitments to Queenslanders.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BYRNE: The opposition might like to listen to this for a moment. Across South-East Queensland 103 officers have been posted to Brisbane, 23 officers to the Moreton district, 24 officers in Ipswich, 10 to the Sunshine Coast, 22 in Logan, 31 on the Gold Coast and 17 new police officers on the Darling Downs. Some 31 officers have joined the ranks in Townsville; 35 in Cairns and other parts of Northern Queensland; 13 in Mackay; 38 across the Capricornia district, including 23 in my home town of Rockhampton; 33 in Wide Bay; eight in Mount Isa; and two in the south-west district. And it does not stop there. Since February 2015 more than 97 new firefighters have joined Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

Not only have we been taking on more emergency service workers; we are equipping them and training them with the skills and equipment that they need to do the job they do best—looking after the safety of Queenslanders. We have set aside more than \$9 million for Fire and Emergency Services facilities in regional Queensland: \$4 million towards a replacement fire and rescue station in Bundaberg, \$350,000 for the relocation and upgrade of the auxiliary fire and rescue station in Cunnamulla, \$250,000 for the relocation and upgrade of the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Gordonvale, \$600,000 for the relocation and upgrade of the fire and rescue station at Roma, \$600,000 to upgrade the auxiliary fire and rescue station at Dayboro, and almost \$1 million for amenities in 23 fire and rescue stations across regional Queensland.

This funding is about more than bricks and mortar; it is about providing emergency services personnel with the equipment, resources and infrastructure that they need to do their job. The Palaszczuk government remains committed to ensuring that while Queensland emergency services workers are looking after Queenslanders we are behind them, supporting them, every step of the way.

New Generation Rollingstock, Wulkuraka Maintenance Centre

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.00 am): I am proud to advise the House that the \$4.4 billion New Generation Rollingstock, or NGR, project is delivering hundreds of jobs for the people of Queensland. I am delighted that this project has generated almost 500 design and construction full-time jobs for Ipswich and Brisbane during the construction of the Wulkuraka maintenance centre and ongoing delivery of the NGR. This will include 131 management, design and commissioning positions and 215 construction jobs created at the maintenance facility at Wulkuraka.

The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to creating jobs, and that is what has been done. Some 150 ongoing full-time jobs have been generated to continue servicing the trains at the maintenance centre over the next 30 years. The flow-on effect of this multibillion-dollar investment in Queensland's public transport landscape will help stimulate the local Ipswich economy and further deliver an estimated 1,500 indirect jobs. As of 30 November 2015, almost 60 per cent of the current workforce at Wulkuraka maintenance centre came from a 15-kilometre radius of Wulkuraka. This contract to maintain the rollingstock at Wulkuraka is for 30 years, which means at least three decades of job creation for South-East Queensland.

Queensland Rail is also currently in the process of recruiting 100 full-time train drivers and 100 guards. The Bombardier NGR consortium has a local industry participation plan that is audited every six months and reviewed by this government. At the last audit in September last year, Bombardier reported that it had engaged in more than 200 contracts with Australian businesses—89 across South-East Queensland and 13 across regional Queensland. The 75 new trains will be delivered over a three-year period and are expected to be operational by the second half of 2018. The NGR project represents a significant investment in trains and will support the government's long-term commitment in public transport, delivering for the people of Queensland now and into the future.

North Queensland, Maintenance and Upgrade Works

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (10.03 am): Queenslanders know they can rely on a Labor government in difficult times and in prosperous times. This government and my department are committed to supporting a range of social and economic priorities in North Queensland and across the state through the targeted delivery of housing and construction activities. In the last few weeks alone I have asked for over \$9 million of maintenance and upgrades work in North Queensland to be brought forward. This maintenance and upgrade work will generate approximately 27 new jobs almost immediately. These are a fraction of the thousands of jobs this government is either directly delivering or supporting. While we are supporting the creation of jobs in Townsville, I note that the previous LNP government in its first six months cut 550 jobs in Townsville while the now opposition leader sat in cabinet endorsing his friend Campbell Newman's attack on regional Queensland. Despite the previous government slashing 1,654 jobs in Building and Asset Services, our Building and Asset Services staff have the knowledge, capacity and experience to provide a coordinated approach to assist the delivery of accelerated works programs across government.

Our staff in local depots like the ones working in Langton Street in Townsville work closely with local providers to maximise employment outcomes for workers in regional Queensland. After talking with our staff, I am confident that our BAS staff share our commitment to allocating work to local industry and managing government funds to ensure value for money is delivered whilst supporting the creation of local employment. I am a minister for all of Queensland and it is important to me that we afford the same opportunities for people living in regional areas that are available to those in the south-east corner of the state.

Our government's staff in BAS are proudly managing project delivery across the state, and I am talking about projects like upgrading the Spinifex State College in Mount Isa, restoring the roof of the Cairns Convention Centre, refurbishing Fountain House at Toowoomba Base Hospital or upgrading schools across the electorate of Roma. These are jobs for the people of Queensland, not just for people in government held seats.

I have instructed my department to not only look for opportunities to accelerate capital works but also accelerate our maintenance and upgrade projects for the remainder of the financial year. For the delivery of accelerated works programs, BAS will ensure probity and governance are paramount and upheld through informed and effective procurement processes. We are committed to creating jobs in a diverse economy as well as building safe, caring and connected communities. Our Accelerated Works Program demonstrates all of those commitments. Since the election, 71,700 jobs have been created in Queensland. This government is building confidence in this state's economy.

Toowoomba Second Range Crossing

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.06 am): I am pleased to be able to update the House on progress of the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the up to 1,800 full-time jobs that go with it. This project has tremendous significance for regional economic development and for productivity and supply chain opportunities, as well as training and skills development. The contractor, Nexus Infrastructure, is building its team in Toowoomba with major construction works to begin in coming months, with the road expected to be operational by late 2018. Nexus Infrastructure has a team of 85 working hard on the detailed design of the road. Other teams are engaged in the critical preconstruction works, which includes surveys and geotechnical investigations.

I can advise the House that we are now improving connectivity to Boundary Street with the installation of new ramps at a total cost of \$5 million, of which \$1½ million will be contributed by the Palaszczuk government, \$1 million by the Commonwealth and \$2½ million from the council. These works will deliver improved access to the growing industrial and commercial areas to grow jobs in the region, improve access to the growing industrial and commercial areas surrounding the very impressive Wellcamp Airport west of Toowoomba, better traffic distribution into Toowoomba and improved emergency vehicle response.

The link between the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the Warrego Highway in the busy Charlton industrial precinct west of Toowoomba will also be futureproofed. The overpass bridges over the westbound lanes of the Warrego Highway will be made longer to leave room for a possible cloverleaf link between the two roads when traffic numbers warrant it. The Department of Transport and

Main Roads has engaged an independent archaeologist to ensure that any cultural heritage claims or concerns regarding the project are properly recognised and protected and my department is working closely with the traditional owners, the Western Wakka Wakka people and the Jagera people.

The crossing will deliver real benefits for the region, including time savings of up to 40 minutes by bypassing the current Toowoomba range; the diversion of heavy vehicles away from the Toowoomba CBD and Withcott in the Lockyer Valley; freight of all sizes, including explosives and oversize loads, will have a faster and safer route to and from key markets; the avoidance of up to 18 sets of traffic lights; and, as the Minister for Road Safety, of course I am extremely pleased to see the improved road safety features as part of this project. The Palaszczuk government is getting on with this project and the 1,800 jobs that go with it. I will continue to keep the House updated on its progress.

Science and Innovation

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.09 am): The Palaszczuk government understands the role that innovation will play in keeping Queensland's economy strong and creating the knowledge-based jobs of future. That is why we have included the Advance Queensland Innovative Partnerships and Innovation Challenges programs within our \$108 million Advance Queensland initiative. Both programs are part of the \$46 million Future Jobs Strategy and support collaborative research projects involving both research organisations and industry or businesses to address opportunities and challenges in high-growth markets.

The innovation partnerships program offers grants of up to \$1.5 million to Queensland research organisations to undertake collaborative research projects with industry or small to medium sized enterprises. Projects must address one of the Queensland's science and research priorities such as agriculture, engineering, climate change, clean energy, biotechnology and advanced manufacturing. The innovation partnerships program is designed to increase the level of collaboration between industry, small to medium enterprise and researchers. The program will boost the productivity growth and competitiveness of existing industries while also accelerating the development of emerging industries and technologies where Queensland could have comparative advantage in global markets, for instance, in the biofuels sector. Finally, the innovations partnerships program will increase the speed and scale of the translation of our science and research into new products, services and business models that could help drive diversification of our economy and grow local jobs.

The first round of the innovation partnerships opened in November last year and close this Friday, 26 February. The innovation challenges program will be launched in the coming months. Under this program, grants of up to \$3 million will be awarded to collaborative projects that address the significant scientific and technological challenges currently faced by Queensland. SMEs, start-ups, corporates and research organisations will be invited to partner on projects to find breakthrough solutions. While these solutions may help to solve major health, economic or environmental challenges facing the state, they will also develop technologies that can have application globally, bringing new jobs and prosperity to Queensland.

More information on the innovation challenges program will be released in the near future on the Advance Queensland website. The Advance Queensland innovation and science agenda is the Palaszczuk government's plan to create jobs now and jobs for the future.

Natural Disasters, Community Recovery

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.12 am): It is hard to believe that it has been five years since Tropical Cyclone Yasi hit Queensland and nearly 10 years since Tropical Cyclone Larry crossed the Queensland coast near Innisfail on 20 March 2006. Of course, last weekend we acknowledged one year since Tropical Cyclone Marcia hit the Central Queensland coast, causing devastation across local communities.

In those 10 years since Cyclone Larry we have made significant improvements to the way we respond to natural disasters. Following Tropical Cyclone Larry, the department of communities invested in a number of dedicated regional community recovery support officers and appointed additional central office recovery staff to provide training and operational support to our regions. The Ready Reserve was also established to allow staff from across the Queensland government to be deployed quickly to a disaster affected area. We have also strengthened relationships with our recovery partners, other government agencies and NGOs.

Helping people to recover and the safety of our communities after a disaster is a responsibility that this government takes very seriously. That is why in the past year we have been committed to reforming Community Recovery and I am pleased to advise the House that we are delivering on that commitment. People now have greater access to information before, during and after a disaster. In addition to the Community Recovery 24-hour 1800 hotline, we now have a dedicated disaster management website, a Self Recovery app and a Recovery Twitter account.

We have also introduced a new grant, Immediate Hardship Assistance—Essential Services, for people who have lost one or more essential services, such as power, for more than five days. This grant is worth \$150 for a single person or up to \$750 for a family of five or more. We have dramatically changed how financial hardship assistance is provided to individuals and families. In 2006, the department handed out cash or cheques. Today, we are able to offer debit cards and electronic payments.

We will be progressively implementing even more improvements over the next 18 months. We are currently developing an online grants portal and payment system for people experiencing personal hardship following a disaster. This will be the first of its kind for any jurisdiction in the country and at the forefront of disaster relief administration worldwide. When introduced, our new service will allow people to apply, be assessed and receive payments direct to their bank accounts without having to leave their homes and without having to queue for hours at a recovery centre.

I would like to thank the hardworking Community Recovery staff for the work they do to help Queenslanders get back on their feet after a disaster. Whether it is providing quick and fast help on the ground or assisting people online, their work is truly invaluable.

TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (SMOKE-FREE PLACES) AMENDMENT BILL

TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (EXTENSION OF SMOKING BANS) AMENDMENT BILL

Cognate Debate

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That, in accordance with standing order 172, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, as follows:
 - (a) second reading debate, with separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
 - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
 - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
2. That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders:
 - (a) the time limits and order for moving the second readings shall be: the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services—60 minutes, followed by the member for Caloundra—60 minutes; and
 - (b) the time limits and order for reply to the second readings debate shall be: member for Caloundra—30 minutes, followed by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services—30 minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (10.16 am): In accordance with section 363(5) of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act I table the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's *Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*.

The report relates to the parliamentary commissioner's inspection of the CCC surveillance device warrants records from 5 May 2015 to 23 November 2015. Full details of the parliamentary commissioner's inspection and findings are set out in the report.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, December 2015 [\[212\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility



Mr CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (10.17 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House resolves that the administration of the Northern Australia infrastructure fund be headquartered in North Queensland.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



Mr SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (10.17 am): Last Thursday in this House shortly after lunch we saw a performance from the member for South Brisbane, the member for Woodridge and the member for Ashgrove that will ensure that they will be forever remembered as Labor's chicken-hearted headkickers. They were not prepared to come into the House when everybody was here and practise their headkicking art; they chose to come in after lunch, because they did not quite have the spine, they did not quite have the ticker, they did not quite have the courage to do it in front of everybody. I have no doubt that again today we will see the trio in action. I have no doubt that today they will be tut-tutting and they will be fluffing up their feathers and they will be trying to make an issue out of leadership. But the leadership they should be telling us about is the leadership of the Premier—the only politician in Queensland's history who has made a career out of saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing.

I wonder what the old-time Labor stalwarts of this House would think—people like Robbie Schwarten. What would he have thought of the chicken-hearted headkickers' performance last week? He always used to talk about the chook house that the premier could not lead the choko vine across. I am 100 per cent sure that he would have kicked those chicken-hearted headkickers right out of his chook house. They would not have made the grade.

This is a government that is reflective of the Premier's leadership style: a leadership style that is based on doing nothing, saying nothing and being nothing. The person who really wants to be the leader sits in the Deputy Premier's seat. The person who really wants to be the leader has sat in the deputy's seat now for too long. The numbers are being done on the backbench. Never before in this parliament have I seen the body language, the tension and the lack of support that exists on the backbench. It has never existed in any previous government. You can see it in their eyes when she stands up to speak; you can see it in their eyes when the member for Woodridge stands up and points his nose at the chandelier; you can see it in their eyes when the member for South Brisbane stands up and overemphasises the words like her speech and drama teacher taught her. These people resent and despise the people who lead them. They resent and despise the lack of courage, gutlessness and spinelessness that was shown in this parliament last Thursday. If they are going to lecture us about leadership, start with the do-nothing, say-nothing, be-nothing leadership that the Premier has adopted.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Minister for Education, member for Callide, will you withdraw the word 'gutless'. It is unparliamentary.

Ms Trad: What about 'chicken'?

Mr SPEAKER: No. Member for Callide, I would ask you to withdraw that word, please.

Mr SEENEY: I am happy to withdraw.

Liberal National Party, Leadership



Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.21 am): There are three things that you would not mention in this parliament if you were in the LNP. One is chickens, given they have the only chicken-dancing parliamentarian in Australia on their team; two, you would not say that the Premier of Queensland has done nothing when your own leader could not get elected three times; and, three, what we know is that it is a deeply divided—

Mr Seeney: Who wrote this for you? Did Schwarto write it?

Ms JONES: I wrote it all myself. Believe it or not, women can write. The LNP in Queensland is deeply divided.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Callide had a pretty good go. I was able to hear his—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: It is my turn. The member for Callide had a pretty good go. I could hear his contribution. The Minister for Education is not as loud as the member for Callide. I am having difficulty hearing her contribution.

Ms JONES: The member for Callide talked about spinelessness. We saw spinelessness in spades in the last week. We saw the member for Warrego take the fall for the Leader of the Opposition's chief of staff and just yesterday we saw the poor member for Chatsworth take the fall. What we saw was a lack of leadership by the honourable Leader of the Opposition, who shot the messenger—and now the poor member for Chatsworth has to sit up the back and I do not get to see him anymore. I say to 'Mr Ambition', the member for Everton: what kind of man shoots their lapdog? Who lets their lapdog take the fall? That is where we have seen spinelessness.

An opposition member: Try your hardest. Absolutely, try hard.

Ms JONES: Try hard? Is the member serious? The leadership of the Leader of the Opposition is so precarious that he has had to walk back into this parliament with the No. 1 person who wants his job still sitting on his front bench, because he knows that if he were to try to topple the member for Everton he would lose half of his backbench. This week we have seen a deeply divided LNP, an LNP that has no faith in their leader such that they spent all of last week doing the numbers, conniving and scurrying around in the corridors. Meanwhile, the member for Callide, who talks about people not having the spine to be here, has booked a one-way ticket to Canberra. Do not come in here and say we are divided, member for Callide; you do not even want to sit in here anymore.

There is a key difference between the Palaszczuk government that is getting on with the job—delivering seven new schools across Queensland and the lowest unemployment rate in two years—and a LNP that is either fighting or fleeing.

Mr Seeney: Robbie's apprentice! He'd be proud of you.

Ms JONES: Robert Schwarten was proud of me last night on the TV. I have got the 10 seconds to prove it.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kawana, Minister for Education, would you please withdraw the word 'spineless'?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No, it is not a joke. Please.

Ms JONES: I am happy to withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.25 am): Having talent on your team is something the Labor Party never has to worry about. The 'member for drama camp', Kate Jones, the Minister for Education, got up and talked about my colleagues who are wishing to go to the federal scene. What she does not mention is that the opposition leader who sits in the civic cabinet is running for the federal parliament as well. The opposition leader of the Labor Party in the civic cabinet has abandoned the Labor Party in the Brisbane City Council. We are not going to be lectured about leadership by this mob because we know that there are intellectual lightweights on that side of the chamber. Last week the member for Mundingburra got up for a Dorothy Dixier question and had to ask herself who she was. She did not know who she was! Then the member for Greenslopes got up and tried to spell the word 'proud'. He could not even spell it: 'P-O-U; P-D-O-U; P-R-O-D'. He finally got it. Maybe he needs some assistance from the education minister.

On the issue of leadership, we will not be lectured to by the party that gave us Gordon Nuttall, Bill Darcy, Keith Wright, Merri Rose, Jim Elder, Mike Kaiser and, let us not forget, the Deputy Premier. The Deputy Premier signed off on a \$5,000 donation from Eddie Obeid. Never has it been explained to

this House what the money was used for. Was the money paid back? Eddie Obeid was a corrupt official. The Deputy Premier's signature was all over that when she was the state secretary of the Labor Party. She has never explained why she took a corrupt payment from a corrupt individual.

Ms TRAD: I rise to a point of order. I find those remarks personally offensive. I ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. We know on this side of the House that the Premier is sitting in that seat because of her peerage, as is the Treasurer sitting next to her. Their parents served in this place. It is sort of like the House of Lords; they are here because of their parents. The countess from across the river is not far behind; she just does not have the lineage to get there. The real test of leadership will be when the Deputy Premier pulls the knife out. When is the Deputy Premier going to pull the knife out? A little birdie told us that the member for Ferny Grove has already had the knife pulled on him. The Deputy Premier wanted to get rid of him from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. The Deputy Premier wants the job but does not have the ticker to get it. If those opposite want to talk about leadership, the Deputy Premier should stand up and talk about her ambitions.

Liberal National Party, Leadership

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.29 am): I will try to bring a little decorum back into the House after the terrible performances we have seen. There is nothing worse than being admonished by one of the all-singing, all-dancing von Trapp children. The member for Kawana has nothing on the member for Clayfield—and I will get to him in a moment. I will bring the tone down a little bit because what we are talking about is serious.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PITT: Those opposite may wish to listen. Like many members in this House, I go to schools and speak about leadership. We talk about leadership and what it means to be a leader. Leadership is about setting an example, it is about doing the right thing, it is about believing in something, it is about carrying it through, it is about challenging long-held beliefs and sometimes it is about finding new ways of doing things. We do not see any of that from the Leader of the Opposition. They have no plans other than their one-point plan of asset sales, which the Leader of the Opposition has mentioned three times over the past three years and continues to bring back.

If you are to be a leader, you must follow through on your promises, which is something that the member for Southern Downs has not done. Last year I wrote to him asking him to release all of the information related to the scoping studies on Strong Choices. First it was only a couple of million dollars, then it was \$70 million and then \$100 million. Where are the scoping studies? It is 360 days later and we still have nothing. The member for Clayfield was thrown under the bus again. I quote directly from the Leader of the Opposition, who stated—

The former treasurer indicated that the information, as it was all consolidated, would be made available to the people of Queensland.

He just does not follow through. It was the same thing with the wait-time gimmick. The health minister asked him to release documents, but he did not do it. He never follows through. However, what he is happy to do is to be in here and watch the member for Warrego be admonished as a result of the Ethics Committee findings and let his chief of staff get away scot-free. That is what has happened. He has shown an absolute failure of leadership. Three times he failed with the people of Queensland when seeking leadership. Three times he has been rejected as leader of this state and twice he has not been able to follow through on promises he made to provide information to this House. It is very concerning that this man is still the Leader of the Opposition.

Let us get to the nub of the question, which really comes back to the fact that right now the Leader of the Opposition will have three minutes in which to speak to the House. All members of this House will be waiting with bated breath to hear, in the next three minutes, how he is going to explain how he allowed the member for Warrego to be thrown under a bus while he lets his chief of staff continue to get away with it. Where are the emails? When will they be released? Mr Springborg has three minutes to stand up and explain why he is letting his chief of staff to get away with it and he has allowed the member for Warrego to be admonished.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Leader of the Opposition, I am informed that we have students from the Coomera Anglican College, in the electorate of Albert, observing our proceedings from the gallery.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.32 am): What an indignity having to follow ‘Mr Mogadon’ over there! What an absolute indignity! He stands up in this place and tries to make a virtue out of reality, a virtue of his own incapability. He stands up here and says that he intends to bring the tone down. He cannot do anything else. It is a great pity that over the past 12 months he has not brought down unemployment. It is a great pity that over the past 12 months he has not brought down the debt. It is a great pity that he has not done something to inspire confidence in the business community in Queensland. This is what we see from the man who professes to be the Treasurer of Queensland. He is a hapless fellow traveller on a ship that is going absolutely nowhere, with a government that is frozen at the wheel.

The other day I listened to the Premier proudly proclaiming that her government had put 33 pieces of legislation through parliament last year—then they probably had a sabbatical and a good lie down. I checked the records going back to 1994. That is the lowest number of pieces of legislation put through the parliament for which I have records. It is even lower than in any other election year.

We have a government with no clue and no idea. One after one, we see them lining up over there, wanting and grasping. We know what the Deputy Premier is up to. We know what the Minister for Health is up to. He would love to be there, but last year or the year before the member for Bundamba stood in his way at the Labor Party conference and said, ‘Tut-tut, Cameron; we’re not going to let you have your way.’ This is all about self-interest. The unions are in charge here. But wouldn’t he be wonderful? He has talked about courage. It must be something to do with him and his brother, because when the going gets tough they head out of town. They go! Milton Dick is now going somewhere else, because he has so little faith in the Labor Party’s candidate for the lord mayoralty.

Let us look at the performance of the member for Woodridge. I would love to see him on the *Titanic*, although really he is more like the Captain of the *Costa Concordia*. There is no chivalry there: when the ship hits an iceberg, you bail off the ship, pushing the women and children behind you to grab the last lifeboat. He did not want to go back to Greenslopes. He wanted a nice safe seat. He wanted the seat of Woodridge, which had been prebaked for him. It is a seat that someone else had done the hard work for.

Members opposite should not talk to us about ticker. They should not stand up in this place and talk hypocritical nonsense. We know that, when it comes to the hard yards, the likes of the member for Woodridge and the member for South Brisbane just go missing in action.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members that it is appropriate to refer to a person by their title, not ‘he’ or ‘she’. Question time will conclude at 11.34 am.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Ministerial Staff Appointments

 **Mr SPRINGBORG:** My first question without notice is to the Premier, and I ask: given that ministerial staff appointments require the Premier’s approval, has the Premier ever allowed a person previously jailed for stealing to work in the office of a minister for police?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not aware. I am happy to investigate that matter. The Leader of the Opposition stands in this House and talks about standards. Let me talk very clearly about standards, because what you have clearly demonstrated over the past week is that you have failed to apply any standards to this Ethics Committee report when it comes to your chief of staff.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Do not talk about standards when you have no standards of your own.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Premier. Member for Mermaid Beach, what is your point of order?

Mr STEVENS: Quite clearly, the Premier used the word that you said not to use in terms of ‘you’. Also, I bring the Premier’s attention to relevance to the answer.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I urge you to make your answer relevant. Do you have anything further to add? Before I call the Leader of the Opposition for his second question, I am informed that we have students from the Hillcrest Christian College in the electorate of Mudgeeraba observing our proceedings.

Ministerial Staff Appointments

Mr SPRINGBORG: My second question follows on from my first question to the Premier. Is it true that the Premier took the advice of the former police minister and employed a jailed fraudster in the police minister's office?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not know what the Leader of the Opposition is talking about. If he has some evidence—and I am quite sure we will read about it—why doesn't he be fulsome and table it? Why doesn't the Leader of the Opposition be truthful and state what he is clearly implying here? Once again we see the opposition muckraking about staff and personal matters. What we have seen this morning has been disgraceful. We have heard from the member for Callide and the member for Kawana, both of whom want to go federal, but no policies are being put forward.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As you have ruled on many occasions, we are not here to debate the matter; we are here to answer the question. Please bring the Premier back to relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not going to be lectured by the Leader of the Opposition on standards. If he has any evidence, he knows that he can pick up the phone and talk to me. He can talk to me about these matters, but I am not going to come into this House and have wild accusations made without any substance.

Yarrabilba, State School

Mr POWER: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the need for new school infrastructure in the Yarrabilba community and advise of any alternatives?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Logan for his question. Yesterday the Minister for Education, the member for Logan and I had the pleasure of going to the Yarrabilba community to talk about my government's plan to put build a brand-new school. I said that this year would be a year of jobs and a year of delivering, and that is what we are doing. We are catering for growing communities right across the state when it comes to putting in place the vital infrastructure needed. That means jobs, because you need people to build those schools and those schools will be completed in time as populations continue to grow. It will cater for 380 students from prep to year 6 in its first year. It will eventually cater for 1,000 students. Construction is expected to start in 2017. As the member for Logan indicated to me, it will relieve a lot of pressure that his electorate is experiencing at the moment in schools such as Logan Village. Once the new school is completed, the numbers in existing schools should decline. Yarrabilba is going to be a growing community for over 47,000 people. We need to make sure we have infrastructure there. Housing is reasonable and affordable. I am quite sure that we will see more and more people moving into that area.

As the Minister for Education has been firmly out in the community talking about schools and education, it appears that the shadow minister for education has a completely different agenda. We know that during last week there were moves afoot for a coup on the Leader of the Opposition. What I have been told is that the member for Everton has been going around telling people that he is the new Mike Baird.

I have met Mike Baird. I have worked with Mike Baird. Sir, you are no Mike Baird! He is no Mike Baird. What we see very clearly is the disunity and the discontent. They cannot help themselves. They do not know what is happening.

The member for Chatsworth was doing the numbers. We know he is no Terry Mackenroth. He has been vanished to the back bench. We have opposite the member for Mudgeeraba, the Ros between two thorns. She is sitting in between the two thorns. There is so much more I could say.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are warned under standing order 253A for your disorderly behaviour. That is your first warning.

Minister for Energy and Water Supply

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Minister for Energy and Water Supply. In the interests of ensuring there can be no perceived conflict of interest, can the minister confirm if the bans on receiving briefings or information on the class action against the state being run by Maurice Blackburn Lawyers extends to the minister's hand-picked ministerial staff?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for his question. I have behaved entirely appropriately in terms of making sure that I act absolutely consistently with the ministerial code of conduct. At the first opportunity, when my friendship became a relationship, I informed my chief of staff of the situation as well as consulted the Integrity Commissioner. I made it very clear that I was not to receive any briefings on the matter from my chief of staff. I did so before I received that advice.

The advice in the letter from the Integrity Commissioner where he addresses my proposed course of action—I will table the letter in a moment; at the first inquiry that was made with me I tabled the letter and released it publicly in the interests of transparency—states—

I thus endorse the position which you have taken to date in absenting yourself from any Cabinet or departmental briefing about the class action.

I also raised the matter with the director-general of the Department of Energy and Water Supply. I also raised the matter with the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I also raised the matter with the Premier as the chair of cabinet. I have done so promptly and in line with my duties as a minister.

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. My question was specifically about the briefing bans being extended to the ministerial staff, not to the member himself.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I call the minister.

Mr BAILEY: The appropriate measure was for me to raise it with my chief of staff to ensure that I received no information in terms of the class action. Let us be very clear, the responsible minister for all Crown Law matters in this state is the Attorney-General, and that is not me. In the interests of transparency I ensured that I was entirely separated from the matter. I have received no departmental briefings on this issue whatsoever.

It was appropriate that the first person I should raise the issue with was my chief of staff. I did not receive any departmental briefings in relation to the class action whatsoever. I entirely separated myself from the class action. The ministerial code of conduct states—

It is recognised that situations may arise whereby a Minister may have a perceived conflict of interest due to their own interests or the interests of a partner, family member or close associate ... In such circumstances, the Minister is to declare the nature of the interest and may continue to participate fully in the determination of the Government's policy on the matter.

I chose not to even do that. I exceeded the ministerial code of conduct's requirements so that there could be no issue that I was behaving in any way inappropriately.

Tropical Cyclone Marcia, Recovery

Mr PEARCE: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline her government's commitment to the long-term recovery from Tropical Cyclone Marcia?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mirani for the important question. We know that on the weekend there were activities in Rockhampton and Yeppoon to acknowledge all of the work in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Marcia that occurred one year ago. It was just over one year ago when we saw the cyclone go rapidly from a category 1 to a category 4 to 5. I thank all of my ministers and all of the agencies for all of the work and preparedness they undertook to make sure that people were ready where that cyclone was going to bear down.

Following on from that, my government is 100 per cent committed to making sure that people are getting back on their feet in those communities. I know that in the member's electorate there was extensive damage in terms of the road and electricity networks. One of our key priorities was to get the electricity on as quickly as possible. I pay tribute to all of the Ergon and Energex workers who helped. There was nothing more important than restoring that power as quickly as possible.

In the member's electorate there was housing that suffered severe damage. There was also flooding at some of the Mount Morgan mines. I acknowledge the work that the member has done in terms of dealing with the aftermath of that cyclone.

I also had the opportunity on Saturday to join the minister and member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel in both Rockhampton and Yeppoon. Whilst I was there it was wonderful to catch up with friends from a year ago. On the floor of the House today, and on behalf of all members here, I especially pay tribute to the SES workers and the non-government organisations that were there on the ground helping as quickly as possible. Without the support of these organisations there would have to be more money put into these disaster situations. On behalf of all of the parliamentarians who are here today, I pay tribute to the volunteers.

We can also learn from the cyclone. We can make sure that our preparations are indeed enhanced. That is exactly what my government is doing. We are looking very closely at the lessons that we can learn from that.

In closing, I thank the mayors who were involved in the community activities over the weekend. I thank Mayor Margaret Strelow and Mayor Bill Ludwig for all their help and assistance. It was great to see so many community members out there taking the time to reflect but also taking the time to look at the capacity building that has happened since then, the improvements to the botanical gardens and the improvements on the foreshore which was the result of the work of the local, state and federal governments.

Minister for Energy and Water Supply

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Minister for Energy and Water Supply. I refer to advice the minister received from the Integrity Commissioner on 1 September 2015 on how he should deal with certain matters relating to Maurice Blackburn solicitors, and I ask: given the minister's diary shows a meeting with Maurice Blackburn solicitors on 21 September, can the minister advise what that meeting was about and who recommended he participate?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for his question. I can inform the House that that was a matter dealing with portfolio matters. I believe it was a group meeting. There was no discussion whatsoever raised about the class action by anybody, including me, at that meeting.

State Infrastructure Plan

Mr FURNER: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the State Infrastructure Plan and how it will help address social infrastructure in local communities?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Ferny Grove for the question. Of course we know that, with Ferny Grove being 15 kilometres away from the CBD, workers from Ferny Grove travelling into the CBD have concerns about connectivity, about public transport infrastructure and also about community based infrastructure. So I think it is very relevant to the people of Ferny Grove.

The State Infrastructure Plan will be out in the coming weeks. It is a plan that outlines what our hard infrastructure, social infrastructure and digital infrastructure needs will be for the next 30 years. It is a plan that Queensland has been waiting for for some time after those opposite absolutely abandoned any sort of planning for infrastructure in this state. Indeed, we have had recently the announcement from the Premier and the Minister for Education of three new schools—three new pieces of social infrastructure at Yarrabilba, Caloundra South and Coomera, which is a fantastic outcome. This is three in a list of seven new schools that the Palaszczuk Labor government has announced since coming to office.

Importantly, the State Infrastructure Plan will assist local councils to identify their own local infrastructure needs but, as well as that, opportunities to partner with the state around infrastructure projects going forward. We also know that councils do provide very important pieces of infrastructure themselves—social infrastructure like parks and sporting fields, places where our kids can get together with parents, coaches and referees so they can grow the skills that they need to become the champions of tomorrow.

Opposite we know that we have a referee who is over refereeing the disputes internally within the LNP. We have a referee who wants to step up to be a leader. We have a referee opposite who wants to step up and be the leader. Unfortunately, he did not quite get there last week. Is there any doubt why those opposite are in such disarray after the performance this morning—the arrogance, the vitriol, the hatred? This is exactly why they are sitting on that side.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We are not going to have a shouting match, members.

Ms TRAD: It is the reason that, regardless of what the member for Callide says, we should watch what he does. He is going to hop on a plane like the Minister for Education said and he is going to fly away from this division. The member for Toowoomba South is going to leave as well. They will walk with their feet. They are leaving their captain. All I can say is, after the comments recently by the member for Callide: watch out, Barnaby Joyce! I do not think your job is secure.

(Time expired)

Minister for Housing and Public Works

Ms DAVIS: My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier explain how she has satisfied herself that the previous reported conduct of the Minister for Housing towards a member of parliament with a disability does not breach the standards and expectations of her members?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. My government has standards that we uphold, unlike those opposite. The contrast is very clear. I have had discussions with Mr Pyne, the member for Cairns, and I have had discussions with the minister, Mick de Brenni. So, yes, I have spoken to both members. What we have seen from the other side today once again is personal attacks. This is all they can resort to. We have absolutely no policy from those opposite. We have no policy.

Mr Bleijie: So he attacks someone with a disability and he gets a promotion. That's what you did. You promoted him.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, no. Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We had very clearly last week an ethics report where the Leader of the Opposition's chief of staff was firmly front and centre—

Mr Rickuss: Read it—read the report!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have read it, member for Lockyer. I have read it. What has happened to that chief of staff? Where is he? He is still writing the questions on personal attacks. It is the same LNP.

Mr STEVENS: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The debate the Premier is going on with has nothing to do with the question whatsoever. Bring her back to the question, please.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you to make sure your answer is relevant. Do you have anything further you would like to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, this is clearly about standards. This is a Leader of the Opposition who has failed to act, failed to do anything, failed to stand in this House and address the issues that go to the heart of how his office operates—the way they manage opposition.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I urge you not to debate the question. Do you have anything further you would like to add in answer to the specific question?

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Standing Order 211A

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.56 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising in relation to issues that have just been raised by the Premier and other matters which have been raised last week. As the Premier and other members know, I am unable to inform this House of what I do know, but I do know that I am very, very satisfied. I would ask, apropos standing order 211A, that I be released from the restrictions around that in order to be able to inform the House of information that those on the other side may not necessarily want to receive.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, if you want to proceed down that road, I would urge you to seek leave to move a motion without notice.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.57 am): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 41:

LNP, 41—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, 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.

NOES, 42:

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

Pair: Lauga, Krause.

Resolved in the negative.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed from p. 379.

Queensland Economy

Mr PEGG: My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on the government's economic plan and whether there are any alternative proposals?

Mr PITT: I thank the honourable member for the question. We do have an economic plan in this state which is working. We have a plan which has seen more than 71,000 new jobs created since the election. We are funding a \$10 billion infrastructure plan this year, we are reducing debt over the forward estimates by \$10.6 billion, we have a consultative approach to business, and we are in the business of creating new investments and new jobs. In stark contrast, those opposite keep raising the possibility of asset sales. Their so-called real economic plan has commitments in black and white that last for this term only. They are valid for this term only. What happens beyond that? I guess that is another question the Leader of the Opposition will have to answer.

We know that their one-point plan does not consist of Strong Choices. We all know that the member for Clayfield was the architect of their asset sales strategy. 'Mr Strong Choices' hired the consultants. 'Mr Strong Choices' funded the ads and 'Mr Strong Choices' lined up the potential buyers. The member for Clayfield and the opposition have no other plan for this term according to the Leader of the Opposition. They are in their fourth year of talking us down. We have hard data that shows our economic plan is working where theirs failed. We have increased the number of employed people in this state rather than sacking them. The data speaks for itself.

We are talking a lot about numbers. We know that the member for Everton failed in his leadership challenge. I think we have been looking at the wrong Tim, because the real economic plan is still asset sales. Clearly, the real player behind the challenge by the member for Everton is the member for Clayfield. The bungled challenge by the member for Everton was ably assisted—or maybe not—by 'Captain Risky', the member for Chatsworth. We know that the rebirth of asset sales goes hand in hand with the demise of the Leader of the Opposition, who will be in the gun sights of the member for Clayfield.

The member for Callide and the member for Toowoomba South are leaving to go to Canberra. They are two more out of the way. The other Tim is out of the way. It all comes back to the member for Clayfield. He has his eyes on the prize yet again. They are utterly divided over there. Just as they have no economic plan, they have no real leader either. This is the LNP that Queenslanders judged very harshly at the last election. The referee has called full time on the member for Everton, but clearly 'Mr Strong Choices' is trying to make his way back into the starting line-up.

Member for Bundamba, Committee Membership

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. Was the Premier ever advised by the leader of government business as to who was assigned to advise the member for Bundamba of her proposed committee membership? Has the Premier established, if it is true, that no-one spoke to the member about possible conflicts of interest?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the House moved a motion in this House about the membership composition of committees. My government is focused on delivering jobs and delivering for Queenslanders. What I can say about the committees is that finally we have a non-government chair of the PCCC. Finally, another election commitment of ours has been ticked off.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, I know that you like to talk about the topic, but that is not answering the question.

Enhancing Regional Hospitals

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on the government's Enhancing Regional Hospitals program?

Mr DICK: I am delighted to receive a question on a matter of substance in the parliament today. What we have had from the opposition is questions about staffers, questions about what someone said to someone about something that might happen to someone one day about the member for Bundamba being on a committee. Really and truly, this opposition is so hollow when it comes to policy and ideas that all they can do is worry about whether the member for Everton has got it to be the leader, because we know the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Southern Downs, does not have it to continue in that role.

Long may they talk amongst themselves about who is up and who is down. We are going to get on with delivering a new emergency department in Gladstone which will cost \$42 million and create 150 jobs. This is what Councillor Gail Sellers, the Mayor of Gladstone, had to say—

One announcement was dear to the heart of all Gladstone Region Residents and that was the \$42 million for the Gladstone Hospital Emergency Department, a project which has been needed for many years ...

It will be delivered in one year by a Labor government thanks to the great work of the member for Gladstone, who stands up for his community.

That is not the only community that is benefitting from Queensland's Enhancing Regional Hospitals program. There is \$70 million for a new hospital in Roma. The last hospital was built in 1940 by William Forgan Smith, the longest serving Labor Premier in Queensland. In January this year the Premier went there to announce to the Roma community the good news: \$70 million and 250 jobs for the people of Roma. It has taken the Australian Labor Party to build the Roma Hospital twice. Twice we have done it for that community.

What did the mayor of Maranoa shire say? He said, 'This is the most significant funding announcement for an infrastructure project in the Maranoa in over 50 years,'—for about as long as the Liberal National Party and the National Party have represented that area. What did he say? He said, 'I am delighted to see this government demonstrating such a strong commitment to good asset management principles over politics.' That is what the mayor said. What did we get from the 'fixer'? We got not one cent in three budgets from the 'fixer' of the health system to do anything for Roma. That is his constituency, the heartland of the National Party, and they delivered nothing for those people.

This is a government that delivers for all Queenslanders, wherever they live in the state. There was nothing from the member for Clayfield when he was the Treasurer, zero dollars for that project. This is a government getting on with the job.

Ms Leahy: Rubbish!

Mr DICK: Rubbish? I hope the member for Warrego is not yelling out 'rubbish'. I think that is what she said. I may be wrong. She is too busy sending emails to worry about the new hospital in Roma. If I were the member for Warrego I would not be saying very much at all in the parliament for a long while. What she can do is stand up for the Labor government who is delivering for her community, just as the member for Gladstone is delivering for his.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Maroochydore, I am informed that we have students in the gallery from the Coomera Anglican College, which is in the electorate of Albert.

Sunshine Coast University Hospital

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Minister for Health. I ask: as the minister has not been able to confirm that the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will be fully operational and open by the scheduled date, November 2016, can the minister guarantee that it will be operational by March 2017?

Mr DICK: No decision has been made on the delay of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Not just my focus but that of Queensland Health and, of course, the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service is on opening a hospital in a way that ensures clinical services are safe and of the highest standard for that community. I make it clear, as I have in the parliament previously, that whatever we do will be focused around a safe clinical opening of that hospital. We will not repeat the debacle that surrounded the commissioning and opening of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. I think the member for Moggill said at one stage that we got the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital at five minutes to midnight. I do not know what members opposite did for the three years they were in government, but what we do know is that the hospital was opened in a way that placed patients at a higher clinical risk than they should have been.

Mr Hart interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: Those patients were placed at higher clinical risk—that is the commissioning review—than they needed to be and we will not repeat that. Clinical safety will be paramount as is supporting our staff.

Ms SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order. I asked the minister to answer the question with regard to whether he can guarantee it will be open at least by March 2017.

Mr DICK: I have made it clear that no decision has been made, and I will explain why no decision has been made. Let me give honourable members an idea of the construction phase: 31,000 square metres of carpet—these are the activities that need to be done—92,000 square metres of vinyl flooring, 6,300 doors to be put into door frames, 80 kilometres of skirting board. This is a massive project that will be opened safely. What is the monitoring process?

Mr Hart interjected.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: A member of the opposition has asked the question. I am answering as to what is the monitoring process about the government's processes. There is an independent reviewer who reports to the state and to Exemplar Health on the progress of construction and an independent commissioning expert, Mr Mike Allsopp, as recommended by a review of the shambolic opening of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. We have adopted that recommendation and are implementing it. I visited the site. I talk regularly to the director-general and the representatives of the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. I cannot make it clearer.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: They do not want to hear. They want to yell out. They want to be rude. I cannot make it any clearer to the members opposite: we will do this hospital and we will open this hospital. We will finish completion—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr DICK:—when we receive the advice from the independent experts. Unlike the geniuses opposite, who know it all, we will take advice. We will listen to the experts and that hospital will be opened in a way that is safe to staff and to patients.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Greenslopes, I give a preliminary warning to the member for Burleigh. You have had a pretty good go all morning. With the numbers being what they are, I urge you to be considered in your interjections.

Attracting Aviation Investment Fund

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events. Will the minister update the House about how the government's Attracting Aviation Investment Fund is helping grow Queensland tourism?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for his question and for his interest in tourism. I believe everybody in the House, but particularly those on our side, knows that tourism is a key industry for Queensland and one that is delivering jobs for Queenslanders right across this state. I have fantastic

news for Queensland this morning. This morning, because of the Palaszczuk government's Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, we have been able to secure with Qantas new flights from Christchurch to Brisbane. This is very exciting because it will deliver an extra 28,000 visitors to Brisbane every single year.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for Lockyer for his support of this great initiative that will deliver jobs and boost tourism to Queensland. Thank you very much. This will start at three flights per week and will ramp up to four in peak season. Most excitingly, we also know that New Zealand is one of our key international markets; many people are coming from New Zealand to Brisbane. This is a great addition to the flights we are seeing and is another flight route that allows us to deliver new tourists to Brisbane, spending more money in Queensland supporting tourism jobs because of our investment in the aviation attraction fund.

It is not only Brisbane that is having a bit of a tourism boom at the moment. We also know that there are going to be a lot more flights from Brisbane to Canberra with the member for Callide and the member for Toowoomba South choosing not to stay here, but to jump on the first flight out to Canberra. Meanwhile, we have others with a flight of fantasy, dreaming that they can be Leader of the Opposition. But haven't the member for Everton's wings been clipped? What we have seen today is a demonstration that when the LNP is under fire what is their solution? To get in the gutter. There are no new policy ideas. There are two solutions that the LNP have when they are in trouble, when there is infighting. One is to grab the first flight out of here to Canberra and the other solution is to get in the gutter.

This morning we have seen a terrible contribution from the LNP. There was not one question about policy, not one question about anything that Queenslanders care about such as jobs, tourism growth, education or health. Instead, what we have seen is personal attacks on every single person here. Queenslanders deserve better. It has been a scrappy performance. It highlights to everyone who is watching that the LNP are in deep turmoil. They are deeply divided. Their leader is hanging on by a thread only because the member for Chatsworth, shamefully, has had to take the fall for the member for Everton's blind ambition. I ask members: what kind of person does that? What kind of person puts their hand up for the leadership but lets their best mate and deputy take the fall? Yet he comes in here and lectures us. Shameful!

Public Housing

Mr KRAUSE: My question without notice is to the honourable Minister for Housing and Public Works. With reference to public housing in the Beaudesert electorate, can the minister advise who he consulted prior to abandoning the successful three-strikes policy in relation to public housing tenants?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for the question. Hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders made the decision to reject the LNP's unfair three-strikes rule at the 2015 election. They voted for a Labor government that would restore fairness—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Who made that interjection? Member for Southport, you are now warned under standing order 253. That is unparliamentary and disorderly. I call the minister.

Mr de BRENNI: The Palaszczuk government has listened to the people of Queensland, and we are delivering on our commitment to review the fairness of social housing policies. Through consultation with tenants and stakeholders we have identified three policies for amendment: the fair absences from your home policy, formerly known as the temporary absences policy; the fair expectations of behaviour policy; and the fair listings for vacancy policy.

But let me talk about the outcomes of the three-strikes policy of the former minister, the member for Everton. The former minister spent \$41,000 creating an IT function on the housing service and staff website which saw an increase in the eviction of housing tenants in Queensland from 60 to 217—217 extra Queensland families were thrown out into homelessness for some cheap political stunt.

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask you to direct the minister in relation to relevance. I asked him who he consulted with before he scrapped the successful three-strikes policy.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister.

Mr de BRENNI: We consulted with mental health professionals, tenants and the electors of Queensland, who voted for a government that would restore fairness. Let me talk about the principles of our new fairness policy. Our policy includes principles of natural justice that allow customers, our tenants, the right of reply. Principles like these that do not discriminate—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, one moment. This is not an opportunity to engage in a debate on the topic. I think you have answered the question. I now call the member for Murrumba.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Will the minister update the House on the growing success of the Palaszczuk government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Murrumba for his question. I congratulate the four community organisations which received \$584,100 in grant funding this round to assist 186 people in the local area. I know that the member for Murrumba, as with many members on this side of the House, is committed to training and skills and is passionate about this program.

Mr Speaker, I found it very refreshing to read that my passion for training and skills and for this wonderful program is seemingly shared by others in this House. I repeat for the House the sentiments of one MP regarding the Palaszczuk government's \$240 million Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative who stated that the programs included training for apprentices all the way through to aged care and early childhood to numeracy and literacy training, and who further stated—

These training programs are vital for Queensland, especially for Queenslanders looking to improve their skills to join and stay in the workforce.

Hear! Hear! Perhaps to the surprise of many, that direct quote is from the shadow education and training minister, the member for Everton. What a road to Damascus it has been for the member for Everton! The member for Everton has tried to use this important jobs and training program as a way to attack the Labor government by putting out this press release talking about how vital this program is, when the very program was cut by the LNP. But it is more specific than that because the former Skilling Queenslanders for Work program was scrapped by the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Surfers Paradise. What a sad and blatantly transparent reinvention of the member for Everton. I wonder what the deputy opposition leader thinks about the member for Everton positioning himself as the champion of the very Labor program that the deputy opposition leader scrapped.

I want to take the House to the comments of the deputy opposition leader when he scrapped this program. He said—

... we need to end this type of needless duplication.

...

Hardworking Queensland taxpayers simply cannot afford to continue funding duplicated training and preparation programs.

...

The Newman Government is trying hard to protect public service jobs—

at the time that 144 full-time public servants lost their jobs as a consequence of this program, let alone all of the community organisation jobs that were lost—

... cutting waste and inefficiency without affecting front line services.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is agreeing. He stands by those comments, yet the member for Everton and the shadow minister are saying how vital this program is. And they say there is no division on that side!

Renewable Energy

Mr BOOTHMAN: My question without notice is to the minister for energy. I ask: will the government accept the Queensland Productivity Commission's advice not to intervene in the market to achieve renewable energy election commitments, noting that intervention will drive up costs for Queensland households.

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for his question. He is certainly right about driving up costs after 43 per cent increases under the Newman government. Queenslanders are still feeling the pain of price rises under the Newman government, and most of those members are still here. Their

front bench is littered with people who have contested the leadership or deputy leadership. At last count there were eight of them. No wonder they are trying to go to the federal parliament: they are getting nowhere here. The member for Maroochydore, the member for Indooroopilly, the member for Callide, the member for Southern Downs—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I know you are keen to pursue that topic, but that is not relevant to the question that was asked. Do you have anything relevant to add?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I will come to the specifics of the question. The Queensland Productivity Commission report included 54 recommendations. It was a substantial piece of policy work and it involved a range of matters. I note that it was described by the member for Glass House as both a dud and a hand grenade, but I think those two terms are fairly different.

In terms of the Solar Bonus Scheme, which was the question specifically asked by the member in relation to renewables, our view is that this is a substantial piece of policy work that deserves a substantial and considered policy response from the government. That is what cabinet will do.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: It is heartening to see that the opposition has discovered that renewables actually exist. We will consider this report in full. It is my observation that the renewables industry is now a mature industry. That is something that was not the case five years ago, and we will look at our policy response in that light. But let me say that the hostility towards renewables continues on the other side. It is 2016 and the world is moving to clean energy—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I think you have answered the question. I will now call the member for Bulimba.

Cross River Rail

Ms FARMER: My question is of the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister update the House on any recent developments with Brisbane's Cross River Rail project?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for her question. Like the Palaszczuk government, the member for Bulimba knows that Cross River Rail is all about planning for Queensland's future. Infrastructure Australia has classified it as Queensland's No. 1 priority project. Cross River Rail will boost economic activity in South-East Queensland, reduce congestion and increase investment in the economy.

The Palaszczuk government is calling on the federal government to commit to a partnership with Queensland to provide crucial funding for this project. My department is working to identify a preferred alignment and rail station location options for the future of this project.

We all understand that there are at least two LNP members who are also doing a bit of planning about their own futures. I am of course talking about the members for Toowoomba South and Callide. I would welcome federal MPs in Canberra who want to join the Queensland government in lobbying for Cross River Rail. I am sure Councillor Dick—soon to be, I trust, the member for Oxley—will be a great advocate for Cross River Rail in Canberra. I would love to see the member for Callide join in, even though he might be a late convert to Cross River Rail, and be part of supporting this in his potential new career.

I have to admit: I did have a look at the member for Callide's LinkedIn profile, just to double-check what things he will bring to this process of seeking preselection for Wide Bay. It is important to promote one's own skills. It is great to see the skills that the member for Callide is telling the rest of the world he has. First is stakeholder engagement and management. That is one of the member for Callide's skills. We know that he is very good at engaging with LNP donors—maybe too good, if you want to get the law changed retrospectively. The member for Callide needs to engage the Liberal National Party in Canberra now to help us get this major, important project.

The member for Callide also lists public relations as a skill. Haven't we seen them on display in the past week—making sure he highlights how his talents have been undervalued and that he is languishing here and that is why he needs to move on? I implore the member for Callide to use those PR skills to ensure that we get this vital, important infrastructure project for Queensland, that there is support for the Cross River Rail project—the No. 1 project recognised by Infrastructure Australia. It would be great to see him on board with us as part of this campaign.

Barramundi

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Minister for Agriculture. Can the minister advise the House of the dates for the closure of the east coast barramundi season?

Ms DONALDSON: I advise the member for Nanango how pleased I am to receive her question. As she would know, fisheries is an incredibly important part of the Agriculture and Fisheries portfolio. The barramundi closed season is something that happens every year. On 1 February the barramundi season opens again. All those people who enjoy barramundi fishing are very happy about the season being opened again. For recreational fishers, closures are a very important part of tourism. Barramundi bring to Queensland a lot of people who enjoy fishing with their families. I will continue to support the fishing industry—both commercial fishers and recreational fishers—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms DONALDSON: As I was saying, the barramundi closed season has now finished and people are again enjoying barramundi fishing. They are very thankful for the closed season as it allows fish stocks to replenish, ensuring a very successful barramundi season. I thank everybody who enjoys recreational fishing in Queensland. I hope they enjoy the barramundi as they are having it for dinner.

Regional Queensland, Economic Development

Mr STEWART: My question is of the Minister for State Development. The Department of State Development hosted a well-attended industry breakfast in Townsville in December. Will the minister please explain how these forums benefit the economic development of regional Queensland?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute.

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Townsville for his question. I know how interested the member is in economic development in the north, particularly given the recent events involving Queensland Nickel. I commend him for the action he has taken with the community of Townsville. He has been a pillar for Townsville through its battles.

The event referred to by the member for Townsville is the highly successful information and networking seminar to increase local industry participation. The forum is just one of the many events and initiatives the Palaszczuk government will host in 2016 to help regional businesses compete for government and private sector growth.

I draw to the attention of the House that when Indigenous suppliers are awarded tenders jobs are created for people in Indigenous communities. That is an important initiative of the Palaszczuk government. The community and the whole region benefit from the awarding of these tenders. I encourage other businesses to attend these events.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.35 am): We have listened with great interest to members of the government today failing to disclose any new knowledge or answer any question before the parliament. The only thing we learned today was that the member for Bundaberg and Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries had fish fingers for breakfast! We learned absolutely nothing about what was going on in the government today. Indeed, what we have on the other side is a Premier who professes to be open and accountable, who will come into this parliament and answer the questions asked of her. Today she did not. No-one should be surprised, because it does not happen any other time, either.

The thing about Labor Party members is that when they are backed into a corner, when they have no idea what they are doing—that is generally all of the last 12 months—they go into the gutter. Those opposite have actually gone further than the gutter today: they have gone below the gutter grate. That is what we saw from Labor Party ministers. We saw them do exactly the same thing last Thursday in this parliament. When they have nothing to go on, they come in here and sling mud in the most vile and vociferous ways.

Last week on radio in relation to Ethics Committee report 162 I said that I have never seen more hyperbolic mudslinging in all of my life. Today Labor Party members had a chance to come clean in this place, but they squibbed it. They capriciously and arrogantly used their numbers in this parliament to

hide the truth. Why? They know that truth is embarrassing to them. Indeed, if they thought the truth would actually help them, they would have agreed to the motion I moved in this parliament to release me from my obligation to remain silent around matters that I know with regard to that.

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Under standing order 211A there are certain restrictions, but the member for Southern Downs can speak to his own staff member about any of the information for it. He may be misleading the House if he says that he cannot reveal what his staff member was involved in.

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

Mr SEENEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member, who is a member of the Ethics Committee, is repeating in this chamber an argument that was proven wrong yesterday in the Ethics Committee. That raises a whole range of issues—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I ask the member to resume his seat while I take advice. I am going to ask all members—the member for Logan and the member for Callide—not to refer to matters that have been discussed or appear to have been discussed in an Ethics Committee meeting. There are no points of order and there will be no further reference to matters that have been discussed at the Ethics Committee.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (11.40 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Madam Deputy Speaker, I did not make any reference to the matters that were discussed in the Ethics Committee. The member for Logan did and I will be writing to you, Madam Deputy Speaker—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide—

Mr SEENEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I am entitled to take a matter of privilege. I will be writing to you, Madam Deputy Speaker, asking that the member for Logan be referred to the Ethics Committee for—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are very welcome to do that. You—

Mr SEENEY:—raising that issue erroneously in this parliament in the way that he did.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Callide is welcome to write to the Speaker on any matter of concern to him. I have made my ruling. There will be no discussions about matters that are being discussed in the Ethics Committee.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

Resumed.

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.41 am), continuing: I am entitled to be informed of matters as the direct employer of the person in question—the person who was maliciously and vindictively attacked by those members opposite the other day despite the fact that there was no adverse finding in Ethics Committee report No. 162. In actual fact, those opposite said that there was nothing there at all. However, what we have had here today is a government that refused to release me of my obligations under standing order 211A in that I am unable to disclose to this parliament those matters which would provide absolute confidence to our position and may be quite embarrassing to its position. I am similarly restrained by exactly the same standing order as my chief of staff and the question is this: what is this government hiding, because if we look at the public document, which is Ethics Committee report No. 162, there are some very interesting observations? Those very interesting observations are that, notwithstanding the recommendations made against the honourable member for Warrego that indicated that she did correct the record but nevertheless it made recommendations for this parliament to deal with, in amongst all of that it found no adverse findings against my chief of staff.

Notwithstanding the rewrite of history and the hyperbolic nonsense that we heard from the member for South Brisbane the other day, it also made reference to these emails which went out to other sources. We do not know how far and wide, but it certainly indicated that it went to the Premier's own office. So we cannot ascertain what happened when it went beyond that. I do not know if the committee itself even looked at that particular matter, and if I did I would not be at liberty to say so because members of the government gagged me today and said that I cannot tell them what I know. The reason they gagged me is because they know it is extremely embarrassing to them and their case and to their cause, and that is what this is about. This is the new style of openness and transparency that we are not seeing from Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier of Queensland. She promised openness and transparency, but when it comes to the crunch in this place she will do anything to curtail openness and transparency. So what are they hiding? What actually happened with the trail of emails after they went to the Premier's office which has been referred to in the report? We know the fight that was going on between the disgraced member for Bundamba, the former police minister, and the Premier at the time. We know the member for Bundamba's views around those sorts of things.

Mrs MILLER: I rise to a point of order. I take offence to the terminology that the Leader of the Opposition has said about me and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has asked for you to withdraw the statement.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker; I certainly withdraw. Taking that word out, which I do so unreservedly, we know that circumstances at the time and even today seemingly show a very, very unhappy relationship between not only the member for Bundamba and the Premier but also the member for Bundamba and the member for South Brisbane. The member for Bundamba has an unhappy relationship with just about everyone in the Labor Party, including her own local government representatives and the Mayor of the Ipswich City Council, Paul Pisasale. We know those sorts of things.

We do not know but can only guess as to what the motivation may have been from the Premier's office with regard to those emails and what that may actually do to the member for Bundamba and her reputation—if she had not done enough damage to her own reputation along the way! The real fundamental underlying fact here for members of parliament, who need to look at themselves in the mirror, is this: do you understand, through you, Madam Deputy Speaker, what you have done today? Coming in here under this false cloak of openness and accountability, you have deliberately sat in this place today—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Will the member for Southern Downs please refer to the member by her formal title?

Mr SPRINGBORG: I said 'through you', Madam Deputy Speaker. I did actually say that. I am very cognisant of that.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. If you could just refer to the member by that name, it would make things a lot easier.

Mr SPRINGBORG: Thank you. This is what I am talking about for point of clarification: taking in the collective view of all of those members who sit on the other side of the parliament, they need to ask themselves what they are hiding. They need to now ask themselves that after what they were a part of and witnessed in here the other day—the most unbelievable mudslinging exercise that you have ever seen in here without any evidence. When they had the first opportunity to back it up, they squibbed it. When they had the first opportunity, they stood here today and said, 'No, you can't have access to that information.' They would prefer to throw the mud than answer the questions. They would prefer to throw the mud, make the allegations and try to paint this picture of conspiracy when they know that there is a justifiable argument that undermines the proposition that they are putting forward so they can then stifle and gag someone from being able to respond. No longer will they be able to raise that issue anywhere out there in the community because they were caught out today fair and square.

We do not know whether they even interviewed the source of the story that was in the paper. We do not know those sorts of things, and I note that there was reference to Mr Wardill. It would also be very interesting to know what he said with regard to this. Has anyone even bothered to contact him and talk to him about it? There are lots of things in this which are really smelly. Having gone through the most vociferous, vulgar attack the other day, they have now wrapped their lack of transparency and openness like an albatross around their own necks—something that they will never be able to rise again from. Today in this parliament we heard very little from the Premier in answer to any questions

whatsoever. When asked about the issue of the now Minister for Public Works and his rather interestingly reported engagement with the member for Cairns last year and whether that was appropriate behaviour, all the Premier said was that she spoke to him. We do not know if there was any counselling.

An opposition member: Eyeballed him!

Mr SPRINGBORG: She eyeballed him. Peter Beattie used to eyeball people. He eyeballed Gordon Nuttall. What good did that do anyone in Queensland? So we do not know, but what we do know is that that sort of union thuggery used by the member previously in his iteration as a union official has been carried over from what we saw here late last year. Minister Bailey was also unable to properly answer questions put to him about why it was an interesting coincidence that he met with Maurice Blackburn only a few days after there were issues around potential conflict of interest. So we do not know any of those things. The other thing which he said today which is an absolute furphy, because you have to look at what they are on about, is that he failed to talk about the 87 per cent increase in electricity prices which happened over five years as a result of the price trajectory under the national electricity regulator which was put in place by the Labor Party in Queensland. Is it any wonder they are not transparent? Is it any wonder they do not want to answer questions?

(Time expired)

Queensland Economy

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (11.49 am): In the last sitting of parliament for 2015 I had the privilege to talk about how the economic position of Queensland has improved immeasurably since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government. As well as listening to the people of Queensland, this government has improved the state's finances, reduced unemployment and focused on an innovation-led approach to economic growth—an approach that is paying handsome dividends in just 12 months of this government being in power. After the complete fiscal recklessness of the former LNP government, it is remarkable just how quickly the Premier and Treasurer have been able to get Queensland back on track.

Last year, the former treasurer, the member for Clayfield, said a number of entertaining things about me. There is nothing wrong with a bit of entertainment and colour in political life. He also referred to me as an economic genius. So I take this opportunity to thank the member for his very kind compliment. However, that comment also reflects a grudging recognition by the member for Clayfield that this government is quickly reversing the LNP's fiscal mismanagement without putting fear into the hearts of public servants, nurses, doctors and other hardworking Queenslanders.

Let me remind the House of just a few of the absolute unmitigated economic and fiscal failures of the former administration of which the member for Clayfield was a key part: the sacking of 14,000 public servants in 2012 for no economic benefit; the increase in Queensland's debt from \$62.6 billion in 2012 to \$75.5 billion in 2014-15; the increase in Queensland's taxes by \$600 million—all this from the supposedly low-tax LNP; the increase in Queensland's unemployment rate from 5.7 per cent in early 2012 to 7.1 per cent by October 2014 in seasonally adjusted terms—this from a former premier who fancifully claimed that he was committed to reducing unemployment to four per cent; and, of course, the LNP classic, a desperate attempt to have a fire sale of the prime silverware by liquidating \$37 billion in highly profitable assets and then using \$8 billion of this money for wild and irresponsible pork-barrelling election commitments. That is indeed a legacy of failure, a litany of wasted opportunities.

Fortunately, Queensland is rapidly recovering from this quagmire. I would like to share with the House just some of the economic achievements that this government has realised over the last 12 months. Last year, I noted that the unemployment rate had fallen to 6.1 per cent in December. I am happy to see that unemployment has remained at this rate in trend terms and that 9,600 new jobs have been created in January alone. Queensland's growth is stronger than ever, with the midyear fiscal and economic outlook forecasting growth of four per cent this financial year and 4.5 per cent in 2016-17. The Deloitte Access Economics *Queensland business outlook* from December backs this up, stating that Queensland's growth will outpace that of all other mainland states this financial year.

We have a superior budget position for the state, with an operating surplus of \$1.175 billion this financial year and with this surplus increasing every year up to 2018-19. During 2015, Queensland building approvals increased by almost 27 per cent, which represented almost 49,000 new dwellings being approved last year. Queensland now leads the nation in the strength of our building approvals.

In 2015, overseas merchandise exports were up over 16.7 per cent, with LNG exports representing over \$1.75 billion in value over the period, powering the Queensland economy with clean, green exports. There were also very strong indications of confidence from the business community, with the January NAB monthly business survey indicating that Queensland's business confidence was the highest of any mainland state for the sixth month in a row.

The member for Clayfield and the LNP fail to understand, or just do not want to hear, that you cannot cut your way to prosperity through attacking people's income and conditions. That is old thinking reminiscent of the 1980s. In 2016, you have to focus on innovative approaches to growing the fiscal pie so that all Queenslanders can benefit from economic growth and achieve their full potential. Fortunately, owing to Treasurer Pitt's fiscal rectitude and the innovation-led approach of this government, which promotes growth rather than cutting it, Queensland now has a bright economic future. Of course, one example of this approach is the groundbreaking \$180 million Advance Queensland program. This is an economic future based on hope rather than fear—the very real fear that, if the LNP is re-elected, there will be mass job cuts and privatisations courtesy of the member for Clayfield and the LNP and their unreconstructed and ill-judged 1980s neoliberal policies.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Before I call the member for Surfers Paradise, I would like to welcome the students from Coomera Anglican College from the electorate of Albert.

Queensland Economy



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.53 am): The member for Stretton, who is obviously on the Treasurer's backbench Treasury committee, has given us—

An opposition member: He got the talking points.

Mr LANGBROEK: The talking points that the Treasurer himself does not come into the House to give. The member for Stretton, the self-proclaimed economic genius, was telling us about the supposed direction of this Labor government which, of course, we have not heard about from those other members opposite today. Instead we heard mudslinging and muckraking. As we heard from the Leader of the Opposition today, the members opposite are unwilling to put all the information into the public arena where it should be.

When it comes to the Queensland economy, jobs, infrastructure and making sure that Queensland has a plan, while Nero is fiddling, Rome is burning. But at least the member for Stretton has the self-confidence to come in here today and make some sort of attempt, as opposed to the half-hearted contributions that we hear from the Treasurer. It really begs the question: does the Treasurer want to be here at all? I get the feeling that the member for Mulgrave has no interest in being in the parliament, no interest in trying to manage the economy, no interest in trying to justify what is happening in his portfolio in terms of the jobless rate going up by half a per cent last week. Whilst he is in here talking about other things, there are Queenslanders who are concerned about joining the jobless queues. There are Queenslanders who are concerned about the fact that there is no infrastructure plan. Numerous commentators are saying that what the Treasurer and the Palaszczuk government have been doing is not working and I am happy to go into the details.

The Treasurer has made a number of desperate attempts to ward off caucus concerns, but when he speaks in here, no-one is listening. It is obvious that he cannot sell his economic message. As I said last week, if you cannot sell it in here, you are never going to be able to sell it out there. At least the member for Stretton has attempted to get up in here and speak for five minutes about the economy to try to bring a bit of esprit de corps to the backbench. When you have the member for Stretton leading, then you really know you are in trouble.

Last week, the Treasurer had this to say about the recently released state accounts—

This latest hard data, like a range of other recent indicators, shows the dividends delivered so far by the Palaszczuk Government's careful management of our state finances and economy.

There is no way that that comment stacks up. It is not borne out by the facts. The independent Auditor-General said that it was a 'short-term fix'.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask members to keep their conversation levels to a minimum. The volume is increasing and it is getting a little bit hard to hear the member.

Mr LANGBROEK: As I mentioned, the independent Auditor-General said that the Treasurer's much vaunted budget strategy, which has just been parroted by the member for Stretton, is nothing more than a short-term fix. We know that the government is robbing Peter to pay Paul. We know that,

basically, the government is putting everything on the credit card. There are no more hollow logs to raid. The Treasurer's own budget papers show that debt is continuing to increase. As I have mentioned, the short-sighted cash grabs are things that just cannot continue.

The state accounts show a very sad story. This is not us talking down the economy, but our criticism of the Treasurer's stewardship of the economy. The state accounts tell a story of rapidly declining business investment. Over the year to September 2015, business investment fell by 31.3 per cent. Over the same period, non-dwelling construction declined by almost 40 per cent. Investment in equipment and machinery is down almost 15 per cent. In the year to September 2015, state and local government gross fixed capital formation, which is the net increase in physical assets, declined by 27.5 per cent. Trend gross state expenditure declined 3.3 per cent. This is a worse result than at any time when the LNP was in government.

There is a growth in exports and the continued momentum that was seen under the LNP in dwelling constructing, but business investment is in freefall. We are yet to see a plan from the Treasurer to address this slide.

The CCIQ pulse survey shows that, since the election of the Palaszczuk government, business confidence and conditions have declined dramatically. The independent CommSec State of the States report shows that Queensland is now in the third tier of economies. The ANZ/Property Council survey shows that, since Labor came to government, there has been a negative shift in confidence. The Sensis Business Index shows that only one in 10 Queensland businesses believe that this government's policies are supporting them. Infrastructure Partnerships Australia has highlighted that Queensland is facing a \$50 billion black hole. The CEO of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia had this to say about what is happening in our state—

Queensland is the third biggest economy in Australia, yet on current settings its major project pipeline is smaller than that of the ACT.

It is time for the government to step up and outline its plan. It is obvious that, after 12 months, the Treasurer is frozen at the wheel. He is on thin ice with members of his own party room.

Biofuels

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.00 pm): Biofuels is set to be Queensland's next leading industry, and I am both pleased and proud to say that my electorate and surrounding electorates are already on the front foot thanks to the commitment of the Labor Palaszczuk government. The member for Mirani and I welcomed to our region a recent meeting of the Biofutures cabinet subcommittee, the second held in our region. From this meeting the Premier announced that the government is investigating the establishment of a biofuels industry development fund which would look to financially assist first-mover investment in the biofuels industry.

Biofuels could have a transformative effect on the Queensland economy. Companies, including Qantas and Virgin, Australia's major airlines, have shown interest in partnering with the Queensland government to develop the industry. Qantas and Virgin want to partner with the Queensland government and private enterprise to see Queensland become the headquarters for biofuels. Representatives from Qantas and Virgin attended the Biofutures meeting in Sarina reaffirming their commitment. The US Navy's Great Green Fleet has expressed interest in using Queensland made biofuels. The Great Green Fleet has been designed to test the strategic and tactical viability of biofuels.

Wilmar's Plane Creek Mill, along with its Racecourse Mill, are leading the way in biofuel technology. Plane Creek Mill, now known as Wilmar BioEthanol, is one of the three major Australian producers of ethanol products supplying over half of the domestic food and beverage and industrial market, as well as supplying the rapidly growing fuel market in Australia. Wilmar BioEthanol's Sarina distillery produces 60 million litres of ethanol per year. Ethanol produced by Wilmar from molasses produces less than half the CO₂ emissions of petrol. Using E10 in our cars can help reduce the production of greenhouse gases that are causing climate change. In addition, lower CO₂ emissions and E10 increases the amount of oxygen used in the fuel combustion process. This means that there is a cleaner more efficient burn which reduces the amount of carbon monoxide emissions.

The potential benefits of a larger biofuels industry in Australia in the future include regional development, reduced air pollution and progress towards achieving fuel security. Wilmar's ethanol production is a renewable and sustainable process. When sugar cane is grown and harvested it gets transported to the mills by rail. In the process of producing crystallised sugar, a by-product—molasses—is produced. Molasses then becomes the feedstock to produce ethanol. Ethanol is sold in many

markets, including the transport industry. During the ethanol fermentation process, a rich biological waste product is produced called dunder. The dunder is collected in dams and put back onto our fields as fertiliser for sugarcane crops.

As Queensland's economy transitions, this is one of the major medium- to long-term opportunities that could power Queensland's regional economies into the future. A potential biofuels industry could create thousands of jobs up and down the coast and support sugarcane and sorghum farmers. That is why the Palaszczuk government's Accelerated Works Program is so important to Mackay. These programs will help futureproof our region. By recognising the opportunities that will exist for our economy in the future, by providing the infrastructure that will enable Mackay to capitalise on new and diverse opportunities, our state government is building a better way, not only for Mackay but for Queensland.

This is being achieved through the fast-tracked delivery of over \$100 million worth of projects, including the Mackay region's \$28 million Vines Creek bridges project and the 42 full-time-equivalent jobs needed to deliver it. The replacement of the Vines Creek bridges is a critical project for the Mackay region. They are a vital transport artery for us, providing the sole access route to the port of Mackay. Over 15,000 vehicles per day use this route, including 1,400 heavy vehicles. Significantly, the project will ensure—

(Time expired)

Public Transport, Fares

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (12.05 pm): As we have just heard from my colleague, the shadow Treasurer, this is a government that does nothing, has no plans and has failed to deliver on anything.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr EMERSON: It is interesting to hear the Minister for Main Roads interject. When he had the opportunity to talk about what the government was doing he talked about the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. Who started the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing? The LNP government! Who was opposed to the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing? The Labor Party! The Minister for Main Roads talked about how wonderful it is going. Who opposed it? Labor! Who began the process of delivering it? The LNP! All he could speak about today was an LNP project. He was joined by his colleague, the Minister for Transport. What did he talk about today? The New Generation Rollingstock, a project that we began. When we announced our plan for it Labor attacked it. We are the ones who signed the contract for it. Labor is again talking about a plan started by the LNP. That is all they can do. The Minister for Main Roads talks about the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing; the Minister for Transport talks about New Generation Rollingstock.

Those opposite have done one thing so far: the Minister for Transport's predecessor announced a review of public transport fares. The then minister for transport indicated that those recommendations were coming back late last year. Almost three months later those recommendations have not been released.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr EMERSON: Last week in parliament when I asked the minister could he guarantee that no public transport user would pay more for public transport fares as a result of Labor's review, he refused to answer. Has he agreed to release the report? No, he refuses to release the report. What is the Minister for Transport hiding? Let us not forget the transport minister's record.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Could I ask the Leader of the House to cease interjecting.

Mr EMERSON: What is the transport minister hiding? As he has just come back into cabinet let us not forget his record when he was in cabinet last time. Last time when he was a minister he voted for annual 15 per cent fare increases. That was the legacy of Labor when it was last in government. The now Minister for Transport was in the ministry last time. That was his policy. He now will not release the review and he will not guarantee that there will be no fare rises for any public transport user. He wants to hide it. Let us contrast that with the LNP's policy and performance on fares. We scrapped Labor's annual 15 per cent fare increases while the minister was in the ministry and the now Premier was the transport minister. In 2014 we cut fares across Queensland by five per cent statewide—the

first time in Queensland history that fares had ever been cut across-the-board. In 2015 we froze fares. What was the result of that? Let us go back to when Labor was putting up fares by 15 per cent year after year after year under the then transport minister now Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, under the then minister in the Labor government who is now the transport minister. What happened? Patronage started to plummet.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I have asked the Leader of the House to cease interjecting. If you continue to do so I will warn you under standing order 253A.

Mr EMERSON: What happened as a result of our scrapping of Labor's 15 per cent fare increases, our cut to fares across Queensland and our freeze? Look at the government's own figures: as a result patronage started to come back. We turned the problem around after the massive impact of Labor's 15 per cent fare increases. What has Labor done in relation to fares since it came into office? All it has done is announce a review. It claims that the review will lead to increased patronage. It was LNP policies that increased patronage. All we have from Labor is a secret review and a hiding of the recommendations. I challenge those opposite to release them before the Brisbane City Council election. What are those opposite hiding from voters? Why will they not they release the recommendations? Who is going to pay for Labor's review?

Paramedics, Assaults

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.10 pm): Today I rise to discuss with the House the worrying increase in the incidence of assaults on our state's paramedics. Last Wednesday night in this place I stood and spoke on the alcohol fuelled violence bill and the challenges faced by our ambulance professionals who have to deal with intoxicated and drug affected patients, some of whom decide to assault them. As a result of that bill being passed by the Palaszczuk government, I hope to see a reduction in those assaults. The irony is that, on that same night, an officer was assaulted in Townsville. I personally know that paramedic. I have since spoken to him. Remarkably, after the assault he continued to treat the patient. That is the type of paramedics that we have in this state: they are dedicated to the core. There was yet another incident in Cairns over the weekend.

It is no secret that I am passionate about the paramedics of the Queensland Ambulance Service. With over 3,600 front-line staff responding from over 290 locations and having over one million interactions per year, it is indeed a very busy service. From the outset I say that all Queensland Ambulance Service paramedics are the most dedicated and trusted professional people you will ever have the pleasure of meeting. Some of our paramedics volunteer, such as our first responders. Our state's ambos are truly great people. They each have the right to go safely home to their families after their shifts or callouts. Our paramedics are true community champions and, in their thousands, they are there to look after the entire community of Queensland. All paramedics deserve to be treated with the utmost respect by our community.

History shows that the Queensland Ambulance Service—that great service—is the most noble of professions, providing aid to the injured and proudly serving the people of Queensland for nearly 125 years. Our paramedics give comfort to those in need. They are there at the most difficult times of crisis. They witness the most horrid and challenging scenes. They remain calm and go about their clinical roles, quite often in the most difficult and stressful environments, from car accidents to the sides of mountains, from the sea to our homes, our workplaces and, yes, our nightclub precincts. They are there to help all Queenslanders. What I am trying to articulate to the House is that it is a hard job. After 25 years of working in that role, I think I speak with a degree of authority. They should not have to cop abuse and punches or be otherwise assaulted on the job. It disturbs me greatly that we have an increasing trend of this type of assault on the very people who are called to help. There were over 247 assaults in 2014-15 and that number has nearly doubled, because in the past six months there has been nearly the same number of assaults. That is very worrying. If the current trend remains, it will be nearly a 50 per cent increase on the entire previous year.

I congratulate the minister, the Hon. Cameron Dick, for his strong leadership and desire to ensure we as a government are doing all we can to stop the assaults on paramedics. I commend Commissioner Russell Bowles and the senior leadership team of QAS. They are working collaboratively with the United Voice union. Together they have formed a task force to address this very serious issue. Several recommendations have already started as a result of that task force. Situational awareness and de-escalation strategies form part of the safe training that will see the entire operational workforce of paramedics trained by the end of this year. Importantly, as part of those recommendations a significant

public awareness campaign will start shortly to educate and inform the public that our QAS paramedics are not to be treated as punching bags or assaulted on the job, but are to be treated with every bit of respect they deserve. I implore members to support the social media campaigns that have already started, such as the Zero Tolerance and Triple Zero Tolerance campaigns. I know that our government is committed to giving the community a stronger voice by seeking to reinstate the sentencing advisory council, which will provide a valuable tool for the government and the community about sentencing of offenders and the criminal justice system.

Finally, I thank each and every one of our state's paramedics. I acknowledge them for the work that they do. They are ordinary people who do an extraordinary job in our community. I ask that all fellow members of the House, from both sides, join me in simply saying 'thank you'.

Sunshine Coast University Hospital

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.14 pm): I never thought that in this place I would have to again talk about 'Hospital delay; no way' on the Sunshine Coast. Originally, construction on the Sunshine Coast University Hospital was planned to start in 2009. Then came Andrew Fraser's first budget after the election. Labor went to the 2009 election—when I was elected—and gave a commitment to the Sunshine Coast community that the hospital would be built in Kawana, no problems at all. Then the first budget that the Labor government handed down in 2009 delayed the hospital by two years. The LNP government was elected in 2012. We brought forward construction of the hospital by six months. There was not a brick, there was no mortar. Nothing was done under the Labor government, other than identifying a block of land in Kawana where the hospital was going to be built. It was just a block of land. The LNP came to power in 2012 and immediately started construction. We saved \$200 million on construction and running costs, and we brought forward construction by six months.

Is it any wonder that in 2016 the Labor government has already announced a delay? The health minister did it in a very tricky way. He said that no decision has been made on a delay. Why didn't he rule out a delay? Why didn't the health minister stand in this place this morning and say that there will be no delay? The sign out the front of the hospital, the government's own billboard, says that the hospital will open in November 2016. The health department's own website says that the hospital will open in late 2016. However, the advice we have is that the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital will now be delayed until 2017.

The Sunshine Coast community will not cop it. In 2009 the Sunshine Coast community, in their thousands, stood and protested, 'Hospital delay; no way'. I can guarantee that Mr Brian Ginn, the gentleman in the wheelchair who led the hospital protest in 2009, will still campaign for this hospital opening. If the health minister is not denying the delay, he has a duty and an obligation to explain the delay. He cannot blame the LNP. The LNP has been out of government for over 120 months. What has he been doing as health minister? This morning he stood up and essentially blamed the carpet roll. It is the fault of the carpets.

A government member: And the doors.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is the fault of the doors. There are lots of doors in a hospital. I would not have thought that, under ordinary circumstances, the most important thing occupying the health minister's mind would be doors and doorknobs at a hospital. Then again, when he became the health minister he immediately put a lock on his door. His big priority was to put a lock on his door so that the public servants could not get into his office, because this health minister does not trust the Public Service. He is paranoid about the Public Service, just as he was paranoid when he was the Attorney-General and they leaked on him in SPER, which meant he got into all sorts of trouble about SPER and the declarations about how much outstanding debt SPER had.

This health minister has a history of not telling the truth. He did not do it this morning. He could have stood in this place and said, 'Yes, there's going to be delay and this is why'. Instead, he said that no decision had been made. I think the Sunshine Coast community can be assured by the Labor government that there will be a delay of the opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Thousands of terminally ill who were going to rely on receiving health care at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital from November 2016 will no longer be able to have that assistance, because the hospital has been delayed. I think that today the health minister officially confirmed that there will be a delay, but he has not given the public any understanding of why there will be a delay.

What has the health minister been doing for 12 months? They have not talked about the hospital. In May 2015 he claimed credit for the construction of the hospital, but since then we have not heard a peep out of the health minister with respect to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Are the doctors

employed? Are the nurses employed? There are nurses at Nambour who do not know whether, in a few months time, they will be working at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital at Kawana or at Caloundra, or whether they will still have their jobs at Nambour. This health minister has sat on his hands and the Labor government has sat on its hands for over 12 months. They have not acted on the Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

The Premier and the health minister have to come clean and level with the people of the Sunshine Coast, because if the Premier and the health minister want another fight about a delay with the opening of the hospital we will give it to them. We will line the streets and we will protest 'Hospital delay; no way', just as we now protesting 'Road delay; no way', because the Minister for Main Roads has delayed the opening of the road, et cetera. The health minister has to come into this place and explain the delay, explain what he has been doing for 12 months or explain what he has not been doing for 12 months. The Sunshine Coast community will always be rejected and neglected by the Labor government.

Pine Rivers, Mental Health Forum

 **Miss BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.19 pm): The Palaszczuk government is one that delivers jobs and services to the community where they need them most. This was very obvious to me when I attended a Rotary mental health forum on Sunday, 21 February in Bray Park.

Dr Alan Ralph PhD was a guest speaker who addressed locals on the benefits of the Triple P program. Dr Ralph is a clinical and educational psychologist based in Queensland in the Gold Coast hinterland. This program—the Positive Parenting Program—is about giving parents a helping hand to access the strategies to build the skills and confidence they need to give their kids the best start in life. It is all about preparedness with the right tools to create the right environment to create success.

This is a program that the Palaszczuk government is rolling out across the state. Triple P has been an absolute success story and has been exported from our backyard to help millions of families to date. Triple P is currently helping families in over 25 countries globally. This makes Triple P Queensland's biggest social services export. With each community rollout comes jobs and service delivery.

It may be hard to believe, but I was a child who took great enjoyment from playing up in my family. The third of four children, I loved to push the boundaries to see what the outcomes would be. But I clearly remember in my primary years my parents heading off to a Triple P parenting course. As a result, I am sure my behaviour changed. That night and the following day is clearly etched in my memory because there was a distinct change in the way they managed me and, in turn, my behaviour. I espouse the benefits of this program, not only as a child who was a product of it but also later in life as an early years educator who promoted the program with children in my care and saw the benefits for both the parents and the child.

This is a program that only Labor in government will make available to families. Triple P is a program that, until Labor came into government, was only accessible by the few who could afford it. Labor stands for equity and opportunity. The availability of this program will mean that those without financial means will be able to get the information, guidance and opportunity. As was pointed out on the day of the forum, the ability for all in the community to access these services will hopefully destigmatise it for families who do.

The next speaker was Sergeant Kelly Gurski, a member of our local Queensland Police Service at Petrie. Sergeant Gurski is an integral part of the Pine Rivers domestic violence team. We know that domestic and family violence is a violation of the basic right we all have to healthy, supportive and safe relationships and lives. It is clear that immediate action is required to eliminate this form of violence from Queensland and indeed from our country.

I am so proud to be part of a government that is acting on domestic and family violence. This started with the adoption of the 141 recommendations of Dame Quentin Bryce's inquiry into domestic and family violence and her *Not now, not ever* report.

The statistics reveal the seriousness of this problem that we are dealing with. In 2013-14 there were more than 66,000 incidents of domestic and family violence reported to the police. That is an average of 181 incidents a day across Queensland. Also within this time period we saw the dire consequences of domestic and family violence with 16 homicides in Queensland.

We know that these deaths can be prevented with an effective service system response. This can only be achieved when the community as a whole collectively stands together and sends a clear message to the community. Sergeant Gurski spoke of a particular case study in which a local woman fled from interstate with her child. She outlined the program strategies and steps that the Pine Rivers domestic violence team took around this particular women.

Working with RizeUp, a domestic violence charity, they helped to turn the life of the victim of domestic violence around by supplying her child with some school uniforms and schoolbooks and also helping turn her new house into a home with furnishings and finishing touches, even groceries. Sergeant Gurski summed it up when she said—

We have come in contact with a lovely young mother and her child. Such horrific abuse that they endured, but they have broken free and are starting a new life, with nothing. The mum's attitude is amazing, I don't think the phrase DV victim suits her, because she is a survivor.

We know that we all have a role to play in preventing domestic and family violence and a responsibility to support those in crisis. We all have a responsibility to stop the cycle of violence.

I have spoken in this place many times on the work that the Palaszczuk government is doing around domestic and family violence. It is work that will leave the community a better place. These changes are a key component of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to improving mental health services for Queenslanders. Mental health, positive parenting and prevention of domestic and family violence programs and services are only delivered when Labor is in government.

I thank Rotary Pine Rivers, Rotary Pine Rivers Daybreak and Dr Alan Ralph, Sergeant Kelly Gurski and Ingrid Wagner who provided their insights and expertise in our community. Last week in this place the Palaszczuk government passed more significant reforms into mental health. The Mental Health Bill will strengthen the rights of patients, families and carers and will provide major benefits for clinicians, the legal system and the wider community.

Pacific Motorway, Upgrade

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.24 pm): Planning for the future upgrade of the Pacific Motorway, the M1, between Varsity Lakes and Tugun was completed in 2008 under the then Labor government. An eight-page detailed newsletter with colour maps was distributed to elected council, state and federal representatives and local residents in March 2008. Public displays were held in Burleigh and Elanora over six separate dates. Diagrams show this section of road and provide very clear information stating—

Southbound traffic will access Guineas Creek Road via the Palm Beach Avenue off ramp. Southbound off ramp will be removed.

This would mean the closure of exit 93, with southbound M1 traffic accessing Guineas Creek Road and Sarawak Avenue via exit 92 and a new service road on the western side of the M1. TMR stated that leaving the exit 93 off-ramp open once the M1 is upgraded to three lanes southbound would lead to unsafe traffic weaving movements due to the close proximity of the exit 92 southbound on-ramp.

Seven years have passed since this planning was undertaken and the M1 has experienced growing traffic pressures. Local resident Mr Alan Hider asked me to sponsor an e-petition requesting the government find an alternate option to closing exit 93 as it would block access to the Pines Shopping Centre, football club and local schools. Traffic chaos and gridlock will result, he said. Palm Beach Avenue, exit 92, is already heavily congested, with traffic backed up K P McGrath Drive and back into Palm Beach at peak and non-peak times.

Widening the M1 to ease traffic congestion remains a top priority according to my recent electorate-wide survey. Surely it is time for a rethink and a revisit of infrastructure planning for this section of road. With a federal election this year, I am hoping for an announcement regarding funding for widening of the M1 to Tugun.

The division 13 Labor aligned candidate, Ms Beikoff, is accusing my constituent Mr Hider of hysterical false rumour, but the facts speak for themselves. Does she want to pull the wool over people's eyes just so she can get elected? That is Labor's way. It is in their DNA.

Beikoff has deliberately misled residents when she says, 'There simply is no plan to close it.' The minister's written comment does not say this at all, merely that the closure has not been approved by him. Two very different statements—the 2008 plans show a closure, that is a fact. Just because it has not been approved does not mean it is not still on the cards. The TMR's website still has it there.

Labor has a track record of hiding the truth. Take the Gold Coast quarry disaster planned for the Tallebudgera hinterland—another sleeper issue that caught residents by surprise. Labor's sneaky, behind-the-screens agenda saw the region given key resource status allowing mining use—everyone was kept in the dark. Then Labor gave it significant project status.

Then there is the Labor aligned candidate in division 14, Natalie Wain, who has jumped on the popular push for a Tugun-Bilinga ocean way purely for political gain. The local organisation Friends of Currumbin have come under fire from other council candidates, accusing them of bias, for secretary, Gloria Baker, providing a glowing 250 or so word endorsement which Ms Wain has circulated to the entire division in a promotional vote-for-me brochure. I table a copy of that brochure.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'City of GOLD COAST Elections—19 March 2016' [\[213\]](#).

It is one thing to include a photograph of a candidate in a newsletter, but it is another to give a testimonial representing a respected local organisation as the preferred candidate in this manner. Did she have consent from them to do this or did she abuse her position as secretary of Friends of Currumbin? Ms Beikoff and Ms Wain must now inform the people of divisions 13 and 14 whether they are Labor aligned members. They claim to be independent.

Residents should be very aware of council candidates who just pop up before elections and attach themselves to topical issues. Together with my colleagues the honourable members for Burleigh and Mudgeeraba, I will continue to fight for widening of the M1 and I will continue to raise these sleeper issues that affect the good folk in Currumbin. It really does pose the question: how many more of these sneaky little secrets are sitting there in people's electorates throughout this state? It is only when we have an opportunity to raise them in this House and in the broader community and in the media that they get a mention. I am very proud of the track record of the people in Currumbin in fighting for what they believe in. We will fight to have the M1 widened and fight to save closure of exit 93.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.29 pm): The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its election commitment to encourage economic activity and create jobs. Since the government was elected just over one year ago, over 70,000 jobs have been created in Queensland. The people of the Moreton Bay region are set to benefit further from a massive injection of funding from the Palaszczuk government's very popular Skilling Queenslanders for Work program.

With almost \$4 million in funding for 16 regional programs, almost 700 jobseekers in the Moreton Bay region will benefit. Queensland-wide, more than 5,900 Queensland jobseekers are set to benefit from this round of funding from the Palaszczuk government's Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Statewide, more than \$30 million will be provided to community groups in this funding round to support skill development, training and job opportunities for unemployed, disengaged or disadvantaged people.

We know that the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has a proven track record of delivering real employment opportunities for Queenslanders. We just have to look at the evaluation report by Deloitte Access Economics on the program which showed that, for every dollar invested in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, it generated nearly \$8 in return. But, Madam Deputy Speaker, as you would be aware, despite all of this evidence, the LNP when they were in government still callously axed this program. What a disgraceful thing to do to Queenslanders.

The evidence shows that the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program pays for itself and helps thousands of Queenslanders into the workforce. This is good news for our economy and good news for our state. Our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is an initiative that is worth \$60 million each year over four years and it is going to deliver immediate benefits to communities throughout Queensland. We want to ensure that, no matter where they live, all Queenslanders can access job training and employment opportunities.

Our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program has a strong focus on developing skills to match current and future industry needs and is specifically tailored for local programs that support young and long-term unemployed Queenslanders on the pathway into work. Our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program puts communities in partnership with government to grow local employment opportunities, encourage greater social inclusion and assist people who need extra support to enter the workforce.

However, where the Palaszczuk government is focused on creating jobs for Queenslanders, the opposition are obsessed with their own jobs. It is this obsession which is tearing them apart. Just last week we have seen a failed leadership coup. We have seen the member for Chatsworth sacked as

deputy opposition whip, although a little birdie told me that the member for Chatsworth actually tried to resign twice to the Leader of the Opposition last Wednesday night but the Leader of the Opposition lacked the courage to accept the member for Chatsworth's resignation at that time.

We have also seen the opposition tearing themselves apart over whether the Leader of the Opposition will have the courage to sack his chief of staff. We have seen them tear themselves apart over who would be the chair of the PCCC. We are seeing them tear themselves apart over the ambitions of the member for Callide and the member for Toowoomba South to move into the federal parliament, and we are seeing them tear themselves apart over the ambition of the member for Everton and last week's failed leadership coup.

I note that in today's *Courier-Mail* Steven Wardill claims that the botched LNP coup to install the member for Everton as the Leader of the Opposition follows the Monty Python story the *Life of Brian*. Wardill claims that the disciples of the member for Everton, the coup leaders, did indeed mistake the member for Everton for the Messiah, although, as we have heard this morning, I think the member for Everton would much prefer to describe himself as the next Mike Baird. Just like Brian in the *Life of Brian*, the member for Everton is not the Messiah or the next Mike Baird; he is just a naughty, naughty boy.

However, there is much more to this story than has currently been told. If the rumours are true—if what the little birdies are telling me is true—I hear that the member for Everton and the member for Clayfield recently had discussions about leadership change. The Leader of the Opposition must be worried that his days are numbered.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): The time for matters of public interest has expired.

MINERAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.34 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [214].

Tabled paper: Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [215].

I am pleased to introduce the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, or the MOLA Bill. The primary objective of this bill is to amend the previous government's Mineral Energy and Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the MERC Act, to deliver two of the government's key election commitments. Firstly, the amendments in the bill will restore the public notification requirements and Land Court objection rights relating to the assessment of proposed mines to all members of the community. Secondly, the amendments in the bill will ensure the protection of key agricultural infrastructure under the restricted land framework.

The bill also contains a number of minor amendments to other aspects of the MERC Act. This includes amendments to clarify certain provisions of the industry-developed overlapping coal and coal seam gas tenure framework. These amendments will not change the policy intent, but rather they will ensure that the legislation operates effectively when it commences.

The previous government tried to remove community objection rights to proposed mining projects and limit the grounds for objections by directly affected landholders, their immediate neighbours and local government. This government has listened to the concerns of the community and has already taken the first step to deliver on its commitment to restore community objection rights with the repeal of section 47D of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971 in July last year. Section 47D, which was commenced by the previous government, had the effect of preventing anyone from objecting to an environmental authority application for large-scale mining projects if the proposal had been assessed through the Coordinator-General process.

Mr Cripps: That was last year. That was last year's speech.

Dr LYNHAM: You should have listened. I have just told you that. To fulfil the government's election commitment to reinstate broader community objection rights, the MOLA Bill will amend uncommenced sections of the MERC Act that removed public notification and associated community objection rights. This will ensure all members of the community retain the right to object to the Land Court about any mining lease or environmental authority on appropriate grounds.

While public notification and objection rights will be restored, I am proposing to retain some more common-sense amendments to the public notification and objections processes contained in the MERCPC Act. These include amendments to reduce the duplication that exists in the public notification requirements of the Coordinator-General's process and the assessment of environmental authority applications under the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and an amendment to expand the jurisdiction of the Land Court to strike out any objection that is outside the jurisdiction of the court, vexatious or frivolous, or an abuse of the court's process.

This government is committed to restoring the balance between responsible mining developments and the community's rights to have appropriate input into them. These changes will ensure that legitimate community concerns to proposed mining projects will be considered in the assessment of proposed mines.

This bill will also implement the government's election commitment to make changes to the restricted land framework. The restricted land framework provides landholders the right to say no to resource activities close to their homes, their places of worship, their businesses, childcare centres which look after their children and our hospitals. The previous government chose to exclude key agricultural infrastructure from the protections offered to landholders under the restricted land framework. This government has committed to reinstating the protections offered under the restricted land framework taken away by the previous government.

In this bill, I propose to amend the MERCPC Act to extend the restricted land framework to include principal stockyards, bores, artesian wells, dams and artificial water storages connected to a water supply with a protection zone of 50 metres. I am also repealing the provisions in the MERCPC Act that would allow the grant of a mining lease over restricted land without requiring landholder consent and that sought to establish a ministerial power to extinguish restricted land on mining leases where coexistence is not possible.

These powers were yet another example of where the previous government's legislation stripped away the rights of landholders. When the new restricted land framework commences, it will apply to all resource authorities for the first time. This means that landholders subject to new coal seam gas tenures will be able to use this framework to say no to resource activities close to their homes and businesses. Importantly, this will provide landholders with greater certainty and protections against resource activities in addition to existing environmental authority conditions.

The bill also contains amendments to address industry concerns and clarify the operation of provisions for the industry developed overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas. These proposed amendments will improve the management of overlapping tenure in Queensland and ensure the legislation will operate effectively once commenced.

The bill includes amendments for the following aspects of the framework: reducing the requirement for resource authority holders to have a joint development plan in place only in situations involving overlapping production tenures—that is, a mining lease and a petroleum lease; replacing the concepts of proposed and agreed mining commencement dates with a single mining commencement date which is identified by the coal party; providing recognition of existing commercial arrangements; strengthening requirements for information exchange; clarifying the operation of the dispute resolution process; and other transitional provisions and minor miscellaneous amendments. These amendments will result in direct changes to the MERCPC Act itself and are proposed to commence on assent. However, the overlapping tenure framework as a whole will come into effect once supporting regulation and guidance material are finalised.

In this bill I also plan to clarify the requirements of resource companies accessing land to identify boundaries of a proposed mine without a prospecting permit to ensure the rights and obligations of landholders and resource companies are clear. This bill will fix this by: setting conditions for the person's conduct during entry; establishing a compensation liability to the landholder for any damage, loss or injury incurred as a result of entry; and prohibiting entry to restricted land without landholder consent.

The bill also contains other minor clarifying amendments. This bill also clarifies the transitional provisions for the application of the new land access framework including the new restricted land framework to remove any doubt as to their application in order to ensure a seamless transition on commencement of the new land access framework.

A wide range of stakeholders has been consulted on the amendments proposed in this bill. This includes the Queensland Law Society; Indigenous groups; agricultural peak bodies such as AgForce Queensland and the Queensland Farmers' Federation; environmental and community groups such as Lock the Gate Alliance, the Environmental Defenders Office, the Basin Sustainability Alliance and the

Wilderness Society; and resources sector peak bodies such as the Queensland Resources Council, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies.

This bill demonstrates that this government has listened to the concerns of Queenslanders who strongly opposed certain aspects of the MERC Act under the previous government and restores the rights which the previous government removed from landholders. The government is committed to maintaining the delicate balance between rights and obligations of landholders and the resources sector in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.44 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

BRISBANE CASINO AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.45 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992 to provide for the ratification of a new agreement. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2016 [\[216\]](#).

Tabled paper: Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[217\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill 2016 into the Parliament today. As members would all be aware, on 20 July 2015 the Destination Brisbane Consortium was announced as the government's preferred proponent to revitalise an under-utilised area of state owned land in the heart of the Brisbane CBD known as Queen's Wharf Brisbane and stimulate the tourism and construction sectors of Queensland's economy.

The Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill, which I tabled in parliament on 3 December 2015, outlined the many benefits the redevelopment of this area will deliver to the state. When I tabled the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Bill last year, I indicated that it was my intention to introduce a further bill into parliament to amend the Brisbane Casino Agreement Act 1992. The Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill will provide for the redevelopment of the current hotel-casino site to be approved under the same development approval scheme envisaged for the Queen's Wharf Brisbane project.

As members will be aware, the current hotel-casino site includes several historic Queensland landmarks such as the Treasury Building, Land Administration Building, Queens Park and the former State Library otherwise known as the John Oxley Library building. Any redevelopment proposed to be undertaken for repurposing these locations will now be approved by the minister responsible for Economic Development Queensland in line with Queen's Wharf Brisbane and in accordance with the Queen's Wharf Brisbane Development Scheme.

I would like to assure Queenslanders that these iconic landmarks will continue to be protected under the new development regime. This new arrangement allows for future redevelopment of the Brisbane casino-hotel complex to be assessed and approved under the framework envisaged for Queen's Wharf Brisbane. Development applications related to the current use of the Brisbane casino-hotel complex will continue to be assessed and approved under the Brisbane Casino Agreement. The replacement Brisbane Casino Agreement has been drafted in consultation with The Star Entertainment Group Ltd on behalf of its subsidiary, Jupiters Ltd, the current casino licensee and signatory to the original Brisbane Casino Agreement.

This bill will ratify the replacement Brisbane Casino Agreement and give it the full force of law in the state of Queensland. I am very pleased to be introducing this bill for parliament's consideration today. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (12.47 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES (DOMESTIC SMOKE ALARMS) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.48 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Fire and Emergency Services (Domestic Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2016 [\[218\]](#).

Tabled paper: Fire and Emergency Services (Domestic Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[219\]](#).

Today, I rise to introduce the Fire and Emergency Services (Domestic Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2016. On 23 August 2011, a fire started on the ground floor of a house occupied by two families in Slacks Creek. The first of twenty-three 000 emergency calls was made to emergency services at four minutes past midnight on 24 August. The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services crew at Woodridge station was notified of the fire at approximately 12.05 am and arrived at the scene six minutes later. By the time they arrived, police were already in attendance and the house was already fully engaged by the fire. This fire was to cause the greatest loss of life in a domestic house fire in Australian history. Eleven people lost their lives that night; eight were children. The fire devastated two families and has had a profound impact on not just the local community, but the whole of Queensland.

Just over four months after the tragic loss of life at Slacks Creek we learnt of another house fire in Tewantin at around 3.30 am on 26 December 2011. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services arrived at 3.41 am to find the house consumed by flames. Four people lost their lives in that fire—Rachel MacCracken and her three daughters, twins aged 12 and her youngest aged 10. Matt Golinski survived, but suffered major burns to his body, as many in the House would know.

The absolute tragedy of this is that in less than a five-month period in 2011, Queensland lost fifteen people, eleven of whom were children under 18 in such heartbreaking and traumatic circumstances. While we are unable to change these tragic events, we as a government can implement strategies for the future that can help prevent such tragedies from occurring again. We can pass laws that can increase the chances of families safely escaping their homes and surviving but, ultimately, it is the responsibility of each and every one of us to ensure our own safety and that of our loved ones.

Queensland is fortunate to have such committed and highly skilled Fire and Emergency Services officers who do an outstanding job keeping Queenslanders safe. They strongly advocate for working smoke alarms in homes to give people the best chance of being alerted to the presence of a fire. Evidence exists to indicate that the type, positioning and interconnectedness of smoke alarms are crucial to ensuring how effective a smoke alarm is in alerting people to the presence of a fire. The State Coroner supported this evidence when he handed down his findings into the Slacks Creek fire. He recommended changes to Queensland's smoke alarm legislation, making two broad recommendations: firstly, that legislative amendments be made to mandate the installation of photoelectric and interconnected smoke alarms in every bedroom, between areas containing bedrooms, in any hallway

servicing bedrooms and in any other storey of a residential dwelling. For new residences, the coroner recommended that the smoke alarms be hardwired, while in existing residences, smoke alarms may be hardwired or powered by a 10-year lithium battery. Secondly, he recommended that QFES conduct ongoing awareness campaigns to promote the development of practised escape plans.

Today, I stand here as a representative of the Palaszczuk government and can proudly announce that we are committed to fully implementing the coroner's recommendations. The opposition has, through its private member's bill, shown its support for changes of this type, too, and I am sure those sitting on the crossbenches agree how important it is to take action to safeguard lives whenever we can. This means amending the current smoke alarm requirements in homes to require: the installation of additional smoke alarms in every bedroom, between areas containing bedrooms, in any hallway servicing bedrooms and in any other storey of a residential dwelling; that all smoke alarms be interconnected and either hardwired or powered by a 10-year lithium battery; and that smoke alarms meet minimum performance standards, that is Australian standard, with photoelectric type smoke alarms acting as the performance baseline.

To incorporate the second of the coroner's recommendations, it is proposed that Queensland Fire and Emergency Services conduct a comprehensive consumer protection campaign to raise awareness of the proposed changes to the smoke alarm legislation. This campaign will include messaging to promote the development of practised escape plans. It is anticipated that the campaign would particularly target vulnerable members of the community, such as the elderly, people with a disability and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. To reduce the risk of unscrupulous tradespeople operating in the marketplace, it is also proposed to include messaging about the importance of using a licensed electrician to hardwire and interconnect smoke alarms.

Why should we have photoelectric smoke alarms in our ceilings and not ionisation? Ionisation smoke alarms 'feel' the smoke by detecting invisible particles of combustion, such as when you burn your toast in the kitchen, and activate quickly for fast-flaming fires. Evidence suggests they are not as effective at detecting slow-smouldering fires, which are generally the fires that lead to deaths in homes. Photoelectric smoke alarms 'see' the smoke by detecting visible particles of combustion and react more quickly to smouldering fires. They are more reliable and less likely to produce false alarm activations. When photoelectric alarms activate, the smoke is still at the top layer of the ceiling, above head height and this gives residents more time to evacuate safely. This additional warning time is critical in allowing the safe escape of all persons. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services strongly support the installation and use of photoelectric smoke alarms. In fact, all Australian fire authorities support the use of photoelectric smoke alarms over ionisation, and the Northern Territory has already mandated their use.

In addition to the installation of photoelectric smoke alarms and to give families the best chance to escape their burning homes, smoke alarms need to be interconnected and either hardwired or powered by a 10-year lithium battery. Smoke alarms can be installed as independent, standalone units, or interconnected. Interconnection involves the connection of all alarms so that when one is triggered, all will be activated. Interconnection of smoke alarms ensures residents are alerted even when the fire has commenced in another area of the building. This ensures maximum time is provided for escape before the fire and smoke spread within the dwelling. Interconnection of smoke alarms may be achieved by hardwiring into the building's electrical system, or interconnected wirelessly through the use of battery operated, wireless devices.

A University of Victoria study of house fire fatalities between 1998 and 2006 found that it is possible to dramatically reduce fatalities in house fires by enhancing smoke alarm provisions. It was found that installing smoke alarms in every room would reduce the fatality rate by 17 to 30 per cent. However, this rate would increase to 50 per cent if the smoke alarms were interconnected. This is particularly important if people are sleeping with doors shut or for the elderly or children who may sleep through an alarm sounding at a different location in the residence. Interconnection involves the connection of all alarms to each other so that when one is triggered, all will sound the alert. That means that if a fire occurs in one part of the home, no matter what the family is doing at the time, these measures will give families a greater chance of escaping their burning home. A continuous power source, such as hardwiring or a 10-year lithium battery, reduces the risk of a smoke alarm being made useless by flat batteries that have not been replaced.

Proper positioning of smoke alarms is crucial if all residents are to be alerted to the presence of a fire, particularly if rousing them from sleep at night. Evidence exists to suggest that to receive adequate alert of a fire, a smoke alarm must be fitted in every room. Without this, the sound level is unlikely to be sufficient to alert occupants, particularly if they are sleeping. An Australasian Fire and

Emergency Service Authorities Council analysis of deaths from house fires across Australia reveals that the major cause of death was smoke inhalation/poisoning. The analysis found a sleeping person may become unconscious from inhaling smoke and subsequently die without ever being aware of the presence of a fire.

In order to wake sleeping residents, smoke alarms must produce at least 75 decibels of sound at the bedhead. The current Australian Standard—AS 3786—states that smoke alarms must produce at least 85 decibels three metres from the alarm. If an alarm positioned in the hallway activates, the sound level at the bedhead could be as low as 36 decibels if the person sleeps with the door closed. This would not provide the necessary warning. The installation of interconnected smoke alarms in every bedroom of a residence ensures sufficient early warning is provided to alert residents to the presence of a fire. The installation of smoke alarms in bedrooms provides the sleeping occupant the earliest possible warning of smoke in any part of the house and additional time to evacuate to a place of safety.

The proposed changes in this bill are designed to improve the rate of working smoke alarms in Queensland homes and ultimately save lives. This is the key focus for the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services: having as many working smoke alarms as possible in Queensland. The changes will commence on 1 January 2017.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.30 pm.

 **Mr BYRNE:** The changes will commence on 1 January 2017. It is estimated that up to 1.98 million private dwellings would be impacted for the better by the changes. From that time if an existing smoke alarm is damaged, defective or has reached the end of its working life and needs to be replaced during the phase-in period, it will need to be replaced by a photoelectric smoke alarm. The remaining requirements—that is, smoke alarms in bedrooms, interconnection and certain power sources—will be phased in over time.

How will the phase-in work? On 1 January 2017 all smoke alarm installations will need to be fully compliant for new buildings or when significant renovations occur. All private dwellings are proposed to be required to comply with the full new smoke alarm requirements within 10 years from commencement. This reflects the requirements under Australian Standard 3786-2014 for smoke alarms to have a life span of at least 10 years and the recommendation of all Australian fire authorities that smoke alarms be replaced after 10 years. Additionally, after five years from commencement all dwellings that are sold or leased will need to comply at the time an accommodation agreement or contract or sale is entered into.

For existing buildings the government will lead the way by rolling out changes in its approximately 72,000 social housing and government employee housing properties within five years. The Department of Housing and Public Works has been phasing in photoelectric smoke alarms as part of its housing maintenance program, and as a result it is estimated that approximately 80 per cent of dwellings are currently fitted with hardwired photoelectric smoke alarms. I thank my ministerial colleague, the Minister for Housing and Public Works, for his assistance in the development of this bill. The Department of Housing and Public Works will be leading the way in implementing important changes to Queensland's social housing properties.

This means that within 10 years all domestic dwellings in Queensland will need to comply. Currently various manufacturers supply both ionisation and photoelectric smoke alarms to the Queensland market. For retailers to remain competitive it is in their best interests to stock alarms which meet the legislative standards of the day. Market forces also encourage manufacturers, suppliers and retailers to ensure that their products conform and are safe. Mandating the use of a particular type of smoke alarm such as photoelectric as a baseline is expected to impact the range of smoke alarms available and will significantly reduce sales of ionisation alarms.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services considers that there is a sufficient supply of photoelectric or similar type smoke alarms in the market to meet the increased demand for these devices which will occur under this proposal. The government will lead the market in installing photoelectric and similar type smoke alarms in private dwellings. As a result, when private dwelling owners come to comply with the proposed changes it is expected that the cost per unit will be reduced as the government would have absorbed the 'early adopter' costs. The awareness campaign will also focus on protective measures to safeguard households from unscrupulous operators in the marketplace.

As members would be aware, there is a private member's bill before the House in relation to smoke alarms. The Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Reference Committee is also conducting an inquiry into the use of smoke alarms to prevent smoke and fire related deaths; therefore, it would be

helpful for this bill and the private member's bill to be considered together along with input from the Senate committee's inquiry. That way, members of this parliament will be best placed to make fully informed decisions so that together we can progress this important issue which is crucial to public safety. A fulsome and considered approach is firmly in line with the fundamental principles that underpin this parliament. Members will be better informed about the outcome of the Senate inquiry along with feedback from important stakeholders and the community, all of whom have a vested interest in fire safety.

To allow for ongoing innovation, some details of these requirements are to be contained in regulation rather than the act. I table the bill and explanatory notes for the information of the House and members to consider after passage of the bill.

Tabled paper: Building Fire Safety (Domestic Smoke Alarms) Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016: Tabling draft [220].

Tabled paper: Building Fire Safety (Domestic Smoke Alarms) Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. X) 2016: Tabling draft, explanatory notes [221].

The Palaszczuk government remains committed to the safety of all Queenslanders, and these new smoke alarm provisions recommended by the State Coroner have been specifically designed to reduce the risk of death from fires in the home and to keep Queenslanders safe. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.36 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Speaker's Ruling, Same Question Rule

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Honourable members, Mr Speaker has ordered that a ruling regarding the application of the same question rule to cognate bills be circulated. I seek leave to have the statement incorporated into the parliamentary record.

Leave granted.

The member for Caloundra introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill on 14 July 2015.

The Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill on 10 November 2015. The Bill includes the matters dealt with in the Member for Caloundra's Bill.

The relevant provisions of both bills propose to restrict smoking in relation to government buildings, transport waiting areas, pedestrian malls, public swimming pools and skate parks. Both bills also propose to prohibit the sale of smoking products from temporary retail areas.

The substance of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill is the same as the substance of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill—both bills seek to amend the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 in similar ways.

Standing Order 87(1) provides that unless the Standing Orders otherwise provide, a question or amendment shall not be proposed which is the same as any question which, during the same session, has been resolved in the affirmative or negative. A number of Speaker rulings in relation to this issue have been made in recent years. In summary:

- The matters do not have to be identical, merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form;
- There is no rule preventing the presentation of two bills on the same subject, or indeed opposite intent. However, if a decision of the House has already been taken on one bill, the other is not to be proceeded upon; and

- An amendment cannot be moved to a bill that has already been moved to another bill and defeated or is substantially the same as a bill that has been defeated.

I am satisfied that the bills seek to achieve the same objectives and the same question rule is enlivened. Therefore, it is necessary to consider how the bills should be proceeded with. I foreshadow that the second reading question for the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill (the government bill) will be put first.

At that point I will immediately make a ruling in relation to the application of the same question rule for the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill.

If the government bill passes its second reading, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill would then be discharged from the *Notice Paper*, as the ruling would not allow any further decisions to be made on that bill. As there will have been no decision taken in relation to the clauses in the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill, members can move amendments to the government bill to deal with the matters contained in the private member's bill.

TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (SMOKE-FREE PLACES) AMENDMENT BILL

TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (EXTENSION OF SMOKING BANS) AMENDMENT BILL

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill resumed from 10 November 2015 (see p. 2690) and Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill resumed from 14 July 2015 (see p. 1287).

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.37 pm): I move—

That the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Smoking is the single largest preventable cause of death and disease in Australia, and all members of this parliament are privileged to have an opportunity today to help to try and address that fact by passing the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015.

Perhaps I can begin by reiterating again to honourable members—and through members of this place to the Queensland community—some of the facts that demonstrate how dangerous and damaging smoking is. As I said in the ministerial statement to parliament before I introduced this bill, each year 3,700 Queenslanders die as a result of smoking. That is over 10 people each and every day. Smoking is responsible for over 36,000 hospitalisations in Queensland each year; it is also a burden on our state's economy and businesses. Each year in Queensland \$6.1 billion is the estimated cost in lost productivity, health costs and premature death due to smoking.

The explanatory notes to the bill are very clear. Under the heading 'Policy objectives and the reasons for them' the explanatory notes state—

Tobacco products are toxic, carcinogenic and addictive. They are the only legal product in the market today that kills 50 per cent of its consumers when used as intended. More than 85 per cent of Queenslanders are non-smokers, yet continue to be exposed to second-hand smoke in public places.

Of those people who are hospitalised and, very sadly, of those people who pass away, some of those hospitalisations and deaths are due to second-hand smoking. It does impact on the health of Queenslanders who may have never smoked a cigarette in their life.

At the outset I thank the Health and Ambulance Services Committee for its careful consideration of the bill and the report tabled in the parliament on 15 February this year recommending that the bill be passed without amendment. I thank the members of that committee for their careful and diligent consideration of the draft of the bill.

I also thank all of those individuals and organisations who made submissions or appeared before the committee at its public hearings. I can assure all of those individuals and organisations that their concerns about the harm smoking products continue to do in our community were heard. Such strong community support for smoke-free places is essential if we are to continue making progress towards our ultimate aim, which is a smoke-free Queensland.

The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill, introduced by the member for Caloundra, demonstrates the shared commitment in this House to strengthening tobacco laws. While the government supports the intent of the private member's bill, the Health and Ambulance Services Committee report tabled on 16 October 2015 identified several provisions which would require amendment in order for that bill to be effective. The smoke-free places bill, the government bill, will achieve all of the objectives of the private member's bill—banning the sale of tobacco products at temporary retail outlets and prohibiting smoking at skate parks, around government buildings, at outdoor pedestrian malls and at public transport waiting points—while addressing the drafting issues identified by the committee.

Importantly, the smoke-free places bill will go further, making additional changes to strengthen Queensland's tobacco laws by prohibiting smoking at more outdoor places. For example, the bill will ban smoking at sporting grounds during under-age sporting events, at prescribed national parks and at early childhood education and care facilities.

Mr Hinchliffe: Hear, hear!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Leader of the House supporting the bill.

In respect of amendments that impact on local government, the 117th Local Government Association of Queensland annual conference carried a motion calling for local governments to be given power to prohibit smoking in additional public places within their local government area. The bill responds to this resolution by giving local governments the power to create their own local laws to ban smoking at public outdoor places in their local government area. I know that the member for Southern Downs will be particularly pleased to hear this, because that particular motion was proposed by the Southern Downs Regional Council. I understand that the motion was moved by Councillor Glyn Rees and seconded by Councillor Peter Blundell, who is also the mayor. Regrettably, the member for Southern Downs as minister for health was unable to deliver on that request. I am hoping that the oversight that occurred during the last three years will be remedied and that the government bill will be supported by all members of the House—particularly that provision, which I think is an important one.

The state wants to ensure that councils have the capacity to designate certain specific parts of council areas as smoke-free. That might be for a particular purpose. It might be for a community event. It might be because they want to be party to or otherwise support community markets, for example, at a set time and in a set place each month. I think it is important that councils have the capacity in a more detailed way to prescribe a smoke-free place. I think that is an important way to support and empower local government.

I am pleased to announce today the results of the 2015 preventive health survey which I think will be of interest to members of the House. Queensland Health conducts telephone surveys annually. In 2015 over 12,000 adult Queenslanders participated. The survey gathers data about a range of health issues including diabetes, obesity, nutrition, sun protection and alcohol consumption as well as smoking. The data helps to inform preventive health activities and gives us a current and reliable evidence base for the Queensland government's strategic health agenda. It also provides public information for non-government organisations, other agencies and rural communities. No personal identifying information is collected.

I am pleased to say that the survey shows in respect of smoking that in 2015 only 12 per cent of Queensland adults smoked daily. That is the lowest smoking rate on record. Only 15 years ago, when the then Queensland government, led by then premier Peter Beattie, embarked on the first significant tranche of smoking reforms, expanding the number of smoke-free places in Queensland, it would have been unthinkable for Queensland to have an adult smoking rate that is close to 10 per cent, but we have achieved it.

The figures get better. This is a drop of two percentage points from 2014 figures. In real numbers there are now around 50,000 fewer adults smoking daily than there were in 2014, and most of these were men. I congratulate all of these 50,000 Queenslanders, their families and all other nonsmokers and ex-smokers who are doing the best they can for their health by not smoking.

The 2015 figures are evidence that we are on the right track and our tobacco control measures are working. However, the job is not yet done. The number of deaths caused by smoking, including second-hand smoke exposure, is still too high. We must do more to bring the rates down further and secure a smoke-free future for Queensland. I strongly believe that we can achieve an adult smoking rate for Queensland that is under 10 per cent. This will greatly benefit all of the community and move us to being amongst the healthiest people in the world.

There is community expectation that people will not be exposed to second-hand smoke in public spaces. I will say some more about that, but I do want to commend all of the partners who work with government to reduce smoking in the community. I particularly acknowledge the leadership of organisations like the Australian Medical Association Queensland and the Queensland Cancer Council—Professor Jeff Dunn and his team—for the significant work they do in helping to highlight the dangers of smoking and taking the nonsmoking message to the community. I acknowledge them for their steadfast campaigning and their strong support for increasing the number of smoke-free places in Queensland.

As I said, there is a community expectation that people will not be exposed to second-hand smoke in public places. From figures in the 2013 National Drug Strategy Household Survey we know that as many as three-quarters of Queenslanders actively avoid spaces where they are exposed to other people's smoke. However, this is not always possible. The 2015 Queensland survey found that a fifth of Queensland adults are frequently exposed to second-hand smoke in public places. That is why we are acting, through a number of measures in this bill, to increase the number of smoke-free places in Queensland, particularly smoke-free places that are public places.

Ms Grace: Hear, hear!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection of the member for Brisbane Central. I know that she is a strong advocate of the need for more smoke-free places in Queensland.

I know that members will not need to be reminded of the dangers of smoking, but it is worth reiterating what is the cause of those dangers. The most damaging component of tobacco smoke comes in a range of forms. The first is tar. This is the term for the various particles within tobacco smoke. Tar is sticky and brown, stains teeth, fingernails and lung tissue, and ultimately can lead to lung cancer. The second is carbon monoxide, an odourless gas that is fatal in large doses because it takes the place of oxygen in the blood. It is in effect a poison. I know that members would be disturbed to hear that tobacco smoke includes hydrogen cyanide. Hydrogen cyanide obstructs lung clearance systems in the body from working properly, which means that the poisonous chemicals in tobacco smoke can accumulate in the lungs. Tobacco smoke also contains oxidising chemicals. These are reactive chemicals which damage the heart muscle and blood vessels.

Tobacco smoke also contains dangerous metals including arsenic, cadmium and lead. Tobacco smoke is even known to contain radioactive compounds that are known to be carcinogenic. All of these chemicals damage the body in a range of ways. They affect the respiratory system by irritating the throat and voice box, and the permanent damage that can be caused to air sacs within the lungs is well known due to smoking. All of those chemicals affect the circulatory system by raising blood pressure and the heart rate as well as constricting blood vessels in the skin. This means that less oxygen is carried through the body after exercise.

Smoking also affects the immune system. People who smoke have greater susceptibility to infections such as pneumonia and influenza. Smoking has fertility effects in both men and women, reducing fertility and increasing potential deformities. A lifetime smoker is at high risk of developing a range of potentially lethal diseases—these are very serious—including cancer of the mouth, lung, nose, tongue, larynx, nasal sinus, oesophagus, throat, pancreas, kidney, cervix, ovary, ureter, liver, bladder, bowel, stomach and bones; heart disease, heart attack and stroke; poor blood circulation in feet and hands which can lead to pain and, in severe cases, gangrene and amputation; lung diseases such as obstructive pulmonary disease and bronchitis; ulcers of the digestive system; and osteoporosis and ultimately hip fracture.

It is also worth reflecting on who smokers actually are. We know that smoking is related to socio-economic status. There are higher rates of smoking for people without higher education qualifications and higher rates of smoking amongst the unemployed. We know that there are higher rates of smoking among people who live in regional and rural areas compared to major cities and higher rates of smoking in the first, second and third quintiles based on the index of social disadvantage. This is why the Australian Labor Party has traditionally focused on cutting smoking. It impacts on all Queenslanders, but it disproportionately affects many of our constituents and we are proud to be able to introduce public health measures that help protect individuals and their families.

This bill focuses on reducing the public's exposure to second-hand smoke in public places, particularly those frequented by children and young people—and I believe that personally to be an important reform contained in the bill. The bill will ban smoking within 10 metres of skate parks, at sporting grounds during organised under-age sporting events and at local government owned or

operated swimming pools. These areas form an important part of active and healthy lifestyles in Queensland, particularly for children. Young people are especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. They are also more likely to view smoking as desirable when they frequently see other people smoking. I was pleased to see that these amendments have the support of health and education groups, including the Cancer Council Queensland, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, the Heart Foundation—whom I should also commend for its ongoing and steadfast support for measures that reduce smoking in the community—the Australian Medical Association Queensland and P&Cs Qld. In particular, the Cancer Council Queensland stated in its submission to the committee that the amendments will discourage smokers from clustering in these areas and exposing people to second-hand smoke.

The smoke-free places bill will also prohibit smoking at or near early childhood education and care facilities including, for example, long day care services, kindergarten services and family day care. This proposal is overwhelmingly supported by the community. Almost 95 per cent of respondents to the 2015 survey supported smoking bans at these facilities. We also have the support of early childhood education and care providers such as the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. I think all honourable members can agree that our youngest babies and children should not be exposed to second-hand smoke while entering and exiting childcare centres.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr DICK: I take the interjections from the Leader of the House and also the member for Mirani and thank them for their support. The bill will also ensure that all outdoor public transport waiting points in Queensland will be smoke-free places. This includes bus stops, taxi ranks and ferry terminals. The Ipswich City Council, the Fraser Coast Regional Council and the Redland City Council have already done excellent work implementing local laws that prohibit smoking at transport waiting points in their local government areas. However, Queenslanders in other areas are still regularly exposed to second-hand smoke while waiting to travel. Almost 80 per cent of respondents to the 2015 Queensland preventive health survey support smoking bans at public transport waiting points. An important point about these provisions is that they apply to the queue to the public transport waiting point.

The bill will also prohibit smoking at all outdoor pedestrian malls. The bill builds on the work already done by local governments like the Brisbane City Council, the Ipswich City Council and the Logan City Council to make pedestrian malls across Queensland smoke-free. I know that other councils—for example, the Gold Coast City Council and the Toowoomba Regional Council—did not take the opportunity to extend the smoke-free zones to the malls in their jurisdictions. Unfortunately, I know that the Brisbane City Council has declined to extend the smoke-free zone into the Fortitude Valley mall. However, this bill and in fact the private member's bill will provide consistency across all of the malls in Queensland. I have high hopes that all councils will welcome the bipartisan approach to consistent regulation of outdoor walking malls.

To ensure a smoke-free environment for all residents, visitors and staff, the bill will prohibit smoking at all residential aged-care facilities except at nominated outdoor smoking places. This is an Australian first. Currently there is no legislative restriction on aged-care residents smoking in their rooms and this potentially poses risks to the hardworking nurses and other staff who work in those facilities. I think they will welcome these changes.

The bill also prohibits smoking in prescribed government precincts and national parks. Prescribing particular government precincts or national parks will enable appropriate consultation about the impact of a smoking ban with stakeholders. Importantly, the powers around the government precinct will allow us to go further than what is listed in the private member's bill. As we know, the private member's bill allows for smoking to be banned within five metres of a government building provided that no-smoking signs are affixed. However, the government bill goes further in that it allows us to define an entire precinct. For example, this will enable us to define the pedestrian precinct surrounding the 1 William Street building. I think that is an important advance. It also means we can avoid difficulties that result from defining it based on the building, as in the private member's bill. As we know, buildings can have fixtures like awnings and we may have difficulty understanding whether the five metres radiates from those fixtures. By defining a precinct clearly by regulation, there can be no doubt about where the smoke-free area begins and ends.

The bill allows local governments to create new smoke-free areas, as I mentioned earlier. This may include parks, boardwalks or picnic grounds. The amendment responds to calls from the Local Government Association of Queensland for this reform and will better enable local governments to meet the needs and expectations of their communities.

This bill amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to ban the sale of smoking products at temporary retail stores. Unfortunately, we have seen smoking products being marketed to young people through temporary retail stores at major arts, music and sporting events. Stopping young people from taking up the smoking habit is crucial to slowing smoking rates overall. Young adults are particularly vulnerable in their environment. Studies show they are more likely to take up smoking where they see people frequently smoking and where they have access to smoking products. These amendments will help to address these issues, reducing that temptation.

The bill also includes a number of amendments which are about ensuring the tobacco act best achieves its goals. One of these amendments is to make the distinction between major sports facilities and major event facilities. The tobacco act currently deals with both major event facilities and major sports facilities in the same way, but we know how different these facilities are. Major sports facilities include some of our sports stadiums like Townsville's 1300SMILES Stadium, where of course Queenslanders can go and watch some of that North Queensland Cowboys magic. As a Queensland minister, I am delighted at the success of the North Queensland Cowboys; as a Brisbane Broncos supporter, I look forward to the Broncos triumphing in the 2016 season.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DICK: I was travelling well in the House until then, but I think I have lost some members. Of course we have our sports stadiums such as Townsville's 1300SMILES Stadium and the Sleeman Sports Complex, where I think we can all agree we can see our state's swimming stars in action. Smoking will be banned at major sports facilities except on a road or car park area or picnic area or an area of parkland. Major event facilities relate to major events that happen around the state, including the Castrol Gold Coast 600, which attracts thousands of people to our sunny Gold Coast. The Commonwealth Games, which we will be hosting in 2018, will also be a major event facility. Smoking will be banned at major event facilities except at a nominated outdoor smoking place where food and drink is not allowed. That allows flexibility for the major event organiser to reflect how different these events can be.

Research and experience in Queensland tells us that legislation alone is not enough to bring down smoking rates. I am particularly concerned about smoking during pregnancy, especially when Queensland research found that, in 2012, approximately 9,500 women smoked at some point during their pregnancy and that within this group women from less advantaged areas were six times more likely to smoke during pregnancy than those in advantaged areas—26 per cent compared to four per cent. Furthermore, only one in eight women in disadvantaged areas quit smoking before 20 weeks pregnancy. Smoking during pregnancy causes many complications. These can include a higher risk of sudden infant death syndrome, increased risk of miscarriage, higher likelihood of having a low birth-weight baby, increased risk of premature labour, increased chance of perinatal death and a higher likelihood of the child experiencing problems with lung and brain development and with function. Experts tell us that quitting smoking during early pregnancy results in the greatest benefit to the foetus and the mother. However, quitting at any stage during pregnancy will deliver health benefits. Given that many women quit during pregnancy but relapse following the birth of their child, relapse prevention as well as advice and support to quit is crucial. Support and interventions that focus on the health effects of exposure to second-hand smoke on the family, empowering the mother, partner and other family members quitting smoking and promoting smoke-free homes have been shown to be effective. I asked my department to work on programs to support pregnant mothers or women who are thinking of falling pregnant who may be smokers. I will have more to say on that matter.

I say again that this bill before the parliament is an important public health measure. As I have indicated earlier, each year smoking related diseases continue to take the lives of more than 3,700 Queenslanders. It is worth pausing on that figure. Three thousand seven hundred Queenslanders is 10 times greater than the number of people killed on our roads annually. Our government and previous governments have focused very carefully on educating the community about the dangers that can sometimes manifest themselves on Queensland roads—dangers that often come from our own inattention, from sleep, from being under the influence of a substance. We have changed cultural attitudes towards drink driving. That has been a very significant change in our community. We have changed cultural attitudes towards the wearing of seatbelts. When it comes to smoking, we are on that same journey. Those results that we see—12 per cent of adult Queenslanders now smoking—shows that we can change attitudes and behaviours.

Often at the heart of smoking is the choice that individuals make. Of course, as a government we support the 1300 Quitline, which is a very important measure that is part of our preventive public health measures to support members of the community. We support that measure with great vigour, because it is an important way to help people to stop smoking. We want Queensland to be a smoke-free place. As I indicated earlier, a number of education and support mechanisms will be implemented following the passage of this legislation by the parliament. We have allocated \$420,000 for the statewide delivery of public education about the new smoking bans. This funding will support ongoing compliance and reduce the enforcement burden. The development and delivery of community education and campaign materials will be further supported through the integration of new smoking bans with existing tobacco control strategies, in particular, the funding of \$2.4 million for planned quit-smoking campaign activities in 2015-16. Following the introduction of this legislation we will use existing capacity and resources from the department for the project management, the legislative change process, campaign oversight, support for stakeholders and evaluation. When it comes to smoking rates, I am confident that the legislation before the parliament, if passed, will result in that continual downward trajectory.

I acknowledge other individuals who provided feedback to the government in relation to the legislation. We canvassed a very large number of individuals who were invited to provide feedback on the proposed legislative reforms. They included members of hospital and health services and non-government health organisations—and I mentioned them earlier; the Cancer Council Queensland and the Heart Foundation in particular.

I also mention the great work that the Stroke Foundation does not only in Queensland but also across Australia in supporting people who face the challenge of a stroke. We know that smoking contributes to the likelihood of an individual suffering a stroke. I thank the Stroke Foundation for their work.

The Local Government Association of Queensland was asked to provide feedback, along with unions, retailer associations and peak bodies for private residential aged-care facilities, early childhood education and care services and sporting associations. I acknowledged those individuals earlier. Following the passage of the legislation, we will continue to work with stakeholders to ensure that they understand how the proposed new laws apply to them.

I will provide the House with some information about the feedback that we received. Hospital and health services support measures that reduce the impact of smoking on the Queensland community, and that is unsurprising. Local governments were also asked to provide feedback on waiting points, and I thank four local governments in particular that provided in-principle support for a consistent statewide approach to banning smoking at areas such as pedestrian malls and public transport waiting points. Non-government health organisations such as the Cancer Council Queensland, the Heart Foundation and, as I have said, the National Stroke Foundation strongly supported the changes while making an additional comment on the legislation.

The Australasian Association of Convenience Stores and the Australian Retailers Association provided feedback to the department in relation to the licensing of tobacco retailers. As I said previously, the issue of tobacco retailer licensing is being considered separately by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee and does not form part of this bill. I again thank the committee for its ongoing work in relation to creating more smoke-free places in Queensland. I know that that committee will give thoughtful consideration to whether a licensing regime in relation to tobacco should be introduced into Queensland. I look forward to receiving the committee's report. This committee is very busy as its remit was expanded in the last parliamentary sitting week. I look forward to the committee deliberating on that matter carefully and then providing a report to the parliament.

I also thank Together Queensland, the principal public sector union in Queensland, for providing feedback on the bill. Feedback received from peak bodies for early childhood education and care services was supportive of the creation of smoke-free early childhood education and care facilities, which is in the best interests of staff and families. The Queensland Outdoor Recreation Federation and Stadiums Queensland also provided feedback on the proposed legislative reforms and I thank them for that.

Penalties are provided in the legislation for people not abiding by the new legislation. We hope that there will be a cultural change. As a government, part of what we seek to do is to educate the community in relation to the dangers that smoking presents. By educating the community we can ensure

that individuals can make the right choices for their own lives. Enforcement is available, but as a government we seek to change attitudes by driving cultural change in the community and by educating consumers and citizens directly.

As I have said, this next tranche of reform will be supported by a community education and awareness campaign. I am confident, as much as I can be, that the new smoking laws will have a high level of community ownership. I think that is reflected in the nature of the submissions that were received by the parliamentary committee and the very strong support that stakeholders provided. That demonstrated the high level of community ownership and support for the proposed changes.

To reiterate the point, we want to ensure that the expansion of smoke-free areas in Queensland can be community and self-enforced. That is an important part of where we have gone in changing attitudes towards smoking. Alleged breaches of the Tobacco Act can be reported by the public to the 13QGOV telephone service—137468. It is important for members of the community to know that they can report activity that may be contrary to the act. Where necessary, enforcement will include the issuing of warnings, asking smokers to cease or move on and the issuing of infringement notices if smokers do not comply with directions. I know there have been some hiccups recently in a number of public facilities. I hope that we can address that. My view is that it should be community- and self-enforced, but where we need to enforce it we will and we will do it on the basis of reporting to government.

In conclusion, I thank all honourable members of the parliamentary committee for their contribution towards developing the report to parliament. It is a very significant piece of work. Something that all members of this House and all Queenslanders should be proud of is that Queensland has been a leader in creating smoke-free places. It is something that our state should be very proud of. We have been able to implement progressive reform over a number of years. In 2001 in this place, in a seat not far from me—perhaps even where I am standing—under the Beattie government my predecessor as health minister, Wendy Edmond, introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Prevention of Supply to Children) Amendment Bill. That bill was passed and ultimately implemented in 2002 leading to smoking bans at enclosed public places such as workplaces. The bill passed with bipartisan support. I am sure the current member for Maroochydore will remember that because she made a contribution to that bill on that occasion. I am pleased to see the member for Maroochydore in the House today. In summing up the debate the minister then observed that at the time around 25 per cent of Queenslanders were ‘addicted to nicotine’. As we have heard today, we have more than halved that percentage. That percentage is now 12 per cent. I am sure Wendy Edmund would be proud of that achievement and I acknowledge her and other Health ministers who have contributed to that, including my immediate predecessor. It is a great credit to her and the reforming Labor government at that time. It was a big thing to do at that time. I do not think that we should underestimate the community interest in the matter some 15 years ago. It was a big step, and a courageous step, taken by the Beattie government and I acknowledge that they started this journey. It is a credit to members of the parliament at that time that it was embraced on a bipartisan basis. That is a very significant thing for us to acknowledge.

In 2005 the then Labor government led the country by phasing in smoking bans at outdoor public places including eating and drinking places, entrances to public buildings, patrolled beaches, prescribed outdoor swimming areas, children’s playgrounds and sports stadium. In 2006 smoking bans were introduced at outdoor eating and drinking places. In 2010 the Bligh Labor government introduced a smoking ban in vehicles with a child under the age of 16 and local government were given power to ban smoking at pedestrian malls and public transport waiting points in their local government areas. That evolution over 15 years has resulted in revolutionary change. It has more than halved the rate of adult smoking, something that could not have been anticipated at the time but I know is welcomed by Queenslanders.

We have also been supported by a range of developments at the federal level. We should also note the effect of the introduction of plain packaging legislation. Since 1 December 2012 all tobacco products sold, offered for sale or otherwise supplied in Australia must be in plain packaging.

Mrs D’Ath: Hear, hear!

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Redcliffe, the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, who I know is a strong supporter of those measures. She may have voted on those when she served in the Commonwealth House of Representatives. Plain-packaging legislation was introduced by the then federal Labor government over the strident objections

of many in the industry. It was a very courageous thing then done by the Commonwealth Health Minister Nicola Roxon who was not shy in taking this matter forward. She was very strong in her commitment to reducing smoking in Australia. I acknowledge that significant reform. There is now growing evidence at a national level that these changes have accelerated the decline in smoking. Many countries have followed Australia's lead; with Ireland, the United Kingdom and France passing laws to introduce plain packs. I understand that other countries are currently looking closely at it, including New Zealand, Chile, Turkey, South Africa and Brazil, as well as Canada and Norway who are proceeding with their own laws.

It now falls to us in this parliament to take the next important step in strengthening Queensland's tobacco laws and further reducing the harm that smoking causes in our community. The bill is supported by the members of the Health and Ambulance Services Committee and other members in this House and I thank them for their work. It is also supported by the stakeholders who made submissions to the committee and the Queensland community.

I acknowledge that for many quitting smoking is a difficult challenge and I commend every smoker who kicks the habit. I hope the measures in this bill give some the extra incentive they need to quit. Perhaps more importantly, I am confident the new restrictions on smoking will mean fewer young people ever have an incentive to take up smoking and this will result in not only the reduction of smoking in young people, but also all adults and will result in Queensland's exposure to second-hand smoke being reduced as well. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr McARDLE (Caloundra—LNP) (3.17 pm): I move—

That the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to rise to speak in support of the bill which is clearly aimed at reducing the harm to Queenslanders caused by smoking. The time has come for this parliament to accelerate our action on health improvements for Queenslanders. On 14 July 2015 I introduced this bill into the House as a private member's bill. I would like to record my appreciation for the early steps that the then health minister Lawrence Springborg took in 2014 to introduce the first raft of important changes. The health minister in his contribution commented on what he claimed the minister at that point in time did not do, but let us acknowledge what he did do in 2014. The bill he introduced that became law put in place the five-metre exclusion zone around schools and hospitals and banned e-cigarettes being sold to children, whilst also putting in place an advertising campaign to ensure people understood what the new law was and, more importantly, the impact of cigarette smoking.

It is always gratifying to see the work that you have done in this place be taken on board and potentially made law in this state. The LNP saw the necessity to increase the regions where smoking could not take place to provide an incentive for people who did smoke not to smoke; to provide an incentive for young people who may well be thinking of taking up cigarette smoking not to do so; and also to alleviate the passive smoking issue which is so deadly in relation to the outcome of smoking.

It is not the first time that the LNP has done this. We did it with the Mental Health Act, which was adapted and adopted by the current health minister and the government, and today we saw introduced into the House a bill that in essence mirrors the bill of the member for Kawana, the shadow police minister. By adopting all of the provisions of our bill and carrying it forward, the health minister is giving an accolade to the work done by the LNP.

Before moving on, I make this point: whether talking about this bill or a bill to be debated later during this week's sitting, governments can take only so many steps. There are only so many things that governments can do to assist people to look after their own health and that of their families. In large measure, it comes back to individuals being responsible for their own health outcomes. It comes back to early education, early understanding and, dare I say, in many cases parental guidance, so that we do not have the outcomes we have seen in the past with regard to smoking and other issues that are now moving as a wave through our health system.

I grew up at a time when cigarette smoking was readily accepted. Teenagers smoked on a regular and ongoing basis. I remember going to nightclubs, and by midnight there would be a layer of smoke from a foot above your head to the middle of your chest which you would be sucking in for hours on end. Lord only knows the impact upon our lungs. I understand that, thankfully, there is an effluxion of time that may alleviate that damage. I grew up in a time when that was the norm. I remember going to restaurants that were full of tobacco smoke because people smoked. You could smoke on trains and buses. In fact, there was only a very small number of places where you could not smoke.

Then there was a very strong campaign. I would hazard a guess that the anti-smoking campaign has been the most successful campaign in this nation's history. It clearly highlighted the devastating consequences of cigarette smoking, including passive smoking, on health outcomes. Despite the minister's reluctance to acknowledge the LNP bill, this is a bipartisan approach, because the health of the people in this state and this nation should never be the province of one side of the parliament. It should always be the province of a joint and concerted effort. Yes, there will be times when we will have different approaches, but the outcome we seek will be the same.

I asked the library to undertake some research into how much we spend on smoking per year, nationally and statewide. The library referred me to the *Australian National Accounts: national income, expenditure and products, Sep 2015* report of the ABS. It states that in the four quarters to December 2015, Australians spent \$14 billion on cigarettes and tobacco. In Queensland alone over the same 12-month period, we spent \$2.8 billion on cigarettes and tobacco. That money is literally going up in smoke. Smoking is causing enormous damage to people's health. It is literally putting people into hospital. In many cases those people need treatment on a long-term basis and, sadly, in some cases they die from what they do.

Smoking is addictive and it is a killer. Eight out of 10 teens who try smoking get hooked. Again I go back to when I was a teenager, many years ago, I can assure the House—

Mr Rickuss: You were never a teenager.

Mr McARDLE: I definitely was. I remember friends of mine sneaking behind a house, a shed or the school, where there would be one person with a pack of cigarettes. You would have a cigarette. That was quite common back then. You would have your first cigarette and you would cough and splutter, but it was not long before you picked up the habit. By the time you were 15, 16 or 18, you were a fully-fledged smoker of cigarettes. I started smoking when I was about 21 or 22 and I smoked for a number of years. I do not know what damage I have done physically—I do not say mentally—and I am hoping that with the effluxion of time it has been expunged from my body.

Eight out of 10 teens who try smoking become hooked. Only five per cent of young smokers think that they will be smoking in five years, but within five years 80 per cent of them are heavy smokers. Again, I can remember many occasions when my mates and I would watch football or play cards and the room would be full of smoke. That was the norm; it was quite common. We would be sucking it in on a regular basis. Today that is almost a rarity. Now, people are ushered outside of the home to smoke, because the husband or wife knows about the damage being done to the children and to themselves.

Sixty per cent of smokers try to quit and most try to quit several times before stopping for good. Three or four times I tried to give up smoking. Finally I went cold turkey, which is not pleasant. Tobacco is more addictive and harder to quit than heroin or cocaine, not that I ever took those. Trying to stop smoking is very difficult. It really takes two or three attempts. You have to have mental agility and hardness to make certain you do stop smoking.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr McARDLE: I will not take the interjection from my friend at the end of the table. This legislation deals with a known killer. More importantly, it deals with a killer that the tobacco companies knew about for years and years before FOI or RTI legislation in the United States and in this country dragged that information out of them. Many people passed away because the cigarette companies did not release that data until they were forced to do so. Whether or not it is passive, cigarette smoke can and will kill you. We know that despite all of the evidence some 450,000-odd Queensland adults still smoke on a daily basis. As the health minister said, annually 3,700 Queenslanders die from smoking or smoking related diseases. Let us think about that. I did a quick check: in 2014, about 28,500 to 29,000 Queenslanders died from a multitude of causes or ailments and, of those, 3,700 died from cigarette tobacco or cigarette related diseases. That is a staggering percentage when we consider those two figures.

More importantly, sadly I think all people in this chamber would know at least one person from their family, their extended family or among their friends who has died from smoking related disease. In my family a number of people smoked despite having diabetes, which is a devastating combination. As I look around the chamber, I see heads nodding. People have seen their loved ones die from cancer. People have died from something they need not have died from, if only we had the information and the education many years ago.

When looking at that figure of 3,700, the Cancer Council stated that one-third of those people were of working age and one in 10 people who died from smoking had never smoked themselves. I ask members to think back to the old days when smoking was allowed in bars and hotels. Those working behind the bars and the wait staff were sucking in smoke passively every day of their lives for eight hours at a time. They were taking that disease ridden smoke into their bodies, compromising their immune systems and their lungs. Years later, they developed cancer without ever having had a cigarette touch their lips. That is the danger of passive smoking.

There is no doubt that the jury is well and truly back on the impact of smoking, not just in relation to the economy but also in relation to the degradation it causes to the human body through illnesses and disease. The Cancer Council advises that one-third of smokers die in middle age, losing at least 20 years of their lives. I ask members to think about 20 years of their lives. There are many men and women in this chamber who are either close to middle age or who have passed middle age, such as myself. Let us think about missing 20 years of our children's lives. What would you miss out on? You would miss out on them starting school, graduating from school, graduating from university, getting married and becoming a parent, all because of smoking.

Current smokers will die up to 10 years earlier than nonsmokers. In men smoking causes 84 per cent of lung cancers, 43 per cent of bladder cancers, 20 per cent of kidney cancers and 73 per cent of cancer of the larynx. In women smoking causes 77 per cent of lung cancers, 66 per cent of larynx cancers, 36 per cent of bladder cancers and 21 per cent of kidney cancers.

Overall, smokers have a 70 per cent higher risk of death from coronary disease than nonsmokers. It also increases the risk of heart disease two to six times, the risk of stroke threefold and, in fact, the risk of adverse outcomes increases with the number of years of smoking and the number of cigarettes that are smoked.

The Cancer Council's documentation indicates that between 2004 and 2005 the tangible social cost of tobacco use was \$12 billion. That figure relates to the cost to our health system, to labour, crime and other quantifiable impacts. The tangible costs of tobacco smoking were 38 times higher outside the health system than within the health system.

There are some 36,000 or 37,000 hospitalisations each year from smoking related diseases and cancers. Contemplate the impact that has upon the Health budget. This is not a debate about the cost to the budget, but we must understand that this nation is facing a raft of issues. The reduced cost to the Health budget is one of the good outcomes in relation to this bill's passage through the House. The net labour costs in 2004-05 were \$8 billion and the total health cost was \$318 million.

There are those in this chamber who can attest to what they have seen of people suffering lung cancer and what that does to the family unit. There are paramedics who could attest to going to residences, being in the ED and seeing people they knew. There are doctors in this chamber who can also attest to the impact of lung disease, cancers and the like and what it has meant to them and their family. They have looked in the eyes of the partner or spouse and children of the men or women who have these diseases. They see the great loss in the eyes of those family members.

In days gone by, we used advertising and marketing to sell the message about the impact of smoking. That message did get through. We have now been able to pull back the figure for the number of people who smoke from 26 per cent in days gone by to something like 12 or 13 per cent who smoke on a daily basis now. These are figures that we should be proud of. These are figures that should empower us to drive to make even further advances.

There are those who would try to run the argument that we need a blanket ban on cigarette smoking or a blanket ban on the sale of cigarettes. I cannot agree with that. We know historically what it has meant for overseas nations that have moved towards prohibition. There is a thriving market for chop-chop, illegal tobacco, in this state and Australia. Banning smoking is not a solution. It is a matter of education, it is a matter of example and it is a matter of governments taking the important steps they can to deal with the issue.

Before I move on I want to thank the health committee for the great work they did in relation to my bill and the government's bill. The minister made the comment that, without a shadow of a doubt, this is a very busy committee. It certainly is now that the communities committee has been wrapped up and their work moved into the health committee. They did excellent work on both bills and endorse both bills being passed by the House.

I take this opportunity to highlight the bipartisan approach of the LNP in relation to this bill and the Mental Health Bill debated last sitting. I reaffirm our commitment to bipartisanship and introducing more strident antismoking legislation.

The bill has very clear aims. It moves to protect the community, particularly the health of young people, from the effects of second-hand smoke by extending smoking bans at outdoor pedestrian malls, public transport waiting points, including bus, ferry and taxi points, public swimming facilities, skate parks, sporting grounds and spectator areas during organised under-age sporting events, early childhood education and care facilities and public and private residential aged-care facilities, except in nominated areas.

There is no doubt that tougher antismoking legislation is needed as it is estimated that 55 per cent of young men and 51 per cent of young women who start smoking at age 15 will die before the age of 70 if they continue to smoke. Critically for this bill, medical opinion highlights the impact that active and passive smoking have on our health. Medical bodies, the Queensland Cancer Council and others want us to make a clear and decisive step forward. They want to ensure that the public are aware of the impact of smoking and, more importantly, what governments can do to alleviate the impact of such smoking.

Smoke-free public areas will save lives and improve Queenslanders' health. In fact, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission support provisions that would see smoking banned more extensively in public areas, particularly those where young people are most likely to be present such as sport and recreational areas. They advised that the proposed provisions are a 'very positive proactive step to protect the wellbeing of young people and other members of the community.'

In answer to questions on why this bill is required, one should listen to the WHO, the World Health Organization, on why second-hand smoke is dangerous to us. Second-hand smoke releases some 4,000 chemicals as smoke that are directly inhaled, but in even greater quantities. About 50 of these chemicals cause cancer. Because it burns at a lower temperature than inhaled smoke, side steam contains: three times more tar, which gums up lungs and breathing passages; five times more carbon monoxide, which reduces the amount of oxygen in the blood; 10 times more benzene, which is a poison used in insecticides; and 40 times more ammonia, which is commonly used in household cleaners.

In addition, there are 30 metals detected in tobacco smoke including nickel, arsenic, cadmium and lead. These metals are indeed carcinogens and are likely to cause cancer. In addition to that, turpentine and other products, such as carbon monoxide, are contained in the burning tobacco and constitute a major risk to anybody who is either a smoker or passive smoker of cigarettes.

The bill also provides for smoking to be banned at prescribed national parks or parts of parks and prescribed outdoor government precincts. I will have more to say about outdoor government precincts in the consideration in detail stage. It also empowers local governments to make laws banning smoking at any outdoor public place not covered by smoking laws.

To reduce second-hand smoke exposure it is important to enforce the regulations stipulated in this bill which call for initiatives that include a smoke-free environment and designated no smoking public areas. As we know, tobacco is the highest contributor to the epidemic of non-communicable diseases such as heart attack, stroke, cancer and emphysema, which account for 63 per cent of deaths around the world. More than half of young people aged 13 to 15 are exposed to second-hand smoke at home and 64 per cent are exposed to second-hand smoke in public places.

The World Health Organization global report estimates that by 2030 tobacco will kill more than eight million people globally if action is not taken now. This is why action has to be taken now before it is too late. Just on that point, I note that the major tobacco companies are focused predominantly in the Asian region because they do not have legislation such as this. They do not have advertising as we have had in this nation. In my opinion, these tobacco companies are simply wreaking death across these nations for their own personal financial gain. It is a sad reality that an organisation or organisations who know that their products are indeed killers are taking advantage of Third World countries and people who live there for their own personal financial gain, and that is an absolute horror as far as I am concerned.

Restricting the places where smoking is permitted is an effective strategy for reducing harm from second-hand smoke. It can also motivate existing smokers to smoke less and quit. The bill before the House today builds upon these provisions and extends smoke-free areas across Queensland to include other areas in which the public and in particular young people congregate and where children are invariably present.

The bill before the House continues the work of successive governments, both Labor and LNP, in preventing young people and, indeed, all people from taking up this habit. It prevents a lot of misery. It prevents a lot of outcomes for families that we do not wish upon our worst enemy. More importantly, I think it sets the tone for this state and this nation to ensure that we tackle the issues that need to be tackled not just in terms of smoking but in terms of chronic disease as well.

I conclude on one final point, and I repeat this: governments of all colours can do as much as they like. At the end of the day it comes down to the individual to make choices. It comes down to us as individuals to make the call. The minister has said in the past that the patient's journey begins at the GP. I disagree. The patient's journey begins in the womb. The patient's journey begins in how we as parents, or grandparents as the case may be, educate and show our children and our grandchildren what to eat and what to drink and what not to eat and what not to drink. I firmly believe it is in those very informative years that the mind of a child is in large measure programmed as to what to consume and what not to consume. I agree that the bills are important. But I also make the clear point that as a society individually we are equally responsible for our own outcomes.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.41 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill, which amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to strengthen Queensland's tobacco laws. As a responsible government, we should, and I believe must, do what we can in terms of keeping a safe and healthy society. In relation to this smoke-free places bill, we are demonstrating that very point. As a member of the Health and Ambulance Services Committee, I make my contribution to this bill which sets out at its very core the aim to create more smoke-free places in an attempt to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke.

As another ex-smoker—and I concur with the previous member, the member for Caloundra, that it is well and truly a challenge; it was over a decade ago that I quit and it was not easy but, knowing all the risks to health, I am glad I did—I commend our government on doing all that it can to promote a healthier society. After losing an uncle to lung cancer some years ago—he was a chronic smoker for most of his adult life—to see him and his immediate family go through the trauma of caring for a loved one until his death in his mid-50s was terrible and extremely sad for the entire family.

This is unfortunately a story that too many Queensland families endure all too commonly. In my years as a paramedic, I have seen firsthand the devastating effects of chronic obstructive airways disease, as it is commonly referred to, and I have gone into people's homes whose lives are changed and limited due to relying on oxygen to keep their oxygen levels up simply to live. We must do all we can to reduce the effects of smoking in our society and particularly for young people who may take up this terrible habit that is very difficult to break, and we should provide all the support we can to help people quit.

The evidence has been in for a very long time. We know that tobacco products are harmful, toxic and carcinogenic. They are the only legal product on the market today that kills 50 per cent of its consumers when used as intended. Queensland has done well in recent years to reduce the number of smokers thanks to ongoing programs providing education and support and incentives to quit, but much more can be done. Eighty-five per cent of Queenslanders are nonsmokers. I know it is ambitious but we should be reaching for 100 per cent.

Let us look at some facts from the experts in this field, the Cancer Council Queensland. They report that tobacco smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and disease and health inequality in Queensland. I will say that again: the leading cause of preventable death. One-third of smokers die in middle age, losing at least 20 years of life, as was my experience losing my uncle some years ago. Studies have shown that the risks of dying increases with the number of cigarettes smoked. Smoking just 10 cigarettes per day doubles your risk of dying and smoking more than 25 per cigarettes per day increases that fourfold compared to those who have never smoked. Current smokers are estimated to die on average 10 years earlier than nonsmokers.

Two of every three deaths in current long-term smokers can be directly attributed to smoking. Tobacco smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals, over 70 of which are known to cause cancer. When you inhale cigarette smoke, these chemicals enter your lungs and spread through your body via blood and the lymphatic system. As soon as you quit smoking, there are immediate and long-term health benefits, even if you already suffer from smoking related health problems. Quitting smoking reduces your risk of dying prematurely, with quitting earlier resulting in greater reductions.

Chemicals in tobacco will also affect people who are exposed to your cigarette smoke. Second-hand or passive smoking poses health risks to everyone around you. It has also been associated with sudden infant death syndrome and asthma in children. Forty-two per cent of lung cancer deaths occur in the 45- to 64-year age group. Mortality rates increase substantially with increased prevalence of smoking. Smoking accounts for one in seven deaths in Queensland—one in seven.

We have heard already from previous speakers that 3,700 Queenslanders are dying annually from tobacco related conditions like chronic obstructive airways disease, hypertension, acute coronary syndrome, diabetes and stroke. Yes, it is all linked as many smokers simply live an unhealthy lifestyle, have poor diet and, subsequently, have all the comorbidities as described, as they do not exercise routinely due to perhaps becoming short of breath and fatigued too quickly. Smoking is a killer. It is as simple as that.

The most worrying statistic, however, is the fact that one in 10 people who die from smoking related diseases have never smoked themselves. That is truly alarming. Queensland Health and the Chief Health Officer have previously advised that quit-smoking strategies have been effective. A concern remains that, although the prevalence of smoking has decreased, the actual rate of decrease is slowing; hence the desire to urgently act to continue historical rates of progress. These measures of smoke-free places will be, if passed, part of our legacy as a responsible government who continues to address the health and welfare of our state's citizens by putting in these altogether responsible amendments in the bill.

There has been a good and positive message to the public that our governments have adopted in terms of, like in other states, an incremental approach to smoking bans. In 2001, we saw smoking bans in outdoor public places, including eating and drinking places, entrances to public buildings and children's playgrounds. In 2005, we saw smoking bans in sports stadiums. In 2010, Queensland introduced smoking bans in cars carrying children under the age of 16. My fellow member next to me and I were just recalling when smoking in planes and smoking in hospitals was legal all those years ago. I think we have come a long way.

The existing legislation makes it illegal to smoke inside pubs, clubs, restaurants and workplaces in Queensland. Other areas such as major sports stadiums, outdoor eating areas and patrolled beaches are also off limits. The proposed laws would ban smoking within 10 metres of children's organised sporting events and skate parks, and within five metres of early childhood education facilities such as kindergartens and out-of-school care. Aged-care facilities would also be smoke-free except in designated areas to account for residents who already smoke.

Pedestrian malls, bus stops, train stations and some national parks will become smoke-free, and the buffer at the entry points to Queensland government buildings will increase from four to five metres. The bill will ban smoking at all outdoor pedestrian malls, public transport waiting points, public swimming facilities, skate parks, sporting grounds and spectator areas during organised under-age sporting events, and early childhood education and care facilities, as I have said. In addition, the bill will enable smoking to be banned at prescribed national parks, or parts of national parks, and prescribed outdoor government precincts. The sale of smoking products from temporary retail outlets, such as pop-up stalls, which are popular at youth festivals, will be banned.

The bill also gives local councils the power to transform any street or public space in their area not covered by state no-smoking laws into smoke-free zones such as restaurant precincts and shopping strips. The bill makes minor and technical amendments to clarify the smoking ban at major event facilities; to clarify that the smoking ban at health facilities and school land applies to persons in motor vehicles; to extend the smoke-free area at the entrances to non-residential buildings from four metres to five metres; to remove references to nursing homes in light of the new smoking ban at residential aged-care facilities; to clarify the interaction between smoking bans and outdoor smoking areas; and to clarify requirements around the display of no-smoking signs at licensed premises.

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission supported provisions that would see smoking banned more extensively in public areas, particularly those where young people are most likely to be present such as sports and recreational areas. They advised that the proposed provisions are a very positive proactive step to protect the wellbeing of young people and other members of the community. The ban on smoking at early childhood education and care facilities, and on land within five metres beyond the boundary of the facility, is supported by a number of submitters. No objections—not one—to the provisions were received.

Katie Clift, the spokesperson for the Queensland Cancer Council, said that the new laws would protect people from passive smoke. She said that the laws will encourage existing smokers to quit and prevent more people from taking up the habit. Immediately they will safeguard the community from the very real dangers of second-hand smoke.

Cancer Council Queensland Chief Executive, Professor Jeff Dunn, said that these laws would be a positive step towards a smoke-free state. 'These proposed changes will safeguard people from second-hand smoke, encourage more smokers to quit and prevent more young people from taking up this lethal habit,' he said. Children and young people will benefit significantly through discouragement of generational smoking and reduced exposure to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

The Campbell Newman government introduced reforms to smoking regulations in January 2015 that allowed for on-the-spot penalties of \$220. The legislation banned smoking at all school and hospital outdoor areas as well as a five-metre buffer around the perimeter. As the then health minister, Lawrence Springborg, indicated, the reforms were important as there was no safe level of smoking for smokers or those around them. He went on to say about the legislation, 'Whenever we get the chance we will move to further restrict access to free smoking places in Queensland.' Today we get to do that very thing. We already have in Queensland the toughest antismoking laws in the country, and they will continue to be toughened over time to save people, to reduce the burden on public health and to make sure people live longer, healthier lives.

I need to acknowledge the work of my peers on the committee and that of the secretariat. I thank everybody for their submissions and comments. I do believe that Queensland is leading the way in terms of smoking reform. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the government's Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. The Health and Ambulance Services Committee was charged with looking at two bills related to tobacco reform—the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill, a private member's bill introduced in July last year, and the government's Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill introduced in November last year. Both bills share a common objective—to further decrease the incidence of smoking in Queensland by strengthening smoking bans.

When introducing the private member's bill, the shadow health minister and member for Caloundra made the comment that, while the prevalence of smoking has decreased by 26 per cent over the decade since 2004, the rate of decrease has slowed over recent years and that new measures are required to continue historical rates of progress. The private member's bill sought to achieve this objective by extending smoking bans to five metres within all state government buildings, all transport waiting areas and pedestrian malls, public swimming pools and skate parks, and to ban the sale of cigarettes at pop-up sales venues.

The committee received 16 written submissions and held a public hearing where the committee heard evidence from invited witnesses on the private member's bill. The overwhelming majority of submitters were supportive of the proposed legislation. The Cancer Council in its submission provided an overview of the current prevalence of smoking in Queensland, which I outline now for the benefit of members. About 17 per cent of Queenslanders are currently smokers. Fourteen per cent of Queenslanders smoke daily whereas the remaining three per cent are non-daily smokers. Twenty-eight per cent of Queenslanders are ex-smokers, so it can be done. Fifty-five per cent have never smoked. 15.8 years is the average age of the first full cigarette for persons aged 14 years or older. Fifteen per cent of women still smoke at some time during their pregnancy. Of that 15 per cent, 13 per cent will smoke throughout the whole pregnancy. A total of 500,000 Queensland adults are current smokers.

Despite significant advancements, tobacco smoking remains a leading cause of preventable death and disease. The Cancer Council submission estimated that one-third of smokers die in middle age, losing at least 20 years of life, and that current smokers will die an average of 10 years earlier than nonsmokers, with mortality rates increasing substantially with the increased intensity of smoking. I do not provide these statistics to be alarmist, but they are alarming. As my fellow committee members know, this is one of those hot buttons for me. I watched a grandparent who never smoked a day in her life die a very painful death due to passive smoking. I also buried two parents at far too young an age from non-preventable forms of cancer to understand why anyone would willingly choose this path for themselves or their family. Attitudes towards smoking tobacco have changed significantly, with governments across Australia and abroad moving to institute legislation to ban the smoking of tobacco products in public places and, in so doing, reduce the impact of passive smoke on others.

Queensland, like other states and territories, has taken an incremental approach to smoking bans over a number of years. The phased introduction of smoking bans in specified enclosed public places has progressed to outdoor public places including eating and drinking places, entrances to public buildings, patrolled beaches, outdoor swimming areas and children's playgrounds. Importantly, the approach of this public health issue has not only included bans but also education and support programs to assist preventing people, particularly young people, from taking up smoking and assisting others to quit. In evidence provided by the Chief Health Officer at the public hearing, she said—

Over many years Queensland has implemented a proven multistrategy approach which aims to increase protection from second-hand smoke, support smokers to quit and prevent youth uptake. Our strategies include: creating smoke-free environments by law and policy; implementing quit-smoking campaigns to remind smokers of the dangers of smoking and encourage them to take action; providing tailored quit-smoking advice through the Quitline service—33,000 people call that line each year

...

Taken all together, these strategies have been proven to influence healthier behaviours and strengthen community expectations for more smoke-free environments. Indeed, three-quarters of Queenslanders tell us that they actively avoid places where they are exposed to other people's smoke.

As mentioned earlier, the intent of the private member's bill to decrease the incidence of smoking in Queensland received widespread support from submitters including the Cancer Council and Australian Medical Association Queensland. A number of submissions, however, considered that the bans did not go far enough including the Cancer Council Queensland, Heart Foundation and Public Health Association of Australia, Queensland branch. Others provided qualified support and highlighted what they considered were flaws in the proposed legislation. With regard to the provision banning smoking within five metres of all state government buildings, a number of issues were raised relating to enforcement, signage and consistency with existing provisions. The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service provided a detailed submission highlighting potential confusion that could arise from the term 'building', that in the absence of any formal definition of the term, confusion could arise as to whether the building itself included attachments, such as awnings, walkways and undercover driveways. The committee considered that what constitutes a building needs to be clarified and where the five-metre boundary ends so as to avoid uncertainty in the application of the proposed legislation.

With regard to the provision banning smoking at skate parks, a number of submitters considered that, to be consistent with existing bans on smoking in children's playgrounds, the five-metre ban under the bill should be extended to 10 metres. The committee recommended that the bill be amended to ensure consistency between the proposed provision banning smoking at or near a skate park and the existing provision banning smoking near children's playground equipment.

Definitional issues also arose with regard to clause 6 of the private member's bill, banning smoking at public swimming pools. As drafted, the term 'other body of water' in the definition of 'public swimming pool' could be interpreted to include any part of a beach, lake, dam, creek or river throughout Queensland. While supporting the intent of the amended provision to ban smoking at swimming pools and associated areas where young people in particular are more likely to frequent, the committee recommended that the definition of 'public swimming pool' be reviewed to ensure the ban only refers to those areas to which it was intended to apply.

During the committee's deliberations issue was raised with the explanatory notes to the private member's bill. Explanatory notes are designed to ensure effective parliamentary scrutiny of bills and to assist legal practitioners and courts in interpreting legislation. The notes provided were minimal and did not contain all of the information required to assist the committee to understand the technical aspects of the bill. The notes contained numerous typographical and grammatical errors and did not address every clause or provide an appropriate narrative to explain the purpose or operation of each clause. I note that amended explanatory notes were circulated during the last sitting week for the benefit of the House, and I thank the shadow health minister for taking on the committee's feedback in this regard.

Overall, the committee made five recommendations in regard to the private member's bill: that the definition of 'government building', what constitutes a building and the requirements for signage be reviewed to ensure there is certainty in regard to the area in which the ban is to operate; the bill be amended to ensure there is consistency between the proposed provision banning smoking at or near a skate park and the existing provision banning smoking at children's playground equipment; the definition of 'public swimming pool' be reviewed to ensure the bans imposed under the bill only refer to those areas to which they were intended to refer; the definition of 'public transport waiting point' be reviewed to ensure the bans imposed under the bill extend to an appropriate area at or near the waiting point where people may gather when waiting to use public transport; and, finally, that the bill be passed.

During its inquiry, the committee noted a statement from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services on 21 September 2015 that the government is working on a range of initiatives to reduce smoking and that the minister considered that there is more that can be done. The committee were in agreement that any practical measures to reduce the incidence of smoking in Queensland should be supported, noting within our report that any additional measures brought forward by the minister be considered as the bill progressed.

The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015, the government bill, was introduced into the House on 10 November 2015. The Minister for Health and Ambulance Services outlined within his introductory speech the key objective of the bill: to create more smoke-free places, reduce exposure to second-hand smoke, reduce the normalcy and social acceptability of smoking behaviours, and provide smoke-free environments to help people quit smoking. In his speech the minister outlined the significant impact that strong smoke-free laws, in conjunction with retail restrictions, quit-smoking campaigns and targeted services to help people stop smoking, have had on reducing the smoking rates in Queensland, outlining a 30 per cent reduction since 2001, when the Beattie Labor government commenced initiatives to expand the number of smoke-free places in Queensland. However, the minister also stated that even though a significant reduction has occurred, every day almost 10 Queenslanders die from a smoking related illness. One of these 10 people will be a nonsmoker who has died from an illness related to inhaling other people's smoke. This is why smoking is a key health priority of the government and the reason for the introduction of the government bill.

The government bill seeks to achieve a further reduction in smoking behaviours by prohibiting smoking at: all outdoor pedestrian malls; all public transport waiting points, including within five metres of the public transport waiting point; all public swimming facilities; within 10 metres of a skate park; sporting grounds or viewing areas during organised under-age sporting events, including within 10 metres of the sporting ground or viewing area; early childhood education and care facilities, including a five-metre buffer around the facility; residential aged-care facilities, including a five-metre buffer around the facility; prescribed national parks; and prescribed government precincts.

The committee received 20 written submissions and held a public hearing, where the committee heard evidence from invited witnesses including: the Cancer Council of Queensland, the Heart Foundation and the Local Government Association of Queensland. The overwhelming majority of submitters were supportive of the government legislation. Dr Jeanette Young, Chief Health Officer, gave evidence to the committee that—

We are living longer and we are smoking less. Some 86 per cent of Queensland adults do not smoke anymore. We are making a difference. ... however, tobacco smoking remains a leading health challenge. Tobacco related deaths and hospitalisations are still too high.

Both the Cancer Council of Queensland and the Department of Health noted in evidence provided to the committee that, although the prevalence of smoking has decreased, the rate of that decrease is slowing. The Cancer Council asserted that this slowing signals that new measures are now urgently required to continue historical rates of progress.

Provisions contained in the bill are clearly reflective of a growing community expectation that people, especially children, will be protected from second-hand smoke. Young people are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and are more likely to view smoking as desirable the more often they see people smoking. As a parent, I am very pleased and relieved to see the actions proposed in regard to early childhood education and care facilities, public swimming facilities, under-age sporting events—all of which I frequent with my two young boys—and skate parks to which I will now turn. The act does not currently regulate smoking at or near skate parks or under-age sporting events. The bill contains a new provision to prohibit smoking at a sporting ground or viewing area for a water sport during an organised under-age sporting event or training session and introduces a provision to prohibit smoking at or near skate parks. The government bill will ban smoking within 10 metres of such events where children under 18 years are the main participants and within 10 metres of any part of a skate park. The private member's bill deals only with skate parks, prohibiting smoking within five metres of such a park. The committee was of the view that smoking should be prohibited within 10 metres of an under-age sporting event and at skate parks to ensure there is consistency with the existing provision banning smoking near children's playground equipment. The Cancer Council was supportive of the greater protections provided for under the government bill.

Further protections are also provided for early childhood education and care facilities under the government bill. Currently, an approved education and care service must provide a tobacco-, drug- and alcohol-free environment under their service. However, this tobacco-free environment does not extend

to the perimeter around the facility. As we all know, cigarette smoke travels. Amendments introduced by the government bill will create a smoke-free environment at, and in the vicinity of, early childhood education and care facilities.

The current act contains six prescribed outdoor swimming areas. Both bills propose to broaden the ban to mean a pool or other body of water that is open to the public for swimming. The definition contained in the government bill overcomes a definitional issue in the private member's bill and was supported by the committee.

Something which has elicited a number of letters to my office is public transport waiting points: bus stops, taxi ranks and ferry terminals. Public transport waiting points are an area where nonsmokers are regularly exposed to second-hand smoke. Elderly passengers and mothers with young children—among others, of course—can be seen standing away from bus shelters, which contain seats and shelter from weather, to avoid the effect of someone smoking over their pram, their children and themselves. Some local governments, such as Ipswich City Council and Fraser Coast Regional Council, have already declared that all bus stops and taxi ranks within their respective local government areas are smoke-free areas following amendments in 2010 giving councils discretionary powers to make local laws prohibiting smoking at certain places, including such public transport waiting points; however, the introduction of such bans has not been uniform across the state. A more consistent statewide approach is needed. The effect of this provision is that a local government will no longer have the ability to opt in to make local laws banning smoking at public transport waiting points as it will already be an offence under the act for a person to do so. This bill will enable such waiting points to achieve the same smoke-free status as railway, busway and light-rail platforms have under state transport legislation. The provision also gives effect to recommendation 5 of the committee's report on the private member's bill to extend the ban to include the queue and five metres beyond it.

An issue of equal frustration and concern is outdoor pedestrian malls. The community has an expectation that people will not be exposed to second-hand smoke at busy public outdoor areas. This has been raised with me time and time again, with people confused over a perception that pedestrian malls are already supposed to be smoke-free, but do not appear to be or only have sporadic bans. Currently, local governments have the ability under the tobacco act to create local laws banning smoking in these places, but to date only five local governments have prohibited smoking at the public transport waiting points referred to earlier and outdoor pedestrian malls in their local government area. I commend those local governments that have acted, but we need to ensure that all outdoor pedestrian malls are smoke-free areas.

Feedback on the provisions that prohibit smoking at regulated outdoor pedestrian malls and public transport waiting points varied from strong support to opposition relating to challenges regarding implementation. The Local Government Association of Queensland, Logan City Council, Ipswich City Council, Brisbane City Council and Gold Coast City Council all made submissions to the bill. Most were generally supportive of the provisions but raised concerns including the removal of local council power to decide whether and where to prohibit smoking and issues associated with the enforcement of the new provisions. There are a number of agencies responsible for enforcement: hospital and health services, local governments and the Queensland Police Service. Smoking bans are primarily enforced by Queensland Health and environmental health officers who, as authorised persons under the tobacco act, can issue individual warnings and on-the-spot fines; issue business improvement notices, warnings and on-the-spot fines; respond to complaints; inspect premises; and initiate legal proceedings for breaches of the tobacco laws.

The tobacco act provides that both state and local governments have a role in the enforcement of smoking bans. While local governments have a role, nothing in the act imposes a duty on a local government to enforce the provision. This role of local governments in enforcement remains largely unchanged under the bills. The council of the City of Gold Coast considered that, although there was no duty on a local government to enforce smoking bans in outdoor areas, they felt that such provisions raise community expectations for local governments to provide what they consider to be an essentially unfunded new service to the community. The Local Government Association of Queensland submitted that flexibility and discretionary powers for councils to tackle enforcement action is required and deemed most appropriate to allow for differing circumstances across local government areas.

The committee acknowledges the concerns expressed by some local councils, but found that laws have been applied inconsistently across local government jurisdictions and considered that the benefits of the proposed legislation far outweigh the concerns conveyed.

The remaining provisions relate to prohibiting a supplier from selling smoking products from a temporary retail store to limit young people's exposure to the sale and promotion of smoking products; prohibit smoking at a government precinct prescribed in regulation, making it an offence to smoke at both public and private residential aged-care facilities or on land within five metres beyond the boundary of a residential aged-care facility; and banning smoking at national parks. These reforms, both the government and private member's bills, reflect the parliament's commitment to continue the momentum of Queensland's tobacco control efforts.

There are a number of similar provisions in the bills and some additional provisions in the government bill. The government bill gives effect to the five recommendations contained in the committee's report on the private member's bill and, in my opinion, is a superior bill for the additional protections it affords with regard to: increased buffers at skate parks, sporting grounds or viewing areas at organised under-age sporting events; at early childhood education and care facilities; at residential aged-care facilities; national parks; and prescribed government precincts.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their constructive approach to considering the bills. I would like to thank those who made written submissions and witnesses who provided evidence at public hearings. Thank you to the Department of Health representatives who briefed the committee and the secretariat. Finally I thank the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services for bringing forward these important health improvements that will protect my children and the broader community. I commend the government bill to the House.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (4.15 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to speak to the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. As we have heard, the objectives of the amendment to this bill are clear: to decrease the incidence of smoking in Queensland. We have heard the welcome news that the prevalence of smoking has decreased by 26 per cent over the decade since 2004; however, we have also heard that the rate of decrease has slowed over recent years and therefore new measures, such as extending smoking bans to other public areas, are now proposed.

This bill will provide a clear, consistent and enforceable message about the dangers of passive smoking right throughout the state, because the figures are sobering. Each year 3,400 Queenslanders die from smoking related illnesses. The Queensland Cancer Council estimates that smoking accounts for approximately \$6.1 billion every year in health costs resulting from over 36,000 hospitalisations, lost productivity and premature death to many Queenslanders. As such, this bill proposes to ban smoking within five metres from all state government buildings; ban smoking at all transport waiting areas and pedestrian malls; ban smoking at public swimming pools and skate parks; and ban the sale of cigarette at pop-up sales venues.

As a former smoker myself, it is sobering to realise that second-hand smoke harms children and adults, and the only way to protect nonsmokers is to eliminate smoking in all homes, worksites and public places. Second-hand smoke is smoke from burning tobacco products as well as smoke that has been exhaled or breathed out by a person who is smoking. Tobacco smoke contains 7,000 chemicals, including hundreds that are toxic and about 70 that are linked to cancer. Despite the known dangers of smoking, it remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in western society. In addition to being a leading cause of cancer, smoking is also linked to an extensive range of serious and life-threatening diseases such as heart disease and stroke.

Banning smoking within five metres of all government buildings will discourage smokers from clustering around building entrances and will lessen exposure to second-hand smoke when entering, exiting and passing by government facilities. I think this change will be welcomed by many, as running the gauntlet through a haze of smoke when entering, exiting or even passing by a government building, particularly here in the Brisbane CBD, has become all too familiar. I am concerned, however, that this particular ban may just displace smoking activities to neighbouring properties, so this is an area that will need to be closely monitored. I note that both the Queensland Cancer Council and Heart Foundation consider that the ban should be extended to all non-residential buildings as well as multi-unit residential buildings, which is an idea worth exploring in this context.

When the member for Caloundra briefed the committee he emphasised that the rule of five metres is to prevent clustering and passive smoking. He acknowledged that there will be issues as we go forward, but we can address them and I believe this is a pragmatic approach to a huge problem. The issue of enforcement was a topic of lively debate during the committee hearing and was raised in several of the submissions, both from the perspective of the entities responsible for enforcement and

the public, who expect the laws to be enforced. There seems to be confusion as to who will be responsible for enforcing the new bans and the number of agencies responsible for enforcement: hospital and health services, local government and the Queensland Police Service.

The committee acknowledged the potential challenges that have been raised by local councils in enforcing bans, with the optional role of local government—it remains largely unchanged by this bill—drawing the most criticism of the smoking ban regime. However, much like random breath tests and speed cameras, authorised officers will be able to target individual hot spots where smoking in banned areas is known or suspected to occur.

The primary intent of the bill is to ban smoking in relevant areas and create an environment in which smokers get the message that smoking is banned in areas. It is not only unacceptable; it is also an offence. The importance of this bill should not be underestimated.

I grew up in an era when smoking was cool. We saw the Marlboro Man riding through the Snowy Mountains and it was cool—and I do not mean Kool cigarettes. At that time all of my friends smoked. Only one of my friends did not smoke or drink—still to this day—but so many of us have smoked and have given it up. We have heard that from many members already and I am sure will continue to hear that throughout this debate.

I stopped smoking in the year 2000. It was an exciting time. I got involved in politics. Maybe that did it to me. I am not too sure. I think it was the cough I woke up with every day. When I got up in the morning I would decide that I needed to cough. I did not like it. So many people who still smoke have the exact same cough. There is a message from that cough: it is not healthy. Smoking will not do your body any good at all.

We need to look at how Queensland and Australia have changed over the years. One of the committee members who spoke earlier was right on the money. We all caught planes and there was a little cigarette dispenser in the middle of the plane. That no longer exists. It is unconscionable that we actually allowed people to smoke in hospitals when so many people are now being put in hospital from this very scourge.

I think we need to go so much further. Australia used to grow tobacco. We do not grow tobacco in this country anymore. The only tobacco grown is chop-chop and it is illegal. Growing chop-chop is a criminal offence probably worse than growing marijuana. Today, people who smoke marijuana go to court and get a slap on the wrist, while somebody caught growing chop-chop, or tobacco, as was legal in this country a number of years ago, will go to jail for quite some time.

I think we need to look at what tobacco smoking does to people and how it affects the children of the future, our friends and our families. We have all seen the implications of smoking. Slowly but surely, the incidence of tobacco smoking has slowed down, but over the past couple of years, as stated by other speakers and by me earlier, it has picked up again. Young girls are starting to smoke. They are thinking it is cool. Somehow, some way, I believe we have to go much further than we are going today.

I thank the shadow minister for the bill he put forward. I also thank the minister. I do not think anybody in the House could possibly vote against this bill today. I think it would be insane to do so, because we know that stopping smoking will save people's lives in the long term.

Smoking is addictive and it is very expensive. Already today we have heard that it kills people, yet it is legal. It is legal to smoke, yet we know what impact smoking has on the health system. It costs \$6.1 billion in Queensland alone. Just imagine what we could deliver with that \$6.1 billion. We could build three hospitals like the one now being constructed on the Sunshine Coast. It could help people who have real problems and no choice.

People do have choices when it comes to smoking. In that respect, going to the shop and buying a packet of cigarettes is no different from sticking a needle in your arm or drinking alcohol and then driving while drunk. We probably all know somebody—someone in our family or someone close to us—who still smokes. I implore all people throughout Queensland to try to help them, because smoking is the most difficult thing to give away. I know that from personal experience. We will hear that from other members, as we heard it earlier. The shadow minister smoked. I smoked. People in the government have smoked. It is a very tough thing to give away.

I remember the helpline. I am not trying to discredit the people who man it, but I remember ringing them up and thinking how bloody useless they were. It did not do me any good. I actually stopped smoking for eight months before I picked it up again. I was very foolish. I then stopped for nine months

and picked it up again. I drank a few beers with a few mates and smelled other people's cigarette smoke and thought, 'I have to have one.' Still to this day when I smell people smoking around the place that old memory comes back and I think, 'Do I really want to have one?' The answer is no. Those of us who know people who smoke have to do everything we can to help them go through this process, to make it easier for them.

Earlier the shadow minister compared tobacco smoking to using heroin. What an amazing thing. How bad is heroin? It kills people. It destroys families. People who take heroin steal from their families. They eventually die from it but they destroy their family on the journey. Smoking is not quite as bad, but it still kills individuals in the long term and it still has a huge cost impact on society.

I think it all comes back to governments—state governments or the federal government—determining what is our goal. Is it deriving a tax from smoking and thinking we are going okay or is it spending on other things the \$6.1 billion that could be saved in Queensland alone? That amount can be extrapolated across the country. The effects of smoking represent a huge financial cost and burden, but I come back to the point that it is addictive and expensive and it kills people. We all know that, but are we doing anything to stop it?

Should smoking tobacco be made illegal? I think we as a society need to start to talk about whether politicians should be happy to allow it to go on. I know that people have choice, but I have said three times already that this choice is addictive, is expensive and kills people and we are allowing this to happen in our society. The debate needs to be had and I am sure the fight will go on.

I personally thank each and every member who will vote in favour of this bill today. I thank the shadow health minister and I thank the Minister for Health. This is good legislation. I thank the chair, the committee members and the secretariat for all of their work. I also thank the people who came forward and put their cases, particularly the Cancer Council. They are up against it but they are doing a good job.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. I start by thanking the committee. We just heard a great speech from the member for Buderim, who displayed a great deal of passion during the discussion and approached this issue from the perspective of someone who has beaten the terrible addiction of smoking. I also thank the witnesses who took the time to make submissions and who certainly expanded my thinking on these issues. In particular I acknowledge and thank the Heart Foundation, the Cancer Council Queensland, the National Stroke Foundation and Diabetes Queensland. They all do tremendous work in our community and play an incredibly important role in community health education. No doubt they have contributed to many, many people ceasing smoking and many, many more not taking it up in the first place. I also thank the environmental health officers in Queensland Health and the many local government officers, general practitioners and nurses who all play a part in the reduction of smoking rates. I am pleased to say that we have now reduced the incidence of smoking to around 14 or 15 per cent.

I could speak about the wasted life that I have seen personally—people dying too early and too often from lung cancer and other smoking related cancers. I could speak about the people I have nursed—the repeated, ongoing admissions for those people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and emphysema, watching the slow decline with the inevitable outcome. But the statistics speak for themselves. Fifty per cent of consumers are killed by tobacco products if they are consumed as intended. That is an incredible statistic. If two of us take up smoking together, one of us will die if we continue to use tobacco. That is an incredible statistic.

One-third of smokers die, losing about 20 years off their life, and we lose the vast majority of those people in a period of their life where they have much to offer in terms of work, much to offer in terms of their community and much to offer in terms of their family. It is a tragic waste of life. Smoking and tobacco products are the leading cause of preventable death. One in seven deaths in Queensland is caused by tobacco related conditions. As I mentioned, we have managed to drive down smoking rates. Some 85 per cent of Queenslanders are not in fact smokers, but sadly many of those Queenslanders are exposed to second-hand smoke. Sadly, of the deaths caused by smoking related diseases, up to 10 per cent of those deaths are occurring in people who have never smoked. One in 10 people is dying of smoking related causes when those people have never put a cigarette to their mouth.

We know that children and young people are particularly vulnerable to second-hand smoke. I have a great deal of personal experience in caring for people with those various conditions and, like most members of this House, have grown up in an environment where smoking was common and

accepted. However, I really want to talk about the micro-economics of smoking and consider the policy options available to governments. Consumers make rational decisions using perfect information to weigh up costs and benefits. While that is sound micro-economic theory, none of it really makes sense with smoking—or perhaps it does. None of those conditions really exist.

Many of the current consumers were exposed to smoking via passive mechanisms at a very early age. They were exposed to an incredibly addictive substance at an age where they lacked the capacity to make rational decisions. We know from history that young people and children have been specifically targeted because of this vulnerability to the addictiveness of the substance and their lack of rationality. The information has been interfered with as well. There has been an active and thankfully fading and failing lobby peddling misinformation for 40 or 50 years trying every trick in the book to interfere with information that would allow a rational consumer to make decisions about smoking and/or tobacco use.

So we have people unable to make rational decisions and unable to access decent information. Let us look at the weighing up of costs and benefits that a rational consumer has to make. A cost-benefit analysis is difficult, particularly for younger consumers. Personally, I could not tell members what the benefits of smoking are. I have tried it, of course, but I could not see what drives you to keep going other than the need to satisfy an addictive crave. The personal impacts on health for younger consumers seem very far in the future and, from an economic perspective, are very discounted by young consumers. In fact, for younger consumers, the rebellious act of smoking fits their penchant for risk-taking behaviour and perhaps represents somewhat of a benefit. But the real costs from smoking and tobacco use are borne by every single person in our society. We all pay a cost.

What are the government responses? What are the possibilities and the options that we have to try to tackle this problem that is doing so much damage to our community? I am pleased to say that many of these mechanisms are already in place and I am pleased to say that the community generally accepts that smoking is bad, that there are no safe levels of smoking. We find ourselves at a point in history where we are trying to refine the very good work that has been done over very many years by very many people.

There are many options available to governments. We can try to deal with those negative externalities—those negative costs—by imposing taxes that are used to cover healthcare costs and, as we know, that has been done. There will always be debate about how far we can go in terms of using price as a mechanism to drive down demand before we reach a point where we create a black market, but that debate does not sit in this parliament. We have the option of total prohibition. That has been attempted with other substances at other junctures in history, yet there is a great deal of research and experience that suggests that that simply does not work.

We could embark on public education and support people to give up smoking, and I am really pleased to say that this effort is extremely well advanced and the support available in our community via Queensland Health for people attempting to quit smoking is good. The support available for people who are admitted to any inpatient facility who are trying to quit smoking is extremely good. We have identified quit-smoking pathways that every single patient who enters a Queensland Health facility, no matter what their primary diagnosis, is offered and encouraged to utilise and over the years I have seen many people utilise those services.

We could increase the non-dollar costs associated with smoking, and I think this is where there is great opportunity for us. That means we make it harder but not impossible to acquire tobacco. We of course can increase the social stigmatisation costs. We also have the opportunity and the option of looking at where it all begins and the prevention of youth uptake. Plain packaging has been challenged because it works and it is a great initiative that has been introduced.

During the hearings Queensland Health identified that it has three objectives when dealing with smoking: firstly, it wants to support smokers who are trying to quit, and I have just outlined some of the ways that it does that; secondly, it wants to increase protection from second-hand smoke; and, thirdly, it wants to prevent the uptake by particularly young people. I think this bill is very important because it achieves these last two objectives and it also makes great inroads in increasing those non-dollar costs associated with smoking, and we know from research that this will greatly assist in reducing the incidence of smoking even further.

Protecting our young people from exposure to tobacco and smoking is extremely important. Removing smoking from skate parks and making it consistent with the bans that are already in place around playgrounds is an incredibly important initiative. We know that young people by and large are attracted to skate parks, and certainly after my efforts on rollerskates on Saturday I will not be back any time soon.

A government member: Lucky you're a nurse!

Mr KELLY: Lucky I am a nurse! But it is incredibly important that we establish those standards and enforce those standards around skate parks, where we know there are vulnerable young people. We need to send that strong message that smoking around children really is dangerous. We made great inroads with that by banning smoking in cars—and some of my earliest childhood memories were being in cars full of cigarette smoke—and to remove it from under-age sporting events sends a really strong message. Probably the first smell you would smell after leaving a football field, other than the Dencorub, was cigarette smoke. Young people are frequent users of public transport and the banning of smoking at public transport stops removes that exposure to second-hand smoke and decreases the likelihood that a young person will see someone smoking and associate it with something that is acceptable.

I want to pick up on something that the member for Buderim said about the lack of ashtrays these days: you realise how much we are winning when your kids come home and ask you what an ashtray is. Thanks to many of my relatives who have battled with tobacco addiction over the years—and, for the most part, have fortunately managed to win the battle, with a great deal of help and support—virtually the only place that my children now are exposed to cigarette smoking is when we catch public transport.

It is incredibly important that we minimise the times that children see people smoking, because we know from very sound research that the more children see someone smoking the likelihood of them taking it up increases dramatically. Like many people in our great—and sometimes hot—state, I spend my weekends at public swimming pools and other swimming venues. These are great healthy environments frequented by high numbers of families, children and young people. So it is only appropriate that here, too, we remove smoking. National parks are also a place where people go to enjoy time together. Whenever I am there I see large numbers of children. It is important that we remove smoking from these areas as well.

I really think that the measure banning the temporary retail stores is particularly important. We know that historically young people have been targeted. Preventing these temporary stalls will stop them being set up at events where young people are likely to be exposed to the casual use and acquisition of smoking products. I am sure that there would be many in the House who would share my recollections of standing around in a beer garden and being approached by a young woman offering free samples of cigarettes. Being someone who—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr KELLY: I am glad we all enjoyed that anecdote. But being someone who was always too tight to pay for their own cigarettes, when people came out and said, 'I'm from the Winfield company'—or whatever company—'have some free cigarettes,' it was not uncommon for me and other people, and even nonsmokers, to grab one and give it a go. How many people started their tragic journey of smoking and lifelong damage in that manner? With this bill, we have the capacity to stop a practice that is designed to target young people. I know that it is laughable that we once thought that such behaviour was acceptable and I am so glad that it is now no longer part of our society.

The goal of increasing the non-dollar costs associated with smoking and reducing the exposure of nonsmokers to second-hand smoke are also achieved simultaneously in this bill. Further pushing the boundaries away from the entrances to childcare centres, schools and government buildings where it is illegal to smoke will certainly stop the clustering of people near those entrances. We know that it takes incredibly small exposure to second-hand smoke to do damage. Taking smoking out of major sporting events and festivals means that people who choose to see a major event or a major sporting activity, and who are clearly there to see the main attraction, will have to make that difficult decision of, 'Do I step away from the excitement, the fun, the camaraderie, the people who I am here with, to make that long walk only for a cigarette?' We know from our research that that helps to reduce the amount of tobacco smoked and assists people who are attempting to quit smoking.

When I was much younger and working as a nurse we had a tearoom at the royal Brisbane hospital—a very large tearoom because everyone went there. One end of the tearoom was for smokers and the other end was for nonsmokers. Those areas were separated by a very ineffective partition that reached about halfway up from the floor to the ceiling. Everyone clustered at the smoking end, because there was no-one in the nonsmoking end. That tearoom was not very far away from where we worked. Nurses could get there rather quickly. If nurses could not get there, there were plenty of other locations just outside their ward where they could nip out to have a smoke. I can recall nurses frequently coming

to me and asking, 'Can you watch my patients for five minutes? I'm going for a smoke.' These days, in most hospitals people face a good 10-, 15- or 20-minute walk to get to a place where they can have a cigarette. That has created the situation in which people are smoking less. Any reduction in smoking is good. We recognise that for some people it is extremely difficult to quit smoking, but placing smoking areas that far away helps people on their journey of quitting. So instead of some people smoking five to 10 cigarettes a day at work, they are now down to smoking two, and that is an extremely good thing.

The enforcement of these nonsmoking provisions is important and the committee touched on them in the hearings. The bill gives latitude to local government authorities, which they supported, in the manner in which they enforce these provisions. The bill also augments the already existing powers of Queensland Health environmental health officers and other authorities. Although enforcement is important, it is not the main purpose of this bill. We know from previous legislative changes that, ultimately, cultural and behavioural change drives the desired outcome, with enforcement really being required only to get the ball rolling.

I cannot think of the last time I sat in a restaurant and someone lit up a cigarette. In preparing this speech I asked a few friends if they could recall being in an environment where people felt that it was okay to smoke in a restaurant. Most people were scratching their heads, but one friend said, 'Yes, I do recall it.' That person was quickly asked to extinguish the cigarette not by the hotel or the restaurant staff, not by a Queensland Health environmental officer or a council employee, but by other members of the public. I have seen people light up cigarettes at my local bus stop and similarly people have asked if they would mind moving a little further away.

This legislation is really about enforcing behavioural and cultural change. If we want to sustain change, we have to make not smoking a normal part of our culture. We can use enforcement to help achieve that goal, but we have to change people's thinking and their behaviour. Many factors will continue the process of encouraging smokers to quit and prevent young people from starting to smoke. The state government can control only so many of these factors and I am pleased that this bill has gone a long way towards extending them. This bill takes our state a long way towards achieving an even greater reduction in the rates of smoking and tobacco use. That will have significant health benefits not only for the individuals who are currently smoking but also for our entire community. I think that is a great thing for our state. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. Madam Deputy Speaker, I will begin by thanking the minister for the work that he has put into this bill, the shadow minister, and you in chairing the health committee and the other members of that health committee.

This bill has three very clear objectives: to create more smoke-free public places across Queensland; to prohibit the sale of smoking products from temporary retail outlets; and to make minor and technical amendments to clarify and strengthen Queensland's tobacco laws. Over the past 15 years progressive government action has resulted in a 30 per cent reduction in smoking rates. That has meant 190,000 fewer smokers than if we had done nothing.

Along with minor technical amendments to the legislation, this bill will see bans on smoking extended to outdoor pedestrian malls, public transport waiting points, public swimming pool facilities, skate parks, sporting grounds and spectator areas during organised under-age sporting events, early childhood education and care facilities, and private and public residential aged-care facilities except in nominated areas. That is a good thing. The American Cancer Society has linked second-hand—or passive—smoking to adult cancers of the larynx, throat, sinuses, brain and others and, in children, lymphoma, leukaemia and liver cancer. That presents a challenge for governments and legislative authorities around the world.

In its 2007 policy recommendations on protection from exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, the World Health Organization proposed that all government jurisdictions should be prepared to implement smoking bans such as those in this bill and be prepared for the costs to enforce and educate the community about them. Action on smoking is not always popular, but is the right thing to do from a public health perspective, particularly when you are considering the impact of harmful second-hand smoke which affects even those who have made the decision not to smoke but are simply inhabiting the same environment as smokers.

I was a hospitality worker with asthma and my first job was in a smoking environment in nightclubs. One of my formative experiences actually came after this as a union organiser for casino workers. It might not be understood by the vast majority of us who do not get to participate with them,

but gamblers in high roller rooms are free to smoke in the proximity of casino workers. This is clearly dangerous to employees' health. At the time I engaged in a campaign to get casinos to voluntarily stop this practice in the interests of their staff. They did not. This bill does not stop that practice. I feel this is one area of this legislation that is deficient. I am voting for it because it provides protections to members of the public, but I hope that the minister will look towards greater protections for workers in workplaces that are still, in Queensland in 2016, exposed to the dangers of passive smoke and second-hand smoke. It is with this reservation that I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.50 pm): I rise to address the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. Let me get straight to the point: this legislation is good for Queenslanders. It will have a significant and lasting benefit for many in our state. It not only protects those who have been smokers but also protects those who are vulnerable—our children—in relation to the harms of passive smoke inhalation. Enacting legislation that further restricts the smoking of tobacco products in public places is an important and necessary public health measure. Legislation that will discourage young people from becoming first-time smokers and that will reduce the harms of passive smoking is very important. Legislation that also incentivises smokers to quit altogether is a positive step forward.

Smoking accounts for one in seven deaths in Queensland, with current smokers dying on average 10 years earlier than nonsmokers. Smoking is a leading cause of preventable death and disease and health inequality across Queensland. Each year there is an estimated 3,700 Queenslanders who die because of smoking.

As an addiction medicine specialist I have seen the primary and secondary harms of tobacco consumption and cigarette use. However, it was as an intern that I really came to appreciate the human impacts most acutely. Whilst on rotation from the royal Brisbane hospital to the Prince Charles Hospital I was a member of the respiratory team caring for those suffering with end-stage emphysema. One particular patient was in her mid-fifties. I looked after her for a number of weeks as a bright-eyed new medical graduate, each and every day ensuring her oxygen was appropriately adjusted, that her blood gas results were taken and ready for presentation to my respiratory medicine registrar and consultant and that her medications were dispensed and administered on time by the pharmacy and nursing staff. Each day I would take her pulse, check her blood pressure and listen to her chest. She would tell me her hopes and dreams for the future, including playing with her grandchildren as her daughter was about to be married.

Unfortunately, due to complications with her bronchiectasis, emphysema and associated infection she died prior to leaving hospital. I was required to examine her body, complete the life extinct forms and death certificate and communicate the sad news to her daughter and family. Nothing could prepare you for this: your own grief, your feelings of professional inadequacy and not being able to save someone, the pain you feel for a patient and their family, let alone the frustration from a legal perspective that cigarettes continue to be peddled by large tobacco companies to—in the awful words of one tobacco company executive—the poor, the black, the young and the stupid.

For many years it has been known that cigarettes are addictive and that they kill. From a science perspective it needs to be understood that nicotine is the addictive substance in cigarettes that causes smokers to continue to smoke. Those who are addicted to cigarettes need enough nicotine on a daily basis to satisfy their physical cravings and control their mood. Tobacco companies have known about this for years.

Along with nicotine, smokers inhale approximately 7,000 other chemicals in cigarette smoke. Many of these chemicals are extremely damaging to physical health and overall wellbeing. I will give two examples: carbon monoxide is an odourless gas which binds to haemoglobin better than oxygen. Haemoglobin is required to transport oxygen around our bodies. As a consequence, in smokers the consumption of carbon monoxide makes their bodies produce more red blood cells in order to carry the required oxygen for organ functioning. However, the resultant effect is that the blood of smokers is thicker, meaning that when their bodies demand more oxygen during exercise less oxygen reaches the brain, heart, muscles and other organs of those individuals.

Another chemical in cigarettes is hydrogen cyanide. This chemical is responsible for damaging the respiratory cilia which are required for preventing foreign substances reaching the lungs, hence smokers endure high rates of bacterial and viral infections resulting in episodes of bronchiectasis, bronchitis and/or pneumonia.

There is well-documented evidence and publicity on all the related physical harms of smoking, including cardiorespiratory conditions such as hypertension, chronic obstructive airways disease, various lung malignancies, ischemic heart disease, cerebrovascular events such as hemiparesis and hemiplegia as well as problematic arrhythmia. There is also a range of other cancers caused by smoking, including stomach and bladder malignancy. Many people may not be aware that smoking also reduces bone density, lowers the level of protective antioxidants such as vitamin C, reduces fertility and that it can lead to impotence. Smoking in pregnancy is particularly harmful as it can increase the risk of miscarriage, stillbirth and premature birth. High rates of cleft lip and palate are also seen, along with lower birth weights and intra-uterine growth retardation.

There is always assistance available for those who want to quit. See a general practitioner or call 1300QUIT; get some advice and, for those who are deemed eligible, nicotine replacement therapy can be used alongside other medications and evidence based treatments. As a medical specialist and former president of the Australian Medication Association of Queensland and the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland I am particularly pleased to be part of the Health and Ambulance Services Committee of the 55th Queensland Parliament which has, in a bipartisan way, supported the intent of both pieces of legislation. The Health and Ambulance Services Committee's recommendations have reinforced the LNP's efforts to reduce the rate of smoking amongst Queenslanders. When in government, the LNP introduced some of the toughest laws to protect the public. I was very pleased to have contributed to this outcome in my previous AMA Queensland role.

Banning smoking at bus stops, taxi ranks, childcare centres and children's sporting events is a positive step forward. Allowing local governments the power to ban smoking in any public space they see fit is also appropriate. Banning smoking at public transport waiting areas, outdoor pedestrian malls, public swimming pools and skate parks is a positive step forward. I support banning smoking within five metres of state government buildings. Whilst enforcement and legislation are important, we will only win the war on smoking through education. Modelling the way is very important. Cultural change needs to continue but it will take time for it to come to its full fruition.

I conclude by acknowledging my fellow committee members, committee staff, the technical scrutiny secretariat and those organisations and individuals who provided written submissions and attended the public hearings. In particular I would like to acknowledge the great work and dedication of the Heart Foundation and the Cancer Council of Queensland over many years with respect to this vital area of public policy as we move towards a smoke-free Queensland. Queensland is leading the way. I stand on this side of the House reaching out to the other side of the House to support this legislation, which will pay real dividends for Queenslanders and improve health not only in my electorate of Moggill but also right across urban, rural and regional Queensland. It is vitally important, and I commend these bills to the House.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (4.58 pm): I am very pleased to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill. I have always felt very passionate about this topic, particularly since my time as a young speech pathologist. One of the first places that I worked was in a general hospital, where one of my duties was to treat people who had had laryngectomies. They had had their larynxes removed, perhaps because they had cancer of the larynx. Afterwards, they would have a hole in their throat, a stoma. My job was to teach them to speak through a machine or by actually articulating their speech through the hole in their throat. It is a very traumatic thing to happen to anybody. Obviously, it involves a complete change of lifestyle. The people who suffer this have their lives turned completely upside down.

As a very naive and sweet young speech pathologist, one of my very first patients was a man who was to have a laryngectomy. He had a smoking habit of 180 cigarettes a day. He literally got up in the morning, lit up a cigarette, finished smoking it, put it down and lit up another one. Before he had his operation, we gave him counselling about what was going to happen. We told him that afterwards he would have a hole in his throat and that he would have to speak through that hole. He had the operation. However, because of the way that denial works through grief, when he came out of the operation he did not remember any of the things that we had spoken to him about and again went through an incredibly traumatic period. What really shocked me and what stuck in my mind and I think started my absolute passion about the need to curb smoking was that within a week he was smoking 60 cigarettes a day through his stoma.

To me, it was devastating that there is such an addiction, something that could perhaps kill you and certainly will turn your life upside down, yet your addiction is so strong that you cannot stop smoking. I wanted my children to never smoke or to get hooked into that sort of addiction and be exposed to that kind of disease. In fact, much to my horror, my husband is a smoker. In our house we have our own smoke-free workplace legislation and there is very strong enforcement of it.

Miss Boyd: Send him outside.

Ms FARMER: Exactly, I take the interjection. He does go outside and he stays there when he is smoking because I feel so strongly about it. As the years have progressed since that time and the figures around the effects of smoking have become clearer, I have become even more zealous about it. Those figures show us that tobacco smoking is the leading cause of death and disease in Queensland. Globally, tobacco smoking, including second-hand smoking, was the second largest cause of disease burden in 2010. Smoking is known to cause cancers of the lung, mouth, throat, oesophagus, pharynx, larynx, tongue, lips, salivary glands, stomach, cervix, vulva, penis, kidney, liver, pancreas, bladder and blood. In addition to being a leading cause of cancer, smoking is also linked to an extensive range of serious and life-threatening diseases, including heart disease, stroke, peptic ulcers, chronic bronchitis, asthma, emphysema, peripheral vascular disease and macular degeneration. Quite simply, there is not one single thing about smoking that is good for you.

I note that the explanatory notes state—

Tobacco products are toxic, carcinogenic and addictive. They are the only legal product in the market today that kills 50 per cent of its consumers when used as intended.

I think I have smoked about six cigarettes in my life, as a teenager.

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms FARMER: I thought I was pretty cool and I stopped only because someone told me I looked ridiculous. I did stop. As a nonsmoker and as someone, like the member for Nudgee, who unfortunately lost her mother, an aunt and a grandmother to cancers that could not be avoided, it is beyond my understanding why anyone would actually choose to do this. The committee report notes information from the Cancer Council of Queensland that 30 metals have been detected in tobacco smoke, including nickel, arsenic, cadmium, chromium and lead. I note that the member for Caloundra read out some of the other chemicals, including chemicals used in paint strippers, gasoline, toilet and floor cleaners, nail polish removers, flea repellents and the list goes on.

In a way, the figures around passive smoking are even scarier, because at least smokers make a conscious choice. I appreciate that that can be a simplistic statement because addiction is such a complex matter, as is the way in which people get drawn into smoking. However, 85 per cent of Queenslanders who are not smokers can be prone to the lethal effects of smoking just by walking around every day, which makes this bill so important. As a number of other members have said today, of the 10 Queenslanders who die each day from cigarette smoking, one will be a nonsmoker. What are the figures for passive smokers? Passive smoking is associated with a 25 per cent increase in the risk of coronary heart disease and an increase in the risk of stroke, cancer and other diseases. Even brief exposure to passive smoking can adversely affect the health of nonsmokers. Second-hand smoke is linked to heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory conditions. As was highlighted in the report and the explanatory notes of the bill, what is most concerning is the particular vulnerability of young people to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and the fact that, the more often they see people smoking, the more likely they are to view smoking as desirable. Therefore, this legislation is so important because it reduces not only the physical harm but also the normalcy and social accountability of smoking behaviours.

It is gratifying to see that in Queensland we have been able to make a real dint in the smoking figures, with a 30 per cent reduction in smoking rates since premier Peter Beattie first introduced legislation around smoking in 2001, followed by successive bills over the years to 2014, which has meant that in 2014 there are 190,000 fewer smokers than there would have been if those strong interventions had not occurred. This bill strengthens many of the provisions introduced over the years, amending legislation to ensure that there are smoking bans in not just some but all places such as public transport waiting points, outdoor pedestrian malls, public swimming facilities, skate parks, early childhood education and care facilities, and private and public residential aged-care facilities. This has been part of a multistrategy approach, because we all know that issues such as this do not have one single fix; we must come at them from lots of different angles. This has been part of an incremental approach to smoking bans, as has happened in other states and territories.

It is interesting to watch movies from the 1960s that show people smoking in offices and other workplaces and smoke hanging in the air. It looks so odd to us whereas, in fact, it was very normal then. It is a good strong statement about how things such as this legislation and other strategies that have been used have really made a difference to people's behaviour. Although the prevalence of smoking has decreased, the rate of decrease is slowing down. I note that the Cancer Council of Queensland considers that new measures are now urgently required to continue the historical rates of progress, which is one reason it strongly supports the bill. The Heart Foundation stated—

It is important that further tobacco legislation reforms are passed because Queenslanders need more support to be smoke-free. We still have the second highest rate of smoking in Australia, next to the Northern Territory.

Importantly, these new laws also extend the power for local governments to make local laws prohibiting smoking at outdoor places in their local government areas, aside from those areas where statewide smoking bans apply. I congratulate the LGAQ which, at its 117th conference, carried a motion to make representations to the state government to amend the tobacco act.

There are many other really positive things that I can say about this bill. However, I will finish by congratulating the committee and the chair. Obviously they went into this subject in great detail. I also congratulate the minister, the shadow minister and all of the previous ministers who have contributed to this really positive outcome for Queenslanders.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.09 pm): I rise to add to the debate on this important bill, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. According to some studies, cigarettes contain about 600 ingredients. When they burn they generate more than 7,000 chemicals. Many of those chemicals are poisonous and at least 69 of them can cause cancer. Many of the same ingredients are found in cigars and in tobacco used in pipes.

Quit Victoria says that when tobacco burns some of the chemicals present are gases, such as carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide and nitrogen oxides; liquid vapours, such as formaldehyde, methane, benzene, ammonia and acetone; and part of tiny solid particles, such as phenols, nicotine and naphthalene. They also say that 30 metals have been detected in tobacco smoke, as well as radioactive compounds such as polonium 210 and potassium 40.

Once these chemicals are inhaled into the lungs they pass through the walls of the lungs and into the blood stream and are pumped around the body. Besides causing cancer, the effects of tobacco smoking also contributes to heart disease, stroke and diseases of the veins. It is believed by the medical profession that the combination of nicotine and carbon monoxide causes diseases in smokers by damaging the blood vessel walls, reducing the supply of oxygen to the body.

Cigarette smoke also contains poly aromatic hydrocarbons which speed up the build-up of fatty material on the blood vessel walls and are possibly assisted by hydrogen cyanide, nitrous oxides and some chemicals and tar. These highly reactive chemicals in smoke can damage the heart muscle.

Some adults choose to put these types of addictive chemicals into their own bodies. We need to protect children and other adults who choose to be tobacco free in public places. We need to create more smoke-free zones for the enjoyment of all. Tobacco products are toxic, carcinogenic and addictive. They are the only legal product on the market that kills 50 per cent of its consumers when used as intended. More than 85 per cent of Queenslanders are nonsmokers, yet continue to be exposed to second-hand smoke in public places.

As there is no safe way to smoke, this bill will protect the community by extending the number of smoke-free areas, protecting children and young people from second-hand smoke. The smoking ban areas will include: outdoor pedestrian malls, public transport waiting points, public swimming facilities, skate parks, sporting grounds and spectator areas during organised under-age sporting events, early childhood and care facilities and private and public residential aged-care facilities, except in nominated areas.

Along with the member for Caloundra, I can remember the outrage by some when the banning of smoking was introduced to restaurants and bars. Some believed that restaurants and bars would close down because people would stop going out socially if they were unable to smoke. In fact, the eating venues did not shut down, as we all know. We all had a better experience. We enjoy a meal without breathing in second-hand smoke.

This bill will assist local governments to be able to develop local laws to ban smoking in their outdoor malls. It will also ban smoking at local government operated swimming facilities. A cigarette ban is already in place between sunshine and sunset at the Mackay Bluewater Lagoon. I visit this facility often with my grandchildren. It is a very popular family venue. It also attracts groups of teenagers all having a wonderful time in a smoke-free environment. I have also visited the facilities at Airlie Beach Lagoon and the rock pool in Townsville. They are also very popular places. None of these facilities have suffered by way of visitor numbers due to being smoke-free.

I feel very concerned for young people when I drive past skate parks and see the number of teenagers smoking. It sets up a culture that smoking and skating go together. The banning of smoking within 10 metres of skate parks will save young people from second-hand smoke and lessen the peer pressure on skaters who may not want to smoke.

This bill encourages healthy lifestyles by banning smoking from skate parks, under-age sporting events and also includes bans in our national parks. National parks are places of natural beauty, for relaxation and recreation. People will be able to enjoy their surroundings without being exposed to second-hand smoke.

Pop-up shops at markets, music venues, booths, tents and vessels will be unable to sell tobacco products. These types of pop-up shops often appear at events targeted at young people. Already in Queensland we have had a multipronged approach to curtailing the number of smokers in our state. Smoke-free zones, restrictions on the sale of tobacco, quit-smoking campaigns and education campaigns have helped to cut the smoking rates in Queensland. Sadly, there are still about 10 people in our state dying from smoking relating diseases every day. Even sadder, one of those will be a nonsmoker, killed by exposure to second-hand smoke.

This bill is an important next step in Queensland's tobacco legislation targeting outdoor public places that protect and promote a healthy lifestyle for children, young people and their families. The government's bill is stronger than the one proposed by the opposition. The government's bill has stronger protection for the community. This is good for the physical health and also for the economic health of our state—fewer ill people putting pressure on the health system. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.16 pm): I rise to speak on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015. This is about creating more smoke-free places throughout Queensland. It is about reducing people's exposure to second-hand smoke. It is about changing the way young people view smoking as a normal social activity. It is about providing supportive environments to help people quit smoking. This is about addressing the 3,700 smoking related deaths of Queenslanders.

Before I discuss my strong position and support for measures to limit smoking and people's exposure to smoking, I would like to point out the government's reluctance to provide leadership. As with so many matters facing Queensland, the government has been slow in providing leadership on this and so many other issues.

The government's bill builds on the proposals outlined by the member for Caloundra in his private member's bill—the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015. The LNP bill sought to decrease smoking in Queensland by strengthening the existing smoking bans and extending smoking bans in other areas, including within five metres of all state government buildings, transport and waiting areas and pedestrian malls, public swimming pools, skate parks and pop-up sales venues. It was introduced into this parliament in July and reported on in October.

As is so often shown with this government, it is slow to act or even react. It was unable to or unwilling to follow the leadership of the LNP on this issue. What we have is that four months later the government introduced its own bill—a bill which is very similar to that introduced by the LNP.

The committee report pointed out that there are a number of similar provisions in the private member's bill and the government's bill. It is therefore unfortunate that, yet again, the government's sheer pig-headedness and refusal to recognise the merits of the legislation introduced by the LNP has meant that we lose time in the battle against tobacco related deaths.

We all know and have learnt of the devastating consequences for people's health caused by tobacco smoking. Unfortunately, while the prevalence of smoking has decreased, the rate of decrease is slowing down. The Queensland Cancer Council considers that the measures outlined in this bill will hopefully help to continue the previous rates of progress. On this issue the science is definitely in. In its submission the Cancer Council pointed out—

Tobacco smoking is a leading cause of preventable death and disease, and health inequality in Queensland. One third of smokers die in middle age losing at least 20 years of life (42% of lung cancer deaths occur in the 45-64 year old age group, and 18% of COPD—

chronic obstructive pulmonary disease—

deaths). Current smokers will die an average of 10 years earlier than non-smokers, with mortality rates increasing substantially with the increased intensity of smoking. Smoking accounts for 1 in 7 deaths in Queensland with 3700 Queenslanders dying annually from tobacco related conditions. About one-third of these were of working age. One in 10 people who die from smoking-related diseases have never smoked themselves.

Successive governments throughout Queensland have wisely taken an incremental approach to bans on smoking—from the initial bans in specified enclosed public places to phased-in bans at outdoor public places such as dining and drinking establishments, entrances to public buildings, patrolled beaches, children's playgrounds and sports stadiums. Bans have progressed to cars carrying children and to local governments regulating smoking in pedestrian malls and public transport waiting points.

The former LNP government extended the bans in 2014 to all health facilities, school grounds and prisons. An offshoot of these bans has been that people entering some buildings have to run the gauntlet of groups of smokers congregating in one spot outside. It is not unusual to have to hold your breath as you enter state government buildings as the air is thick and heavy with smoke. While it may have provided internally a smoke-free environment, it defeated the purpose for many nonsmokers who had to pass through the smoke to get to the entrance. Time and time again others were, in effect, being exposed to the dangers of second-hand smoking.

As recently as last weekend the *Sunday Mail* reported that bans on smoking within a five-metre boundary of health facilities are being deliberately ignored. It said, 'Signs warning of big fines are no deterrent,' and 'Hospital grounds are filled daily with deadly smoke putting health-compromised patients at risk.' It pointed out that, while Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital security officers have issued more than 200 warnings and infringement notices, their priority was to tend to staff and patient safety. It quoted a Bald Hills man Alan Clarke, who said—

My daughter was recently a patient for nine weeks. When her nine-year-old friend would visit we would push my daughter in her wheelchair to the green area provided for people to get some fresh air. I had to complain several times about people puffing around us, including staff. No one listened and the smokers even got aggressive.

This goes to my final concern. As a former local government councillor and deputy mayor, I would also like to raise concerns about the enforcement of the bill's measures and its impact on local governments. The department has advised that 'enforcement is not the primary purpose of the legislation and the main focus is on changing ... behaviour'. The government will instead rely on a six-month community education campaign identifying where the new smoking bans will take place. There are a number of sites which will require administration and possibly enforcement by local government.

In a table created by the department it also notes that the state government 'may request a report from local government about the administration and enforcement on any offence which they have the option to enforce'. That list of areas of council responsibility will include enforcing nonsmoking in the buffers outside health facilities and outside school land, on patrolled and artificial beaches, four metres from a non-residential building entrance, outside children's playgrounds, aged-care facilities and early childhood education and care facilities.

Despite assurances from the government, there is legitimate concern within local governments that ultimately the buck will once again stop with them and not the state government. Enforcement will create many challenges for local councils. It waits to be seen whether there really is no requirement for local government to enforce the relevant provision of the smoke-free places. However, the Local Government Association of Queensland is concerned that attendance will be needed at 'hotspot' locations in response to complaints. The LGAQ considered that this is resource and labour intensive and 'would require additional resources and a coordinated approach across agencies'. Other challenges faced by authorised officers include 'responding to offences by minors', 'gathering of evidence', 'refusal to provide identification' and 'powers to detain or follow a given direction'.

It warned of the large number of sites at which smoking behaviour would be required to be monitored, quoting figures of transport waiting sites of more than 1,200 in Logan City Council and 1,000 in Ipswich. Brisbane City Council submitted that it considered it 'extremely difficult for authorised officers to administer and enforce the provisions'. As I said earlier, it remains to be seen whether there really is no requirement for local governments to enforce the relevant provisions of the smoke-free places in the bill.

While I have concerns about some of the implementation of this legislation, I strongly support measures which will reduce tobacco smoking in the community and I support the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015 and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill 2015.

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (5.25 pm): I rise today to speak in favour and support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. As a nonsmoker myself, I am fortunate that I can look back on my upbringing and note that, despite many offerings and many temptations, as a teenager I never got hooked on cigarettes. Growing up in the 1970s and 1980s smoking was everywhere. My parents smoked everywhere. It was quite normal. Advertising was not restricted, smoking was not restricted and the sale of cigarettes was under minor regulation only.

I can remember that in secondary school smoking amongst students was rife. The schools spent considerable time, effort and money trying to catch and punish students smoking under trees, around corners, behind rubbish bins and certainly in the farthest places of the sporting ovals that kids could get to. At the time there was no education, there were no public campaigns and smoking was a significant part of the economy back then. It undoubtedly provided billions of dollars in sponsorship, billions of dollars in taxes and billions of dollars in revenue, and it was a large part of the economy. But it was hurting people. It was damaging health, it was damaging families and it was a major handbrake on society and certainly the way our civilisation functioned.

I can recall in the early 1990s I managed a small country motel in northern Victorian at a place called Rutherglen, very famous for its wines, muscats, ports and sherries. During my time running the motel it frustrated me that every morning my wife and I would spend considerable hours removing the smell of cigarettes from motel rooms, trying to get the smell out of the linen, out of the curtains, out of the carpet. We spent thousands of dollars on fancy air fresheners and other equipment to try to make it easier so we could turn rooms around inside of a couple of hours for guests coming in that afternoon who wanted to have a nice fresh-smelling room.

One day I came up with an idea. My idea was that I would convert five of my rooms into nonsmoking rooms. In doing this, I contacted I think it was the Quit campaign in Victoria at the time and I spoke to someone there and said, 'I need some advice, maybe some stickers or some signage. Can you help me out with this?' Interestingly, their advice at the time was that it was not such a good idea. They thought that it would be damaging for my business to have a number of rooms that were designated nonsmoking.

I persisted with it and we trialled the idea, and those five rooms became the busiest rooms very quickly in our motel. I found that when guests arrived and they were offered a smoking room or a nonsmoking room over half the people requested the nonsmoking room. That was 1992. The tide was starting to turn at that point. Attitudes were certainly changing. Those rooms became so popular that even smokers actually requested the rooms. They honestly admitted at reception that they were a smoker but they could not stand the smell of cigarette smoke in motel rooms themselves and they promised to smoke outside—which everyone did.

Moving on a few years and my career went into emergency services—firstly, firefighting. I can remember some of the house fires I attended as a volunteer firefighter where the ignition was actually caused by people smoking in bed, falling asleep and waking up to the bedroom around them on fire, or car accidents where the driver at fault admitted to smoking whilst driving and losing control of the cigarette down into their lap and on to the driver's seat—not a good combination at 100 kilometres an hour and almost always ending in carnage.

The significant impact for me was the Victorians and Queenslanders to whom I later attended as a paramedic. It amazed me to see the effects on their health and their kids and to see families struggling to put food on the table yet somehow they were always able to afford a packet or two of cigarettes every day. When did cigarettes become the first priority for people's pay packets and their children's food was pushed somewhere down the bottom of the list? I witnessed people with extreme lung disease, barely able to breathe with a diminished lung capacity that physically stopped them from walking from one end

of their one-bedroom apartment to the other, but yet they would still sit in the chair with an endless supply of cigarettes, an overflowing bucket of butts and a never-ending cough. Most times they had no friends or family; no-one wanted to come and see them. There was hardly a stick of furniture in the house. My thoughts always were: how did it get to this? How did this person get to this situation?

I note the comments from the member for Caloundra, who earlier talked about the nightclubs. I can remember the nightclubs quite well—the smell on your clothes and the pain in your throat the next morning. We thought at the time that the pain in our throat was from yelling and singing and stuff until after we saw the ban of smoking in clubs. Then we worked out that perhaps it was from smoking after all. After that my mother was always grateful for not having to put up with the smell on the clothes.

There is no doubt that the opportunity to change smoking behaviour starts at the teenage years, and I have heard plenty of speakers talk about that this afternoon. That is definitely the opportunity that we have as a parliament. If we can continue to decrease the percentage of teenagers taking up the habit, then one day we might actually win this battle. As a government we must continue to act on reducing the prevalence of cigarettes in our society. We have got the ability. It is great to see that we have a bipartisan approach to continue on this pathway. I agree that an outright prohibition would not work, but a strategic gradual movement towards ending smoking would work. One day people will be reading *Hansard* of today's speeches and they will probably be amazed to think that we still allowed cigarettes as part of society.

We have proven to society that people can adapt to change. We have seen that over 30 years. If a smoker came to your home today, they would never contemplate lighting up in your house. However, turn back the clock 30 years and it was accepted, it was the norm and they would probably even be a bit insulted if you asked them to take it outside. What I like most about this bill is how it targets second-hand smoke with increased limitations on smoking in public areas, in particular, the very places where the vulnerable teenagers hang out. I want to congratulate both the Minister for Health and the member for Caloundra for pursuing changes to smoking. I commend the bill.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. Reducing the public places where people can smoke will have a real impact on preventing smoking uptake among our young people.

As the Minister for Women and Youth, I am profoundly concerned about the rates of smoking among young people, particularly young mothers. Young women are 2½ times more likely to smoke at some time during their pregnancy than older women. Women from disadvantaged areas are six times more likely to smoke during pregnancy than those in advantaged areas—26 per cent compared with four per cent.

Sadly, many smokers take up the habit in their teenage years not fully recognising, with the invincibility of youth, the toll it will take on their health and that of their families. Every time a pregnant woman smokes a cigarette it cuts down oxygen to her unborn baby and exposes it to a cocktail of chemicals including those that cause cancer. Smoking during pregnancy can increase the risk of a miscarriage and infant death as well as increasing the risk of SIDS by up to three times. Health issues at birth can have an impact on further developmental issues in young children, and this can include implications for children being school ready. There is also a correlation between teen mothers and premature births and vulnerability of physical health, cognitive and language skills of the child.

Compared to Queensland-wide benchmarks, my own city of Logan has higher rates of teen mothers, higher rates of women smoking during pregnancy and higher rates of babies born prematurely and underweight. The Logan Together initiative is focusing on improving the quality of life and opportunities for children from before birth to age eight. It is a long-term 10-year project which aims to lift the health and wellbeing of some of our most marginalised groups including teen mums and their babies. The Logan Together initiative is doing groundbreaking work to create universal access to antenatal care for Logan mothers, particularly those under the age of 19, as well as birthing and post-birth services including, importantly, intensive antismoking support.

I am a passionate supporter of the Logan Together initiative and the work they are doing to reduce smoking amongst pregnant young women in Logan and I am the lead minister and Queensland government representative on the Logan City of Choice leadership team. Logan Together is a flagship initiative of the Logan City of Choice. Of course, it is our children, the future leaders of Logan, who are

the ones who will benefit from this program. The number of people who are involved in this important community project reflects just how much the community is helping to drive Logan Together and encouraging our children to be healthier.

My department is, of course, leading the establishment of an initiative in Central Queensland called Every Child Deserves Every Chance, which aims to improve life outcomes for kids in the region. Central Queensland has a higher rate of low-weight baby births and, sadly, statistics show that 60 per cent of Indigenous women in Central Queensland reported that they smoked during pregnancy. Both Logan Together and Every Child Deserves Every Chance show our government is working towards providing services to help young mothers with antismoking support, but we need to do more to stop the influence of smoking among our young people. Research shows that children are more likely to be influenced to smoke if they regularly see other people smoking.

This bill will create a smoke-free environment at and within 10 metres of a sporting ground during organised children's sporting events and will reinforce the message that smoking is not a part of a healthy and active lifestyle, especially when young people are involved. I love sports and sporting events and I am particularly passionate about encouraging women's and girls' participation in sport. Sport is something which brings our community together, but what we do not want is for that family or person who has come along to cheer on their loved ones on the field to have passive smoke blowing in their direction for hours on end. Similarly, if you are in a children's playground or swimming pool where there are lots of families, kids and people enjoying a break, you should not be smoking. These new rules will enforce that common sense.

Personally, I am becoming increasingly intolerant of smoking and I think that is because, as a society, we are seeing a lot less of it. It is great that we can be at a pub or in a restaurant and not have that passive smoking. Those changes which were brought in many years ago now have had a really positive impact on reducing smoking in our community. These days when you walk up the street and you can smell that someone is smoking it is very pervasive. It smells strong because it is now so unusual. That is what we want: for smoking to become a rarity for the sake of our community's health, our hospitals and our society. This bill will reinforce the message that smoking is not a part of a healthy and active lifestyle, especially when young people are involved. As we know, young people can be impressionable and there is often a lure of something which is forbidden. As I often say, usually regarding gender politics, 'You can't be what you can't see.' So if young people do not see other young people, including role models, smoking they will be far less inclined to take it up.

The other week I did see the story about Shane Warne being allowed to keep up his smoking habit while appearing on *I'm a Celebrity ... Get Me Out of Here!* It is a shame that 'Warnie' did not use this opportunity to quit smoking along with participating in the other challenges of jungle life such as consuming various beetles and wildlife. However, the producers of the program made sure his smoking was off set, acknowledging the family audience. This shows how far we have come in terms of recognition of the powerful influence that sporting people and other role models can have on others. It is great to see that we are now very conscious of not having celebrities pictured while smoking. All of these things are important steps towards changing our culture. We must change our culture and we must change our laws in our bid for a smoke-free future. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to contribute to the cognate debate on the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill and the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill. On 14 July 2015, the LNP Opposition introduced the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill as a private member's bill with a clear view to decreasing the incidence of smoking in Queensland. We know that, whilst the prevalence of smoking has decreased substantially over the past decade, there is always more to be done. In fact, we were concerned that the rate of this decrease had slowed over recent years, indicating that more must be done as quickly as possible.

There is no doubt that smoking has a real impact on our health system and our society, with more than 3,400 Queenslanders dying each year from smoking related illnesses. As a result, our bill sought to strengthen Queensland's tobacco legislation by strengthening and expanding the number of smoke-free places. This included banning smoking within five metres of all state government buildings, banning smoking at all public transport waiting areas and pedestrian malls, swimming pools and skate parks, and banning the sale of cigarettes at pop-up sales venues. Four months later, on 10 November 2015, the Labor government recognised the importance of the provisions of the LNP opposition's private

member's bill and introduced a government bill which largely mimics the opposition's bill. As a result, we now have bipartisan support for further legislative action to expand the number of smoke-free places in Queensland and lessen the impact of second-hand smoke.

In the former Health and Ambulance Services Committee's report on the government bill we recommended that the bill be passed. The committee noted that Queensland, as has been the case in other states and territories, has favoured an incremental approach to smoking bans over a number of years, and this legislation continues with this approach. The bill will introduce a new 10-metre smoking prohibition at skate parks and under-age sporting events, decreasing the likelihood of smoking at these often outdoor public events. The bill will also introduce regulations for smoking in national parks. It will ban smoking at national parks or part of a national park with a view to increasing community enjoyment and the safety of visitors to our environmental attractions.

The bill will protect children by expanding smoking bans at early childhood education and care facilities. Previously, education and care services have been required to provide a tobacco-, drug- and alcohol-free environment for their children. Smoking will now be prohibited at early childhood education and care facilities as well as within five metres of the boundaries of these facilities. Smoking within a government precinct will also be prohibited by the bill.

The bill will also prohibit the sale of smoking products from temporary retail stores or pop-up stores. This will bring Queensland in line with other jurisdictions in Australia, as we are currently the only state without a regulatory mechanism to prevent the sale of cigarettes at pop-up outlets. This will also amend existing provisions to ban smoking at public transport waiting points, regulated outdoor pedestrian malls and public swimming facilities between sunrise and sunset. The bill will also give local government the power to prohibit smoking at outdoor public places in local government areas where statewide smoking bans do not apply.

I am proud to be part of the LNP opposition that is taking proactive steps to decrease the prevalence of smoking in Queensland and provide healthier public spaces for the more than 85 per cent of Queenslanders who do not smoke. It is encouraging to see that the Labor government was so impressed by the LNP opposition's proactive policy approach that they have now taken it upon themselves to throw their support behind our proposal in the form of their government bill. I congratulate the shadow minister for health for his good work and for making a difference to the health of everyday Queenslanders.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (5.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment bill 2015. As we have already heard during this debate, smoking related disease claims the lives of 3,700 Queenslanders every year. It is still the only legal product which kills 50 per cent of consumers when used as intended. These statistics speak for themselves. Something more needs to be done to prevent the untimely deaths of thousands of Queenslanders.

In the past Queensland has led the way with smoking reforms. We introduced smoke-free zones well before other states, and now I am pleased to say that we are expanding the net of places which will be smoke-free. When the Palaszczuk government took power in 2015, we made a promise to Queenslanders that we would keep them safe and represent their best interests. This amendment bill is designed to help ensure that Queenslanders that can live healthy, full lives without contracting a smoking related disease. This bill is about helping to prevent nonsmokers in our communities from being subjected to unnecessary passive smoke in public places, and it is also about limiting the places where smokers can light up. These barriers have been shown time and time again to limit the numbers of people who are willing to take up smoking as well as encourage existing smokers to reconsider their habit. The harder we make it for people to smoke, the less likely they will be to do it.

This government believes in creating a progressive, prosperous and healthy Queensland that we can be proud to hand to the next generation. By creating more smoke-free public places in Queensland we are not only ensuring the safety of people, we are setting the foundation for a healthier, happier tomorrow. There is a community expectation that governments will intervene with laws which protect the public from the effects of smoking, especially those most at risk from its effects. The young and the elderly are two demographics which are particularly at risk from the effects of smoking, and this legislation has created two specific amendments to ensure the health of the very young and the elderly in our communities.

Early childhood and care facilities which currently have internal smoking bans do not presently have a ban on smoking outside. I recently visited the Jacaranda Street kindergarten in my electorate of Ipswich and spent some time with the children and the director, Melissa Henderson. It is a fabulous place, and it became very obvious that the children spend quite a bit of time outside. I was there because they had just received some money through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund to expand their outdoor play area to provide an even safer, more entertaining and educational environment for the children. Having only spent a small amount of time there, it was immediately apparent that the children spend the vast majority of their time playing outside. It is great for the kids to be outside in the fresh air with plenty of room to run around; however, it is imperative that these children are not impacted by the harmful effects of passive smoking. I am therefore pleased to see that the Queensland government has decided to institute a ban on all smoking within five metres of childcare facilities and not just inside the facility itself. This amendment will provide a safe and healthy environment for the children to learn and develop without any risk to their health.

The Tobacco Act 2014 has a provision prohibiting smoking within five metres of residential aged-care facilities on hospital and health service land, which is a valuable clause in the legislation, but it does not currently apply to privately operated and owned residential aged-care facilities. In my electorate there are a large number of aged-care facilities, many of which are privately operated by religious organisations, not-for-profit groups and privately owned companies. These are not retirement villages where the elderly live independently. These facilities are designed to provide 24-hour care for those who live with chronic illnesses. These residents are vulnerable, often very unwell and frail. They are also cared for by a range of staff from laundry, maintenance and kitchen personnel to nurses, doctors and diversional therapists. All of these people, like the residents, are not currently protected from passive smoke within the facility. Any visitor can attend the facility and legally smoke wherever they wish. By enforcing a ban on smoking in private aged-care facilities as well as public, we are ensuring that all of our elderly constituents can expect the same care and the same health outcomes wherever they reside. With the passage of this bill we will be directly responsible for the establishment of a safer and healthier Queensland—ones that we, custodians of our public's health, must take seriously.

Last week in this House the Palaszczuk government, with the help of the Katter party, passed groundbreaking legislation to tackle alcohol fuelled violence in Queensland. In the many discussions that I have had with my constituents in the lead-up to that legislation coming to parliament, I was reminded that Queensland has been a trailblazer when it comes to public health. Queensland was one of the first states in Australia to introduce smoking bans in public places, followed by New South Wales and then Victoria, and Queensland was the first state to implement a smoking ban that covered 100 per cent of all state hospitals in 2006. This is a clear indication that Labor governments in Queensland continue to be progressive when it comes to public health, and it took a federal Labor government to introduce plain packaging for tobacco which became mandatory in December 2012. Australia is the only country in the world to do this; however, plain tobacco packaging is being introduced in France, the United Kingdom and Ireland.

The harmful, indeed horrible, side effects of smoking tobacco have touched me and my family personally, as I am sure they have many of us. We have heard that here this afternoon. My much loved mother was addicted to tobacco and she suffered greatly as a result of her addiction, eventually dying of lung cancer a few weeks short of her 69th birthday—way too soon. My mother is one of those statistics that we hear about regularly but, like all statistics, my mother was a person. She was dearly loved by everyone who knew her. Her kindness, strength and intellect touched many lives and she left us far too soon.

We in this House are legislators and we are leaders. I commend the Minister for Health for his work on this bill and I extend this to the parliamentary committee as well. I take pleasure in commending the bill to the House.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (5.50 pm): I rise to speak in the cognate debate of the tobacco bills. The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015 amends the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998 to further strengthen Queensland's tobacco laws and, in doing so, protect people from harmful toxins. The main objectives of the bill are to create more smoke-free places to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke; reduce the normalcy and social acceptability of smoking behaviours, particularly for young people; and provide supportive opportunities in helping people to quit smoking. As a reformed smoker myself, I know that any assistance to kick the habit will only benefit the addict—

Mr Rickuss: When did you stop?

Mr FURNER: Turn of the century—and others in that person's family. The committee received 20 written submissions. A written briefing from the department was also received. The committee held a public departmental briefing in December last year and public hearings with stakeholders on 15 December.

The bill forms part of a continued, multilayered approach targeted at reducing the cost of smoking to Queensland individuals, families and the community. No doubt, when a government introduces initiatives such as are contained in this bill, the end result is not only beneficial to the community through reduced smoking related illness but also beneficial in terms of opportunities to direct funding to other health needs in our hospitals. Certainly in his contribution to the second reading debate the minister referred to a number of insidious diseases that people contract from this addiction. Likewise, others in their contributions this afternoon indicated a number of cancerous diseases that are resultant from smoking.

As I approach my 10th year as an active captain and member of many Cancer Council Queensland Relay for Life teams—last year my good friend the member for Kallangur and the Attorney-General participated in the Pine Rivers Relay for Life team—I know that we need to raise many dollars to hopefully one day find a cure for insidious cancers.

I have listened this afternoon to many members make contributions about plain packaging. I was fortunate enough to be in the Senate, as a Queensland senator and part of the Senate community affairs committee, at the time Australia led the charge for plain-packaging legislation, which was enacted in 2012. Australia is currently the only country that mandates plain packaging but, as the previous speaker said, it is being introduced in France, the United Kingdom and Ireland. Queenslanders and Australians are leading the way in making changes like this that will no doubt benefit our community and no doubt prevent people contracting serious disease and breathing in second-hand smoke.

In reducing rates of smoking and involuntary exposure to second-hand smoke, the tobacco act has progressively banned smoking in many outdoor public places. The introduction of strong smoke-free laws, in conjunction with retail restrictions, quit-smoking campaigns and targeted services to help people stop smoking, has seen a reduction in smoking rates in Queensland of 30 per cent since 2001.

I reference my travels in some parts of the world. I recall on a trip to Jakarta seeing promotion girls at a train station actually trying to encourage people to take up the habit by handing out free cigarettes, to promote the opportunity for people to be hooked on smoking. This afternoon the member for Caloundra talked about the effects of this marketing practice in Third World countries. Organisations like Philip Morris take advantage of probably the most vulnerable people in our world by employing marketing techniques that encourage people to take up smoking.

Despite seeing a 30 per cent reduction in smoking rates since 2001, every day almost 10 Queenslanders die from a smoking related illness. Of these 10 people there will be a nonsmoker who has died from an illness related to inhaling other people's smoke. This is why smoking is a key health priority of the Labor government and no doubt the LNP, as is shown by its support of this bill.

The bill will amend the tobacco act to create more smoke-free places, which will reduce exposure to second-hand smoke, reduce the uniformity and social acceptance of smoking and provide smoke-free environments to help people quit the addiction. I sense a rising expectation in our communities that people, especially children, will be protected from second-hand smoke. Young people are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of second-hand smoke and are more likely to consider smoking as desirable. The more often they see people smoking, the more they come to accept it as normal behaviour.

I remember recently seeing an online video which related to the fact that children pick up on our actions as smokers. One part of the online video depicts a young mother going up an escalator followed by a child with a smoke in their hand. When they get off the escalator they drop the butts on the ground and stamp them out. That demonstrates that our children pick up on what we do in our families and in society. It is important that we promote in our families and in our communities the effects of tobacco and smoking in particular.

To achieve its objectives the bill will ban smoking within 10 metres of sporting grounds during an organised under-age sporting event or training session where children under 18 years are the main participants. The bill will also ban smoking within 10 metres of any part of a skate park and prohibit

smoking at swimming pools owned or operated by local governments including all areas associated with swimming pools such as kiosks, viewing areas and diving platforms. The bill will maintain the protection of young people from exposure to second-hand smoke by banning smoking at early childhood education and care services, providing a five-metre smoke-free buffer around the land from which the service operates. This ban will apply to long-day-care services, kindergarten services, family day care and limited hours services and outside school hours care.

Public transport waiting stations are another area where nonsmokers are regularly exposed to second-hand smoke. The bill will enable bus stops, taxi ranks and ferry terminals to achieve the same smoke-free status that railway, busway and light-rail platforms have under state transport legislation. Outdoor pedestrian malls are also set to become smoke-free areas. This will provide consistency with community expectations so that people will not be exposed to second-hand smoke at busy public outdoor areas.

Currently local governments have the ability under the tobacco act to create local laws banning smoking in these places. However, unfortunately, only five local governments have prohibited smoking at public transport waiting points and outdoor pedestrian malls in their areas. I will provide some examples. The Ipswich City Council and the Fraser Coast Regional Council have declared all bus stops and taxi ranks on local government or state controlled roads in their areas to be smoke-free areas. Redland City Council prohibits smoking at each jetty and ramp that is considered a public transport waiting point within its area. Brisbane City Council, Ipswich City Council and Logan City Council also took the initiative to use the earlier provisions to declare particular malls in their local government areas to be smoke-free places.

To ensure consistency across Queensland, when the bill commences local laws banning smoking at public transport waiting points and outdoor pedestrian malls will no longer be valid. The bill, however, will explicitly empower local governments to make local laws prohibiting smoking in other outdoor public places where statewide smoking bans do not apply. Bans will allow local governments to create areas like restaurants, precincts, boardwalks or picnic grounds to be smoke-free in line with the needs and expectations of their local community. The bill also provides for smoking to be prohibited at national parks—a brave and prosperous step in the right direction to ensure that when you walk through and enjoy the outdoors you are not affected by second-hand smoke from other people who are walking in the same environment. These reforms reflect the government's commitment. I commend the committee's report and the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Furner, adjourned.

MOTION

Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility



Mr CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House resolves that the administration of the Northern Australia infrastructure fund be headquartered in North Queensland.

Last Saturday afternoon the Premier issued a ministerial media statement calling on the Australian government to establish the head office of the Northern Australia infrastructure fund in Brisbane. In that press release and in a subsequent statement to the media, the Premier has suggested that the Australian government had plans to base the Northern Australia infrastructure fund in Sydney.

I suspect Labor members who follow me will try to make this debate about where the Australian government may or may not be planning to base the Northern Australia infrastructure fund. Before anyone over there gets up and starts trying to hijack this debate, the newly appointed Minister for Northern Australia, Senator Matthew Canavan, has been reported as saying that the Australian government is still considering locations to base the Northern Australia infrastructure fund. Furthermore, just in case anyone from the Palaszczuk government wants to cast aspersions about what I think about this issue, I table a copy of a letter that I sent to the Prime Minister today in respect of this matter. In part, my letter to the Prime Minister reads as follows—

The absurdity of suggesting that the administration of the NAIF would be based in Brisbane is exceeded only by the absurdity that such a function of the Australian Government would be based in Sydney. I write to seek your reassurance that the NAIF will be based in Northern Australia and specifically, in North Queensland.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 February 2016, from the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Andrew Cripps MP, to the Prime Minister of Australia, Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, regarding the Northern Australia infrastructure fund [\[222\]](#).

We all await the response of the Australian government. Whatever it does, it knows what I think.

The real purpose of this motion is to test the reason why the Premier, when presented with the perfect opportunity to go in to bat for North Queensland, instead made a choice to support Brisbane. Putting the attitude of the Australian government to one side, why when the Premier was in a prime position to be an advocate for North Queensland did she sell us out and push the interests of Brisbane? The purpose of this motion is also to test all of those Labor MPs with electorates north of the Tropic of Capricorn. Will they support North Queensland or will they once again fall into line and protect their Brisbane-centric Premier?

The wording of this motion is not party political; it is a straight-up proposition asking a question of this House—that this House resolves that the administration of the Northern Australia infrastructure fund be headquartered in North Queensland. Unfortunately, there are many North Queenslanders who will not be surprised to learn that the Palaszczuk government does not have North Queensland front of mind when it is engaging with the Australian government. The Palaszczuk government has done absolutely nothing to put together a plan to encourage investment in North Queensland by taking full advantage of the Northern Australia infrastructure fund, wherever it is headquartered. Is that any surprise when we look at the calibre of the people who we have in charge—the hapless, bewildered Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, who only last year admitted that she was not responsible for anything, she is not responsible for anyone but is just an advocate. Well, she is a very ordinary advocate because she has been missing in action for a whole year and she admitted only last week that she only went to Canberra earlier this month to start lobbying the federal government on North Queensland.

The embarrassing reality is that the only plans that Queensland has for the Australian government's Northern Australia initiative have been worked up by the collaboration of local councils and regional economic development groups. Sadly, the Palaszczuk government has absolutely no plans of its own. There is absolutely no reason why the Northern Australia infrastructure fund cannot be based in North Queensland, and North Queenslanders will be very disappointed to know that the Palaszczuk Labor government failed to back them home on this great opportunity to grow our administrative capacity and our financial sector when that opportunity presented itself. That is the explanation that they want out of the Premier tonight. We do not need a tricky, politically motivated amendment from Labor on this motion. North Queenslanders just want to know if the Premier understands that her instinct on this issue to back Brisbane instead of backing North Queensland was wrong. This motion is an opportunity for the Premier and her government to recant, confess and start to redeem itself by joining the Queensland LNP to secure the NAIF headquarters for North Queensland, where it should be.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (6.05 pm): I rise to support the motion. Let us go back through a little bit of history, shall we? First of all, the Northern Australia infrastructure fund is a federal government initiative—a federal government initiative—and the last time I looked Malcolm Turnbull was the Prime Minister. Well, who knows? Maybe that is changing in the near future. It is up to the federal government to decide where the headquarters are. When I caught up with Senator Matt Canavan on Saturday—and the minister was there as well—he said very clearly to us, 'I'm trying to get it moved from Sydney.'

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, you have had a good go. It is not appropriate with the interjections. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The LNP federal government wanted it based in Sydney or Canberra and its own senator—it does not even know what its own senator said—said that he would like it moved out of Sydney into Queensland. Why was there a discussion around Brisbane? Because it was thought from the federal government's point of view that it wanted it to be near the financial business centres like the banks and the markets.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, a federal government initiative.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My government is more than happy to have the headquarters located in either Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville, Cairns—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. I note you are on the speaking list. You need to be careful or otherwise you may not have a chance to speak. Member for Hinchinbrook, you are warned under standing order 253A in relation to your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Let us not forget, too, that not only did the federal government want it headquartered in Sydney; it also had a minister responsible for Northern Australia from Melbourne! If you want to talk about geography, it had a federal minister from Melbourne looking after Northern Australia. I am very pleased that I have a minister supporting me on matters regarding North Queensland, because one of the first things my government did was restore the office of the Premier in North Queensland in Townsville with three staff. What did those opposite do? They liked Townsville so much they axed the position and they axed the office. So how hypocritical is it for the member for Hinchinbrook, who was a minister at the time, to not even set up the office of the Premier in North Queensland? Those opposite should hang their heads in shame.

We proudly support Queensland. We proudly support the northern parts of our state. Tonight I say this to those opposite and to Malcolm Turnbull: pick any part of Northern Queensland and we are happy to support it. Locate it there tomorrow. My government offers its full support. But your federal government wanted it in Sydney! Those opposite have egg on their face today. I think we need the member for Callide and the member for Toowoomba South to head down to Canberra as soon as possible so they can put it in perspective that Sydney is not part of Queensland. I even go back to 20 May when I wrote to Tony Abbott about this very issue. I wrote—

In closing, I am pleased to note that my department is opening a new office in Townsville to better serve North Queensland. I would be pleased if this office was used for placements and secondments by Australian Government officials.

What have we heard from the federal government? Absolutely nothing. We know how important it is to get the Northern Australia infrastructure fund out. On Saturday, I said very clearly to Senator Matt Canavan, 'Bring the legislation forward. Let's get the money out the door. Let's create the jobs. Let's create employment in North Queensland.' What have we heard from those opposite? Has there been any lobbying by them of the federal government? Not to my knowledge. Have there been any letters to the Prime Minister? Not to my knowledge—absolutely nothing. They come in here, they think that they have a win, but they have a complete loss because they have failed to deliver for North Queensland. They could not even base their own office of the Premier up there. They could not even do that.

In closing, we will proudly support North Queensland. Unlike those opposite who want to have the office located in Sydney, I do not care if the office is in Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville or Cairns. My government will continue to support all parts of regional Queensland.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.10 pm): After hearing all of that, as a fifth generation North Queenslander I rise tonight with great enthusiasm to speak in support of the motion moved by my good friend and fellow North Queenslander the member for Hinchinbrook. After all, I am a North Queenslander first and foremost and I make no apology for that whatsoever.

It is Labor that should apologise for its lack of passion for the north. Labor members are the ones who need to be the apologists. After all, what else can one say about their approach to the federal government's Northern Australia infrastructure fund, which would appear to be in grave danger of being headquartered here in Brisbane, which would be ridiculous to say the least and a kick in the guts for North Queensland? It is interesting to see the body language of Labor MPs from north of the Tropic of Capricorn in this debate. I recap what the member for Hinchinbrook alluded to about what the Premier said in her press release. I have to ask the question: was the B team on last weekend? She said—

The next positive step would be to have a Brisbane headquarters for NAIF ...

What is next?

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Treasurer, that is not appropriate. If you persist you will be warned under standing order 253A.

Mr COSTIGAN: What is next? The Premier asking for the federal government to have the Royal Australian Navy based in Cunnamulla? Who knows what will come from the Premier. I can imagine what the Premier has said has gone down like a lead balloon in North Queensland, including in the electorate of Mulgrave. I wonder what the various chambers of commerce across the north think of it as well as organisations such as Advance Cairns, Townsville Enterprise, the Mackay Chamber of

Commerce, Bowen Collinsville Enterprise and various councils that make up the North Queensland Local Government Association. I have to say that the NQLGA did not even get a visit from the local government minister for its historic annual conference on Palm Island last year. No wonder this Premier, in the eyes of North Queenslanders, is way out of touch.

As for the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, as the member for Hinchinbrook pointed out, let us not forget that this is the same minister who took a whole year to get to Canberra to start lobbying the federal government. How did she get there? Was it by horse and cart? Maybe a donkey?

If we talk to the man in the street—from the cane fields to the coalfields, in our provincial cities in the north and in our country towns—they will tell us straight: the Premier has lost the plot. Not only that, the Premier has lost her compass a la Captain Cook coming into Cleveland Bay.

The north's potential is unlimited, with so many job-creating opportunities and nation-building projects on offer—from building dams like Urannah and Nullinga to building roads and railways linking our hinterland to our ports along the coast. In the case of Urannah, that could provide up to 30,000 hectares of irrigated farmland plus water for new mining projects not only in the northern Bowen Basin but also in the Galilee. This government talks about it but does very little about opening it up and making it happen. Given the tsunami of job losses in regional Queensland since the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government that in itself is a disgrace—about 7,500 jobs disappearing from the region that I represent alone—where is the economic stimulus package for the Mackay-Whitsunday region? I am not talking about a few overtaking lanes here and there that were previously sought by the former LNP government but about big infrastructure projects to get our regions firing again.

In relation to the fund, I refer to today's editorial in my old newspaper, the *Townsville Bulletin*, which states—

It is galling that the Premier's first instinct is to call for this office to be in her home city and it is hard to avoid the conclusion that, despite all her assurances when she was here last month in the wake of the QNI collapse, she cares only for the south.

That says it all. Tonight, I call on the Labor members representing areas north of the Tropic of Capricorn—the member for Keppel; the member for Rockhampton; the member for Mirani; the member for Mackay; the member for Townsville; the member for Thuringowa; the member for Cairns; the member for Barron River; 'Captain Risky' himself, the member for Mulgrave; and last but not least the member for Mundingburra who, by her efforts in this place last week, did not even know that she was in the job. They are the Labor MPs representing Central, Northern and Far North Queensland who need to aim up. Their constituents need to know about their boss and what she says. She will not go into bat for North Queensland. The proof is in the pudding!

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.16 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion before the House this evening, but I would have to say that it is not with some new sense of harmony and purpose with the opposition. From what I have heard this evening, it is pretty clear that the Palaszczuk government has a much better relationship with the federal coalition government than do our opponents across the chamber. It is clearly evident to me that we can have a sensible conversation with the federal government about Northern Australia, we can have a sensible discussion with their ministers—and I have had quite a few myself, particularly with Barnaby Joyce and Senator Canavan, and I will reflect on that in a moment.

The Palaszczuk government has been completely supportive of the initiative that has been put forward in the federal arena in terms of the development of Northern Australia.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BYRNE: That is a fact. Central Queensland is particularly supportive of it, because we are part of the Northern Australia plan. That is why this government's language has always been encouraging. We are not out there playing the games and emotive nonsense that the opposition is playing. The Newman government's record on North Queensland and remote and regional Queensland was appalling. I will give members an example from my previous portfolio. There was a 26 per cent cut to Biosecurity Queensland. In many ways, Biosecurity Queensland is the centre of gravity of our agricultural industry and the opposition decided to knock 26 per cent out of it—slash it to the ground. That is really what it was about in North Queensland and regional and remote Queensland. That is the LNP's record in government: job cuts.

I will give members another example. The biggest setback in my city of Rockhampton was not caused by a cyclone or a flood; it was the Public Service cuts and the loss of thousands of jobs across my city on the back of a downturn in the mining industry—all thanks to those opposite. So I will not listen to the opposition members talking about their brilliance in terms of job creation or their sensitivity to regional and remote Queensland or North Queensland. It is complete nonsense.

In fact, earlier, when I had the portfolio responsibility for agriculture, I had to hold a public forum in Longreach. I might add that not one member from the opposition was there—not a single member. But Senator Barry O'Sullivan was present. Barry said to the audience, 'The job cuts out here from the Newman government have been absolutely devastating.' He said that publicly. I will not say that he said that to an audience of Socialist Left faction members sitting in a tent at Longreach, but I will say that he said that to a bunch of normal, hardworking Queenslanders in Western Queensland and they all nodded wisely to Barry. Barry O'Sullivan made that point. That is what happened to all of the services in regional Queensland. The same message has been repeated over and over everywhere that I have travelled.

The motion calls on the federal coalition to do something proactive and concrete about North Queensland. Unfortunately, despite our cooperation, what we have seen is a lot of hot air, a lot of words, a lot of flights, a lot of talking—'I'm fighting for this project; I'm doing that'—but soon the rubber will hit the road for the federal coalition and when it does not deliver or uses mealy-mouthed words around it this will come home to roost for not only the federal coalition but also the opposition. They have been building an expectation about their intentions for a long time. We have tried to work with them. There have been no disagreements in meetings I have been involved in—no friction, no animosity, no aggression. It has been a sensible, mature, adult discussion about how we can move the merits of various proposals forward to advantage all Queenslanders, not short-term opportunism.

The Premier reflected on the conversation that we had in Rockhampton last Saturday. That conversation had no friction, no animosity, none of the nonsense that we have seen from Senator Macdonald in the *Townsville Bulletin*. It was a conversation of like minds, with agreement about what we should be doing. I congratulate Senator Canavan. Although I do remember that on his first day of being sworn in his first announcement was that he wanted to split Queensland in half and divide the state down the middle, I think he has probably matured a bit since then.

I want to close with these points: we support the motion. We are working realistically and practically with the federal government to advance the interests of all Queenslanders. It is desperately disingenuous and shallow for the opposition to move this motion for pure short-term opportunistic pleasure.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion. The Northern Australia infrastructure fund was set up by the federal government to promote infrastructure investment across Northern Australia. Imagine my dismay when I opened the *Townsville Bulletin* today and found this on the front page: the Premier of Queensland has asked that the office of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility be based in Brisbane.

Whilst Johnathan Thurston was in England kicking goals for the Cowboys, our own Premier was back here kicking North Queenslanders in the guts. I have been waiting all day for the outcry from the northern members of this government. The fact that we have not heard a whimper from them is nothing short of a disgrace. The Premier uses every opportunity to claim that her government is a government for all Queenslanders. Let me remind the Premier that Queensland does not stop at the Tropic of Capricorn and that actions speak louder than words. North Queenslanders are sick and tired of being treated like second-class citizens. The Northern Australia infrastructure fund is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build the infrastructure that will not only take North Queensland forward but also deliver for all the people living in this state.

Never underestimate a North Queenslander. Never underestimate the passion that North Queenslanders have for that area of the state. We have battled diversity, from cyclones and floods and droughts through to a massive downturn in the resources sector, but we do not look for handouts and we certainly do not take no for an answer. We have fought above our weight for years and this latest comment from the Premier reiterates what we have had to live with for decades. It makes perfect sense to base the office of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility in North Queensland. As the editor of the *Townsville Bulletin* so eloquently put it in today's paper—

Let's build the new Cowboys stadium on the Gold Coast. Better still, let's pipe our water directly from the upper reaches of the Brisbane River. After all, they're also in North Queensland, aren't they?

For the benefit of those on the other side of the House who are unfamiliar with the area of land that we are talking about, I have taken the liberty of producing this map, which shows the area of Queensland that we are talking about. The map shows the land to the north of the Tropic of Capricorn and shows that 54 per cent of Queensland is north of the Tropic of Capricorn. It is an area that contributes a massive revenue windfall to the coffers of this state. In short, without the produce, energy, tourism and minerals that this area produces Queensland would go belly up.

As North Queenslanders this is our opportunity to capitalise on the funding that will construct the infrastructure we so desperately need. We have talent to burn in North Queensland. We have the resources, we have the staff and we know more than adequately how to run the office of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility. After all, who better to operate an office centred on the Northern Australia infrastructure fund than those who live and work in North Queensland? Townsville has been devastated in recent weeks with job losses, and if ever there was a time for those opposite to stand up and fight to have this office based in North Queensland it is now.

This fixation with basing the decision-making process in the south-east corner of the state must stop. We need the jobs, and as North Queenslanders we deserve to have this office in the north of the state. It would be a mockery and a slap in the face for all North Queenslanders for the office of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility not to be based in North Queensland. For the Premier to indicate her preference for this office to be based in Brisbane is hypocritical and flies the face of her commitment to lead a government for all of Queensland.

I have stood in this place on a number of occasions and spoken at length about the projects that could be delivered in my electorate, projects that would generate hundreds of jobs and economic development in North Queensland. I have communities that are on their knees, desperate for the projects that this funding will deliver. We are talking about large-scale water infrastructure projects like the Urannah Dam, the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam and the Hells Gate Dam that have the potential to change the face of Queensland and contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to our economy. We do not want to be close to the action; we want to be the centre of the action. We want to drive this to ensure Northern Australia is developed to its full potential, and that means the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility needs to be in its rightful place in North Queensland, not Brisbane. If the Premier wants to truly represent all Queenslanders she will take up this fight on our behalf and ensure that the facility is based in the north, where it belongs.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burdekin, I think in your contribution you used words to the effect of 'a kick in the guts'. Those words are unparliamentary. Will you kindly withdraw.

Mr LAST: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (6.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of this motion. It is not often that the member for Hinchinbrook and I agree on matters in this House, but when it comes to supporting and advocating for North Queensland and for the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility to be located in North Queensland the member for Hinchinbrook and I are singing from the same song sheet.

The \$5 billion Northern Australia infrastructure fund was announced in May and it is crucial to building a strong, resilient and diverse economy for North Queensland. The people, businesses and local councils that I have been speaking with want the Turnbull government to get a move on, make a key decision about the location and get the fund going. It is imperative that the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility is located in Queensland and it is absolutely my first preference for it to be located in North Queensland.

I am confused as to why the Commonwealth would put its NAIF advisers to work in Sydney, but what the Turnbull government fails to acknowledge is that the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility has to be embedded in Northern Australia to realise its full potential. It needs to engage directly with communities, businesses and councils and it needs to be based on a lived experience. From the smallest towns to the larger regional centres, it is only when you live in the north that you understand the challenges and the potential that is on offer.

I discussed the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility with federal representatives on my recent delegation to Canberra with the mayors from across the region. The delegation was well received and there was across-the-board acknowledgement from government ministers and opposition MPs that the infrastructure needs and solutions for the north are unique. I am absolutely perplexed that there is any consideration of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility being located in Sydney. It was the perfect opportunity for the fly-in fly-out Prime Minister Turnbull—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Member for Hinchinbrook, that is not appropriate. You are already on a warning.

Mrs O'ROURKE: It was the perfect opportunity for the Prime Minister to commit to the location as well as a number of key infrastructure projects waiting for Commonwealth funding when he landed up north—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Nanango, you will be warned for your interjections if you persist. You will then run the risk of leaving the chamber later this afternoon.

Mrs O'ROURKE: Unfortunately, during his visit there was much fanfare but little substance and no commitment to action. It is absolutely ridiculous to suggest that the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility be located in Sydney. Thankfully, the Minister for Northern Australia, Matt Canavan, is a Queenslander and understands that North Queenslanders wear a maroon jersey and not a blue one, and he supports the move to Queensland.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.30 pm): I advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136 that: the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report on the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 10 May 2016 and the Brisbane Casino Agreement Amendment Bill by 12 April 2016; and, further, that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Fire and Emergency Services (Domestic Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill by 23 May 2016.

TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (SMOKE-FREE PLACES) AMENDMENT BILL

TOBACCO AND OTHER SMOKING PRODUCTS (EXTENSION OF SMOKING BANS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill resumed from p. 440, on motion of Mr Dick, and Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill resumed from p. 440, on motion of Mr McArdle—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (7.31 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill, presented by the Hon. Minister for Health. This bill seeks to amend the 1998 tobacco act to create more smoke-free public places across Queensland, prohibit the sale of smoking products from temporary retail outlets and make some minor amendments to clarify and strengthen Queensland's tobacco laws.

No-one can deny that tobacco products are toxic, addictive and increasingly expensive. Tobacco products are the only products sold legally on the market today that studies say will kill half of those who use them when used as intended. With these statistics plain for all to see, I cannot understand why so many still choose to take up the use of tobacco products. Yet I do not judge, because like the member for Bulimba I live with a smoker, who smokes outside. I cannot judge or I will get into trouble. Over the years I have tried smoking, but it never really grabbed me. Every time I tried to smoke and be one of the 'cool kids', I would get dizzy and was put off. Thank goodness for that. I still choose to associate

with smokers and, no doubt, have copped a fair helping of second-hand smoke, just like the other 85 per cent of Queenslanders who are nonsmokers and who continue to be exposed to second-hand smoke in public places.

In Queensland our daily smoking rates have been declining; however, this decline is slowing. Something needs to be done to help those who are addicted. Each year more than 3,700 Queenslanders—a figure 10 times greater than the annual road toll—fall victim to smoking related diseases. No-one can deny the benefit to our Health budget from reducing smoking or the social obligation that we as legislators have to encourage young people not to start smoking, as well as to help smokers quit and to reduce the exposure of nonsmokers to second-hand smoke.

A multistrategy approach such as strong tobacco legislation like the federal government's plain-packaging laws, along with quit-smoking mass media campaigns and smoking cessation services has been proven to reduce smoking rates. The phased introduction of smoking bans, tobacco retail restrictions and other strategies in Queensland between 2001 and 2014 has contributed to reducing smoking rates by 30 per cent. This means that in 2014 we had 190,000 fewer smokers than we would have had without making the attempt to help cut down smoking. The primary objectives in this bill are to create more smoke-free places that will reduce Queenslanders' exposure to second-hand smoke and the social acceptance of smoking, especially for young people, and provide a support to help people quit smoking—maybe someone at my place.

For the past 10 years, the tobacco act has banned smoking at many outdoor public places, including near children's playground equipment, between the flags on patrolled beaches, at prescribed outdoor swimming areas such as artificial beaches, at major event facilities such as Suncorp Stadium and at outdoor eating and drinking venues. In 2014 those bans were extended to schools and health facilities.

The bill will protect the community and, in particular, the health of young people from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke by extending the smoking bans to all outdoor pedestrian malls, public transport waiting points, public swimming facilities, skate parks, sporting grounds and spectator areas during organised under-age sporting events, early childhood education and care facilities, and private and public residential aged-care facilities, except in nominated areas. In addition, the bill will enable smoking to be banned at prescribed national parks or parts of national parks, and prescribed outdoor government precincts. The bill will also give local governments the power to make laws banning smoking at any outdoor public place that is not covered by state smoking laws.

To sum up, the facts are clear: smoking is harmful and we must do all we can so that Queenslanders who do not smoke do not have to breathe in second-hand smoke and to make it easier for those who do smoke to quit. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (7.36 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. The science is in on tobacco smoke and has been for quite some time: directly or indirectly, exposure to tobacco smoke is harmful. Studies released from as early as 1950 outline the inherent dangers associated with smoking. The Cancer Council of Australia says that there is sufficient evidence that smoking is a risk factor for some 16 cancer types. The World Health Organization has attributed almost six million deaths per year since 1964 to tobacco smoking, including those caused by second-hand smoke. That is 336 million people around the world who have died due to inhaling the toxic and carcinogenic chemicals contained in tobacco, either directly or indirectly through passive smoking. A study of 2004 data published in 2010 on the burden of disease from exposure to second-hand smoke found that 600,000 deaths worldwide were attributed to second-hand smoke, making up one per cent of worldwide mortality. Perhaps most alarmingly, the research showed that 28 per cent of those deaths were of children.

Outside of the grim number of deaths directly linked to smoking and repeated exposure to second-hand smoke are the long-term health implications associated with exposure. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States, adults who have never smoked but have been exposed to second-hand smoke have developed health conditions such as heart disease, lung cancer and stroke. In children, second-hand smoke has been linked to an increase in the risk of sudden infant death syndrome, severe asthma attacks and an increase in respiratory infections. Statistics released by the Department for Health and Ageing show that children exposed to environmental tobacco smoke are 40 per cent more likely to suffer from asthma symptoms than children who are not exposed.

While those conditions are personally traumatic—and in this House we have already heard stories of personal experiences with tobacco related cancers—there is also a broader economic impact. It is estimated that the annual social and economic cost of smoking related illnesses in Australia is in the vicinity of \$31.5 billion, which includes medical expenses that of course must be met, either privately or through the public health system, as well as productivity costs to business through lost time due to illness. Many will argue that the chances of developing a severe condition due to passive smoking will depend on the levels of exposure, yet the experts tell us that just one cigarette is doing the smoker harm. Therefore, it must follow that even limited exposure to second-hand smoke must equally be doing harm to those exposed to it. Three of our local governments have done excellent work in creating smoke-free bus stops, taxi ranks and jetties within their local government areas. However, there are still many Queenslanders who have no choice but to sit or stand at public transport waiting points that are not smoke-free.

There are thousands of Queenslanders every day who are inadvertently exposed to second-hand smoke as they go about their usual business and who are needlessly put in danger of developing health issues. For example, take the student who catches the bus to school every morning. They arrive at the bus stop at the same time every day, congregating with the same people who are going about their daily commute. Every day there are one or two people who might have a cigarette before getting on the bus.

No-one in this student's family smokes, yet because fellow commuters at the bus stop light up a cigarette every morning this child's chances of developing a serious illness are increased through no fault of their own. This bill will help to reduce the chances of exposure to second-hand smoke to Queenslanders, particularly our children, by creating consistent laws across Queensland.

Research has shown all of us that smoke-free legislation can: reduce a person's exposure to tobacco toxins; reduce respiratory symptoms; reduce the amount smoked by current smokers, importantly; and encourage some smokers to quit. Further evidence has shown that consistent smoking bans increase community compliance because they provide people with a clear understanding of where they cannot smoke. Consistent bans also ensure that people in rural and regional communities receive the same protections as those in South-East Queensland.

Public transport waiting points, such as train stations, bus stops and light-rail platforms, would become smoke-free, significantly reducing the chances of passive smoking by the thousands of students who make their way to or from school each day on the public transport system, for instance. The bill will also extend the ban to smoking within 10 metres of a playground to include skate parks, which are obviously very popular for many young people around Queensland, including those in my great electorate of Algeester.

Smoking at or in the vicinity of early childhood education and care facilities would also be banned under amendments in the bill—it is similar to the current legislation regarding smoking at or near schools. Similarly, smoking at sporting events for under-age participants would also be banned, providing children with a healthier environment in which to play their chosen sport.

There is not one smoker today who could say that they do not know the personal risk they take by indulging in their habit. There is too much evidence for them to say otherwise. While they are free to take this risk upon themselves, it is incumbent on governments to minimise that risk, especially when it comes to the inadvertent exposure of children to potentially harmful second-hand smoke. This bill provides a consistent statewide approach to smoke-free areas, further reducing the possibility that children around Queensland who have not chosen to take on the risk are exposed to the harmful toxins contained within tobacco smoke.

As I have heard many speakers do tonight, I reflect on my own family circumstances. As a child born in the 1960s and growing up in the 1970s and 1980s, everybody smoked.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Ms ENOCH: That is right. My grandmother who lived in Inala had a courier business. On school holidays I would go and stay with my grandmother. I was stuck in a car with my grandmother driving all around Brisbane while she endlessly smoked cigarettes. I remember how physically sick I felt at the end of those days.

Mr Rickuss: Did she take Bex as well?

Ms ENOCH: Yes, she took Bex as well. That was the norm. My father was a very heavy smoker. As a kid at school I remember being taught about the dangers of smoking and going to my father and saying, 'This is the time to quit.' He was a very stubborn man and continued to smoke throughout his

life. Unfortunately, two years ago next month he passed away from lung cancer potentially as a result of smoking but, of course, due to other things he was doing in his life as a bulldozer driver in various quarries.

Children are dealing with and living with parents who smoke and encouraging them not to smoke anymore. I learned some lessons for myself. What we want to see into the future with this piece of legislation is an environment where children are not seeing smoking all the time and are protected from passive smoking and young people do not have the same experience I had of being in a car with my grandmother for days on end during the school holidays while she was chain smoking. We do not want them going to their sporting events and as they come up to the canteen inhaling the tobacco smoke of adults in that area.

This is an important piece of legislation. We have learned the lessons of the last generation. We have learned the lessons about the dangers of tobacco. We do not need to see all the research and look up all the statistics. We know it instinctively. We know that this is not what we want for the future. Although individuals make their own choices, there is a role for government in this. Our role is to ensure that there are places where there is no smoking so that we can secure a safe environment for our children into the future. It is for these reasons, my own experiences and the experiences that have been shared in the House that I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (7.45 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015. We know that smoking is a killer. It is the largest cause of preventable death and disease in Australia. Far too many young people are still deciding to light up at an early age and for reasons that I and, I am sure, many of us struggle to fathom.

Today my daughter turns six. Happy birthday, Scarlett. Reforms like this have the potential to mean that there is a much better chance that she may never smoke or that she might never be subjected to second-hand smoke in public places. That suits me. I am sure that suits every parent in this place.

This bill's primary objective is to amend the 1999 act by: creating more smoke-free places to reduce people's exposure to second-hand smoke; reducing the normalcy and social acceptability of smoking behaviours, particularly for young people—which is, of course, important to parents—and providing supportive environments to help people quit smoking.

I, like most members of parliament, probably did the same thing in school and saw smokers as the cool kids or the rebels—lighting up behind the gym or the toilet block and trying to evade any teachers and trying, often in vain, to hide the evidence with toothpaste or deodorant. Times have changed. Smoking is definitely not cool and to children, teenagers and young adults smoking can be deadly.

As the bill states, tobacco products are toxic, they are carcinogenic and we know they are addictive. They are the only legal product on the market today that kills 50 per cent of its customers when used as intended. More than 85 per cent of Queenslanders are nonsmokers yet continue to be exposed to second-hand smoke in public places.

There are not too many people on this planet who are not aware of the toxic consequences of smoking. Yet people are still exposed day in and day out. These consequences are amplified when it comes to children, teenagers and young adults. According to the WHO, the short-term health consequences of youth smoking include respiratory and non-respiratory effects and addiction to nicotine and the associated risk of other drug use. Long-term health consequences of youth smoking are reinforced by the fact that most young people who smoke regularly continue to smoke throughout their adulthood. Cigarette smokers have a lower level of lung function than those persons who have never smoked. Smoking reduces the rate of lung growth. These are all extraordinarily damaging consequences that last the rest of a young adult's life.

Further by-products of youth smoking include that the resting heart rates of young adult smokers are two to three beats per minute faster than nonsmokers; that young people's physical fitness in terms of both performance and endurance are severely affected, even among young people trained in competitive running; that, on average, someone who smokes a pack or more of cigarettes each day lives seven years less than someone who never smoked; and most alarming of all is that teens who smoke are three times more likely than nonsmokers to use alcohol, eight times more likely to use marijuana and 22 times more likely to use other illicit drugs like cocaine.

This government is ensuring that we are protecting our children and allowing them to live their life to the fullest. The 1998 act does not currently regulate smoking at or near skate parks or under-age sporting events. This bill creates a new provision to prohibit smoking at a sporting ground or viewing area for a water sport during an organised under-age sporting event, or a training or practice session to prepare for an organised under-age sporting event, or any break or interval during the event. It is also proposed that smoking be prohibited on land within 10 metres beyond the boundary of a sporting ground or the viewing area for a water sport. I note that Cancer Council Queensland is backing these reforms, stating—

Local sporting clubs are routinely frequented by young people and children under 14 years of age, who are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of passive smoking and—

most unfortunately—

are easily influenced by adult role modelling.

This bill directly targets the protection of children from inhaling second-hand smoke at various skate parks, swimming pools and sporting grounds during organised children's sporting events. When it comes to inhaling second-hand smoke, the stats are just as alarming. Passive smoking is associated with a 25 per cent increase in the risk of coronary heart disease, and among nonsmokers there is a major increase in the risk of stroke, cancer and other diseases. Even brief exposure to passive smoking can create a raft of health problems for children including respiratory infections, asthma, middle ear infections and bronchitis. Second-hand smoke is linked to heart disease, lung cancer and respiratory conditions, as we know.

As I said before, the World Health Organization takes a particularly dim view of youth smoking and estimates that about 10 per cent of deaths due to smoking are a result of second-hand smoke. The Heart Foundation has also got on board in support of Cancer Council Queensland, stating that these provisions will have beneficial impacts in reducing peoples' exposure to second-hand smoke. We cannot allow these smoking numbers to grow, and we must do everything in our power to prevent another child dying or suffering from breathing in second-hand smoke. We need to ensure that the available number of places in public where people can smoke is drastically reduced.

This bill forms part of the government's commitment to continue Queensland's tobacco control efforts and respond effectively to the health, social and economic burden that tobacco smoking places on the community. For my department, the Department of Housing and Public Works, this is an important bill in respect of government properties such as public schools, police stations and government employee housing properties. It is important that we protect all Queenslanders from the dangers of smoking, whether they are at home, in public, at work or anywhere else in this great state.

In terms of state government properties, this bill will mean a number of important changes. Smoking will be banned in and within four metres of a state government building, even if it is not signed. Smoking will also be banned from any outdoor area adjoining a state government building. Smoke-free areas will also be clearly mapped or defined in other ways, given the varying regulations depending on the space involved. The department will take a compliance role in respect of any properties under its management to ensure that the new regulations are enforced. This includes pedestrian bridges such as the Goodwill and Kurilpa bridges.

I commend the work of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, the Hon. Cameron Dick, on introducing this bill into parliament. I, and I know others, think that this bill will go a long way to improving the health and wellbeing of people across the state and reduce the uptake of smoking in young Queenslanders.

A key part of this bill will be ensuring the public are aware of the changes that are being made and that these changes are for the greater good. From experience we know that education campaigns are vital in reducing the need for long-term enforcement. We know the Department of Health is currently developing a public education campaign to promote awareness of the new smoke-free areas and appropriate investment has been allocated in the budget for this public education campaign and stakeholder support.

Further information and resources will also be made available to the public on the Queensland government website including fact sheets, newsletter updates, posters for noticeboards and signage templates, which I submit are important. These resources will be designed to assist community groups—and I am sure they will do so successfully—such as sporting associations, early childhood

education and care facilities and residential aged-care facilities to communicate these important changes and encourage compliance with the smoking bans and, of course, drive significant change in the behaviour of the young and all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (7.54 pm): As a medical practitioner, I fully support this bill. I do not have to remind members in the House, as we have heard statistics all night, that 2.7 million smokers are present in Australia today and 1.8 million will die from their habit. It reduces life expectancy by 10 years at least and approximately 20,000 deaths will be attributed to cigarette smoking here in Australia. This is a habit of death and disability. The facts, the evidence, is clear that cigarette smoking does significant harm and cigarette smoking can do generational harm, because one of the big factors is if your parents smoke then the likelihood of you smoking is that much increased.

Although I was predominantly a maxillofacial trauma surgeon, my team, my colleagues, at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital did most of the oncology work as I did the trauma work. To see people faced with head and neck cancer as a direct result of cigarette smoking was terrible to behold. Some of these people were quite young as well. The incidence was quite high but not as high as in countries such as China or the Philippines and other places I visited.

The surgery is quite extensive. It requires resection of the area and quite a large resection of the area including areas of the face, the jaw and the neck. Then that area has to be replaced with other tissues and those tissues come from the arm, the leg or the pelvis, and the tissues are removed with the arteries and veins and those arteries and veins are then connected to the other arteries and veins in the neck. But that is not the end of it because after that there are extensive bouts of radiotherapy which follow. These people are disabled not only by the surgery, which although performed expertly well can still be quite disfiguring, but with the radiotherapy afterwards the salivary flow is lessened, they have a very dry mouth and their quality of life is just not the same.

I cannot help but notice when I am walking down a city street when I look at someone coming the other way and I can identify it and I go, 'That poor person has had cancer and has been operated on by one of my colleagues.' You cannot miss them when you know what to look for. It is a serious disease. It is a serious disease in terms of the personal harm it does. It is a serious disease in terms of the cost for our society. I commend the health minister because this is another step to decrease the incidence of diseases caused by cigarette smoking in our society.

Interventions work. Twelve per cent of adults in Australia now smoke. There have been advertising campaigns, plain packaging, pricing, education—lots of interventions. But things have always worked in a stepwise fashion, and this is yet another important step. In 1945, 72 per cent of men smoked.

Mr Rickuss: They were encouraged to, though. They were encouraged to during the war.

Dr LYNHAM: Yes, it was like a stress relief. There were doctors who were on cigarette ads in the 1950s—it soothed the throat; it cured bronchitis. People did not know. In fact, one of the early medical epidemiological studies tried to work out why all of a sudden in about the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s there was this rise in lung cancer. Everyone was looking. They did not know it was cigarette smoking. As society was more affluent, they noticed that there was more bitumen going on our roads.

Mr Rickuss: They blamed bitumen.

Dr LYNHAM: They blamed bitumen. That was the first thing. They were close because there was tar in the lungs and they thought it was the bitumen. They did not blame cigarette smoking at the time. It was not until the late 1950s and 1960s that epidemiologically it was proven that it was cigarette smoking. Then came the acceptance. It was not until well into the 1970s. Then there were still the deniers. Do you remember them? They still denied it right through the 1970s and 1980s that it was cigarette smoking that actually caused it.

Mr Rickuss: All the Second World War veterans smoked.

Dr LYNHAM: That is exactly right. I remember my grandfather and my father smoking in a housing commission house at Murarrie and the room was full of smoke. The people from QBuild or whoever they were used to come in and paint the housing commission houses. When they used to come in and paint the ceiling I remember how white it looked because previously all the cigarette smoke was on the ceiling. Who can remember looking at the screen in a picture theatre through a haze of smoke?

Mr Stewart: We had atmosphere!

Dr LYNHAM: Yes, the atmosphere. As recently as 2006 smoking was banned in clubs. I remember coming back from the local club and the smell from the cigarette smoke would be all over us. It was abysmal. I go overseas a lot and I have been to China. There are whole hospitals in China dedicated to head and neck surgery. You can buy a packet of cigarettes in China for 10 cents. Smoking is everywhere. At university many of my friends smoked and yet they were going to become budding health professionals. It was many friends who smoked. Two of my grandparents died of lung cancer, one aged 60 and the other aged 70.

Mr Rickuss: Emphysema is the big one.

Dr LYNHAM: Yes, and emphysema is such a terrible way to die because you die gasping for your last breath. It is a horrible way to die. There is lung cancer as well. Nothing is clearer. There was the old three score and 10; if you smoked, that was probably about it. If you made three score and 10 and you smoked, that was about your life. Now life expectancy is well past that.

I return to these initiatives of the health minister such as banning smoking in outdoor malls like in Queen Street, at public transport waiting points—and I am campaigning now with the council. I go to bus stops and we see the cigarette butts all around the bus stops.

Mr Rickuss: You are not running for council as well?

Dr LYNHAM: No, I am helping my mates. Smoking will be banned at public swimming pools, which is a health and safety initiative. They will also be banned at skate parks, and that is a good one. What a great message that sends to our youth to not have that peer influence at skate parks. Then there are bans at sporting grounds and early childhood education facilities, and what could be an easier hit than to ban smoking from these areas? Residential aged-care facilities are also included in the ban. The bill also prohibits the sale of products in temporary premises. It is great to hear those opposite in a bipartisan manner supporting this important health initiative, because the evidence is so strong. However, a few days ago we had a pile of evidence this high as well, but members opposite deserted me. I will not forgive or forget.

There have been some successful interventions. The biggest intervention that has lowered the smoking rate has been price. Despite all the fancy, glitzy campaigns and everything else out there, the biggest single intervention to decrease the rate of smoking has been price as well as making smoking socially unacceptable in society. This is where the health minister has it right with these initiatives. Of course the banning of advertising did tremendous amounts to decrease the smoking rate. I remind members that \$200 million is still spent on the advertising of alcohol. I remember the Marlboro man as well. Education in schools has made some impact to decrease smoking rates but the evidence does not show it is a strong impact. However, it assists. Legislative approaches have always been the most effective. When parliamentarians have sat in the chamber and changed legislation those have been our most successful preventive health impacts, and I cannot help but hark back to three nights ago.

The most successful preventive impacts to decrease the rate of smoking include: family environment; the smoking behaviour of peers, which I mentioned previously, such as banning smoking in skate parks, bus stops, malls, swimming pools and sporting grounds—they are all very important; and accessibility to products such as decreasing the amount of availability at temporary retail outlets. That is also vitally important. This legislation sends a clear message to the community. Today people have mentioned how difficult local government enforcement is. However, we will have social enforcement of this as well. People will chip up at a bus stop, swimming pool or a sporting event and tell people they are doing the wrong thing.

We know that smoking causes harm. These are sensible measures. The costs on our society are \$6.1 billion per year. This ramps up our preventive health message. I commend the work of the health minister. We want this bill. This bill will work effectively to decrease the number of Queenslanders who smoke.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (8.04 pm): The right of people to clean air is a fundamental right. This bill is about continuing what has been a major area of policy success in this country over the last 20 to 30 years where we have seen smoking rates halved to the point where our smoking rates here in Australia are about middle ranking now. We are down a long way from where we were, but we still have a long way to go. I think it should be our objective to be the world leaders in terms of smoking policy and continue to drive that rate down. It is down to about 13.3 per cent now. Let's continue that process. That is what this legislation is about: continuing that process of reducing smoking for a whole range of reasons.

I cannot help but think of this policy in terms of my responsibilities as the Minister for Road Safety. Last year we lost 242 Queenslanders on our roads and yet we lost 3,400 Queenslanders to smoking. I think that puts it in perspective. That is a lot of people who are needlessly dying and needlessly suffering because of their addiction. Let's be clear; we are talking about addiction. It is a highly addictive drug. The evidence on that is absolutely clear. That research was disputed for a long time by the tobacco companies, but it is absolutely clear that it is a highly addictive and often very deliberately addictive drug for reasons of profitability. Once people are addicted, it is a very difficult drug to get off.

In some ways, this legislation supports those people to cure their addiction to nicotine and it makes it harder for them everywhere they go; it increases the social unacceptability of nicotine and smoking. It supports people at the margins trying to get rid of it and to get healthy by making it harder to smoke, whether it is outside a government building in that zone, at a public transport stop, a pedestrian mall, a swimming pool et cetera. This bill specifically broadens that scope. I might add that this supports other people. Everyone has a right to have clean air. If we are going about our daily business in life and we are not smokers, we deserve the right to have clean air. This is a unique drug in the sense that there are a lot of other drugs that human beings take today and have done over human history, but it is only this drug that, if consumed near someone else, they are directly forced to inhale. That is what puts smoking in a different category to other drugs in terms of the impingement on people's rights. I think the term 'passive smoking' is a misnomer because it is not passive; it is actually invasive smoking; it is smoking that is enforced on other people. It is our responsibility as a government to stop that infringement on other people's rights and on other people's health.

Another important part of this legislation is the consistency. The current legislation in this range of provisions is inconsistent right across the state depending on the local council and the nature of municipal politics largely from area to area. I think it is well and truly time that people have the right to expect that if they go to a bus stop in Cairns, Brisbane or on the Gold Coast the same laws should apply, the same expectations should apply, that their health should be protected, that their rights to clean air should be protected against those of other people who may wish to infringe upon them. One of my observations is that many smokers are often—and I do not like to cast aspersions—very ignorant and do not take into account the impact of their smoking on other people.

It is legitimate for us to put out the signal about what is reasonable and what is not reasonable and enforce it. When I travel in other countries I notice that their smoking legislation is a long way behind Australia's, and you can see how people in other cultures assume that smoking is the norm. When you go to a restaurant or a cafe it is very hard to get away from it because there are people smoking all around you and it is very, very invasive. I am very proud of Australian policy in this regard over the last 20 to 25 years. I think we have made great advances and the proof is in the numbers, but in my view 13.3 per cent is 13.3 per cent too many.

This is a fiscally prudent bill because of the impact of nicotine addiction on the public purse. It is the public health system that picks up the cost for people's health problems which inevitably occur. Last year there were 36,000 hospitalisations in Queensland alone. When you look at the profile of public health expenditure over future years in terms of this issue, particularly with the baby boomers, it is on the public purse. It is the taxpayer who largely picks up the treatment of those people who are addicted to nicotine, as they often come back for more and more treatment. My aunt was one of those who would be treated, but she could not give it up and she would keep smoking. She went in and out of the hospital system because she could not give it up. That is unfortunately the case in far too many instances.

Mr Rickuss: It is absolutely amazing when you see people on a drip smoking outside the hospital.

Mr BAILEY: That is exactly right. It is very sad to see people in such a dire state, but they cannot overcome the addiction and we have to support those people as much as we can.

I certainly support the comments from the member for Springwood in terms of protecting children at places like swimming pools, skate parks and public transport stops. It is very clear that children are not as developed physically, so the impact of passive smoking on them and their health is much more severe than it would be on an adult. This bill is very much about protecting children as well. We are ranked about 50th in the world. I think we need to improve on that by a long way.

I certainly support Dr Lynham's comments about the impact of cigarettes on the environment. The number of cigarette butts that are on the ground which go into our natural environment every day is regrettable and the more we can reduce that, the better.

I also support the bill for a personal reason. My father was a very heavy smoker. He smoked three packets a day every day throughout his adult life, and unsurprisingly he only made it to the age of 60. When I was 16 one of my first political decisions was to join a nonsmokers' movement because of the reality of my father smoking that heavily. Eventually it killed him. It took him out at the age of 60, which is a very young age really, and that made this issue very real for me.

Having some drama background as well meant that, when you learn about acting and human behaviour, you find out that smoking is one of those things that separates people from other people. Whether it is the habit or whether it is the aroma if it is on your clothes consistently, it is actually a form of human disconnection and separation. That is also partly the nature of addiction.

I am very happy to support this bill. It is a responsible bill on so many levels, and we have to continue to have the best possible best practice policy when it comes to preventing smoking in public places with its inevitable cancerous outcomes. It is very good that this is a bipartisan position; I certainly support and welcome the support of the opposition. I think having a strong parliamentary position helps to put the message out to the community that we have to do more and that it is unacceptable for our community to tolerate people who continue to damage themselves, the public health system and others in that process.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (8.14 pm), in reply: I start by simply thanking all those who made a contribution this afternoon and evening to the debate before the House. It is indeed a bipartisan approach. Listening to all those who made a contribution, we could be accused of being in violent agreement. We all understand quite clearly the implications of cigarette smoking and the effect it has on those who are not smokers but who do become affected by passive smoking.

Dr Lynham made a comment about some of the historical factors in relation to why smoking became so popular. I suspect one of the reasons is the role that Hollywood played, because the Hollywood star was seen as a sex symbol, either male or female. I can recall Humphrey Bogart, who died of lung cancer, chain-smoking in the movies. He was very much seen as a man to be followed by men. People such as John Wayne, who was a man who would light his cigarette by placing the match on his backside and wiping it, thus lighting the flame; those men engendered a sense that a man was a man when he smoked a cigarette. People such as George Raft—people may not know George Raft as well, but he was also an actor in Hollywood.

An honourable member: Some of us are too young.

Mr McARDLE: I take the comment. But he was also a man who portrayed the image that if you are a 'tough guy' you smoked and therefore you were a 'real man'. People like Frank Sinatra smoked for many years. He was a leading light in entertainment and what a man really was. We have our own people in this nation too: Stuart Wagstaff for Benson & Hedges, 'When only the best will do,' was a man who was certainly a leading light in that area; Tony Barber, *Sale of the Century* host and the 'Cambridge Whistler'; and of course Paul Hogan with Winfield. The era of movies and TV had a very strong influence on how we defined men and, indeed, women.

Dr Lynham also made the comment about price being a major factor which deters people from smoking, and I can certainly attest to that. My brother gave up many years ago for one reason, he said: 'It reached \$5 a packet.' I loathed him for that because he could, and he stayed off cigarettes for many years so price was certainly a factor. It may be a factor about his personality as well, but that is another debate for another time.

Mr Rickuss: That is the Scottish coming out.

Mr McARDLE: Irish, you silly fool. In relation to what we spend on tobacco, in a 12-month period this nation spends \$14 billion on cigarettes and Queensland spends \$2.8 billion. That money could have gone into the family, it could have gone into paying the mortgage down, it could have gone into paying school fees, motor vehicle expenses and the like. The fact is that we have 3,700 Queenslanders who die each year from cigarette smoking, and one in 10 of those is a passive smoker. We have all known friends and family who have had that visited upon them with dire consequences. The fact is that smoking causes lung, mouth, throat, oesophagus, larynx, tongue, lip, saliva glands, penis, kidney and liver cancers, just to name a few. The fact that it can cause heart disease, peptic ulcers, chronic bronchitis, asthma, emphysema and macular degeneration are a few consequences of smoking that should be a deterrent to us taking it up.

I think at the end of the day the House would concur that we are on a winner with regard to sending the message out to the population of this state and across the nation. There is more work to be done, but I suspect that we are getting down to the very hard core nut of people who do smoke and

therefore the message is harder to sell, what we have to do is harder to undertake and, more importantly, the people we are now preaching to are not as inclined to listen as they were 30 or 40 years ago. We can continue to do what we are doing here tonight, and we will. We will work with the Cancer Council, the Heart Foundation of Australia and other organisations to get the best outcomes that we possibly can for all Queenslanders.

Tonight is a night on which we do push the boundaries back that much further, to protect ourselves, our families, our children and our grandchildren. Perhaps the day will come when there will not be a cigarette smoked in the state. That would be a wonderful occasion. I will not live to see it, but I certainly hope that other people in this House and their children will do so. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (8.19 pm), in reply: I thank all of those members who have taken the opportunity to put forward their support for stronger tobacco laws. I particularly thank those members who shared their personal experiences of the harmful impacts of smoking, whether based on their experiences having worked as healthcare professionals or simply as individuals who have witnessed firsthand the often devastating effects of a cigarette habit, perhaps because they have smoked or have family members who have smoked.

The stories recounted by the members for Bulimba and Moggill, who have treated patients with smoking related diseases and addiction, were particularly poignant, as were those recounted by the members for Thuringowa and you, Mr Deputy Speaker Crawford. As former paramedics, both the member for Thuringowa and you have seen the effects of advanced lung disease and smoking related illnesses. Both you and the member for Thuringowa were able to illustrate for the House the debilitating consequences a smoking habit has for far too many Queenslanders.

I also wish to acknowledge the contribution of the member for Stafford and my ministerial colleague the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. It was informative to listen to the member for Stafford talk from his clinical experience—obviously as a maxillofacial surgeon he did not deal directly with the consequences of smoking, being a trauma surgeon—about the very severe impacts on the head, face and neck that smoking can cause.

We also heard tonight from many members who have sadly lost loved ones to the harms of smoking. That was a common theme throughout the second reading debate—the number of members of this House who have had experience of a close family member or friend having been seriously harmed by smoking or having lost their life due to an addiction to smoking. I acknowledge and thank those members for sharing their experience, particularly of the passing of a very close family member such as a parent. All of us in our own lives have faced, I am certain, one of those experiences along the way.

The examples we have heard tonight reinforce the importance of our shared commitment to introduce new measures to curb smoking and to pass this important legislation. It is my sincere hope, as Queensland's Minister for Health, that smoking related illness and death will become a thing of the past. Enacting this bill is an important step towards realising this goal. Since 1998 Queensland has been a leader in enacting strong tobacco laws to protect the community. I am pleased to see the continued support from both sides of the House for this next step in strengthening Queensland's tobacco laws.

We have heard many alarming statistics today about the impact of smoking, both for smokers and for those exposed to second-hand smoke. Thankfully, we are making a difference. The phased introduction of smoking bans and other strategies in Queensland during the period between 2001 and 2014 contributed to reducing smoking rates by 30 per cent. As the member for Mackay has reminded us, it was not that long ago that we were smoking in restaurants and bars. While concerns were expressed before the laws were introduced, these smoking bans were quickly adopted by industry and the community and are now completely accepted across the state. But we must not be complacent. In 2013, national survey results showed that the rate of daily smoking in Queensland was about 18 per cent higher than the national rate.

As we know, smoking habits are often developed during formative teenage years. The Cancer Council Queensland reports that young people who start smoking have their first full cigarette before they are 16 years old. The health risk from smoking commences as soon as a smoker takes up the habit and increases the longer they smoke. That is why this bill focuses on children and young people—

something I am particularly proud of. Young people are more likely to see smoking as desirable when they frequently see other people smoking including, as the member for Waterford pointed out, celebrities on television and in motion pictures.

It is critical that we reduce the normalcy of smoking by reducing smoking in those public places frequented by children and young people. I share the member for Springwood's desire that our youngest children do not grow up seeing smoking as popular or normal. I would like to wish the member's daughter a very happy birthday. One of the challenges for all of us who serve in this parliament is that, due to our responsibilities here, there are many occasions on which we do not have the opportunity to share special occasions with our families. I do wish the member for Springwood's daughter a very happy birthday.

The bill will reduce the normalcy of smoking for young people by banning smoking at and near skate parks, at local government owned and operated swimming pools and at children's organised sporting events. Children will also benefit from the changes that will make all public transport waiting points and outdoor pedestrian malls smoke-free. These additional smoke-free public places will help to protect the community from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke. Advice from the Cancer Council Queensland is that even brief exposure to second-hand smoke can adversely affect the health of nonsmokers. The bill will also improve the community's enjoyment of Queensland's magnificent outdoor public places.

I would like to briefly address some points raised earlier in the debate. As indicated in my opening remarks, the government does not support the private member's bill introduced by the member for Caloundra. The government's smoke-free places bill will not just achieve the objectives of the private member's bill but also do much more. It will also address the drafting issues identified by the committee.

In what was generally a very strong bipartisan debate, I was disappointed to hear the contribution from the member for Gympie. The member for Gympie claimed that the government was slow in providing leadership on this issue following introduction of the private member's bill. I do not want to be overly critical of the member for Gympie, but I must point out that it is not leadership to put poorly drafted or unenforceable bills into parliament. The legislation must be fully developed and must be able to be applied when passed. The committee's report into the private member's bill identified a lack of clarity around the application of new smoking bans and recommended improved definitions to ensure greater consistency with the existing provisions in the tobacco act. The committee recommended changes to the provisions related to smoking bans at public transport waiting points, skate parks, government buildings and swimming pools.

Unlike the private member's bill, the government's smoke-free places bill is the product of considerable and detailed policy development. Members can be confident when passing this bill that its provisions will be effective and able to be implemented by our environmental health officers and our local government officers, who will be responsible for enforcement of the new provisions. All of the committee's recommendations on the private member's bill have been addressed in the smoke-free places bill.

The government's bill also goes much further than the private member's bill, providing for many more smoke-free public places across Queensland. Unlike the private member's bill, smoking bans will apply at early childhood education and care facilities and residential aged-care facilities, prescribed national parks and government precincts and children's organised under-age sporting events. The government's bill also makes a series of minor and technical improvements to the operation of the tobacco act. These changes will ensure greater clarity around definitions and close loopholes in existing smoking ban matters not addressed by the private member's bill.

Also, we have done what the LNP did not do. We have listened to the clear message of the Local Government Association of Queensland at its conference in 2013. I understand that the member for Gympie was a councillor at the time of that conference. I am sure he was disappointed that the LNP did nothing to implement the call from local government to be able to make their own smoke-free places.

The bill provides local governments with the power to make local laws prohibiting smoking in outdoor public places in their local government area. This power may be used to declare certain parks, boardwalks or pedestrian areas to be smoke-free. Any fines imposed by the local government under this power will be paid to the local government.

I note that the member for Gympie also expressed some concerns around local government's role in enforcing these new laws. To the extent that these criticisms are valid—I am not sure that they are—they are concerns he should also direct to the member for Caloundra in relation to the private member's bill, which proposed the same enforcement role for local government.

Of course, the broader issue is about the role of local government. At a time of council elections it is something important to reflect upon. Councils do more than maintain roads, collect rates and look after rubbish. Local governments represent their communities. They have a responsibility to respond to their communities across the spectrum of issues, including social and health issues, and if they have a substance that is harming their constituents at a much faster rate than any other preventative cause I think they would recognise they have an obligation to do their bit to try and limit it. We will always run hospitals to provide treatment, but we ask that councils work with us to try to minimise risks to their own constituents.

The member for Caloundra suggested I had some reluctance to acknowledge the changes made by the former minister. I acknowledged the former minister in my second reading speech and I am happy to acknowledge again the smoke-free bans introduced at schools and hospitals which we are building on today. While the changes the former minister, my immediate predecessor, made were important, they must be seen in the context of the major changes made by the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments, including smoking bans at enclosed public places such as workplaces, outdoor eating and drinking places, children's playgrounds and sports stadiums.

The member for Buderim spoke about the ban on smoking within five metres of government buildings and I noted his concerns that this might simply shift smokers to other areas. I presume he means moving smokers to other non-government buildings. I share the member's concern. That is why the government's bill does not adopt the approach taken in the private member's bill but will instead allow for government precincts to be flexibly defined through a regulation. This will mean careful consideration can be given to any potential impacts on neighbouring buildings. The no-smoking area can be defined in a way that is sensitive to neighbours rather than an arbitrary five-metre boundary that follows the contours of a building.

I thank the member for Nudgee for her leadership during the committee's inquiry into the bill. In outlining stakeholder support for the bill, the member for Nudgee noted the appetite of many stakeholders to go further. I also acknowledge the contributions of other members in respect of that matter. I look forward to the outcome of the current inquiries in that respect being progressed by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee and the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. These committees are considering the issues of tobacco licensing and smoking at higher education and training facilities respectively. They are important issues that will benefit from the detailed examination that the committees can offer.

Queensland does not currently have a licensing scheme for tobacco wholesale or retail sales. Licensing schemes are useful to identify and monitor the number, type and location of tobacco retail outlets and wholesalers. This assists with distribution of retailer education materials and planning of enforcement. However, there are limitations of such schemes, including costs and administrative burdens on business and government, and that the scheme may disproportionately disadvantage small business. The health committee is considering whether a licensing scheme for tobacco wholesale and retail sales supports the broader public health objectives.

While smoking is prohibited inside buildings at universities, TAFEs and registered training organisations, there are currently no laws prohibiting smoking in outdoor areas at these facilities. This, I believe, is inconsistent with the situation at schools. The committee is considering the benefits and implementation issues raised by a smoking ban across these facilities. I note the committees will be hearing from key stakeholders tomorrow morning. This provides a valuable opportunity for industry, health groups and the higher education and training sector to participate in this policy discussion immediately following the passage of this legislation. The committees are both due to report on 29 April 2016 and I can assure honourable members the government will carefully consider the outcomes of the inquiries after this date.

I am pleased to hear that the member for Greenslopes, as an avid rollerskater, will be taking advantage of the smoke-free environment at skate parks and I commend him for pursuing that very healthy pursuit. The member for Greenslopes also noted that one option is a complete ban on smoking. Some in our community have asked why we do not take this step, and that is an important question.

The member for Algester—and I noted the thoughtful contribution by the member for Algester and my ministerial colleague—has noted the difficulties that arise when people are involuntarily subjected to second-hand smoke exposure at public transport waiting points. The member is right: there is a community expectation of protection from second-hand smoke in situations of involuntary crowding such as public transport waiting points.

I do indicate to the member for Algester that of course smoking occurs at a higher rate in Indigenous communities than non-Indigenous communities. I was very pleased to join with leaders in the Indigenous health sector such as Adrian Carson, the CEO of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, and leaders in the sporting sector, including the CEO of the Brisbane Broncos, Paul White, for the launch of a new Deadly Choices advertising campaign at the old Tallebudgera Creek recreational camp, as it was known by me once, the now Tallebudgera recreational camp. It was a very splendid morning. A lot of young Indigenous people from high schools throughout Queensland were there and we launched this new advertising campaign. One of the ads was specifically targeted at smoking in Indigenous communities. I am very pleased that those ads are being rolled out thanks to the support of our government providing funding to the Deadly Choices campaign—something I am also proud of.

Currently, some Queensland public transport waiting points are smoke-free while others are not. For example, transport legislation prohibits smoking on busways, busway infrastructure, railway stations and light-rail platforms. The Ipswich City Council, the Fraser Coast Regional Council and the Redland City Council also have local laws in place that make certain public transport waiting points in their local areas smoke-free. The amendments in our legislation will provide Queenslanders with greater protection from exposure to tobacco smoke. Consistent public transport smoking bans will send a clear message that smoking in these areas is unacceptable, and this was acknowledged by the member for Yeerongpilly. The aim is to increase self-compliance and change smokers' behaviour.

While smoking rates have decreased significantly, there are still many daily smokers. We know that smoking is not an easy habit to kick. I congratulate the members for Ferny Grove, Caloundra, Thuringowa and Buderim for successfully quitting the habit. On average it will take seven or eight attempts to quit before a person will successfully give up smoking for good, but the government will support them through our Quitline and through other mechanisms. I do not consider banning a product a viable option at this time, but tobacco legislation such as the smoke-free places bill is an integral part of effective tobacco control.

Queensland's tobacco laws are amongst the toughest in Australia but they are not about discriminating against smokers. Rather, by setting a standard that applies equally to all, the laws contribute to a culture that supports smokers to quit and discourages young people from taking up the habit. The member for Waterford reminded us of the importance of community based programs for young people and community engagement programs such as the Logan Together program—something that I strongly support as the member for Woodridge.

The Queensland government has a range of programs and other initiatives to help smokers kick the habit for good. One such initiative is the Workplace Quit Smoking Program which commenced in August 2011. This free, evidence based quit-smoking program is tailored to workers as, unfortunately, smoking rates for blue-collar workers are almost double the rate for white-collar workers. The program is delivered by the Quitline service. It combines four smoking cessation support calls with 12 weeks supply of nicotine patches, gum or lozenges. A unique component of the program is the opportunity for the partner, spouse or immediate family member who resides in the same house as a worker who is registered on the program to be part of the program as well.

Since the program started more than 9,840 registrations have been received from workers located in a range of industries throughout Queensland. These industries include construction, mining, wholesale trade, manufacturing, utilities and local government. The average participant age is 43 years, with 60 per cent of registrations received from males. Participants in the program are surveyed at program completion and then again at three, six and 12 months post program completion. I am pleased to announce that the quit rate of participants at 12 months post program is 26 per cent. This is more than five times the rate for individuals trying to quit unassisted. The feedback received from participants has also been very positive.

I am pleased to announce that this program is being extended to support the early childhood education and care sector. Education and care providers will be invited to participate in the Workplace Quit Smoking Program. Joining the program now means that these workers will have the opportunity to quit before the new nonsmoking requirements at early childhood education and care facilities commence in September 2016, and I encourage employees in the sector to avail themselves of the program. This will have a beneficial health effect, not only for them but also for the children who use day care services like those visited by the member for Ipswich at the Jacaranda Street kindergarten. There is well-established evidence that children are particularly susceptible to the effects of second-hand smoke due to their higher breathing rates per body weight, their greater lung surface area relative to adults and the immaturity of their lungs.

In summary, we know there is still more to be done and we will continue to do more. However, this bill is an important next step in the Palaszczuk Labor government's tobacco control efforts to create more smoke-free places, reduce the social acceptance of smoking and provide supportive environments to help people quit.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the Queensland Health Quitline staff. The member for Buderim expressed disappointment about his personal experience with the helpline when he was trying to quit smoking. The Quitline plays a vital role in reducing the rates of smoking and helping people to quit. In 2015, the Quitline received more than 34,000 calls including over 2,300 calls from Indigenous patients. Increasingly, GPs and other health professionals are recognising the valuable counselling provided by Quitline, referring more than 5,800 of their patients each year to the service. I thank the Quitline for the work that it does to help reduce the rate of smoking in Queensland.

I would also like to thank the members of the former health and ambulance services committee and the committee staff for their detailed consideration of the bill. Of course, health legislation never comes to the parliament without very detailed consideration by policy officers in the Department of Health. Some of those officers have worked for many years on the journey to develop more smoke-free places in Queensland.

I want to thank all the staff members from the Department of Health who have worked on this bill. I want to acknowledge the Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, who for many years has been a strong advocate for increasing the number of no-smoking places in Queensland. Mark West has been a very diligent and thoughtful policy officer in the Department of Health for many years and has been involved in many legislative reforms that have come to this parliament. I want to acknowledge people such as Mark who represent the best in our Public Service—people who dedicate their professional career to working in the Public Service—and I thank him for his contribution. Of course, they are embarrassed when I name them, but it is appropriate for all of us to recognise the hard work of those diligent and dedicated public servants who are often easily criticised.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Yeerongpilly and the member for Mount Coot-tha for their support of public servants. Public servants are often the subject of criticism in the community. We are all paid to be criticised in this place, not the least by each other, but for public servants who do their duty diligently I think that it is appropriate for us, as members of parliament and particularly those of us in executive government, to acknowledge their work.

I also want to acknowledge Ms Rebecca Whitehead and Ms Kaye Pulsford from the Preventive Health Branch and Mr David Harmer, Ms Kirsten Law and Ms Anita Eenink from the Legislative Policy Unit in the Department of Health. I also want to acknowledge policy officers Eve Gibson and Sha Lang for their work. This is important legislative reform and I commend the bill to the House.

Question put—That the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill 2015 be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Speaker's Ruling, Same Question Rule

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the question before the House is that the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill be now read a second time. I draw members' attention to the statement I circulated in the chamber earlier today regarding the application of the same question rule.

Standing order 87 provides the general rule of Westminster parliamentary practice that, once the House has resolved a matter in the affirmative or negative, the same question shall not again be proposed in the same session. Similarly, standing order 150 provides for the application of the same question rule in relation to amendments, new clauses or schedules of a bill. As previous Speakers have noted, the matters do not have to be identical but merely the same in substance as the previous matter. In other words, it is a question of substance, not form.

The Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill, introduced on 14 July 2015, seeks to achieve substantially the same objectives as those of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill, which the House has just resolved to read a second time. Therefore, under standing orders 87 and 150, the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Extension of Smoking Bans) Amendment Bill cannot proceed and is therefore discharged from the *Notice Paper*.

Consideration in Detail

Tobacco and Other Smoking Products (Smoke-free Places) Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—

 **Mr McARDLE** (8.45 pm): I refer to clause 9 on page 17, new section 26VW. This clause deals with aged-care facilities and it states that a person cannot smoke at a facility of that nature. It then states at new section 26VW(3) that it does not apply to a person within a 'nominated outdoor smoking place'. If I am at a health facility, I cannot smoke anywhere within that facility at all. There is a five-metre buffer. So why would that not apply in an aged-care facility? Why is an aged-care facility exempt in relation to a nominated outdoor smoking place? I would have thought that, for consistency, both areas should be covered to the same extent.

Mr DICK: The simple answer to that is that aged-care facilities are a place of residence for individuals. An aged-care facility is different from a hospital or a healthcare facility where people go for treatment. Principally, those places are a temporary place for people for the purposes of receiving treatment. In this instance, we made a decision, in an Australian first, to expand smoking bans to residential aged-care facilities. It is a significant step. Previously, there was a smoking ban applicable to government aged-care facilities. We have expanded that smoking ban to all aged-care facilities.

Because it is a place of residence for people and they may have entered into a residence agreement some time ago and we are changing the nature of that residence agreement—perhaps on the basis that they were not anticipating when they moved into that place of residence—we think that, given those circumstances, it is appropriate that those individuals have the capacity to go to a designated smoking place. I am hopeful that there will be a movement over time to reduce the number of designated smoking places in residential aged-care facilities. I certainly hope that that process will be encouraged by staff and the residents who are there, but I think that we need to be cognisant that an aged-care facility is a place where people live and it is quite different from a healthcare facility.

I accept the point made by the member for Caloundra that there is a similarity in the sense that people living in care—and certainly in high-level aged-care facilities—are often receiving very intimate, close personal care from carers, which is akin to a form of supported living that has a quasi-medical or clinical aspect. But in the circumstances we think that it is appropriate at this time for there to be designated places for people to smoke. We will monitor that, and if the sector thinks it is appropriate to eliminate this provision then we would do that, but I think for the foreseeable future a designated place for people to smoke will continue to be included in the law.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10, as read, agreed to.

Clause 11—

 **Mr McARDLE** (8.49 pm): Clause 11 on page 19 deals with a government precinct and defines that as being land 'adjoining a building occupied' et cetera. If I recall correctly, there was a concern that the five-metre rule could well impinge upon private property, if I understand the debate adequately. I also understand the minister's comments were to the effect that you would need to—my words—negotiate a boundary given certain buildings have adjoining private property. My concern is that there could well be a lack of consistency in relation to the area covered from one building to another that could then lead to confusion in the minds of the public as to what is the area to be covered in the land adjoining a building or precinct. Could the minister explain how the public are going to be aware of what could possibly be different areas around different buildings if there is not a consistent approach to a formula that can be put in place to be understood and seen by the public that could lead to prosecutions?

Mr DICK: Firstly I will describe what a government precinct may be, and that may be any land that adjoins a building occupied by the state, the Legislative Assembly, a court or tribunal, an entity that represents the state or other entity established by an act. A regulation will clearly define the government precinct. This may be by reference to a map or another clear method to define the space where smoking is prohibited. If it is a regulation it will be gazetted. It will be available for the world to see. I am not sure whether we will be putting that up on a website, but that is something I will give consideration to if that makes it easier for people to understand where the designation might be and, of course, we would only designate a government precinct after consultation with the relevant department or state agency or entity representing the state. It is like any area that is defined, such as a fishing zone. We will adopt the same sort of methodology. We will have to have a mechanism of determining it through regulation and then publishing it. That is what we will do. But I am happy to consider how we might make that easier for people.

In the short term it will be large government precincts, for example the law courts precinct in George Street. That would be a facility that you could designate. We would not do that, of course, without consulting with the department of justice and the heads of jurisdiction: the Chief Justice, the Chief Judge and the Chief Magistrate. That would be a very easily defined area. Similarly, it would be 1 William Street or facilities such as that. We will go through a consultation process first and then we will designate it by regulation.

Clause 11, as read, agreed to.

Clause 12, as read, agreed to.

Clause 13—

 **Mr McARDLE** (8.52 pm): At clause 13, proposed section 26ZKD, on page 23, 'Person must not smoke at or near under-age sporting event', subclause (2) refers to not smoking on land within 10 metres of the boundary of a sporting ground. I note that in other areas within the bill we talk about five metres. Can the minister confirm that the reason for this is that we are dealing with young children and they are susceptible to smoke more so than adults or are there other reasons it is 10 metres here but five metres in other areas?

Mr DICK: Under the legislation smoking will be prohibited at the sporting ground including viewing areas, public seating and any other area reserved for use by the competitors and the officials and 10 metres from the viewing area for a water sport. We have done it to be consistent with skate parks and children's playgrounds. The law for children's playgrounds, which is currently in existence in Queensland and has been for some time, provides for 10 metres. That is the consistency rule that we are applying to sporting activities involving children.

Clause 13, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 14 to 21, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (8.55 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. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (8.56 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (Acting Leader of the House) (8.56 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Wesley Care Tewantin

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (8.56 pm): All members in this place have stories of local community groups who stand out from the crowd because of their commitment and spirit of caring. Each community has a unique character and each is special in its own way. Essential ingredients of these communities are the local organisations whose efforts, caring and concern show us how to be a better community from within. I would like to share with the House tonight the story of one such organisation in the Noosa community. Just over three years ago I was privileged to attend the opening of the Wesley Care Tewantin facility together with my then ministerial colleague and friend Tracy Davis. This was officially called the Younger People in Residential Aged-Care project and would provide young adults with high care needs with a home of their own which is not a hospital or an aged-care facility which until then was their only option.

The Wesley Care facility not only offers more suitable accommodation for young adults but also provides significantly more opportunities for residents to enjoy a greater degree of independence and interaction with their peers. The staff and volunteers at Wesley Care have subsequently proved the success of the model as all six residential placements were quickly taken up and it has remained fully occupied ever since. I have visited this facility several times over the last three years, not only on the anniversaries but also to join them from time to time for morning tea, and I have observed the difference this remarkable team makes to the lives of the young residents who call the place home. A little while ago three of the residents were able to undertake a seven-night cruise together with their carers. The logistics of organising this travel was daunting, but, together with their amazing manager Kirin Hagicostas and a couple of her wonderful volunteers, the three travellers had a wonderful time and I know that they returned to Tewantin with a sense of confidence and a tremendous boost to their morale.

It is not only the residents of this remarkable facility who are the beneficiaries of this organisation but also and very importantly the family members and friends who have the confidence of knowing that the care and professionalism which their loved ones receive is of the highest calibre. The willingness to support and assist those of our community who are less fortunate and vulnerable is a very important part of what helps make the Noosa community so great. On behalf of everyone, I thank very sincerely Wesley Care.

Child Protection

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (8.59 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on a matter of concern to us all: the future of those children at risk of neglect and abuse who are being taken into care here in Queensland. I commend the Premier and the Minister for Child Safety for their work in rolling out the recommendations of the Carmody report and the work that is being undertaken in the secondary-level child protection system. The Queensland statistics speak for themselves. In 2014 in Brisbane alone, there were almost 500 substantiated investigations into abuse of children aged between the ages of zero and six. Many of us sitting here in parliament will know of the areas where high risk exists. Many of us will have such areas in our electorates.

Let us be clear: the issues those families face are immense, often including a mix of unemployment, unstable relationships, substance abuse, mental health issues, unsuitable housing and poor communication skills. Many of the parents were once children who themselves suffered abuse and neglect. At birth their babies are as bright and bubbly as anyone's, yet by three years of age they are lagging in language and cognitive skills. Research has shown that young children who are burdened by significant adversity and whose stress systems are overactivated can suffer impairment to their maturing brain circuits, resulting in an increased probability of long-term learning and behavioural issues. It is time to break the cycle.

I raise this matter after extensive consultation with the Acacia Ridge & Districts Community Centre in my electorate. The organisation has worked to forge partnerships with Community in North Brisbane, Janet Williams-Smith from Early Childhood Management Services, the Queensland University of Technology and the Kyabra Community Association, an experienced southside family support provider. It draws on local businesses, schools, services and community members. In fact, this

model already has the support of the broad community and has attracted donations from business and community members to provide the resources to design the model. Costings of the initiative show that the program can work much more effectively and be much more cost effective than out-of-home care.

For years governments have attempted to address this complex issue, yet we continue to see intergenerational poverty, not just in monetary terms but also in terms of hopes, expectations and flourishing children and youth. It is time we backed communities that have the interests of their children at heart.

Rural Fire Brigade

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (9.02 pm): Just last week in my electorate, in the Carbrook area a bushfire burned for days. It cast a pall of smoke over the Redlands and forced the closure of roads. The fire was attended by rural, urban and parks fire crews, with incident management and catering supplied largely by the Gold Coast Rural Fire Brigade Group. The rural fire brigade provides an essential service for Queenslanders and, indeed, for communities across Australia. We have a responsibility to support those hardworking volunteers in their efforts to keep our communities safe.

In the Redlands, a public meeting attended by more than 100 Mount Cotton and Sheldon locals unanimously voted for the establishment of a brigade. I was disturbed to learn that this was met with strong opposition from the United Firefighters Union and some Labor members opposite. Surely as local members we have a responsibility to support positive community actions such as this, and not try to sabotage them. On that note, I thank Minister Byrne for his recent statement of support for the establishment of the rural fire brigade at Mount Cotton and Sheldon. I look forward to working with the Redland City Council and the community on progressing this matter.

The United Firefighters Union has an important role, yet it does itself a disservice with overzealous and thuggish behaviour, including the Victorian arm of the union coming to Queensland—in this very House—to oppose rural firefighters being eligible for the same compensation for cancers as their urban counterparts. That same union, led by Peter Marshall, has banned its members from taking part in a post-traumatic stress disorder trial, simply because volunteers from the rural fire brigades would be involved. This sort of ongoing dispute only serves to harm our community and does nothing to properly recognise the sacrifice made by those volunteers.

In the Redlands, we face a severe risk of bushfires, particularly in the areas of dense bushland in Mount Cotton, Sheldon, Cornubia, Carbrook and the Moreton Bay islands. Both our urban and rural firefighters serve their communities with distinction and each play their role in keeping us safe, and I applaud them one and all.

Tragically, last week a brave volunteer made the ultimate sacrifice as he battled a bushfire near Dalby. I am sure I speak on behalf of the member for Condamine and all members when I say that our thoughts are with his fellow firefighters and family.

It is time that all of us in this House support those brave men and women. This is not a matter of choosing sides; it is simply a matter of working together to ensure that our homes, businesses and families are safe. I will continue to support those hardworking emergency service workers and volunteers across the Redlands. I call on the Labor government and Minister Byrne to pledge their support and demonstrate real action by doing the same.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Hon. LE DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries) (9.04 pm): In this House we have well established that domestic and family violence is a scourge on our great state and that it is tearing apart too many families. I am very heartened and confident that every person here wants to see an end to that violence. Following on from that point, I inform the House that in Bundaberg Edon Place has recently been granted new funding of over \$3.6 million over the next five years to help provide expanded domestic and family violence services to my local community.

Edon Place has been helping women and families for over 35 years in Bundaberg and surrounding areas. I was very pleased to let director Lynn Booth know of the much needed funding that they are to receive. The funding means that Edon Place will be able to run court based support and perpetrator intervention programs. Professionals working in Bundaberg in the area of domestic and family violence have long been calling for perpetrator intervention programs. The funding will also allow Edon Place to work with local agencies to ensure their responses are delivered in a coordinated and integrated way. This is something that Lynn has been a very passionate advocate for, and I am very pleased that it will now be a reality.

At a domestic and family violence round table that I hosted in Bundaberg last year, throughout the day the idea of various local agencies and service providers working together in the best interests of our community was highlighted again and again. Therefore, I am very delighted to see this much welcomed and needed funding going towards achieving that goal. As a government, we are determined to tackle this problem head-on, which is why we are delivering a coordinated and planned approach to address domestic and family violence and increase the level of support for people affected. This \$3.6 million extra funding is part of a package of more than \$22 million being invested in Central Queensland to help keep victims safe and hold perpetrators to account.

Rotary International, Polio

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (9.07 pm): Tonight I rise in the chamber to pay tribute and recognise the hard work and dedication of Rotary International in working towards a polio-free world. As many colleagues here in the chamber would be aware, poliomyelitis is a crippling disease that threatened Australians with epidemics from the 1930s through to the 1950s. It is estimated that during those epidemics up to 40,000 people were affected. The epidemics claimed many lives and left many more severely crippled. Thankfully, in the early 1950s Dr Jonas Salk developed the world's first polio vaccine, which came into use in 1955. It was soon followed by the oral polio vaccine in 1961, which was developed by the brilliant Albert Sabin.

As access to the vaccines grew, the number of those contracting polio rapidly began to decline in the developed world. I remember in the early 1970s when just one new case of polio in Australia would make the evening news. However, sadly, in less fortunate countries that was not the case. In 1988 alone, globally 1,000 new polio cases were reported each and every day, with around 125 countries still infected by the disease.

In that same year, the global polio eradication initiative began, with Rotary International as one of its most significant advocates. Their unwavering commitment to seeing this disease no longer be a threat has resulted in more than 2.5 billion children being immunised across more than 200 countries, supported by more than 20 million volunteers. Mercifully, the spread of polio has been well and truly stalled: by 2014, just 359 cases were reported in only three countries; by mid-October 2015, just 51 cases were reported worldwide.

The success of this program would not be possible without dedicated vaccination teams visiting each and every house in infected countries to vaccinate children under five years of age. As a proud service club member myself, I am proud to see the efforts of this great organisation in tackling polio. The hard work and unwavering dedication to truly see polio become a disease only read about in the history books and not seen in today's hospitals is something to be applauded.

The incredible efforts of Rotarians from all walks of life and countries around the globe is indeed heartwarming. This program was not the work of just one club, one state or one country. It was the culmination of hundreds and thousands of Rotarians and their respective clubs from across the world taking up the same collective challenge. It shows that dedication and team work can result in historical outcomes.

It is hoped by UNICEF that this year we will see the end of polio for good. Should this happen, it would become the second human disease to be completely eliminated after smallpox was eradicated in 1977. What a great day for humanity that surely would be.

Celebrating Community Resilience Open Day

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (9.10 pm): I rise tonight to speak about the resilience of community members in my electorate and to commemorate their recovery efforts following Cyclone Marcia. As mentioned this morning, last Sunday marked 12 months since Cyclone Marcia devastated many parts of Central Queensland, including my town of Gladstone. To mark this occasion the Gladstone Regional Council, with the assistance of funding from the department of communities, hosted a Celebrating Community Resilience open day in Mount Larcom. This event provided an opportunity not only for reflection and celebration but also to increase awareness about disaster prevention, preparation, response and recovery as well as existing service providers and community networks.

I was the state member for less than three weeks when Cyclone Marcia hit. It was a steep learning curve and it remains one of the most valuable lessons that I have learnt about the power of a strong and cooperative community in times of disaster and great need. As soon as it was deemed safe by emergency services personnel, I drove to Mount Larcom with regional councillor and deputy mayor

Matt Burnett, whose assistance was invaluable, with his intimate knowledge of the many back roads and properties in this area. It was a defining and sobering moment for us both as we inspected the path of destruction.

After a furious weather event such as Cyclone Marcia, nothing ever returns to exactly the way it was. But my community is proof that rebuilding can happen. With the help of \$3.7 million in betterment funding from the Palaszczuk government, road infrastructure in my electorate will now be more resilient into the future. Resilience in our community translates to pitching in, helping mates, standing shoulder to shoulder or, in short, bouncing back. Indeed, the immediate bouncing back phase was a testing time for many in my electorate.

If there is one fact in life that we cannot escape, it is that we cannot control the weather. When it comes to a natural disaster, all we can do is prepare and desperately hope that it passes leaving behind no injuries, no loss of life and without decimating livelihoods.

Since the experience of Cyclone Marcia, very early in my role as a state member, I have liaised with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Queensland Rural Adjustment Authority to arm myself with the full knowledge of declaration processes and assistance schemes to be at the ready, should a similar disaster happen again. It is my great wish for my community that I never have cause to revisit those processes.

I would like to congratulate the organisers of the Celebrating Community Resilience open day and recognise the efforts of the individuals in my electorate who pitched in, helped out and lent a hand. I am pleased to say that my community is well on the way to recovery.

Burnett Electorate, Ecotourism Operator



Mr BENNETT (Burnett—LNP) (9.13 pm): If we needed any more evidence of the risk to this great state's tourism sector, we need look no further than the latest government's ecotourism plan outlining more restrictions and red tape. Communities and tourism operators should be concerned. The last thing anyone wants to see is more negative effects on our communities. I have an example that I want to share.

The example I want to highlight involves a tourism venture that has successfully operated camping activities and the use of plastic kayaks. It employs seven staff. Within a month of the election, departmental officers started raiding operators in my electorate, arriving unannounced in police vehicles and using the police vessel. Departmental staff ordered the operators, including foreign backpackers, to stop using the kayaks, of all things.

About a month later there was another raid of the second camp and they gave the same verbal instruction regarding the use of both kayaks and small recreational boats. The department failed to provide any information about what legislation they were trying to comply with, even after formal requests to do so.

After seven months the department sent an email with a list of things the operator needed to do to comply. Let me remind members that this is for plastic kayaks and little plastic boats. The email advised that to keep using plastic kayaks they must: complete an application for temporary operations; owners and qualified surveyors to confirm that the vessels meet complicated codes; complete an application for a unique identifier for each vessel; complete an application for a certificate of operation for each vessel; submit an application for a non-survey vessel; submit a completed application for temporary operations and pay fees; provide proof of applicant's identification, such as a driver's licence or passport; provide photos of the Australian builders plate; provide proof of level floatation for vessels; provide photos of each vessel with individual identification marks on them; and provide a safety management system for the each vessel's operation. These were plastic kayaks.

The operators were prepared to pay the fees per vessel. They have 20 of these vessels. That would have cost \$5,500. However, the department was unable to tell the operators of the safety equipment they needed to carry on enclosed waters. They wanted them to fill out 20 forms to put identifiers on these vessels.

On 14 October the department issued a prohibition notice which ordered this tourism venture to shut down all use of kayaks based on the observations made in early February 2015. The operator was referred to the department of planning in South Australia. The owners made four phone calls, would members believe, and it was all sorted. The federal paperwork was filed in South Australia and it was processed in less than a week. It cost them \$200. This is a far cry from the \$5,500 MSQ wanted to charge.

The operators have always had a safety management plan in place. This local tourism venture received their certificate of operation for non-survey vessels and it was all sent off to MSQ with the assumption that everything was finally resolved, but, if members can believe it, there has been nothing to date. Unfortunately, tourism operators need to be concerned about these issues that emerge under this government. Ecotourism operators need to be concerned. These local businesses need our support, not more bureaucracy and red tape.

Townsville, Crocodile Capture

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (9.16 pm): I rise this evening to tell a story of man versus beast—a monster from the deep, if I may. It was a dark night and there he was lying on the beach just metres from residents, his mouth wide agape with teeth the size of what seemed like shovels. His one red eye glowed in the dim lamp light. Deep scars ran across his back and flanks, worn like victory medals of days gone by. This was no ordinary beast.

As his captors approached, fear was thick through the air. The uncertainty of what would happen next and who would win this ultimate battle of a 4.7-metre beast of muscle and teeth against the men and women who wear khaki. Thank God for Facebook, as spectators flocked like moths to the flame to watch this battle royal.

Let me take you back to the beginning of this epic battle. The monster was spotted lurking off the beach of Pallaranda. Later that day he dared to show himself again, but this time around the rock pool, taunting his adversaries by lazily cruising through the water. But the monster was cunning. He had many years of experience and he waited until the night time to mask his arrival on the Strand beach, just metres from the Toobruk Pool, where many swimmers take to the water.

The men and women of the EHP, charged with keeping the citizens of Townsville safe from the beast, were poised ready to mount their charge. Despite the urge of nervous senseless chatter, in slightly higher tones, this team, with over 50 years of combined experience, remained focused and calm, checking and rechecking their equipment and reviewing their battle plan.

The khaki warriors circled to the left and circled to the right around their beast. With their ropes that were as thick as a man's thumb, lowered them gradually around the monster's body. More warriors, this time in blue, came to the aid of the EPH and entwined the dinosaur of the deep in a spider's web of rope. Once immobilised, the monster knew that he was beaten and showed little resistance.

Hoisted into a holding pen by the EPH knights of khaki—Tony Frisby, Adrian Gurra, Steve Mastromonaco and Sarah Franks—and the QPS brethren of the blue constables Helen Goody and Jordan Brown, this monster was hauled up the beach by the trusty Toyota. On several occasions the brave warriors would stop the capture to remove the build-up of sand in the beast's gaping mouth, ensuring it would not die a slow death of suffocation.

But 'snap, snap!' from the monster and the battle was all but over. This is not the end of the tale for it ends with a feast. I had the pleasure of hosting a feast of cake and coffee to salute the men and women of the EHP and the QPS who recount their stories of the one that did not get away that day.

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the member for Burleigh a similar extension of time, if need be.

Emergency Services Workers, Safety

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.19 pm): The Academy Awards are on next week, aren't they? You will get my vote, member for Townsville. Mr Speaker, it might be time to cue the cameras because I am going to reinforce something that the member for Thuringowa said earlier in the day. That is probably not going to happen too often, I can tell you, but this is an issue that the majority of members in the parliament can agree on, and that is the safety of our emergency services—in particular, in this case, our ambulance officers.

I met with Kyla Golds, who is an ambulance officer in my electorate, in my office yesterday and she brought along her husband, Greg, who is a critical care ambulance officer from New South Wales. They run the #zerotolerance Facebook page. I am wearing their wristband today and their badge in support of that particular group. We have heard many times from the member for Thuringowa, the member for Barron River and the member for Gaven, reinforced by the member for Mudgeeraba, that there is a great deal of concern out there about the safety of our emergency services workers. These are the people who are going out and picking people up off the street. They are treating them for alcohol, drugs and illness and taking them to hospital. They deserve some respect. They do not deserve to be bashed for doing their job. As I said, I am pretty sure we are all in agreement on that.

It was interesting to hear the member for Thuringowa today talk about advertising, awareness, training and this zero-tolerance program. Yesterday in my office, Kyla, Greg and I spoke about whether ambulance officers should have tasers. They are not interested in any of that. They are not interested in stab vests. They are not too interested in advertising. What they are interested in is there being some consequences for people who do assault our emergency services workers. What they would like to see is some sort of mandatory sentencing. I know that is something that those opposite do not really agree with, but maybe this is something that we can get going in a bipartisan way and put in place mandatory sentencing for people who do assault our emergency services workers, police officers, ambulance officers, fire, nurses, doctors, teachers—the whole box and dice.

At the moment when you talk to people on the street they are concerned that there are no consequences for people's actions. We have to show them that there are consequences for people's actions. I think the best way to do that is to have a look at mandatory sentencing. That is what I will be talking to my side of politics about. It would be really great if members on the other side could start talking to their side about it as well.

Murarrie, Margarine Factory

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (9.22 pm): I would like to tell a story that was told to me by Carol Corless, who wrote the book about an amazing margarine factory at Murarrie. The site was officially opened as a margarine factory on 24 June 1931, though its workers had been there in previous businesses on the site since 1924. Over the years it has become a place where many thousands of people have worked and where multigenerations of families have dedicated their working lives. It has had a number of different owners, but it is now about to close finally and everyone is sad but so proud of what their place is about. Mr Sam Tainsh, the Group General Manager of GrainCorp Oils, the organisation that currently owns the facility, wrote a beautiful thing in the foreword to Carol's book. He wrote—

Murarrie has an amazing array of sophisticated equipment and process that can do wonderful things, but it is the people who make it all happen. They are the glue and backbone of this wonderful organisation.

The workers at Murarrie worked through the development and boom years of margarine and, while there was a swing back to dairy in recent years, margarine from Murarrie was always considered cost effective and healthy. This factor has so many quirky stories to tell that really say what the place was about. There were the company magazines and newsletters—the *Grape Vine* and the *Meadow Lea Mirror*—which were full of company gossip. There were the buildings—the place that started off as a cottage and then became a caretaker's house and then a lab and then a training room and then a merchandising store and then the headquarters for the banking officer, and it was only demolished this year. There was the beagle colony that did the taste testing for their dog food to make sure their dog food was the most appealing and nutritious product on the market. There was the car park at the side of the admin building that had a legend that if you got a car park there you would either leave or get the sack within two years—and this apparently always happened. There was the fact that the Governor visited twice which they were all so proud of.

They were proud of their safety record. In September 2015 their site had reached two years without seeing a lost time injury, and this was a pretty regular occurrence. But it was their people, as Mr Tainsh, the general manager, said, who held it together. There were the multigenerations—the Ashcrofts; the Cotters; the Hamlets, who had five family members there; the Kochs, who had three family members there; the Porters with three; the Quinns; the Shutts; the Skinners with nine family members; the Sloans with four; the Spierenburgs with eight; and so many more and so many stories.

There was the 25-year club, with Fred Bullion, who was the first recipient in 1949 and then went on to do another 23 years. The total number of years of all the employees was 1,429. Peter Ward, a clerk who worked there for 37 years, wrote a beautiful thing. He said—

If I was to have my working life all over again, and I couldn't not do the one thing I have always wanted to do, I would have my time at [this place] all over again. I can't think of one thing that I would change or do without.

That is the story about this wonderful margarine factory at Murarrie.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9.26 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, 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