



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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TUESDAY, 24 MAY 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.

REPORTS

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General two reports—report No. 17 of 2015-16 titled *Results of audit: local government entities 2014-15* and report No. 18 for 2015-16 titled *Results of audit: education sector entities 2015*. I table the reports for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 17—Results of audit: local government entities 2014-15 [727].

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 18—Results of audit: education sector entities 2015 [728].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Member for Toowoomba South, Resignation



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 29 April 2016 I received the resignation of the member for Toowoomba South. Whilst members were advised of the resignation of the member by email that day, I omitted to formally note the resignation for the record of the House last sitting week. The correspondence has also been tabled today.

PETITIONS

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

Bullying

From 5,068 petitioners, requesting the House to consider amending the Criminal Code Act 1924 to include cyber bullying, bullying which results in psychological and self-harm, and inciting suicide as offences. Your petitioners also request amendments to the Education Act 1994 to include bullying as a form of unacceptable behaviour punishable in accordance with the Act. Such amendments to be known henceforth as Breannah's Law [729].

Abortion Laws

From 23,869 petitioners, requesting the House to honour their pre-election pledges to the people of Queensland stating publicly that they would not weaken our current abortion laws, respect the health and rights of women and the unborn to be protected, and reject the Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill which removes all safeguards for women and unborn babies [730].

Petitions received.

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—

13 May 2016—

[696](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Ms Jones) to an ePetition (2555-16) sponsored by Mr Whiting, from 793 petitioners, requesting the House to construct a new hall at the Bounty Boulevard State School in the suburb of North Lakes

16 May 2016—

[697](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to a paper petition (2579-16) presented by Mr Sorensen, and an ePetition (2553-16) from 17 and 137 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to resume the mandate and State Government control of water fluoridation in Queensland

- [698](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to an ePetition (2499-15) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 82 petitioners, requesting the House to commit to building a new Roma Hospital with enhanced clinical capability
- [699](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Communicable Diseases Program
- [700](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Indigenous Health Worker Isolated Practice Area
- [701](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Midwives
- [702](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Nurse Practitioners
- [703](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Orthoptist
- [704](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Pandemic Influenza Program
- [705](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Pharmacist Opioid Treatment Program
- [706](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Pharmacist Vaccination Program
- [707](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Queensland Ambulance Service Isolated Practice Area Paramedic
- [708](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Rural and Isolated Practice Area Endorsed Nurse
- [709](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Sexual Health Program Nurse (including Reproductive Health)
- [710](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996: Drug Therapy Protocol—Immunisation Program Nurse
- 17 May 2016—
- [711](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to Hong King and China by the Premier and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Palaszczuk), 6-15 April 2016
- [712](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Mr Byrne) to a paper petition (2578-16) presented by Mr Cramp, and an ePetition (2515-15) sponsored by Mr Cramp, from 439 and 375 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to address the weekend closure of the Police Beat at Pacific Pines by ensuring it is manned by officers seven days a week
- 18 May 2016—
- [713](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2571-16) presented by Hon. D'Ath, from 152 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a permanent Plastic Border Patrol (Water Margin Rangers) attached to and managed by local Queensland Coastal Councils
- 19 May 2016—
- [714](#) Response from the Minister for Housing and Public Works (Mr de Brenni) to a paper petition (2576-16) presented by Ms D'Ath, and an ePetition (2526-15) sponsored by Ms D'Ath, from 165 and 199 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to establish a drop in centre at Redcliffe to assist the homeless and others in need to be operated by the Club 189 organisation
- [715](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to an ePetition (2530-16) sponsored by Mr Cramp, from 441 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a trial for Queensland Ambulance Paramedics to be equipped with body cameras to record any acts or threats of aggression or violence against them and to put in place a public awareness program to promote the importance of a paramedics and the serious consequences of violence and aggression towards paramedics
- [716](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 13, 55th Parliament—National Injury Insurance Scheme (Queensland) Bill 2016
- [717](#) Response from the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Ms Grace) to a paper petition (2575-16) presented by Mrs Stuckey, from 292 petitioners, requesting the House to reassess the discriminatory cut backs in race meetings throughout regional Queensland; reinstate all race meetings and ensure prize money will sustain racing in rural, regional and remote areas
- [718](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2572-16) presented by Mr Williams, from 810 petitioners, requesting the House to preserve the WWII gun emplacements and other significant structures from further erosion and structural damage in the Pumicestone region of Bribie Island
- [719](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to a paper petition (2573-16) presented by Mr Williams, from 1,459 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the dangerous intersection of Bribie Island Road and Old Toorbul Point Road before a fatality occurs
- [720](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to a paper petition (2574-16) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 707 petitioners, requesting the House to review the low speed limits along the Northbrook Parkway between Wivenhoe-Somerset Road and the Mount Glorious town ship so motorcyclists are not disadvantaged
- [721](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to a paper petition (2577-16) presented by Mrs Stuckey, and an ePetition (2538-15) sponsored by Mrs Stuckey, from 103 and 2,499 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to revisit plans to close Exit 93 southbound on the M1 and note the traffic gridlock it would cause on an already congested approach to Exit 92 from Palm Beach Avenue

[722](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Ms Jones) to an ePetition (2552-16) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 11,416 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct an inquiry into the appropriateness of the Safe Schools Coalition Australia materials use for school children; stop the use of these resources in our schools until the inquiry can be completed; and reveal the list of Queensland schools who have currently adopted the program

[723](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Ms Jones) to an ePetition (2554-16) sponsored by Dr Miles, from 10,111 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the Safe Schools Program remains active in all schools currently using the program; no action is taken by the House to prevent or hinder access to the program for any Queensland children; and that the list of schools currently using the program remains unpublished

20 May 2016—

[724](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Mr Byrne) to an ePetition (2512-15) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4) from 113 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Queensland Police Service Administration Act 1990 to reflect best practice and cultural competency by appointing a second Commissioner of Police with the requirement that person must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

23 May 2016—

[725](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Mr Bailey) to an ePetition (2564-16) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 465 petitioners, requesting the House to uphold the Queensland Nuclear Facilities Prohibition Act 2007 and request that the Commonwealth withdraws the proposal to site the National Nuclear Waste Facility at "Bennett's Gully", Omanama, Queensland

[726](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 28, 55th Parliament—Fire and Emergency Services (Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2015 and Fire and Emergency Services (Domestic Smoke Alarms) Amendment Bill 2016

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

The Clerk to table the following statutory instruments, received during the recess—

Surveyors Act 2003—

[731](#) Surveyors (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 48

[732](#) Surveyors (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 48, explanatory notes

Adult Proof of Age Card Act 2008, Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012, Tow Truck Act 1973, Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, Transport Operations (Marine Pollution) Act 1995, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, Transport (Rail Safety) Act 2010—

[733](#) Transport (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 49

[734](#) Transport (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 49, explanatory notes

Heavy Vehicle National Law as applied by the law of States and Territories—

[735](#) Heavy Vehicle (General) National Amendment Regulation, No. 50

[736](#) Heavy Vehicle (General) National Amendment Regulation, No. 50, explanatory notes

Electricity Act 1994—

[737](#) Electricity Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 51

[738](#) Electricity Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 51, explanatory notes

Plumbing and Drainage and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

[739](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 52

[740](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 52, explanatory notes

Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008—

[741](#) Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 53

[742](#) Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 53, explanatory notes

Plant Protection Act 1989—

[743](#) Plant Protection (Dickeya-Pineapple Strains) Notice 2016, No. 54

[744](#) Plant Protection (Dickeya-Pineapple Strains) Notice 2016, No. 54, explanatory notes

SPEAKER'S PAPER

The following Speaker's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland (Hon. Wellington)—

[745](#) Correspondence, dated 29 April 2016, regarding the resignation of the Member for Toowoomba South, Dr John McVeigh MP, effective 29 April 2016

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The Clerk tabled the following report—

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

Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill 2015

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Retail Shop Leases Amendment Act 2015’

Insert—

‘Retail Shop Leases Amendment Act 2016’

Clause 15 (Replacement of ss 21 to 22A)*

Page 23, line 13, ‘(b)’—

omit, insert—

(a)

Clause 15 (Replacement of ss 21 to 22A) *

Page 23, line 15, ‘(a)’—

omit, insert—

(b)

* The clause, page and line number references relate to the Bill, before amendments made in consideration in detail.

Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015’

Insert—

‘Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016’

Clause 28 (Amendment of s 142 (Protection from liability))

Page 15, line 23, ‘or’—

omit, insert—

; or

* The clause, page and line number references relate to the Bill, before amendments made in consideration in detail.

Planning Bill 2015

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Planning Act 2015’

Insert—

‘Planning Act 2016’

Planning and Environment Court Bill 2015

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Planning and Environment Court Act 2015’

Insert—

‘Planning and Environment Court Act 2016’

Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—

Omit—

‘Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2015’

Insert—

‘Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016’

Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Bill 2015

Amendments made to Bill

Short title and consequential references to short title—*Omit—*

'Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Act 2015'

Insert—

'Hospital and Health Boards (Safe Nurse-to-Patient and Midwife-to-Patient Ratios) Amendment Act 2016'

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**Aurukun**

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.34 am): As honourable members would be aware, there was unrest in Aurukun over the weekend of 7 and 8 May which gave rise to concerns for the safety and wellbeing of staff of the Aurukun campus of the Cape York Aboriginal Australian Academy. Charges have now been laid in relation to this incident. Five additional police were sent to Aurukun to ensure the safety of the community in the wake of the unrest. Unfortunately, there was further unrest over the weekend of 21 and 22 May including an alleged armed robbery. Three juveniles have been charged in relation to this incident.

Police will continue to work closely with the local council and the community to ensure the safety of all Aurukun residents. The school remains open and is again operating after a temporary closure. We are now working with the principal, teachers and the Queensland Teachers' Union to ensure staff are adequately supported. Additional security officers have been deployed as an additional safeguard for school staff. These latest developments are of great concern, with the actions of a minority of people negatively impacting on the whole community.

My director-general and other senior government representatives, including other directors-general and a commissioner from the Children and Families Commission, were in Aurukun yesterday talking with the mayor, councillors, council officials, police, the justice group, family responsibilities commissioners, the school principal, teachers and relevant community members and groups about ways to strengthen approaches to community safety and wellbeing. I want to make sure the focus is on the immediate safety of residents and the workforce, and that together we re-engage with children and young people through school and employment. We will also work with the community to sustain calm, build community safety and security in the long term, strengthen community governance and harness opportunities for business development and jobs. Projects like Rio Tinto's Amrun project are on the community's doorstep and provide huge opportunities for employment and providing people with new skills.

It is clear that positive changes are dependent upon strong community leadership. The community must be accountable for restoring and maintaining long-term calm. I know this is the view of the mayor and community leaders. The discussions held this week are the beginning of an ongoing conversation with the community. We will work with the community to restore the community to a peaceful place and help the proud residents of Aurukun to move forward through these issues.

Ipswich Motorway

Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.36 am): On 9 March this year I joined the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Main Roads to announce that my government had increased its share of funding for the Ipswich Motorway Rocklea-Darra stage 1 upgrade to \$200 million. This was over and above the usual 80-20 funding share for joint projects with the Commonwealth. Our \$200 million commitment meant our share of the \$400 million would be 50-50 if the federal government matched our pledge. The federal government finally came to the table. As a result, I am pleased to announce that contract procurement for stage 1 of the Ipswich Motorway upgrade between Rocklea and Darra has started and the call for proposals and registrations of interest has been issued. This means jobs and solutions to traffic congestion are one step closer.

This \$400 million project will support 470 jobs during construction and have the knock-on effect of helping local businesses. The Ipswich Motorway is currently a major source of frustration for more than 85,000 motorists who use this section of the motorway daily, including up to 12,000 trucks. The sooner the longstanding congestion and safety issues on the Ipswich Motorway are alleviated, the better it will be for road users and the community. This project will provide a safer, quicker motorway journey for the motorists and improve national and local freight movements.

The main roads minister informs me that industry has a keen eye on the project, which will ensure there will be healthy competition between proponents. We are asking for innovation, capability and talent from industry to make certain we get a solution that serves road users and delivers value for money. Proposals will be submitted later this year and the contract to design and construct stage 1 of the Ipswich Motorway upgrade Rocklea-Darra project will be awarded early next year with major construction expected soon after. In the meantime, we are well underway with preconstruction and have identified early works activities which can start before awarding the major contract for the project. Some early works include the safety improvement works on the motorway's eastbound off-ramp to the roundabout at Oxley and Blunder roads starting in June. The works at this location will improve the safety of the off-ramp and roundabout by reducing queuing from the ramp extending back to the motorway through-lanes.

NEXTDC Data Centre

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): Last month's Advance Queensland Innovation and Investment Summit is already paying off for our state. The leads and connections between the local ideas and local, interstate and international investment are set in Queensland. The summit showed that generating more jobs and encouraging industry to establish and expand in Queensland was front of my mind and all of my ministers.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce today that NEXTDC Ltd is going to establish its second data centre here in Brisbane. This \$75 million investment represents another commitment of confidence in Queensland's digital economy and the government's Advance Queensland agenda. NEXTDC must be applauded for its commitment and preference for Australian and, most importantly, locally based companies to deliver the majority of this vital project. That further job-generating offer includes building the data centre's high-tech prefabricated elements. The B2 site is located strategically on the CBD fringe, in Fortitude Valley, close to a major electricity substation and significant telecommunications and public transport infrastructure.

Significantly, it is close to the precinct that government is establishing in the landmark TC Beirne Building in the Valley. The construction phase of the data centre will support up to 200 new jobs on and off site and 100 permanent direct and indirect jobs when the data centre is operational. The new centre enables NEXTDC to meet robust demand for a secure, powerful facility to host critical IT infrastructure and support a diverse ecosystem of carriers and cloud service providers. Just yesterday NEXTDC was actively recruiting for a project manager to be based in Brisbane for this exciting project. This investment complements the government's positive agenda to drive growth, jobs and the better delivery of services through innovation and next-generation IT services.

Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): The failure of the previous government to prepare Queensland for the transition beyond the mining and LNG construction boom was its failure. It will not be the failure of my government. That is why we have been determined to target new jobs and new industries for Queensland. Our commitment to promote innovation, deliver infrastructure and attract investment is in stark contrast to the LNP's approach. Where we have created jobs, the LNP cost jobs and cut services. An additional 51,000 Queenslanders are in work now than was the case at last year's election. There are more jobs coming. Over the last week my government confirmed thousands of new direct and indirect jobs for Queenslanders. The Star Entertainment Group—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not want to hear it. The Star Entertainment Group has launched public consultation on a new tower at Jupiters and a proposed multibillion dollar master plan that proposes to be a development larger than Queen's Wharf in Brisbane. There is the return of 150 jobs through the reopening of Isaac Plains coalmine in Central Queensland—well done, Minister Anthony Lynham; the approval of the \$347 million expansion of the Sunshine Coast Airport; and the launch of a campaign to employ an additional 1,000 staff to help prepare for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games—well done, Minister Hinchliffe.

The new \$45 million GrainCorp Oils liquid storage tank facility at the port of Brisbane has the capacity to hold 20 million litres of petrol and 25 million litres of diesel. This facility secures the supply of fuel to Freedom Fuels' outlets across Queensland. It is a welcome addition to infrastructure at the port of Brisbane and very good news for Queensland.

The recent attraction of an advanced biofuels pilot plant to Gladstone from a New South Wales based company is testament to our work to entice businesses and jobs from interstate. In fact, we have seen private sector investment worth more than \$17 billion supporting more than 70,000 jobs announced since February last year. This includes the Brisbane cruise ship terminal, \$100 million and 300 jobs; the North East Gas Interconnector Pipeline, \$800 million and 600 jobs; the Clare Solar Farm, \$400 million and 200 jobs; SunCentral Maroochydore, \$350 million and 20,000 jobs; and the Amrun bauxite project, \$2.6 billion and 1,100 jobs.

The budget to be delivered by the Treasurer in three weeks time will be focused on jobs. This deliberate focus on jobs will ensure we boost employment prospects in our state of Queensland, but it also gives us the reach to go after jobs beyond our borders. We are a low-tax state, we have skilled people and we are determined to see our economy grow.

Budget, Superannuation

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.43 am): Three weeks from today I will hand down the second budget of the Palaszczuk government. At last year's state election Queenslanders made their voices heard loud and clear. They elected this government because we said that we would deliver job-creating infrastructure without selling assets, and this is what we intend to do in the budget on 14 June. We will adhere to our fiscal principle of targeting the full funding of long-term liabilities, in accordance with actuarial advice.

This time each year the opposition would usually be asking me to rule in or rule out various actions in the budget and I would usually refrain from commenting on budget speculation, but today I can confirm that the government is considering a range of options including repatriating a portion of the large surplus in the QSuper defined benefit scheme, in accordance with advice from the State Actuary.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PITT: Mr Speaker, they should listen to this. Our strategy, including our debt action plan, is aimed at reducing general government sector debt while also allowing us to invest in the infrastructure that our growing state needs. This is a continuation of the budget strategy that we made clear to Queenslanders last year. It is a continuation of our whole-of-government balance sheet management. Most importantly, we are doing that without asset sales. I repeat that for the new Leader of the Opposition: we are doing that without asset sales. Last year we saw a scare campaign by the LNP. I can confirm that the government remains absolutely committed to the fiscal principle of targeting the full funding of long-term liabilities in accordance with actuarial advice.

I can confirm that the government remains committed to the legislative guarantee that ensures the security of entitlements under the defined benefit scheme. I can confirm that all defined benefit members' entitlements will continue to be paid in full as they fall due. Contrary to the scaremongering of the LNP, I can confirm that the defined benefit scheme will continue until the retirement of the last current member of the scheme. As I stated at estimates last year, if all of the 49,000 members of the defined benefit scheme decided at 9 am tomorrow to leave the government and cash in, the scheme would still be in surplus after every single entitlement was paid.

The defined benefit scheme has been closed to new members for several years. I can confirm that no changes will be made to the accumulation superannuation that the majority of public servants use. The State Actuary confirmed last year that the defined benefit scheme is in a very strong financial position. As I said at estimates, the State Actuary advised that defined benefit scheme assets exceeded accrued liabilities by more than \$10 billion on a funding basis at 30 June 2015. The surplus is now sufficiently large to consider the option of repatriation of a portion of overfunded contributions. Queensland is the only Australian jurisdiction to fully fund its defined benefit superannuation liabilities.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr PITT: The former opposition leader should listen to this. While Queensland's defined benefit scheme is in a significant surplus, New South Wales has an unfunded liability of \$52 billion; Victoria's unfunded liability is \$26 billion; South Australia has nearly \$13 billion in unfunded liabilities; and Western Australia's unfunded liabilities total nearly \$8 billion. We intend to manage the Queensland scheme in a manner which minimises overfunding of the scheme while maintaining that we can meet all liabilities as they occur. Queensland will remain the only state to retain a more than 100 per cent fully funded scheme. This will continue to be the case under the Palaszczuk government.

The purpose of this government is single-minded: more jobs for Queenslanders. This is what the Premier and I and all other ministers of this government have been saying and have on our agenda every single day. We are working to strengthen the Queensland economy to provide the jobs that Queenslanders need, and we will have a focus on regional Queensland. We will achieve economic growth and a strong budget position without selling assets. There can be no clearer contrast between this side and that side. The LNP continues to tell the media all they need to get assets sales up in the future is to have a 'succinct and clearer campaign'. We know that the Leader of the Opposition wants to sell 47 per cent of Powerlink; he has been backgrounding journalists on that point. It is time for the Leader of the Opposition to come clean and tell Queenslanders what his plans are and whether he is going to continue his push to sell assets in Queensland.

Infrastructure; Jobs

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.48 am): The Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of delivering our \$10 billion capital program this year which is supporting 27,000 jobs. We made a promise at the election that we would deliver infrastructure without selling our income-producing assets to pay for it. Across the state in regional communities this government is getting on with the job and delivering the infrastructure that our regional communities need. This includes rebuilding the Roma Hospital as part of our \$180 million Enhancing Regional Hospitals program.

We are spending \$600 million on infrastructure in the Wide Bay region to improve the Hervey Bay emergency department, build the Bundaberg gas pipeline and pay for intersection improvements throughout the region. In Fitzroy we are spending nearly \$900 million on infrastructure, including new improvements to the Gladstone emergency department as part of our \$180 million statewide schools and hospital fund. On top of that we are spending \$40 million on iconic projects to rebuild Central Queensland after Cyclone Marcia. In Mackay we are delivering over \$350 million in infrastructure, including the commencement of work on the Vines Creek bridges and Mackay Slade Point Road, and in Mirani we are upgrading the Peak Downs Highway. In Townsville we are delivering two new schools as part of more than half a billion dollars worth of infrastructure, including the next stage of the Townsville ring road.

This budget also delivers on a very important election commitment to rebuild intensive mental health care for young people by providing expanded youth residential mental health and family services.

In outback Queensland we are spending over \$800 million on infrastructure including a western roads package that will see local road crews stay on the job working to improve the Mitchell Highway, the Wills Developmental Road, the Diamantina Developmental Road and Cloncurry-Dajarra Road.

In Far North Queensland we are spending nearly half a billion dollars on infrastructure including sealing the Peninsula Developmental Road. Our \$24 million regional transport boost will fund vital projects including an upgrade of the Upper Barron Road as well as the planning and construction of a jetty at Yarrabah to connect the town with Cairns.

On top of all of this, our \$500 million State Infrastructure Fund has a significant regional focus. We will deliver significant investments in the North Coast Line Capacity Improvement Project, the Dawson Highway, the timber bridge replacement package, Rockhampton Road Train Access Stage 1, and the Riverway Drive duplication. Those projects alone will support nearly 400 jobs for Queenslanders in the regional part of our state.

In addition, \$180 million is earmarked for further infrastructure projects outside South-East Queensland. The Palaszczuk Labor government understands our state's infrastructure needs. We have developed and released the State Infrastructure Plan to guide future investment. It is underpinned by our State Infrastructure Fund. Building Queensland will ensure we are making the right investment decisions and is working hard developing a pipeline of future investment in infrastructure.

Through our advocacy we have secured additional federal funding for projects like Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2—

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the Premier: they did not fight for it—and, as the Premier has already outlined this morning, the Ipswich Motorway upgrade between Darra and Rocklea.

The Palaszczuk government has an infrastructure plan and we are sticking to it. It is delivering jobs and infrastructure for our communities—all without selling our assets.

Gold Coast, Electricity Network

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (9.51 am): With just two years until the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, I am proud to advise the House that this government is continuing the drive to make sure all key infrastructure is on track. This includes ensuring the city's high-voltage electricity transmission network is games ready, with a \$25 million injection into the electricity grid's infrastructure. This \$25 million investment will also support up to 50 jobs in the local economy.

The \$25 million upgrade of the Mudgeeraba substation will improve the performance and reliability of Powerlink's transmission network on the Gold Coast, not only for the games itself but also for many years to come. The substation is 45 years old and one of two main critical supply hubs on the Gold Coast. The upgrade will bring the substation fully up to present-day standards, contributing to the resilience and responsiveness of Powerlink's operating and monitoring systems in the region while keeping it in public hands. This is the lowest cost option for consumers that will extend the life of the Mudgeeraba substation. Rather than undertake a major replacement, Powerlink will upgrade specific parts to further extend the life of the existing substation. This investment approach is focused on keeping network costs as low as possible. Importantly, all works have been planned to avoid any disruptions to supply.

The 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, a proud Labor achievement, will attract a global TV audience of 1.5 billion viewers, so it is important that our key infrastructure is ready to help showcase the Gold Coast and Queensland to the world.

We are also investing in the Gold Coast's road network, with \$160 million in state funding committed for roadworks in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games, supporting 166 local jobs on the Gold Coast. I am happy to report that the Ross Street roundabout, as part of that package, is well ahead of schedule.

When you look at Labor's record on the Gold Coast—Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 combined with stage 1 under the previous Labor government, the Gold Coast University Hospital, the M1 upgrade at Worongary, the Southport pool and Metricon Stadium—you see that Labor has a proud record of delivering for the Gold Coast, in stark contrast to the do-nothing record of the former Newman-Nicholls government.

Roma Hospital; Aurukun, Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.54 am): Today marks an important milestone in the development of the new Roma Hospital, a \$70 million regional infrastructure project being delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I am pleased to advise the House that the Maranoa community will be able to attend one of two information sessions about a proposed design for the hospital. The new hospital will provide better health services for the people of the south-west of our state and it will support up to 250 jobs over the construction phase.

The 250 direct and indirect jobs over the construction phase is one of the reasons the former mayor of the Maranoa shire, Rob Loughnan, described the government's announcement of a new hospital as 'the most significant funding announcement for an infrastructure project in the Maranoa for over 50 years'. Almost certainly the biggest infrastructure project before that was the previous Roma Hospital, commissioned by a Labor government and opened by former Labor premier Ned Hanlon in the 1940s.

Of course, Rob Loughnan knows how important this project is for the community, which is more than the Deputy Leader of the Opposition does. The member for Nanango said that she thought the commitment of the Palaszczuk government was 'a disastrous decision for the South Burnett'. That is what she said. Now that she is a leader, perhaps she could speak to the member for Southern Downs and the member for Warrego to get their views on the Roma Hospital.

Other than the work being done on the Roma Hospital, this government is moving ahead with a \$90 million program to upgrade vital Health infrastructure, creating 348 jobs across Queensland. One project I would like to mention is in Aurukun, where an existing building which was previously used by the Home and Community Care service will be replaced by a new modular health facility. Tenders for this \$6 million project will be called later this year, and work is set to commence early next year. Importantly, this project will create 24 jobs. It will also provide increased security facilities for Health staff, with 24/7 on-site security. It will also provide the space for the government to provide better primary healthcare services to the people of Aurukun. The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to deliver jobs and infrastructure in regional and remote Queensland.

State Schools, Infrastructure

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (9.56 am): We are continuing to roll out a massive \$456 million injection into new school facilities right across our state. Our investment in education capital works is ensuring our schools cater for growth, with new facilities geared for modern learning. We are also creating jobs throughout regional Queensland. Our capital works program is supporting more than 1,400 jobs over the next three years.

Construction is underway at the new \$25 million Cairns Special School. Hutchinson Builders is delivering this project, which is creating more than 100 jobs during construction. I can report to the House that slabs have now been poured for the community hub building and library, and the slab at the admin building should be poured this week with some fine weather.

Mr Pitt: Great news.

Ms JONES: Thank you. In Toowoomba North, the \$10 million stage 2 development is under construction at Highfields State Secondary College. This will include 14 classrooms for performing arts and visual arts and senior industrial technology and hospitality kitchens. This project is supporting close to 40 jobs and is on track to open in 2017. We are also investing \$7 million to build 12 new classrooms at Trinity Beach State School. That is 30 jobs secure in the Barron River electorate. The member for Barron River likes construction in his electorate.

At Cannonvale State School, in the electorate of my good friend the member for Whitsunday, we are building a \$5 million junior learning centre. This construction involves 20 jobs. We are building seven new classrooms to cater for growth at Townsville Community Learning Centre in the electorate of Mundingburra. I know that this \$4 million investment will create more jobs in Townsville.

We are also investing more than three quarters of a billion dollars over four years to maintain and update our schools. This is a massive injection into supporting our schools right across Queensland and a massive injection in terms of job generation. Our maintenance program will employ close to 2,400 tradespeople over the next four years. As members can see, we are absolutely committed to building good-quality schools across Queensland and stimulating jobs.

Sunshine Coast Airport

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.58 am): Last week I took great pleasure in announcing the Coordinator-General's thumbs up for the \$347 million runway expansion at the Sunshine Coast Airport. This project will generate 1,500 ongoing jobs by 2040, 80 construction jobs and boost regional economic activity by more than \$140 million during construction. That means business opportunities for local construction, manufacturing and professional companies in the region. It opens the region up to more national and international visitors from places like Singapore and Perth and that is going to mean more than half a million more visitors per year will be visiting Queensland's beautiful Sunshine Coast by 2040.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to facilitating transport and tourism infrastructure investment because it means more jobs for Queenslanders. With the new runway, aircraft movements are forecast to grow by 20 per cent by 2020 and a further 30 per cent by 2040. The project involves a new 2,450-metre-long by 45-metre-wide east-west runway capable of servicing aircraft such as the Airbus A330, Boeing 787 and Boeing 777; changes to air path and flight paths; two end taxiway loops, navigational aids and expansion of the existing apron; and an air traffic control tower and aircraft rescue and firefighting services station.

I understand that members of the community had some initial concerns around noise and environmental impacts of the project. I can advise that the Coordinator-General set 88 conditions and 29 recommendations to manage these concerns. His final report addresses potential aircraft noise and protects flora and fauna habitat and water quality, particularly in the sensitive Maroochy River and Mount Coolum National Park. These requirements follow consideration of 2,227 submissions as well as the environmental impact statement and the additional environmental impact statement information.

The conditions and recommendations also require the airport to effectively monitor and report aircraft noise and address any possible increases, in consultation with residents. The airport has committed to do this. While the project awaits some further approvals, the council has engaged the Royal Bank of Canada to complete a business case for the project for the council and then to seek a

loan from the Australian government. I would encourage those members opposite to ask their federal colleagues to stump up for this important piece of infrastructure. It is up to the local federal members to stump up for this project. This will call them out.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Glass House. If you persist interjecting, you will be warned.

Dr LYNHAM: I can tell members that when I left, Mark Jamieson was a very happy man. The mayor also knows that the Palaszczuk government is working hard to deliver jobs and economic growth in Queensland.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Jobs and Training

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.02 am): Delivering jobs and skilling Queenslanders for work has consistently been the highest priority of the Palaszczuk government. It is also one of the most important legacy benefits being delivered through the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games venues program is boosting employment opportunities and providing economic stimulus in the short term. It is also playing a valuable role in training the next generation of workers, giving them the tools for success in the future. More than 5,700 workers have already played a role in delivering the \$320 million infrastructure package for venues. There are currently more than 860 workers employed across all of the venue and game village sites, contributing to strong jobs growth on the Gold Coast, with annual local employment up by 5.4 per cent over the last year to March.

All of our new venue construction projects are committed to training and apprenticeships, leaving a lasting benefit to trainees and the wider construction industry in Queensland. That is the story of the Palaszczuk government's investment in the Gold Coast. Significant training has also been delivered, with over 33,000 hours at the Gold Coast Aquatic Centre and over 9,500 hours at the Queensland State Velodrome project here in Brisbane.

There are lots of great individual success stories of local businesses creating jobs and training opportunities to help deliver games venues—like the Staplyton family business Alltype Welding, which has hired 20 staff, including two apprentices, to work on the Coomera Indoor Sports Centre project. In March I was delighted to meet students from the Gold Coast School of Construction who had just completed their certificate I of construction, gaining real-world experience on the world-class Parklands project which will become home to the games village in 2018. As part of the Department of Education and Training funded program conducted in partnership with site developer Grocon, students assisted in the fit-out of their own dedicated training facility by constructing desks and external covered areas and some outdoor timber chairs that all of the workers are enjoying.

Games host broadcaster NEP Australia, the country's leading provider of outsourced television production services, will also provide training for 200 local college and university students. Games sponsor Griffith University is giving up to 500 students the opportunity to intern with the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation, the games delivery partners and contractors in the lead-up to and during the games. This will give these students real experience working on the largest sporting event in Australia this decade. As members can see, all of these projects are delivering jobs and skilling Queenslanders, providing tangible outcomes and a lasting legacy for our state.

In the 15 months since the election, the Palaszczuk government has overseen almost double the number of jobs created in Queensland compared to the entire three-year term of the LNP. Our strong employment growth is clear evidence that confidence in Queensland's economy is returning after the three years wasted when our jobless rate hit 7.1 per cent. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a great—indeed, a memorable—Commonwealth Games and in the process providing great employment and training opportunities for young Queenslanders so that we can build confidence and a strong economy into the future.

Construction Industry, Nonconforming Building Products

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (10.06 am): Residential construction is a vital part of Queensland's construction industry and I am pleased to inform the House that the outlook for this sector is strong. Total private residential construction activity increased by 8.7 per cent last year and private dwelling construction in the September quarter of 2015

was \$4.4 billion, \$544 million higher than in the same quarter in 2014. This year we are expecting growth in private dwelling activity of 16.9 per cent, with further growth of 5.7 per cent expected in 2017, taking the value of that construction to \$20 billion.

The growth in residential construction is very encouraging and this government is committed to maintaining a strong residential construction sector, so getting the settings right for residential construction is essential in making sure that we stay ahead of population growth. That is why we are taking strong action to maintain confidence in this industry, and one important way is by dealing with the threat of nonconforming building products. These products are a challenge for the industry and I am proud that Queensland has taken the lead in meeting the challenge of resolving the problem. As well as being costly to rectify, these nonconforming building products can pose a risk to public safety.

As the regulator, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission is playing an important role in monitoring the use of nonconforming products. Around the world new building products are coming to market every single week and many of them are not up to the high standards that we expect in this state. Through the QBCC we have established a product committee to act as a central point of contact for information for builders and contractors about nonconforming products. This is an important role in monitoring these products. For example, it has received a complaint in relation to a tie-down bolt which is alleged to corrode in salt air environments which are prevalent throughout Queensland. Further, I have instructed the QBCC to give me contemporaneous updates on nonconforming products on Queensland sites and the steps being taken to rectify them.

I am also pleased to inform the House that Mr Brett Bassett will commence his role as permanent commissioner of the QBCC from next Monday. Mr Bassett has a wealth of experience in dealing with important matters across the construction industry and I am confident that he has the right skills and knowledge to lead the QBCC's engagement around nonconforming products as well as security of payment and other important matters like certification standards and the Queensland Home Warranty Scheme. This government is committed to maintaining a thriving construction industry and an industry that operates with the highest of standards that all Queenslanders can have confidence in.

Agriculture Industry

 **Hon. LE DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries) (10.09 am): In my speech to this House on 16 February I reported that Queensland's agriculture sector was thriving under the Palaszczuk government. I referred to a 12 per cent increase in the AgTrends forecast for the value of the state's agricultural commodity values for 2015-16. I said that the value of our primary industry commodities was forecast to be a little over \$16 billion.

I now inform the House that that forecast has been revised. The latest forecast is three per cent higher—at \$17.32 billion gross value production at the farm gate and first round processing. That is an expectation of 15 per cent growth for Queensland in 2015-16, demonstrating that Queensland's farmers continue to defy the drought. They continue to reap the benefits of their innovation, their ingenuity and their hard work. Forecasts have been revised up for nearly all commodities, with big success stories for mung beans, barley, wheat, pumpkins, apples, macadamias, rockmelons and sugar cane.

The new forecast GVP for mung beans of around \$145 million is more than three times the previous estimate. Cotton, soybeans, aquaculture, chickpeas, pigs, sweet corn and wool are all up too. Members might recall that I informed the House in February that the cattle and calf sector would grow by a whopping 31 per cent in 2015-16 and it is on track to do precisely that.

The LNP members opposite continue to warn that, under Labor, the sky is falling in, but the facts prove the opposite. We are supporting our farmers through the drought. We are investing in practical and effective measures to protect grazing animals from wild dogs. We are working with industry stakeholders to strengthen our biosecurity response capability after the LNP's irresponsible cuts. We are helping farmers tackle their labour supply issues. We are helping our producers forge new markets overseas. The Palaszczuk government is keeping its promises to our primary producers.

Queensland Small Business Week

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.11 am): Last week, I connected with more than 500 small businesses around the state as part of Queensland Small Business Week celebrations. On my travels throughout Queensland, small businesses delivered a strong message about what they believe will have a huge impact on their ability to grow, thrive and employ. I attended events on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane, Dalby, Toowoomba, Innisfail, Cairns, Yeppoon, Rockhampton and Logan. The message was the same.

What I heard above all else across the week was that remaining positive about our economy and about the opportunities that we are seeing for growth in Queensland will have a positive impact on small business.

It was disappointing to see the LNP members try to turn the attention on themselves and spend most of the week talking down the Queensland economy during a time when we should all have been focusing on the vital role that small businesses play in regional economies throughout the state. Queensland Small Business Week was a fantastic celebration of small business in our state and an important opportunity for the government to connect directly with small business right throughout the regions.

More than 100 events were held in Queensland for Small Business Week, bringing together small business owners and operators to learn, network and find new ways to collaborate to innovate. At government hosted events in Toowoomba, Cairns, Rockhampton and Logan more than 250 people participated in the #fit4change workshops, which engaged participants in activities to prepare their business for greater innovation and participation in the digital economy. At each of these events a panel of innovative Queensland small business owners also provided insights into how thinking differently about business can deliver incredible outcomes.

The response from businesses that attended events has been incredibly positive, particularly in regard to the calibre of speakers, practical advice and the focus on innovation. Feedback that I have received directly from small business owners throughout the week was that mentoring was key to helping deliver greater results for the sector in Queensland.

Unfortunately, the former Newman-Nicholls LNP government failed to recognise this need and cut funding to the highly successful Mentoring for Growth program. The Palaszczuk government is putting resources back into the program and we are looking at ways to ensure that more small businesses can access quality mentoring. This will form part of our soon-to-be finalised Advancing Small Business Queensland strategy, which, along with our \$180 million Advance Queensland innovation and jobs plan, will help small businesses start, grow and employ.

NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY AND OTHER ACTS AMENDMENT BILL

NORTH STRADBROKE ISLAND PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABILITY (RENEWAL OF MINING LEASES) AMENDMENT BILL

Cognate Debate; Order of Business



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That, in accordance with standing order 172, the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability and Other Acts Amendment Bill and the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) 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. 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 Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef—60 minutes, followed by the member for Dalrymple—60 minutes; and
 - (b) the time limits and order for reply to the second readings debate shall be: member for Dalrymple—30 minutes, followed by the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef—30 minutes.
3. Standing order 136(6) be suspended for the North Stradbroke Island Protection and Sustainability (Renewal of Mining Leases) Amendment Bill.
4. Notwithstanding anything contained in the sessional orders, the consideration of the bills shall commence this sitting Wednesday evening after the dinner break and shall continue until concluded or otherwise adjourned.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner, Report

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.15 am): In accordance with section 363(5) of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, 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 warrant records from 24 November 2015 to 27 April 2016. 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, May 2016 [\[747\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Vehicle Registration

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.16 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House directs the state government to ensure registration fees for the family motor vehicle do not increase by more than the consumer price index in the forthcoming financial year.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Ministerial Indemnity

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.17 am): The ability of current and future ministers of the Crown to carry out duties that they have sworn to do relies on their ability to conduct their offices in the public interest consistent with how they view the public interest. Just as Supreme Court judges and members of the judiciary benefit from a statutory protection of acts done in the course of their official roles, so too do members of the ministry have an indemnity for acts done in the course of their official roles.

The indemnity is very important. It permits the minister of the Crown to participate fully in the activities of the executive government. Ministers need to be able to publicly comment upon matters that are brought to their attention. Otherwise, their accountability to parliament and the media breaks down. The 24-hour news cycle is long gone. Nowadays, we live in a minute-by-minute reporting regime and ministers are asked to comment on a variety of matters all hours of the day.

Much of what a minister of the Crown does is done outside this august chamber and its committees. A minister must be able to have conversations, speak to officials and speak to the media as part of the exercise of ministerial responsibility. The present and future ministers of the ministry need to know that they will have the necessary safeguards to protect their conduct and carry out their official duties. Current and future ministers need to know that the state of Queensland properly indemnifies them for their official role. Indemnification of the ministers of the Crown is nothing new. It has been around for a long time and has been used by Labor and non-Labor governments in the past.

The guidelines for legal assistance and indemnity provide that the state will pay the legal fees of a minister or former minister if the impugned action is taken against them whilst they were carrying out their duties as a minister. It also covers the costs of any settlement amount agreed to by the parties, which I note is approved by the government of the day at the time of settlement.

Most settlement agreements contain confidentiality agreements, binding the parties not to disclose information that occurred at the mediation or the actual settlement terms. When the indemnity provisions are activated, the approval of the exercise of that policy is made by the Attorney-General and/or the Premier of the day and is reported to the members of the cabinet of the day.

It is easy for someone not armed with the current correct facts to suggest that former ministers should pay back the money, particularly if matters before the court are ultimately settled by the parties. For a former minister to correct the record or publicise the facts would put them in breach of their own settlement agreement. The unauthorised disclosure of confidential agreements that are designed to protect the integrity of the executive government and its principal officers should be of concern to all Queenslanders. The release of this government-held information jeopardises the ability of present and future ministers from carrying out their role and not properly advancing the public interest as they see from time to time.

The Premier has recently publicly commented on a matter that I was involved in. Her comments stem from a report that was published in the *Guardian* on 16 May 2016. So important is this issue to the integrity of the machinery of government that I wrote to the CCC about this matter. My complaint concerns the possible breach of confidentiality that I allege has occurred in either the Premier's office or the Attorney-General's office. I have now had it confirmed to me by the CCC that they have completed their assessment and have now launched a full investigation into this matter. I table a copy for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 May 2016, from the Director, Integrity Services, Crime and Corruption Commission, Ms Kylee Rumble, to the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP, regarding concerns about alleged leaking of information to the media [748].

Goldoc, Appointment

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.20 am): Last week I had the great honour of joining the Premier on the Gold Coast when she announced that the former premier of Queensland Mr Peter Beattie will be appointed the new chair of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation Board. As the Premier stated on the day, this appointment will mean that we take the next step to be games ready for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The games will showcase Queensland to an audience of more than 1.5 billion across the world. That is a great opportunity for our athletes, but it is also an important opportunity to strengthen business, trade, tourism and jobs, both before the games and securing a lasting benefit for Queensland.

As I have said already this morning, the games have been delivering great benefits for jobs in our economy. Mr Beattie is pre-eminently qualified to be able to take the role as chair of Goldoc. We are in the final leg of the planning race and, with only two years to go to the games, Mr Beattie is the perfect candidate to take on the role of chair of Goldoc and promote Queensland to the world at this crucial point. Frankly, you could not ask for a more tireless or passionate advocate for Queensland and setting him into delivering the games will mean Queensland reaps the rewards.

Mr Beattie's appointment complements the role of former premier Rob Borbidge as the chair of the Embracing 2018 Advisory Committee, a great leader who works very closely with the community on the legacy benefits for the games through that role. I know the two will work very closely together to ensure these games provide a lasting legacy for Queensland. Bruce Robertson, Vice-President of the Commonwealth Games Federation and also Chair of the CGF Coordination Commission, which is responsible for overseeing the progress of the games, was on the Gold Coast all of last week as part of CoCom's work to review the games readiness. On Friday on the Gold Coast I was able to join him when he had a few things to say about the change in Goldoc chair. He said—

It's not unusual to have turnover at certain of points of time and this is a good point. So Nigel's skill set brought us to an incredible foundation ... and I think Peter's skill sets and connections and outward looking view to Australia and most importantly the Commonwealth and the world is something that will be a real asset.

So Peter's actual skill set fits the job description, so from that perspective I think it's a good time for change because he brings a certain skill set that absolutely augment what the strengths are of the organising committee ... to take us much more broadly than just the Gold Coast and Queensland.

Further, Kevin Gosper, the former vice-president of Sydney's 2000 Olympic Organising Committee, said Mr Beattie's appointment was a very good selection. The government is pleased to have Mr Beattie on the Goldoc team and we look forward to the work that we will all do together over the next 680 days to make sure that we deliver a very memorable games that will deliver not only a bright and shining period and experience for the state of Queensland during those 11 days in April 2018 but also lasting and enduring legacy benefits.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.23 am): Today this government and a range of ministers delivered a slap in the face to every Queenslanders who is unemployed when they told them that they never had it so good. This do-nothing, asleep-at-the-wheel government claimed, because of their master economic strategy, that Queensland has never had it so good. The reality is that unemployment levels have gone up in Queensland.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. I seek clarification as to where anyone on this side of the House has ever said that Queensland has never had it so good.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. Resume your seat.

Mr EMERSON: We see yet again the economic deniers who deny the fact that unemployment has gone up again. On trend figures it went up in the last month from 6.1 to 6.2 per cent. On seasonal figures it went up from 6.2 to 6.5 per cent after it was at 5.6 per cent the previous month. Those are the facts, but this government says Queensland has never had it so good because of their master strategy. It is a slap in the face to every unemployed person. The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations has said there is not much we can do about youth unemployment. That is her strategy for youth employment. Youth unemployment in Queensland is 15 per cent, the second highest in Australia. What an appalling situation because of this do-nothing, asleep-at-the-wheel government.

It could have been worse. The participation rate fell because people are giving up on searching for work because of the policies of this government. There were 6,800 full-time jobs lost last month and more than 30,000 lost in the last two months. That is because of the policies of this do-nothing, asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government. It is not just the unemployment figures that are showing that. The Resources Council brought out its state of the sector report that showed that only 13 per cent of resource CEOs said this is the best place to do business. Most Queenslanders will remember when 100 per cent would say that this is the best place to do business. Now only just over one in 10 are saying it.

The Master Builders said that in March the industry hit a wall under this government. Yet every minister here this morning is saying we have never had it so good. Tell that to those people in Queensland who are unemployed. On trend and seasonal figures unemployment was up. We are moving away from the rest of Australia. We are moving backwards compared to the rest of Australia because of these policies. Only the LNP will get Queensland moving.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.26 am): In light of that contribution by the member for Indooroopilly, who continues to talk down our state, I think it is worth putting some facts on the table that illustrate how well our state is doing. The fact is that some parts of Queensland are adjusting and transitioning faster than others. We have consistently said that is why our government is focused on regional Queensland. We know there are communities doing it hard in regional Queensland.

The member for Indooroopilly has the gall to talk about job losses considering he oversaw 1,972 jobs lost from the Department of Transport and Main Roads when he was minister. While we are talking about job figures, we know that unemployment is down from the 6.6 per cent that the LNP left us at in January 2016 to 6.2 per cent on a trend basis. The member refers to seasonally adjusted unemployment; the bloke sitting next to him, before figures were revised down, saw seasonally adjusted unemployment go up to 7.1 per cent.

In the first 15 months of office we have created 51,000 jobs in Queensland. How many did those opposite create in 15 months under their watch? They created 7,400. We have created almost seven times the jobs than those opposite. That is a record that they should be ashamed of. I cannot believe they get up and talk about unemployment given the damage they did to our economy by deliberately cutting and slashing 14,000 jobs in the first budget of the now opposition leader.

There are very positive figures that we can talk about on this side of the House. In the Westpac Consumer Sentiment Index, Queensland's consumer index rose 7.4 per cent to 94.7 per cent in April. The total trend number of finance commitments, including refinancing, for owner occupied dwellings, trend, in Queensland rose 0.7 per cent in February to be 4.4 per cent higher over the year. Investor finance commitments for construction of new dwellings is \$49 million higher than the same period last year. Queensland housing approvals, total trend dwelling approvals in Queensland, rose 0.8 per cent in March 2016. The member for Indooroopilly is not talking about the good stories. His suggestion that we think that Queenslanders have never had it so good is absolute rubbish. We are working day and night to ensure that we focus our efforts and attention on the parts of Queensland that are not transitioning from the post mining boom as quickly as others.

Those opposite need to start talking up the state economy rather than talking it down. That did not work for them when they were in government and they did damage to our economy by doing it. They need to start listening to reports like those from Deloitte which talks about Queensland's sweet fundamentals and the fact that we have a very diverse economy. We will continue to diversify our economy into important sectors like tourism and agriculture which we know will go through significant growth in the coming years.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.29 am): For the past 40 minutes, I have been listening with some amusement to the statements made by those on the other side of the House, particularly the statement of the Treasurer. He says he wants to talk up the economy, but he says that because it is the only thing he has. He has only talk. He has no plan, he has no money and he has no new jobs except jobs for mates.

In the past two weeks, what have we learned about this government? It is a government of unions by union lackeys for union thugs! The most number of industrial disputes in the nation have occurred here in Queensland, and what does this government do about it? Nothing! The unions run riot on work places, putting jobs at risk and adding 30 per cent to the cost of construction in Queensland. What does this government do about it? It does nothing!

In this state, unemployment is at 6.5 per cent, which is the second worst rate in the nation, at a time when, in the rest of the nation, rates are going the other way. What have we learned about youth unemployment? It is up to 15 per cent, which is a figure unmatched in this nation. In the past two months over 36,000 jobs have been lost and in the past month over 6,000 full-time jobs have been lost. That has been as a result of the actions of this government, but the only thing they can do about it is talk.

Members opposite have come into this place, but they know they are failing. As we travel the state, we talk to small businesses, large businesses and councils and they all lament that this government is asleep at the wheel; this government does not have a plan; this government cannot show them where the money is coming from; this government is driving their businesses and their councils into the ground. We hear that lament no matter where we are, from Cairns to Currumbin and from Brisbane to Bedourie. That is what is going on.

Today we learn: two Labor budgets and two raids on superannuation funds. They never saw someone else's money without wanting to get their hands on it and waste it. What have Labor luminaries said? They have just been extolling Mr Peter Beattie. What did he say about it? He said that that money is put aside to fund superannuation benefits. What did Andrew Fraser say? He said that that money is not put aside to pay for petrol in the tanks, wages and electricity. What did Terry Mackenroth say? He said that we are putting money away for superannuation and long service leave. Only the LNP can deliver in Queensland.

(Time expired).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude at 11.32 am.

Budget, Superannuation

 **Mr NICHOLLS:** My first question is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the Labor Party election costings document, which was released prior to the 2015 election. I ask: on what page does the Labor Party tell Queenslanders that it intends to raid the superannuation funds of public servants as part of its attempt to balance the budget?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The use of the word 'raid' seems to be an inference. Mr Speaker, I ask you to the rule on the question.

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for his question. I make it very clear: on this side of the House there are no plans to sell Queensland's assets. Let us talk about the stark contrast between what happened over there and what happened over here. They went to an election campaign wanting to sell the state's assets. I make it very clear: there will be no public servant sackings. There will be no 14,000 sackings—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, I know you like to talk about that, but I do not know that it answers the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It goes to the heart of this man here.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is no heart.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: It goes to the heart and the credibility of the man opposite, the Leader of the Opposition, because that is the legacy that he left. Governments across Australia are facing revenue writedowns. Governments have to make decisions. That is why the Deputy Premier, the Treasurer and I, as Premier, have had to make decisions. The first decision is to not sell our assets. That is our first decision.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Premier, member for Mudgeeraba, you are now warned under standing order 253A for your inappropriate interjections. Premier, I ask you to make your answer relevant to the question, which I understand is about superannuation.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The second decision is to not sack public servants. The third decision, which goes to the heart of the matter, is to create jobs for Queenslanders. I travel the length and breadth of this state. I have been to Maryborough recently. I have been out to Longreach. I went up to Barron River last week.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. I think you have answered the question.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, members. Member for Mount Ommaney, you will be warned next if you persist.

Budget, Superannuation

Mr NICHOLLS: I ask the Premier: given the Treasurer has been forced to confirm Labor is raiding the defined benefit fund, will the Premier today release the State Actuary's report and guarantee the fund will be fully funded on an accounting basis?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As I was saying in answer to the previous question, my government is focused on jobs. We are focused on jobs and we are focused on infrastructure—

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am answering the question.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Premier.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members! I know we are all willing, but I am keen to hear the point of order of the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr NICHOLLS: My point of order goes to the relevance of the answer. The question was: will the Premier release the State Actuary's report and will she commit that the fund will remain fully funded on an accounting basis?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I ask you to ensure your answer is relevant to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The fund will remain fully funded in accordance with actuarial advice. However, we have had to make tough decisions because we need people in jobs. Why do we need people in jobs? Because they sacked 14,000 people, they destroyed regional economies—

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order, again in terms of relevance. The question was: will the Premier release the State Actuary's report and guarantee the fund will be fully funded on an accounting basis? It is a very straightforward question and I am sure the Premier will be able to answer it.

Mr SPEAKER: I urge members to allow me to hear the question and the Premier's answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I try to answer the question and I get rudely interrupted by those opposite. My government has had to tackle and make decisions, because those opposite destroyed regional economies. They ripped the heart and soul out of regional economies across the state.

Everywhere I travel people speak to me personally about the heartache of rebuilding their lives after what the Leader of the Opposition did when he was the former treasurer. We are committed to building this state. We are committed to investing in infrastructure. We are committed to ensuring that

people have jobs. Every single member on this side of the House understands the importance of that. That is why the budget will deliver on jobs and grow the economy, especially focusing on the regional economies that those opposite destroyed.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the next question, member for Coomera, I warn you under standing order 253A for your interjections.

Budget

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is to the Premier. What role will the recent Working Queensland cabinet committee meetings have in setting the government's priorities ahead of the 2016 state budget?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Barron River for that question. We made a very firm commitment as a government that we would travel across regional Queensland to listen to what regional members and local councillors have to say in relation to formulating our budget for next month. At every Working Queensland cabinet committee meeting we held there was one clear message. That clear message was to deliver jobs for regional Queensland.

There has been a downturn in commodity prices. We know that. We understand that. As a government we need to sometimes lend a helping hand to those families that are doing it tough. That is why I have publicly said that there will be a strong focus in next month's budget on getting people in regional Queensland back to work. That is what they expect us as a government to deliver. That is a priority for my government.

I was very honoured that we were able to travel around the state for the Working Queensland cabinet subcommittee meetings to Townsville, Mackay, Mount Isa, Rockhampton, Charters Towers and Barron River. The Treasurer went to Maryborough last week. The last one will be held by the Deputy Premier in Toowoomba next week. This is about listening to regional Queensland. We have also held community cabinets in Gladstone and on the Gold Coast.

In Townsville we committed to a five-point action plan, with the accelerated works program and expanding, retraining and skills initiatives. I remind members that it was the former government that axed those Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. As the member for Maryborough will know, when I travelled to Maryborough the other day I met with people who were undertaking that program and were securing jobs for RoadTek, which means full-time jobs into the future.

I come back to the key point about the budget. We need infrastructure in this state. We need people in jobs. We need this across regional Queensland. We already have a \$10 billion a year capital works program. I want to build on that. My government wants to build on that. The Deputy Premier has released an infrastructure plan. We need to make sure that we are growing our economy and putting people into jobs.

We want to talk to the federal government about attracting more federal investment. We know how important tourism is for our state. We want to increase our tourism attraction. We are also working with the private sector because the private sector has a good role to play here as well. What we have seen from the announcements I made in the House this morning is that the private sector is very keen to invest and work with my government. We will have an open door policy when it comes to generating jobs and working with the private sector in this state.

The member for Barron River will know from the meeting we held last week that the mayors from the regions presented to us. They are very keen to see jobs in their regional communities. We will deliver the infrastructure that is needed.

Budget, Superannuation

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Premier. Given the government's decision to suspend contributions to the defined benefit fund, which has left it at risk of shocks, what actions has the government taken to guarantee the superannuation entitlements of hardworking public servants are fully funded on an accounting basis, given falling returns and interest rates?

Ms PALASZCZUK: All public servants' superannuation funds are guaranteed by legislation. That is a fact. They do not understand the detail. They have no policies of their own. In fact, I thought: let us have a look on the LNP website. Let us see whether there are any new policies—new leader, new energy, new enthusiasm. Was there anything there? No, sorry, there was nothing—lazy. Who said he was lazy? Was it not Bruce Flegg or Barry O'Farrell who called him lazy? It was the former member for Moggill. There are no plans and no policies. It is very disappointing, Tim.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I think you have answered the question.

Star Entertainment Group, Proposed Development

Mr FURNER: My question is to the Premier. How does the Star Entertainment Group's proposed master plan for Jupiters on the Gold Coast compare with other developments planned in Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Ferny Grove for that question. The member for Ferny Grove would be very well aware that there are job opportunities for people in his electorate to be able to gain employment through the new Queen's Wharf development three-star casino. Already the Attorney-General and I have been to one graduation of six-star trained young people in the hospitality industry.

Queensland is open for business. What we are seeing is clear investment by people and groups such as Star on huge developments that will attract international and national tourists to this state. I was very pleased last week to be on the Gold Coast for community cabinet. I was present with the Treasurer and the Minister for Tourism at a very significant announcement. That significant announcement, following on from my trade mission to Hong Kong, was that Star and a consortium in Hong Kong are looking very clearly at developing a master plan for that area on the Gold Coast which would see investment that would be greater than that of Queen's Wharf. We have not heard much from the Gold Coast member's opposite. I am quite sure that they would be very supportive—

Mr Langbroek: I welcomed it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You welcomed it. Excellent; that is great to hear.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Did you go to Hong Kong? No, you did not. This is about jobs. This is about tourism. Last week the Minister for Tourism attended the ATE. Over 2,000 delegates from around Australia and around the world were looking at tourism opportunities in Queensland. It was held on the Gold Coast.

We are seeing multibillion dollar investment in this state. It will continue to happen because my government has a very clear policy of working with the private sector to drive jobs. Unlike those opposite, we will work with people to create jobs and to create the environment to grow jobs in this state.

Queensland Health, Payroll System

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table an email of 18 May titled 'Pay errors' sent to nurses advising them to check their pay packets to ensure they had been properly paid following another Labor payroll failure, and I ask: when was the Premier advised that the Health payroll system had failed in the last pay run?

Tabled paper: Email, dated 18 May 2016, between employees of the Department of Health regarding pay errors [749].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. I am happy to look in more detail at the email. It is generic. I will get advice from the health minister. What I will say very clearly is that we will not be sacking nurses. When we went to the election campaign we said very clearly that we would restore front-line services in this state.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I know you are keen to talk about that, but I do not think that is relevant to the question.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister for Education. I do not need your assistance.

Townsville, Infrastructure

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on future infrastructure priorities for Townsville and whether there are any alternative approaches?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Townsville for his question because, like all members on this side of the House, he understands that infrastructure means jobs and jobs in regional communities. In the Townsville region, which is expected to grow to some 360,000 people in the next 20 years, we need to be providing the infrastructure that that community needs. That is why this government has made a commitment in our state budget to spend more than \$542 million in that region alone, creating up to 1,500 jobs.

This side of the House at the last election made a commitment to deliver for Townsville the one project that they have been asking both sides of politics at a federal level and a state level to commit to, and that is the Townsville stadium—a shovel-ready program, hundreds of jobs. That side of politics only committed to funding it if they sold the Townsville port. It was a clear blackmail.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. Member for Mermaid Beach, if you persist you will also be warned.

Ms TRAD: Who could forget Johnathan Thurston at the grand final last year? When receiving the grand final trophy, he said, 'The last thing I want to say is Townsville deserves a stadium.' This side of the House understands it. That side of the House does not.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, member for Mount Ommaney, member for Everton, you are now warned under standing order 253A for your inappropriate interjections.

Ms TRAD: There is one member of the former parliament, the 54th Parliament, who does understand how important the stadium is for Townsville, and that is Sam Cox, the former member for Thuringowa. He understands how important the stadium is. He has said that he is prepared to run for parliament for the LNP—

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you know the rules. You can table it. It is not to be used as a prop.

Ms TRAD: I table a copy.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Cox in a pitch for LNP: Call for commitment' [750].

He has said that the only condition he is prepared to run for the LNP at the next state election is if they commit to funding the Townsville stadium—not only the state LNP but also the Malcolm Turnbull government. He has made his return to politics on behalf of the LNP conditional on two things: that they deliver money for the Townsville stadium and that Turnbull delivers money for the Townsville stadium.

Sam Cox understands it. Does the member for Clayfield understand how important this stadium is for Townsville? Does the Deputy Leader of the Opposition understand how important this infrastructure project is for Townsville? They do not. I will leave the parting words to Johnathan Thurston, who said, 'North Queensland needs it. With the highest unemployment rate in Queensland, we need confidence back in the city.' We are prepared to put money into it.

(Time expired)

Queensland Health, Payroll System

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the return of Labor's Health payroll debacle. Can the Premier advise how many front-line health workers have been overpaid, underpaid or not paid at all in the last pay cycle?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for the question. I am happy to look into the details. As I said previously, in terms of this piece of paper that was handed to me, I have to confirm the details. What I will confirm is that we will not sack front-line services. We will not sack front-line services. When you are sacked you cannot pay anything because you have no money. They had a record of sacking over 1,800. We on this side of the House value our nurses. We value our health practitioners. We support them, like we did with the passing of the historic nurse-to-patient ratios at the last sitting of parliament—proudly supported on this side of the House, not supported on that side of the House.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are also warned under standing order 253A. If you persist, you will receive the appropriate action.

Regional Jobs

Mr MADDEN: My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer advise the steps the Palaszczuk government has taken to support regional jobs?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. He is a member who understands not only the inner-city and urban parts of his particular electorate but also the broader outlying areas. He has a keen interest in Ipswich generally as a region of Queensland.

We are committed to growing our regional communities. As I have already said today and as members have heard from the Premier and other cabinet ministers on numerous occasions, we know that there are parts of Queensland that are not transitioning as quickly as others in terms of the post-

mining boom. We know that this is a challenge for parts of regional Queensland. No more do I know that than in the Far North Queensland region, which I represent, and certainly we have heard other questions today which have nominated other areas.

Our government is committing many, many dollars into our regions. As members would be aware, we instigated our accelerated capital works program to fast-track projects that we need to boost Queensland's economy, particularly in regional Queensland. We have committed to fast-tracking \$367 million to go into shovel-ready projects that we expect to accelerate more than 800 jobs for North Queensland in particular. The Accelerated Works Program is designed to bring forward more employment opportunities after the downturn in the resources sector.

In terms of some of the projects, there is the \$10 million replacement of the Arnot Creek Bridge on the Bruce Highway north of Ingham, supporting 31 jobs; \$47 million for the construction of Bruce Highway overtaking lanes at five locations between Ingham and Ayr, supporting 130 jobs; \$42.5 million for the stage 2 upgrade of Ergon Energy's Garbutt depot in Townsville, supporting 60 jobs; the combined \$57 million upgrades of berths 4, 8 and 9 at the Port of Townsville, supporting 115 jobs; the \$28 million replacement of the Vines Creek bridges in Mackay, supporting 42 jobs. We have heard the education minister talk about the Cairns Special School earlier today—something I have been very passionate about for many years. That \$25 million construction is supporting around 100 construction jobs. Finally, in Cairns we have seen the Cairns Convention Centre roof and facade getting repairs, supporting 150 jobs.

We are focusing our attention on bringing forward those projects that are able to be brought forward, those that we can accelerate as part of our capital works program to ensure that we are supporting jobs across the state. We already know that our \$10.1 billion forecast Capital Works Program for 2015-16 is expected to support around 27,500 jobs across Queensland. That complements our Accelerated Works Program. As I have said before, we are focusing day and night on ensuring that we can get all Queenslanders the opportunities they deserve. That includes from this government being unashamed in understanding that we need to focus our efforts on regional Queensland.

One thing I hear when I travel around the state and particularly around regional Queensland is that people are very happy that we did not sell off the farm, that we have kept our assets in public hands. They know that we have made a promise. When we make promises on this side of the House, we keep them.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Construction Delays

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. I refer to comments from Labor's hand-picked Commonwealth Games chair, who yesterday said that if construction delays continued due to union action then that will have 'some sort of financial and obviously budgetary implication for the government'. What additional taxpayer funds have been budgeted for this contingency?

Mr PITT: I thank the honourable member for his question. I know he is referencing part of the statement from former premier Peter Beattie, congratulating him in this forum on his new appointment. The enterprise bargaining arrangements and the activity that is happening on sites right now is all action which I understand and am informed is completely legal under the Fair Work Act. This is legal action. It is being undertaken because of a range of actions. It is sanctioned. It just goes to show that those opposite still cannot bring themselves to understand that people who work on construction sites are people too. They need to ensure that they have their ability to have representation, and that is what they are getting in this case.

Specifically related to the fact that we are talking about the Commonwealth Games, we have allocated a very important amount of funding in terms of our \$2 billion estimated cost. What we have is a funding envelope. We have been very clear to Goldoc to ensure that they live within their means and that they deliver the best games ever based on the amount of money that we have already endorsed. That is what we have done.

In answer to the question, we have no indication at all that there will be any overruns of cost. As Treasurer, I will be standing firm to ensure that we have our funding envelope and we stay within that envelope. We heard earlier today from the Minister for the Commonwealth Games that this will be the best Commonwealth Games ever. I hear those opposite talking about all the great work they have done on the Commonwealth Games. We on this side of the House lobbied to get the Commonwealth Games in the first place. The people of the Gold Coast know that. They appreciate that. The legacy of this side

will be getting the Commonwealth Games in 2018 to the Gold Coast. Then there will be the legacy projects as a result of the games process. I am very excited, as the Minister for Sport, about the legacy infrastructure which will continue to deliver for the people of the Gold Coast and all around the state for many years to come after the Commonwealth Games.

With regard to the member's question, hopefully that addresses his concerns. We have had these comments made, and I think they are entitled to be aired because we have appointed a chair who we know will get on with the job and do his very best to deliver the best games. I have no reason to believe that will not be the case. I have more faith right now given the additional sponsorship that the new chair has been able to obtain that we will have an even bigger and better games than we did even a month ago. I am excited by the Commonwealth Games. The member for Surfers Paradise seems to be the odd one out. Everyone else on the Gold Coast seems to be pretty excited. He raised fears about other matters today. Now he is raising a scare campaign around the Commonwealth Games and whether it will be delivered. Why does he not get on board? Get on board and support the Commonwealth Games. You know you want to.

Graduate Nurses

Mr KELLY: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on the government's progress in implementing its election commitment of 4,000 extra graduate nurse training positions? Is he aware of any other approaches for the employment of nurses?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. This government has been an incredibly strong supporter of nurses and providing employment. A record number of graduates is coming into the health system—4,000 over the next four years. One thousand graduates per year are coming into our health system. A total of 1,500 graduates started in Queensland hospitals this year alone. This creates real jobs and a real career pathway for young nurses in our state—in fact, for nurses of all ages. At Robina I met some mature age nurses coming into our health system because of these job opportunities.

What is the increase over the LNP? If we go down the coast, 10 per cent more graduates started this year in Townsville than in the last year of the LNP government. There is 14 per cent more in Cairns; 13 per cent more graduate nurses in Mackay; 17 per cent more in Central Queensland and Rockhampton; and 25 per cent more graduate nurses on the Darling Downs. I am very pleased to support the reappointment of former National Party leader Mike Horan as chair of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service. That is one of the jobs for the boys! In Bundaberg and Wide Bay, there is a 35 per cent increase in nurses. That is a region we know has been hard hit by unemployment. The number of graduate nurses starting in the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service almost doubled. There is 92 per cent more graduate nurses starting in the Sunshine Coast than in the last year of the LNP government.

The records of the Labor Party and the LNP are clear. We hire and they fire. That is the record. The member for Clayfield never saw a public servant he did not want to sack. What is his legacy? He gave himself a big pay rise, No. 1; \$1 billion on 1 William Street; and sacked 1,800 nurses and midwives while he was treasurer. When he was at the centre of setting the Health budget, he had a risky closing of the Barrett Adolescent Centre leaving no support for vulnerable families and their children. That is his legacy. He never saw a job that he did not want to cut from the Public Service, and every Queenslanders knows it. Every Queenslanders knows the form of the member for Clayfield. That is what he did to Queensland and to Queenslanders.

One thing he has never done is he has never said sorry. I have said sorry for the Health payroll. I did it in a public speech when I launched our eHealth strategy. I apologised; he has never once apologised. I am calling on him today to apologise for the thousands of public servants he sacked, for the thousands of Queensland lives he disrupted and for the thousands of families who had bread taken off the table because he wanted to sack them. I call on him to apologise today.

(Time expired)

Taskforce Maxima

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Police. I refer to the minister's admission that the state government has reduced funding for Taskforce Maxima, and I ask: on what page of Labor's election costings does the Labor Party tell Queenslanders it intends to slash funding for Taskforce Maxima and reduce the number of police designated to tackling organised crime in Queensland as part of Labor's attempts to balance the budget?

Mr BYRNE: The gloves come off and we have marshmallow knuckles. It is this line of questioning from the Liberal National Party that demonstrates how unfit the Liberal National Party is to govern this state. The operations of Taskforce Maxima, which I assume the member is referring to, and other allocations to organised crime are a matter for the police. Taskforce Maxima has a very tiny component or full-time equivalent.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BYRNE: It is a fact. That is what was set up. It is a very tiny component. Maxima operates in a highly flexible set of arrangements where the numbers come and go based on the operational profile. If the honourable member opposite understood that and understood the additional resources that go to organised crime and the way in which Taskforce Maxima would be operating, he would understand that there is no government policy setting and no budgetary position coming from government that talks about reduction of funding in any way, shape or form. This government has committed an additional \$20 million, as announced by the Premier, to specifically target organised crime.

The point I would make to the member opposite is that the sooner the Liberal National Party rejects the legacies of the past from the likes of the Borbidge era and prior where they want to put their sticky fingers all over operational aspects of the Queensland Police Service the better, because that is what the question implies. The question implies that in some way government should be imposing its will on the operational profiles of the Queensland Police Service. I, for one, refuse to do that because that is entirely inappropriate. What happens is we provide resources and there are more resources, more officers, more money and more capacity in the Queensland Police Service. I can assure the member that is the advice I receive from the service and all officers involved. The efforts of Maxima are on the record and they are continuing to do exactly what they are required to do. The performance of Maxima is something to be proud of on behalf of all Queenslanders.

I find it difficult to appreciate why the speculation around these matters and the drilling into what happens in the organised crime response from the Queensland Police Service is a matter of interest. I can assure the member that the dollars are there. The additional resources are a matter of public record. The outputs from organised crime efforts are well known, and the people of Queensland should be completely comfortable with the way in which the Queensland Police Service is undertaking its responsibilities. The opposition is criticising the Queensland Police Service and the leadership of the Queensland Police Service. It is shameful.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before I call the member for Keppel, the member for Gaven is now warned under standing order 253A for his continual interjections. I give the member for Albert notice that he may soon be warned.

Backpacker Tax

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Tourism and Major Events. Can the minister please explain what impact the Turnbull government's backpacker tax will have on tourism and jobs growth in regional Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know how passionate she is about trying to create jobs in her local economy. We know that tourism is one of the main drivers of jobs in that economy. I know that the member for Keppel, like any rational Queenslanders, has seen through the mean and sneaky trick played by the LNP government to keep the backpacker tax and simply push it out of the electoral cycle to next year. Queenslanders will not be fooled. We know that this backpacker tax will be here to stay under a Malcolm Turnbull government.

Mr Dick: That is right: mean and tricky.

Ms JONES: It was a mean and tricky move to move it out of the election cycle. We know what the impact will be. It is not only the LNP that has spent all of May crunching the numbers. We know that the member for Clayfield is only there by two votes and that the member for Southern Downs still wants to be leader. He can always come back a fourth time. You can always come back; I am proof of that.

I have been crunching the numbers and we know that every 100 backpackers who come to Queensland supports six jobs. We know that 125,000 backpackers come to Queensland on working visas every single year, supporting thousands of jobs in local economies right across Queensland. We have been very vocal about this and I thank all members of parliament—those on this side and some of the LNP backbenchers—who are standing up against Malcolm Turnbull's backpacker tax.

What has the new energised leader of the LNP in Queensland been doing? What is his position and strategy to fight the backpacker tax? I would like to table his response to fighting the backpacker tax in Queensland.

Tabled paper: Extract from an article from the *Sunday Mail Brisbane*, dated 15 May 2016, showing a photograph of the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP [751].

Mr SPEAKER: We do not need a prop. Table it or put it down.

Ms JONES: I say this to the new energised Leader of the Opposition: he cannot fight the backpacker tax lying back with his feet up. That has been his solution. His solution is to do absolutely nothing. What we have seen this month in Queensland is a new leader of the LNP deposing the highly respectable member for Southern Downs and what we have seen is no changes in policy. We have seen an LNP leader who supports a new tax on business. We have seen an LNP leader who wants to sell assets in Queensland. It is the same old member for Clayfield, Campbell Newman's right-hand man. We know that the Nicholls-Newman government slashed jobs.

Mr Seeney: You are an embarrassment. You are embarrassing. You are all embarrassed.

Ms JONES: I am so embarrassing yet the member opposite only lasted two years!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you will have an opportunity to put a question if you like during question time. I do not need your assistance, Leader of the House.

Ms JONES: I would like to respond to that interjection from the honourable member who lasted on the government benches for two years because the people of Queensland saw through him. Everyone is bagging Beattie, but he showed up the member opposite when we was here. He kept the member for Callide there for many, many years.

Members on the government side will stand up for jobs in Queensland and will fight the backpacker tax that is creating uncertainty in regional Queensland. I will always fight for jobs.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mansfield, I am informed that we have students from St Thomas' school in the electorate of Bulimba in our gallery observing our proceedings. Welcome.

O'Carroll, Mr B

Mr WALKER: My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's pre-election written commitment to the Fitzgerald principles, specifically to make all decisions and take all actions, including public appointments, in the public interest without regard to personal, party political or other immaterial considerations, and I ask: what action has the Premier taken to ensure that the appointment of Mr Brad O'Carroll, former heavyweight in Labor Unity's plumbers union, as a consultant in the Office of Industrial Relations complies with this commitment?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mansfield for the question. My understanding is that Mr O'Carroll is employed on a temporary contract appointed through the department—not appointed through the government, not appointed through the ministry, not appointed by the minister but appointed by the department. We have heard some criticism from those opposite today about the appointment of Peter Beattie as the chair of the Commonwealth Games. Peter Beattie is the right person for the job. He is absolutely the right person.

Mr WALKER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker, relevance to the question. Mr Beattie looms large, but he does not loom large in this question.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is about putting the best person in the position. On Saturday night the member for Beaudesert could not wait to rush over and congratulate Mr Beattie. He shook his hand.

Mr KRAUSE: I rise to a point of order. The Premier is misleading the House. Just because I have good manners does not mean I support the appointment.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the Minister for Health said today in relation to the appointment of the health boards, Mike Horan has been appointed by my government to continue in that position, as has Terry White. Why? Because they are the right people to do the job. Unlike those opposite—

Mr Dick: They sacked everybody.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—who sacked people and threatened people, my government has a very clear focus on making sure that the best person is appointed to the job.

Mining Industry

Mr PEARCE: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Will the minister update the House on the status of resources sector investment in Queensland?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for his question. He is an advocate for the resources sector in this state bar no-one. We know it is a tough time for the resources sector, and that is due mostly to international commodity prices coming down. This government continues to assist the industry and especially the community that the industry supports.

New and long-term players continue to demonstrate confidence in our resources sector. Let me list a few. QGC has a two-year \$1.7 billion Charlie 1 natural gas project at Wandoan—1,600 jobs. Rio Tinto has a \$2.6 billion Amrun bauxite deposit at Weipa—600 people over three years. Adani has mining leases approved—the \$21.7 billion Carmichael coalmine, rail and port project. MMG hopes to get its \$1.4 billion Dugald River zinc project into production midyear in the north-west—600 jobs during construction and 400 during operations. Finally, as the Premier and I announced last week, Stanmore Coal has reopened the former Isaac Plains coking coalmine near Moranbah—150 jobs for that very important community.

Our government is nurturing green shoots in the resources sector. We have a 50 per cent exploration discount, a royalties freeze, the lowest payroll tax of any state in this country and heavy investment in innovation. Let me add to this discussion another survey that might shed further light on Queensland's standing in the world rankings and how that has developed over time. The Canadian think tank the Fraser Institute assesses the overall attractiveness of a country or a province for mining investment. In 2013 under those opposite, Queensland's score for investment attractiveness was 76.3. After another year of Campbell Newman, in 2014 the score had dropped. The 2015 score during the first year of the Palaszczuk government rose to 77.9, the greatest confidence—greater than those opposite in their term of government.

I am happy to talk up Queensland, unlike those opposite, who just want to talk it down. I am happy to talk up jobs now, jobs for the future and jobs for Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kawana to ask his question, I am informed that we have students from the Palm Beach State School in the electorate of Burleigh in our gallery observing our proceedings. Welcome.

O'Carroll, Mr B

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Industrial Relations. I refer to recent media reports about the appointment of former plumbers union boss Brad O'Carroll, and I ask: can the minister outline whether she or anyone in her office had any knowledge or any discussions with departmental officers about the appointment of Mr O'Carroll prior to it being made?

Ms GRACE: I thank the honourable member for the question because it gives me an opportunity to put a few things on the record. This was a departmental appointment. It had nothing to do with my office whatsoever.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you are warned under 253A. You have had a pretty good go this morning.

Ms GRACE: This is clearly an operational appointment and it has nothing whatsoever to do with my office. Nor should it. Temporary employment contracts with the department can be for up to 12 months. There is no need to go through an advertising and recruitment process for the purposes of filling temporary positions to meet the department's operational requirements. This is not a permanent position. When answering the question about what I knew and what I did not know, I have to state a few more facts.

The department has 820 employees made up of people who come from the employer's side and people who come from the union side, and they are all working in that department and bringing their skills to that department. I am sure that Mr O'Carroll is bringing his skill sets to the department as well because, as I understand it, in March 2014 he was appointed to the Workplace Health and Safety Board. Do members know by whom? By the member for Kawana! In July 2013 he was appointed to the QLeave board. Do members know by whom? The member for Kawana! In June 2013 he was appointed to the Plumbing Industry Council. Do members know by whom? The member for Everton! I am sure that Mr O'Carroll comes with extensive qualifications for the temporary position that he is undertaking in the department.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order on relevance. I asked whether the minister or anyone in her office had any knowledge or discussions prior to—

Mr SPEAKER: I rule that the minister's answer is relevant to your question. Resume your seat.

Ms GRACE: May I also say that the 2014 QLeave annual report, which is under the watch of those opposite, says that Mr O'Carroll has 'extensive knowledge and experience in the plumbing and construction industries', and they are the skills which I am sure the department is utilising. My understanding is that Mr O'Carroll is in an AO7 position. It is clearly not a senior position. It is on a temporary basis. He is fulfilling all of the duties. I was made aware of Mr O'Carroll's appointment after it had been made. It has nothing to do with my ministerial office. He is there for departmental operational reasons, and it is only the pathological hatred that those opposite have for union officials which brings this question about. This is a perfectly legitimate appointment. He is undertaking the role, and this hatred should stop.

Sunshine Coast, Training Programs

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Will the minister inform the House of the successful training programs which are being undertaken in the Sunshine Coast Airport area?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. It gives me great pleasure to once again rise to talk about the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative and what it is doing for people who are unemployed all across this state. We know that this \$240 million project is going to support up to 32,000 Queenslanders over the next four years who are unemployed, underemployed or disadvantaged and will help them to gain the skills and training they need to enter the workforce. We know that the Deloitte Access Economics report found that the previous Skilling Queenslanders for Work program returned almost \$8 to the economy for every \$1 that was invested before it was cut by the previous government. We know that the previous education minister, now the shadow health spokesperson, said—

The Newman Government is trying hard to protect public service jobs and has committed to cutting waste and inefficiency without affecting front line services.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs are not front line positions and we are committed to keeping our election promise that no front line positions will be affected.

The former education minister then went on to talk about the 144 full-time-equivalent staff in the department who would all be offered voluntary redundancies. What those opposite failed to talk about is all of the jobs that were lost right across the state from the not-for-profit organisations that ran these programs. We all know that every one of our organisations was hit hard by the scrapping of this program. It is wonderful to see this program back, and I am sure that we are attending many graduations in our own communities and seeing the success and hearing the stories of these people who are now going to job interviews, receiving job offers and going on to further employment.

That is why I was so pleased and surprised to see the Facebook post from the member for Buderim dated 5 April which promotes the work of one of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work providers, Quest Aid. Quest Aid offers projects across a number of disciplines such as horticulture, hospitality, aged care and automotive. Their programs will assist 60 locals with funding of \$168,300. This is funding that those opposite would rather not see provide vital training and skills to residents on the Sunshine Coast. The former treasurer slashed this program in his budget, saying that it was a duplication, it was unnecessary and they were not front-line services. I congratulate the member for Buderim for standing up for his community and supporting this program. I hope that the new shadow training and skills spokesperson will do the same and back Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This is essential; it is about standing up for Queenslanders and jobs for this state.

Aurukun

Ms SIMPSON: My question is of the Premier. Following the recent distressing events in Aurukun, can the Premier confirm that when the Premier's director-general was sent to try to resolve issues he spent more time on the government jet than he did on the ground—just 90 minutes, I am advised?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. The tenor of the question is disappointing because this is an incredibly serious issue. First and foremost, the director-general did not fly in the government jet. Secondly, he went there with one of the Families commissioners and met with the mayor and local councillors to look at a whole-of-government solution to this issue. This is an incredibly serious issue. I have made it very clear that the safety of the workers who work in that

community is paramount and the safety of that community is absolutely paramount. The Treasurer, in his role as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, went to Aurukun just recently as well to talk to the community.

I am more than happy to offer the opposition a briefing in relation to this. I will be updating the House further in relation to this matter over the course of the week. I do not think we need a question of that tenor when everybody is doing their best to build the capacity of that community and deliver the best outcomes for that community. I want to thank the members of the Public Service who went up there and sat down to try to work out a solution with the community.

Once again, I am very disappointed with the tenor of that question because it criticised the most senior public servant who, those opposite may recall, was sacked under the former government. I will not see public servants in this state (a) sacked or (b) criticised in this House. I reiterate once again that I am more than happy to provide a briefing to the member about this matter. It is an incredibly serious issue and one that my government is giving a very key priority to.

Townsville, Jobs

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland. Will the minister inform the House about the Palaszczuk government's commitment to job-creating projects in Townsville?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question. I know that, as I am, the member for Thuringowa is very interested in committing to jobs in Townsville and understands the importance of wise investment to make sure we deliver jobs sooner rather than later. Like the member for Thuringowa, one project I absolutely support in our region is the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor. I make it very clear: I support any project—

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, you are now warned under standing order 252. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

Mrs O'ROURKE: I make it very clear: I support any project that creates jobs. That is why I am pleased to say that the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor is on our state's list of priority projects that has been submitted to Infrastructure Australia. We have also committed equally to funding the business case with the federal government.

Townsville needs jobs now. People in North Queensland are doing it tough. We need those job-creating projects to start now. The stadium is one of those projects. We know that it will deliver up to 700 jobs during construction and will trigger flow-on benefits to the local community once it is complete. I have spoken in this House before about the fact that the stadium is more than just a stadium; it is the game-changer that Townsville needs to revitalise our CBD and draw in investment and opportunities.

Last week I had the opportunity to attend the Cowboys-Broncos game. I can say that there was no denying what the crowd at that game wanted: a new stadium. The business case is already complete and has been gathering dust on Malcolm Turnbull's desk for almost five months now. The Palaszczuk government has been fighting hard for Malcolm Turnbull and Ewen Jones to fund the stadium so we can hit 'go' on this catalyst project.

I welcome the \$150 million commitment in federal funding to the TEARC project, but it should have been allocated to the stadium. The offer on the table from Mr Turnbull falls short of the estimated cost of up to \$600 million for the TEARC project. By misdirecting this funding and failing to listen to the people of Townsville, Mr Turnbull is delaying both of these vital job-creating projects for our region. This is something we simply cannot afford at the moment.

Airlie Beach Music Festival

Mr COSTIGAN: My question is to the Minister for Tourism and Major Events. Can the minister advise the House why the state government, through Tourism and Events Queensland, has refused to fund this year's Airlie Beach Music Festival?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute.

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. As he knows—this has been the tenor of a lot of questions here this morning—Tourism and Events Queensland is a statutory body that administers funding for events at arms-length from the minister. That is, I do not get involved in the day-to-day decisions of events funded by Tourism and Events Queensland, and nor should I—just as the Minister for Industrial Relations does not get involved in temporary appointments in her department.

One would think that, after being turfed out of office after 2½ years, those opposite would understand the separation of powers between the executive and the public sector. The questions they are asking today demonstrate that they have learned nothing.

I will raise the issue asked about with the relevant person—that is, the chair of Tourism and Events Queensland—but I stand by their decisions when it comes to funding events based on what can provide the most overnight expenditure for a community. It is based on how that event can grow tourism and jobs in that sector.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Mr SPEAKER: I understand that the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will speak for five minutes each.

Liberal National Party

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.33 am): I rise to outline the actions we have taken and the travels we have had over the past week in Queensland as we have fulfilled our promise, with renewed energy, enthusiasm and vigour, to go out and see the people of Queensland and listen to what they have to say. Rather than holding closed-shop committee meetings and little gatherings of union workforces and task forces around the place, we have been out there talking to Queenslanders the length and breadth of the state, starting off out in Longreach after parliament rose just over a week ago.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I travelled out there at the request of local people, together with the local member for Gregory, Lachlan Millar, to talk to local people and visit the Queensland State Sheep Show and the Longreach Show. I was very pleased to be able to catch up with a number of friends from out in that part of the world and listen to their concerns. If there is one concern that the people of Western Queensland have, it is that this government is asleep at the wheel and has no plans to look after them and their future.

Having accepted the invitation to attend the State Sheep Show and the Longreach Show, we were informed that the agriculture minister had similarly received an invitation but had declined to attend the single largest show brought together to deal with the sheep industry. However, having arrived in Longreach early on Friday morning, we were informed at around 2.30 or three o'clock that the agriculture minister had decided that she did want to attend. We learned that the government jet was flown out there late on Friday afternoon. It zoomed in and landed at Longreach Airport. The minister was duly chaperoned to the motel, where she was ensconced.

We thought we might see her at the show itself. We thought she might come along to the sponsors drinks afterwards, perhaps meet the entrants in the Queensland rural showgirl competition and have a chat with them—

Mrs Frecklington: Show some interest.

Mr NICHOLLS: Show some interest, as the deputy says. But no, there was not a sign of her—not a skerrick. We thought we would go to the opening night of the ball. Indeed, the minister did turn up. She did not talk to anyone but she did show up. She was obviously shown courtesy by organisers Margie Webb, Karen Huskisson and the crew out there. Rather than going the next morning to the show—it started at 7.30; you can go and have a chat with the people over bacon and eggs for breakfast, which we did—the minister got back on the jet and shot out again. The interest of the Minister for Agriculture was something to behold. I must say, it was remarked on not so favourably or kindly by members out there.

I was also pleased to inspect and look at the Queensland ram of the year. As reported in *Queensland Country Life*—

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: The member for Ashgrove does not like greyhounds, obviously; she has a set against greyhounds. The winner of the Queensland State Sheep Show was from Mt Ascot. The win represented the first time in five years that a Queensland sheep had been announced the winner of the Queensland State Sheep Show—

Ms Jones interjected.

An opposition member: Who was it? Who won the Sheep Show?

Mr NICHOLLS: I will let members know who won.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Leader of the House!

Mr NICHOLLS: The article in *Queensland Country Life* states—

The announcement was greeted with much excitement at the culmination of two days—

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There are too many interjections, mostly from this side of the House. It is becoming very difficult to even hear what the opposition leader is saying. Could people please keep their interjections to a minimum.

Mr NICHOLLS: The article states—

The announcement was greeted with much excitement ... [by] Mitchell's Brumpton family.

In what may be a good omen for the LNP, Nigel announced that the stud's newest champion would be named Nikko in honour of new opposition leader Tim Nicholls, who visited the show along with deputy Deb Frecklington.

That is a small point as to the resilience and the strength of the people of Western Queensland, who are in their fourth and fifth year of drought and who are battling the problems of wild dogs and large flocks of kangaroos. There is more work to be done out there. It is not being done by the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is asleep at the tiller of the plane. Only the LNP has a plan to get Queensland moving.

(Time expired)

Liberal National Party

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.38 am): It was wonderful to get out to Longreach with the local member, Lachlan Millar, and the opposition leader. It was a great overnight stay in Longreach. To say that the drought is making it tough out there would be an understatement.

Some places in the Longreach area are going into their fifth consecutive year of drought conditions. Extended dry periods have made it very tough. Most of these places are completely destocked and we really need to thank the people of Longreach for their resilience. They put on a great State Sheep Show despite the years of drought they have experienced and they really welcomed us to have a chat about the situation that they are facing. Whilst the leaders talked about droughts and dogs, it was disappointing that the Minister for Agriculture was not able to attend the State Sheep Show. Furthermore, there is a large problem in the outback, and that is unemployment and the lack of a plan for any development in these areas that could bring jobs to those communities like Longreach. As the Leader of the Opposition just said, the problem is that we have a government that is asleep at the wheel and it does not understand that many people are moving away from these towns to find other employment. This government has been at the wheel during this dramatic loss of business confidence, meaning people do not have the confidence to set up in areas like Longreach because there is just simply nothing out there for them.

We also travelled to Townsville—an area that has lost some 7,000 jobs in the past 12 months. Annual employment growth is negative 6.3 per cent and the participation rate has gone down a massive 5.2 per cent. When we were in Townsville it was incredible to hear the minister for North Queensland and also the local member, Scott Stewart, explain why they would be so against a project that is so obviously of great benefit to Townsville—and, of course, I refer to the eastern access corridor, a long awaited and much debated in this House since 2002 piece of state building infrastructure. The *Townsville Bulletin*—we picked it up the next day when we were there—stated in the editorial—

Regrettably, local Labor State MPs have put politics above the interests of Townsville by condemning ... \$150 million plan to supercharge the city's rail-port connection. In a dreary, scripted and wholly illogical attack on the Prime Minister and his plan, North Queensland Minister Coralee O'Rourke and Townsville MP Scott Stewart claimed the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor funding would undermine job growth.

When we were on the ground talking and listening to those lovely locals in and around Townsville, we also went to the North Queensland Field Days with Dale Last, the new shadow minister for agriculture.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I remind the member—it has been happening a little bit—that you must refer to members by their title please rather than their name.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The shadow minister for agriculture, Dale Last; thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. It was very good to hear those people on the ground saying that a project such as the eastern access corridor would be of great benefit and that, of course, it would mean jobs.

An opposition member: Great boost for the north.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It would be a great boost for the north; I take that interjection. This project would mean that there could be longer trains. If this project were to go ahead, they could increase the length of freight trains by up to 1,400 metres. It also cuts out a number of level crossings. I do not know the exact number, but there are many. All of that means increased development in the town of Townsville. It is just ridiculous that those local members have unfortunately knocked such a wonderful project that is, to the middle of last week, the largest funding announcement by Malcolm Turnbull in his election campaign so far. This would be a wonderful boost to the people of Townsville. It would be a great piece of infrastructure. It would also be fantastic for the people as far out as Mount Isa because they would be able to get their product to port a lot quicker by utilising longer trains. Longer trains mean fewer people on the roads and fewer trucks on the roads. I think this is a fantastic piece of infrastructure for Queensland and one that this Palaszczuk government should be supporting and certainly not knocking.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Townsville, I acknowledge in the gallery the former member for Mansfield, Mr Phil Reeves, and also students from St Thomas' Catholic Primary School in Camp Hill in the electorate of Bulimba.

Townsville Electorate, Federal Election

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (11.43 am): You would have to be living under a rock to not know that there is a federal election looming on the horizon. Last week it was our turn in Townsville, as we have already heard, when the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, came to spruik his promise of jobs and growth. This much anticipated visit brought with it the typical media scrum and the hope of funding promises that would help lift Townsville's economy, which is ailing under a massive downturn in mineral and commodity prices coupled with Queensland Nickel going under, resulting in a further 700 direct jobs being lost in the city and a further 1,500 indirect jobs also being lost through its closure. It was hoped that the Prime Minister would match Bill Shorten's stadium commitment of \$100 million.

On Tuesday of last week, Malcolm Turnbull announced that if re-elected the federal government would contribute \$150 million to the development of the eastern rail corridor through the Townsville state development area and adjacent to the very successful Port Access Road. City leaders welcomed the announcement of the part funding of this vital project. The Palaszczuk government had been seeking a commitment from the Turnbull government to a business plan for this project. It would create opportunities for longer trains to access the port of Townsville, bringing greater productivity to the city. It would also open the TSDA as a vital warehouse precinct that would enable the city to become the North Australia distribution centre. The Palaszczuk government also recognises the importance of this project as it is listed as a priority project in the area. Townsville Enterprise also sees that this project has great significance to the region and would help build and grow a stronger region.

This project would create around 300 jobs during the construction phase. Initial estimates show that the cost of building the eastern rail corridor would be in excess of \$500 million, with the member for Herbert calling on the state government to fund the remainder of the project. How ironic is that? The member for Herbert is calling on the state government to fund the remainder of the project without a plan. This is the same man who openly chastised the state government about seeing a business plan for the Townsville stadium before making any approach to the Prime Minister or the Treasurer to seek co-funding for the stadium. The member for Herbert has openly said that the federal government does not fund stadiums. There are several stadiums and sportsgrounds that have received federal funding under both Labor and coalition governments in recent years. These include \$55 million towards two upgrades of Adelaide Oval, \$50 million to the Sydney Cricket Ground, \$36 million to Carrara Stadium on the Gold Coast, a \$20 million upgrade to the Parramatta Stadium announced under the Abbott government and \$10 million towards Brookvale Oval in Tony Abbott's North Sydney electorate.

Unlike the eastern rail corridor, which will take several years to be fully funded before construction begins, the stadium project will create over 1,000 direct and indirect jobs during the 18-month build phase. A study conducted by Townsville Enterprise shows that \$85 million in wages would be paid to employees during the construction build and \$440 million in economic outputs into the city alone. This is a shovel-ready project that can start now and bring jobs to Townsville. By locating the Townsville

stadium in the CBD, it will revitalise the small businesses, the restaurants and the cafes throughout the CBD area in much the same way that the MCG does as well as Adelaide stadium and, of course, Suncorp Stadium. While the people of Townsville appreciate and thank the federal government for its proposed funding, the \$150 million could have been committed to the stadium and completed in full to deliver on its mantra of jobs and growth. What we now have is two part funded projects that are not creating any jobs or building growth in a city that is desperate for work and opportunities. It is about time that the Prime Minister sees the potential for the Townsville stadium and what it will bring to the city and I will continue to push the Turnbull government to reconsider co-funding the stadium to grow jobs in my city.

Indigenous Communities

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.48 am): I wish to acknowledge the teachers, the police, the health workers—the many people who are on the ground every day in remote Indigenous communities who are working with their heart and soul with the people of those communities. I have family and friends who have been there on the front line and I know people in those communities. They have a passion to make a difference and they are upset when they see their communities in the headlines. When the cameras have gone and the fly-in fly-out visits are over, those people have to live there, they have to work there, they have to fight to make a difference—not with their fists but with their passion and their hearts full of love and care to make a difference.

The shocking reports of attacks against teachers in the community of Aurukun are unacceptable. It is not a case of a couple of young fellows 'having a bit of fun', as the member for Cook, Billy Gordon, recently said, trivialising the issue. Premier Palaszczuk may have refused to condemn the member for Cook for his comments, but I condemn his comments as they were making light of a serious issue that needs honest conversations and appropriate actions.

Whether it is against white or black people, violence is never acceptable. People do not fix it by denying it. After watching with great concern the reports of the latest violence in Aurukun, we saw the images of the women in the community standing up bravely and saying strongly that violence is unacceptable. They are saying that parents need to take responsibility and they have clearly said that violence is not a 'bit of fun'. Those women also said that the community needs jobs and opportunity. Unlocking economic development in North Queensland, particularly in Far North Queensland, to provide real opportunity has to be part of the way forward.

Breaking the cycle of violence and disadvantage is difficult and complex. There are no simple answers but, as other communities are showing, there are answers. Part of that is to listen to the voices of those who are fighting, not with their fists but with their hearts and their passion for change. These issues have been long running, with many different attempts to make inroads into the crime statistics, poor health and education outcomes and the lack of job opportunities.

I table some of the statistics as a snapshot of these challenges to give an indication of the disparity with statewide statistics as well as statistics relating to other Indigenous communities.

Tabled paper: Queensland Parliamentary Library Research Brief, dated 23 May 2016, regarding Indigenous community statistical data [\[752\]](#).

There are bright spots and some communities are making headway. Nonetheless, the challenges remain significant and require our attention when there are not headlines of horror, when the spotlight is not being shone because of some terrible incident. The everyday is where the changes are to be made.

I refer to some of those statistics. We know that in many areas those challenges mean that 31 per cent of Queensland's prison population is made up of people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, with incarceration rates of people of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent 11 times higher than non-Indigenous incarceration rates. We also know that, on average, people of ATSI heritage die about 20 years earlier than do other Queenslanders. There are other compelling, challenging statistics that are not there to bog us down in what cannot be done but to challenge us on what can be done.

Other communities in some of these troubled areas have had some successes and they are showing that it is possible. It is only possible if we have honest conversations, empower those who are making a difference and do not accept violent behaviour as part of life. I acknowledge the Mayor of Aurukun, Dereck Walpo, and also the people of the Aurukun community, particularly the women who are standing up against this culture of violence and are seeking a change.

One of the greatest enemies of change is cynicism, as it erodes hope, opportunity and effective and sustained effort. I am talking about cynicism among government and non-government agencies and the broader community. A situation is only hopeless if you give up hope. That is why we must work with those who have the answers. I again acknowledge the teachers, the police and the health workers in those areas. We need transparency of data—

(Time expired)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Members, there has been a little bit of a tendency—it probably happens once or twice every sitting week—for members to continue speaking after their time has expired. If the Speaker calls that the time has expired, the member must resume their seat.

Gladstone Electorate, Jobs

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (11.54 am): I rise to speak today about a great announcement for those struggling to find work in my electorate since the ramp-down of the construction of the LNG plants on Curtis Island. Earlier this month, the Treasurer and the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply announced the creation of 350 direct jobs in the region with a \$31 million overhaul of the Callide power station. This investment will bring enormous flow-on economic benefits to Central Queensland and to my electorate of Gladstone. I would expect that the member for Callide would also welcome this announcement.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering for regional Queensland. It is delivering on jobs growth and is investing in this asset and many other profitable government assets, like the Gladstone port. Not only is this government not selling assets; it is investing in growth. State owned electricity generator CS Energy Limited will commence a major service of unit 1 of the Callide B Power Station in July this year. That will create and sustain around 350 direct jobs, which is in addition to the power station's permanent workforce of around 205 employees. The flow-on effect will be service provider jobs, such as caterers and mum-and-dad hotel operators in Biloela. CS Energy has a proud history of supporting local jobs. In February this year, it announced that it would continue its current training program through 2016, with 18 new apprenticeships and traineeships for local men and women at the power station.

I wonder if the Callide B Power Station might have been next on the LNP's hit list for sale—after the sale of the Port of Gladstone, of course. As it is a profitable asset, generating wealth and jobs in the area, it sounds just the kind of thing that the opposition would like to get rid of. Thankfully, under this Palaszczuk Labor government, Central Queenslanders do not have to worry about that. CS Energy is not only generating direct economic gains for the state but also generating jobs and futureproofing regional Queensland.

Our government understands the importance of securing a stable electricity supply. That is why investing in the Callide power station is so important. The Palaszczuk government also understands the importance of transitioning towards renewable, sustainable sources of energy and the importance of investing in jobs for the future and advancing Queensland through innovation. The biofuels pilot plant in my electorate is just one example of this investment. Since this announcement, I have had several inquiries in relation to other state-of-the-art industries that want to set up shop in Gladstone. Why would they not, with a fantastic port, a great state development area and access to services at their doorstep.

Ms Pease: And a great local member.

Mr BUTCHER: And a great local member. I will take that interjection. The establishment of the new State Infrastructure Fund, with an initial investment of \$500 million, will see over \$40 million invested in my electorate of Gladstone to fast-track the delivery of the Dawson Highway timber bridge replacement program. This is something that the people of my electorate have been crying out for and, once again, we see that the Palaszczuk Labor government is listening and is delivering for the Gladstone electorate. This \$40 million commitment will see five timber bridges at Catfish Creek, Nine Mile Creek, Sheep Station Creek, Maxwellton Creek and Doubtful Creek replaced with more durable and reliable concrete structures. This project means jobs for people in my electorate.

My electorate is surrounded by big industrial giants and I know better than most the economic advantage that they generate for the state economy. I am pleased to say that this government also acknowledges and appreciates what really is the lifeblood of our communities, and that is our small businesses. With Small Business Week coming to a close, it is fitting to congratulate the responsible minister, the Hon. Leeanne Enoch, on a fantastic Small Business Week. Since the state election last year, 51,000 new jobs have been created. In the 15 months since then, the Palaszczuk government has overseen almost double the number of jobs created in Queensland compared to number of jobs

created in the entire three-year term of the LNP. This government has a positive plan for jobs in Queensland and it is delivering on that plan. My focus will remain squarely on seeing this positive economic story continue in regions such as mine.

Infrastructure; Federal Funding

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.00 pm): Today yet again we have seen the handout mentality of the Palaszczuk Labor government, a government that is so completely bereft of its own ideas and ability to fund key infrastructure across our state that it has become the Oliver Twist of state jurisdictions around Australia. It constantly has its hand out to the federal Turnbull government demanding more because it has no money of its own to spend on vital transport and main roads infrastructure. It is completely reliant on the federal Turnbull government and, contrary to what it says, the Turnbull government has been delivering and delivering in spades for this state.

The federal budget that was released earlier this month delivers new funding for roads and transport infrastructure in this state. The Ipswich Motorway will receive \$200 million. I note that the Minister for Main Roads put out a press release regarding the Ipswich Motorway and there was only one little line at the bottom acknowledging the fact that it is fifty-fifty funded by the federal Turnbull government. There will be \$50 million alone for that project in 2015-16. The Turnbull federal government is investing \$50 million in project business cases for the inland rail between Melbourne and Brisbane. From 2019-20 we will see an extension of funding of \$400 million for Roads to Recovery, in 2016-17 alone in Queensland that will equate to \$163 million; Black Spot funding of \$60 million, in 2016-17 alone it will be \$23 million—I will come back to that in a moment; in the Bridges Renewal Program \$60 million, \$27.8 million in this coming financial year alone.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr POWELL: We can add that on top of the many existing initiatives that were previously committed to by the coalition government: \$6.7 billion on the Bruce Highway, with nearly \$600 million spent this year; the Gateway Upgrade North nearly \$1 billion, \$200 million of which will be spent this year; the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, \$1.137 billion, nearly \$500 million of which will be spent this year; the Warrego Highway between Toowoomba and Miles, \$508 million, \$41 million spent this year; money into the Cape York Roads Package; the Moreton Bay Rail Link; the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2; projects such as the D'Aguiar Highway in the electorate of Glass House; the Dalrymple Road bridge over Bohle River; and the Kin Kora roundabout at Gladstone. As we heard from the member for Nanango, we had a commitment from the Turnbull government of \$150 million to deliver the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor, a project that the LNP state opposition welcomes. Upgrading that railway line into the Port of Townsville is an incredible commitment to the region, maximising the productivity of the port and creating much needed jobs in Townsville.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Main Roads, I think we can do without your interjections, thank you.

Mr POWELL: As the member for Nanango pointed out, there was not one voice of support from the local state members of parliament. It has been added to today by an announcement from Trevor Evans, the candidate for Brisbane, and Mayor Graham Quirk of some \$4 million for Black Spot funding programs in the Brisbane City Council environments. I would like to draw attention to the fact that residents who will benefit from the Ann Street and Commercial Road, Fortitude Valley improvements in the electorate of Brisbane Central do not need to thank the Brisbane Central member but rather Trevor Evans, the federal Turnbull government and Team Quirk. Similarly, those who use Wickham Street and Gotha Street in Fortitude Valley can thank Team Quirk and the Turnbull government. Those in Stafford who use Newmarket Road and Lamont Street in Wilston can thank the Turnbull government and Team Quirk. Those who use Kelvin Grove Road and Ithaca Street in Kelvin Grove can thank Team Quirk and the Turnbull government.

For six sites along Mount Nebo Road in the electorate of Ferny Grove we do not need to thank the member for Ferny Grove because he has done nothing. That is all Team Quirk and the federal Turnbull government. The intersection of Hawthorne Road and Carr Street in the Bulimba electorate was, again, nothing to do with the member for Bulimba, and all to do with the Turnbull government and Team Quirk. The intersection of Cavendish Road and Holland Road, Holland Park, in the electorate of Greenslopes was again delivered by the Turnbull government and Team Quirk. Two others, one in Inala at the intersection of Roxwell Street and Julie Road, Ellen Grove and the other at Bay Terrace and

Bride Street in Wynnum are all being delivered by the Turnbull government and Team Quirk. The Palaszczuk Labor government continues to stick out its hand, despite being bereft of ideas and money. The Turnbull government and local councils like that of Graham Quirk keep delivering.

Keppel Electorate, Small Business

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.04 pm): Since the election last year the Palaszczuk government has been focused on giving Queensland businesses the best opportunity to grow, thrive and create jobs. The Palaszczuk government aims to inspire and empower small businesses to grow and realise the benefits of collaboration, which is the central theme of Advance Queensland's plan for jobs now and jobs for the future. Small business plays an intrinsic part of life in regional towns and communities, with almost 30 per cent of the state's small businesses in regional Queensland and over 3,300 of those small businesses located in Keppel.

Last week in Yeppoon and Rockhampton it was a privilege to host the Minister for Small Business for Queensland Small Business Week, which ran from 16 to 21 May. Small Business Week provided a great opportunity for local business owners to engage with other small businesses and also for me to hear about and understand the challenges they face and their ideas for the future. There are more than 406,000 small businesses in Queensland, with 121,500 of these based in our regions. These businesses have a big impact on local economies and it is important that we give them the tools to get off to the best possible start and every opportunity to thrive and create jobs. Small businesses make up more than 97 per cent of all businesses in Queensland and employ 43 per cent of the private sector workforce. They are the engine room of the economy and we are working toward empowering small businesses to grow.

Queensland Small Business Week was a great opportunity for owners and operators to learn, network and connect with new ideas. I know small business is doing it tough in regional Queensland, particularly with the downturn in the mining boom, which is why the government-hosted events, workshops and training sessions were developed around themes of collaboration and partnerships, innovation and entrepreneurship and preparing small business for digital disruption. The minister and I held a meeting with the Capricornia Chamber of Commerce in Yeppoon—and I thank the chamber president, Mr Peter Fraser, for hosting the event—and our local member of the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council, Mr Derek Lightfoot, who also attended. I truly value Derek's work in helping to provide a direct line of communication between small business and government in his role on the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council.

The minister and I also joined over 100 small businesses at the fit-for-change workshops and plenary in Rockhampton where the minister hosted a plenary session where speakers from Suncorp, O'Connells OBM and my friend and colleague Mr Geoff Higgins from Performance People addressed the crowd. Experts were on hand to advise pain points for small business, including cash flow, budgeting, tax, HR, brand culture, change management and training, getting online traction, building footfall and digital tribes, branding to grow, customer bases, succession planning, digital innovation, growth sectors and services, blue-sky thinking and crystalballing.

I am excited about helping small businesses in Keppel by guiding them towards existing opportunities. By tackling challenges head on together we can work towards successful innovation. Small business is a key driver of the Queensland economy and, indeed, the Keppel economy and it is important to provide business with the right environment to thrive. I note that the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the Keppel Kraken, a brand new water play park on the foreshore of Yeppoon, and our \$25 million investment in the Yeppoon foreshore revitalisation, together with the \$15 million commitment for the Rockhampton riverbank revitalisation, are already starting to stimulate growth and customer base for the small businesses in those areas. When I stroll along the foreshore of Yeppoon I see more people out buying coffees in the coffee shops, in restaurants, in our retail outlets and also in local small businesses like Afishionados, a great local fish and chip shop on the foreshore.

Throughout the entire business growth cycle we want to encourage businesses to be more innovative and embrace digital technologies in order to compete in the global economy and become more resilient. Our Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy will be focused on creating an environment that supports businesses when they start, sustains them through the first four years and facilitates high growth and employment by leveraging the Advance Queensland agenda. The Palaszczuk government is always looking for innovative ways to help small businesses grow and create jobs. These campaigns are another way we are helping to establish Queensland as the place to start and grow a business as we create jobs now and jobs for the future. We want Queensland to be the state known as the place for small businesses to start, grow and employ and I want Keppel to be at the centre of that vision.

Townsville, Crime

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.09 pm): I am a product of the Brisbane suburbs, having been born and bred in the north-west of Brisbane. However, this afternoon I want to speak about Townsville. Townsville is a great city. I have travelled to Townsville on more occasions than I can count, through various occupations over the years. Population-wise, it is the largest city in the north. It is the unofficial capital of the north. Its climate is unsurpassed, particularly in winter. In winter I cannot think of a better place to be than in Townsville, enjoying its incredible warm weather. Its lifestyle is casual and carefree. Of course, it is the home of the North Queensland Cowboys, who had on Friday night a very lucky win against the mighty Brisbane Broncos. I did tip the Cowboys—although do not tell anybody—so I am quite happy about it.

As good as Townsville is, unfortunately a black cloud is hanging over its head. Townsville has now become the unofficial capital of crime in this state. That little bit of paradise is being overrun by criminals who have absolutely no respect for the law. Why has this occurred? It has occurred because this state Labor government is soft on crime! It refuses to get tough on those who would disrupt our peace.

Some of the recent crime statistics from North Queensland are startling. Townsville comes in at No. 1 for assaults in the state. The city of Townsville comes in at No. 2 for robbery. Car stealing puts it back up to No. 1 in the state. Unfortunately, on drug offences it comes in at No. 3. The residents of Townsville do not want to be known for those startling statistics. When they go to sleep at night, residents of Townsville want to know that they are secure and they need have no fear of intruders coming into their houses. There is no greater violation than having a criminal in your house. Residents want to lock their cars in their garages, knowing that they will still be there in the morning. They want their daughters to be able to walk the streets of Townsville feeling safe and not fearing attack. Unfortunately, at the moment that is not the case.

The most disturbing statistic is that over 50 per cent of those crimes are being committed by juveniles—that is, young offenders aged from 10 to 16 years. Property crime is rife. Young people are stealing cars, they are breaking into homes and they are stealing in general. We all know that young people make mistakes. We all know that they deserve a second chance. However, do they deserve an eighth, a ninth and a tenth chance? I do not believe that they do. A core group of repeat offenders have absolutely no respect for the law and we cannot keep going soft on those repeat offenders.

The residents of Townsville have had a gutful. They are setting up Facebook pages. Over 4,000 people have signed a petition. They are saying, 'Enough is enough!' The No. 1 priority for any government is to keep its citizens safe. This state Labor government is failing the people of Townsville, because it is soft on crime. The LNP members who previously represented the Townsville electorates knew how important this was, which is why they kept fighting for tougher laws, particularly on youth crime. The current crop of members for Townsville, Thuringowa and Mundingburra say that they are not soft on crime, but they do not back that up with any action.

What is this state government going to do to address the crime spree that is occurring at the moment in Townsville? The people of Townsville deserve answers and they deserve to be kept safe.

Maryborough Hospital, Pathology Unit

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.14 pm): The member for Everton talks about keeping people safe. I ask: how about keeping them healthy? For the city of Maryborough, 16 May was a red-letter day because we reopened the pathology unit that had been closed by the LNP. While the member opposite talks about safety, I say: let's keep people healthy. Ours was the only hospital on the east coast of Australia without a pathology unit. That was shameful. One of the busiest parts of the Bruce Highway is between Curra and Gin Gin, but if there was an accident on the highway there was no pathology unit close by.

Reopening the pathology unit was one of my campaign promises and I congratulate the health minister for it. Shortly after getting elected, I asked the health minister, the member for Woodridge, to come to the hospital, which he did. He said, 'Where's the pathology unit?' I said, 'We haven't got one, Minister.' He said, 'Let's have a look at that.' You cannot operate a hospital without a pathology unit. The constant feedback from the LNP was, 'It's great. There's no need for it. We'll send your pathology and blood samples down to Hervey Bay.' Hervey Bay is 33 minutes away by car. The son of friends of mine became very sick in Maryborough. It was eight hours before they received the results of the pathology tests. The hypocrites on the other side of the House sit there and tell us that they—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask you not to use unparliamentary language.

Mr SAUNDERS: I withdraw. The LNP members on the other side of the House tell us that they care about Queenslanders. Do they really care about Queenslanders? We did not have a pathology service! A pathology service is crucial to the operation of a hospital. It is common sense: we need pathology services. During the campaign, we heard of countless cases of sick people who had to wait for pathology results. Those results did not come. They walked out of the A&E because they could not get pathology.

The health minister came, he saw and he acted. Now we have a great pathology service. It is one of the best in Queensland. In fact, ours is the foremost pathology service in the state and it will be rolled out across the state. Maryborough is trialling the pathology service. On 16 May we reopened the pathology service. I must congratulate the head of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service, Adrian Pennington. Without his support and that of his board, we would not have been able to reopen the pathology service. A young lady presented herself to the A&E. In five minutes, she had the results from the pathology unit. From the time when the blood was taken to the results being received by the doctor, it was five minutes. That is great news and it compares to the six to eight hours that it used to take.

As I said, 16 May was a red-letter day. This is what the Palaszczuk government does. Not only are we restoring services to regional Queensland; we are putting jobs back into regional Queensland. The pathology service has meant two new jobs, with more to come, in the City of Maryborough. Ed applied to work in the pathology department and he got the job. That is one more person off the unemployment list in Maryborough. Ed is very happy about that. If members look at our Facebook page, they will see photos of Ed and me going through the samples.

This is what the Palaszczuk government does and it is what a Labor government does. We restore services to people. Can members imagine a hospital without a pathology service? The members opposite told the people of Maryborough that everything would be all right. When I stood for this seat, I could not imagine that anyone could possibly believe that a hospital without a pathology service would be 'all right'. It would be like having a car without a steering wheel or tyres. I could not imagine it. Now we have it back. This is part and parcel of restoring services and it is only the start of rebuilding the Maryborough Hospital, which was sadly neglected—absolutely neglected—under the previous government.

We have reopened the pathology unit, plans are being drawn up for the new A&E department and we have introduced the nurse-to-patient ratio guarantee. This is about restoring services and jobs to regional Queensland. We heard so much from members opposite that that is what they stood for, but all Maryborough city ever got was cuts, cuts, cuts. All of those cuts were to essential services in the great city of Maryborough. I have used the service and I personally thank the health minister and Adrian Pennington from the Wide Bay health service for restoring that unit, which will benefit not only the great city of Maryborough but also surrounding towns.

Budget

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (12.19 pm): In less than one month the Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver its second budget. Based on what we have already heard here today, it will be bad news for Queenslanders.

An honourable member: Hear, hear!

Mr EMERSON: Hear, hear! I take the interjection. It will be bad news for Queenslanders. We have seen from the performance of the main roads minister, his colleagues on the front bench and all Labor members across Queensland that they have been letting down Queenslanders since they came to office in 2015.

It will be yet another budget of debt, deficit and deceit. In less than 18 months of the Palaszczuk government we have had debt rapidly rising to nearly \$80 billion. General government debt is increasing towards \$41 billion. Fiscal surpluses are being turned into fiscal deficits and there is a writedown in operating surpluses of \$5 billion. That is despite Labor's financial trickery, including: shifting \$4 billion of dead debt onto the balance sheets of Queensland owned businesses, which restricts their ability to fund new infrastructure; increasing the dividend payout to 100 per cent for most government owned businesses, bleeding the businesses dry of equity which they would otherwise be able to reinvest in new infrastructure; ripping \$3.4 billion from the long service funding pool; stopping government contributions into the Public Service defined benefit fund; and, perhaps the most shameful of all, raiding public servants' superannuation entitlements.

This would be an unprecedented move. Never before has this been done by politicians on any side of politics. Peter Beattie never dared to do it. Anna Bligh never dared to do it. Terry Mackenroth never dared to do it. Andrew Fraser never did it, even at the height of the budgetary problems under the Bligh government. What have previous Labor leaders said about the fully funded superannuation entitlements of public servants? Andrew Fraser said when he was the treasurer of Queensland—

Those generations of good financial management have seen us as the only state of Australia and one of the few governments, if not the only government, in the Western World that has all of its long-term superannuation liabilities fully provisioned. That money is invested at the Queensland Investment Corporation. That means that when that money is invested on the market we are susceptible to the outcomes of what is occurring on the global market.

Terry Mackenroth, a former treasurer and now on the QSuper board, said—

Our government has consistently pursued sound long-term policies such as ensuring that not only are employee superannuation entitlements fully funded, but other liabilities such as employee long service leave entitlements are also fully funded.

Peter Beattie, a former premier, failed candidate for Forde and recently hand-picked by Annastacia Palaszczuk as chair of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation, said—

All the earnings from QIC, for our liabilities such as superannuation and long service leave, will be reinvested to provide a buffer against periods when the markets are not so strong. It is this strategy that is a key to our strong balance sheet.

It is important to have a look again at what Peter Beattie said. He said 'be reinvested to provide a buffer against periods when the markets are not so strong'. Instead what we have seen confirmed here today is trickery and fiscal recklessness. What we have seen again is this government raiding, stealing, superannuation funds. Every public servant out there—everyone who relies on those funds—should be concerned by what we have had confirmed today by this hopeless Treasurer whose only solution is to raid the defined benefits scheme.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is destroying the state's finances and setting a new low bar in Queensland history by raiding the superannuation of public servants.

Mr Seeney: Twice.

Mr EMERSON: Twice. I take the interjection from the Leader of Opposition Business. Two years in a row their only solution in terms of the budget is to raid the defined benefits scheme—raid the superannuation funds of Queensland public servants. Labor has deceived Queenslanders with its secret plan to raid those super funds.

This morning the Premier refused to release the advice of the independent actuary on this unprecedented raid and could not even say whether it would remain fully funded on an accounting basis. The Premier will not release the advice of the independent actuary. Why? What is she trying to hide? Labor has broken every election promise they have made, and they did not make many. Now they are raiding the super funds of public servants once again.

Thuringowa Electorate

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.24 pm): Thuringowa is an expansive, youthful electorate with a number of growth corridors like the North Shore and Hervey Range, which is currently undergoing a \$6.17 million road upgrade. One of the other major corridors is the Upper Ross. It is an area comprising some 24,000 residents across the three suburbs of Condon, Rasmussen and Kelso. It is an area that I have chosen to live in and raise my family in for the last 15 years. It is undergoing an exciting period of growth, with a number of developers progressing with their projects. Despite tough economic times, they have a lot of confidence in the future of the Upper Ross. For too long this vital and central area of Townsville has been neglected.

Helping to stimulate these projects was the recently announced \$30 million duplication of Riverway Drive stage 1, committed to and funded by this Queensland Labor government. It is proving to be a catalyst for our area. There is \$4 million in investment by the Lancini Group for Riverway Express. They are also committing \$15 million to the Brookstone development. After its completion, it will be a \$55 million investment in the Upper Ross area.

Not only that, it has helped trigger the early design stage of an exciting, new 1,500-lot master planned community situated off Beck Drive. The developer, Wingate Properties, is now moving ahead with a preworks phase of a \$250 million development that will create over 250 much needed jobs for Townsville. Wingate Properties is finalising its infrastructure agreement with the council and is also working with the department of main roads on the construction of a new interchange off Beck Drive onto the ring-road.

What is even more exciting for our community is that we are now seeing developers in the Upper Ross working together to deliver solutions that will have huge benefits for our community. An example of that is Celestino, the proponents of a \$2 billion master planned community in Kelso at the foothills of

the Pinnacles. They are working with Wingate Properties to identify, plan for and fund traffic solutions for the Upper Ross that I believe will help reduce the need for the government—the taxpayers—to provide this type of infrastructure. This is the type of innovation that we need to deliver better outcomes for people in our communities. Celestino is a proponent of a 5,100-lot Pinnacles project and is currently working through the planning and environment courts to progress the development to approval stage.

This project has the support of not only me—I want investment in the area and I want jobs in the area as do the thousands of people who live there—but also the newly elected councillor for division 4, Mark Molochino. He joins Mayor Jenny Hill's team. The community overwhelmingly voted him in.

The handbrake is off. We are seeing the local council and the state government working together to deliver for Thuringowa. This new council has already demonstrated it is far more forward thinking than the past LNP dominated council, which for too long ignored the pleas of the Upper Ross community which wanted to see more development and more jobs in our area. The previous council had the view that the Upper Ross was too far out—out of the way. They thought it did not deserve the attention and focus that Townsville's northern growth corridor receives.

That is now changing. No longer will the wants of the people of the Upper Ross be ignored. We believe that with our close proximity and connectivity to the ring-road and close links to James Cook University, Lavarack Barracks and our tertiary hospital we are now positioned as the next logical sequence in development for Townsville. We can be the new economic driver for Townsville with projects by Wingate, Pinnacles and the Lancini Group leading the way.

Celestino's CEO, John Vassallo, is now working to deliver with the Sydney Science Park in western Sydney. This is a place that has huge similarities with the Upper Ross—a place that was for a long time unfairly derided as backward and rural. It is now the engine for growth for Sydney. The Upper Ross Pinnacles project is going to be exactly like that. It is an exciting project for the area. They are proposing a sister science park as the epicentre of the Pinnacles project. I am looking forward to seeing this development as many people are. We need jobs in the area. I am working with these developers to help them do that.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time for matters of public interest has now finished.

EDUCATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (12.29 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001, the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, the Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [\[753\]](#).

Tabled paper: Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[754\]](#).

The Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 makes significant education amendments regarding the prep year of schooling, the teaching profession and non-state school funding arrangements. The bill will ensure that all Queensland children start their school education in prep. It will improve the regulation of teaching in Queensland by streamlining governance, improving the disciplinary framework and strengthening the ability of the Queensland College of Teachers to protect students. It will improve the administration of the Commonwealth and state funding to non-state schools by establishing statutory arrangements for the recovery of state and Commonwealth funding paid to non-state schools in excess of their entitlements. The bill will also improve oversight of non-state schools by allowing the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board to share information with law enforcement agencies and reduce the collection of unnecessary school survey data.

Prep was introduced in 2007 by the then Labor government. The introduction of prep gave Queensland parents the opportunity to ensure their children had a strong foundation for success at school. Evidence indicates that children who participate in high-quality early childhood programs such as prep gain significant long-term benefits including higher levels of completed education and subsequent employment.

Since the introduction of prep we have seen an improvement in Queensland's NAPLAN results. Prep is generally recognised as the first year of schooling in Queensland, and most Queensland children already undertake prep before commencing year 1. However, prep is not compulsory, and

there is a small number of children who do not undertake prep before enrolling in year 1. These children are missing out on the benefits of prep. That is why on 24 January this year the Premier and I announced that prep would become the compulsory first year of school education for all Queensland children.

The bill makes prep the compulsory first year of schooling by providing that a principal of a state or non-state school must not enrol a child into year 1 unless the child has undertaken prep in a state or non-state school, the child has undertaken education in another jurisdiction that is equivalent to prep, the child was registered for home education in the year prior to enrolment in a state or non-state school, or the principal is satisfied that the child is ready for schooling in year 1 taking into account the child's social, emotional and developmental attributes.

The bill does not lower the compulsory schooling age of six years and six months. It provides flexibility for parents to determine whether their child should enter prep in the year they turn five by 30 June or in the following year. This is a significant feature of this amendment, ensuring that parents retain the choice about when their child is ready for schooling. However, subject to the exceptions I have already outlined, the law will now require that a child always enrolls in prep first. This aligns with existing state school policy. The bill also lowers the age at which a child may be registered or provisionally registered for home education so that prep-age children can register for home education.

This bill also strengthens the Queensland College of Teachers' powers to suspend a teacher's registration to keep our children safe. The bill will make significant amendments to the regulation of the teacher profession to strengthen the ability of the Queensland College of Teachers to act in the best interests of children, to protect the safety and wellbeing of Queensland students and to maintain public confidence in the teaching profession. It will provide a contemporary and more streamlined governance structure for the college and improve the teacher disciplinary framework.

Protecting the safety and wellbeing of our students is our No. 1 priority. This bill gives the college stronger powers to suspend a teacher's registration where the college reasonably believes the teacher poses an unacceptable risk of significant harm to children. A decision to suspend a teacher's registration will be reviewed by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, QCAT. A person cannot work in a school when their registration is suspended. Currently the threshold for suspending a teacher's registration requires the college to believe that there is an imminent risk of harm.

It is important that we provide the college with the ability to act early and suspend a teacher's registration when that is in the best interests of children. This current threshold of imminent risk is too high and does not align with the removal of educators in the early childhood education and care sector because of risks to children.

This bill will require the college to notify the Public Safety Business Agency, which is responsible for child related employment screening, when they suspend a teacher's registration. These changes will help prevent the teacher moving between schools and help prevent the person working in other child related employment. To complement the legislative reforms, the Department of Education and Training will improve teacher recruitment practices to enhance its capacity to obtain information about a prospective teacher's disciplinary history.

In terms of other changes, early notification from schools about child harm matters is important to allow the college to assess whether immediate registration action is required for the safety and wellbeing of students. The bill also clarifies the existing notification provision to give greater guidance to schools about when to notify the college about these matters.

The bill enables the college to provide a more contemporary and streamlined governance structure. We are reducing the size of the college's board from 17 to 15 members. To do this we are removing one of the minister's nominees and the Queensland Public Sector Union representative. The bill will also ensure the chief executive and remaining minister's nominees will have skills and expertise in corporate, strategic and/or regulatory functions. Consistent with stakeholder feedback, a majority teacher representation on the board is maintained. I thank everybody who was involved in the consultation leading up to this reform to enable us to reduce the size of the board in the best interests of the college.

The bill allows the college's internal disciplinary committee—renamed the Professional Capacity and Teacher Conduct Committee—to consider teacher impairment as a possible reason for a minor disciplinary matter. This aims to address teacher discipline in a more supportive and non-punitive manner where impairment has caused or contributed to the behaviour of a teacher. The committee will be able to order a health assessment by a registered health practitioner where they reasonably believe impairment may have contributed to the teacher's behaviour.

The bill requires the committee to have an appropriately qualified registered health practitioner on its membership when considering impairment related disciplinary matters and in determining appropriate action. QCAT already has similar powers for serious disciplinary matters involving impairment—that is, matters where suspension or cancellation of registration is a likely outcome. These amendments do not relate to decisions about teacher registration. They will not impact on the obligation on all schools to provide reasonable adjustments.

Other reforms being progressed in this bill allow the college to consider a broader range of information to determine whether a ground for disciplinary action exists. This will allow the college to investigate allegations such as those raised in the media about teacher conduct. Currently, the college is limited to acting where there is 'disciplinary information', which is essentially defined to mean a formal complaint or notification by a school.

While this amendment widens the type of information that can be used to commence consideration of whether disciplinary action is warranted, the college must still form a reasonable belief that there is a ground for discipline before taking disciplinary action. This means the college would need to obtain reliable evidence to form the reasonable belief, regardless of how the matter initially came to the college's attention. This prevents the college from acting on rumour or innuendo.

The bill also deals with the recovery of funding from non-state schools. Eligible non-state schools may receive funding from both the state and Australian governments. The 2014 Queensland Audit Office report into the oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools highlighted that the lack of formal mechanism to recover overpaid funding was a weakness of the funding program. The bill addresses this weakness by providing a head of power for the minister's policy that will outline the procedure for recovery of overpaid funding; that it is a condition of payment of the funding that overpayments are repaid to the state in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the policy; and that, if funding is overpaid to a non-state school, the amount of the overpayment may be recovered as a debt owed to the state.

Under the Commonwealth Australian Education Act 2013, the Australian government funds Queensland non-state schools by providing funding to the Queensland government which must then be passed directly to the relevant non-state school. It is a condition of funding under the Commonwealth act that the state has a debt recovery arrangement in place with eligible non-state schools. Without such an arrangement in place, the Queensland government could be liable for a debt owed to the Australian government by a non-state school. To address this issue the bill implements a statutory debt recovery arrangement that meets the requirements of the Commonwealth act and enables Queensland to assign the right to recover any debt owed by a non-state school to the Commonwealth minister.

This bill ensures that all students reap the benefits of undertaking the prep year of schooling. It supports the education of Queensland children in both state and non-state schools and ensures a modern and responsive teacher registration system. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (12.40 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 Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee.

DEPUTY SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Before calling the Minister for Police, I would like to acknowledge in the gallery students and teachers from Boronia Heights, Algester and Pallara state schools from the electorate of Algester.

AUSTRALIAN CRIME COMMISSION (QUEENSLAND) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.41 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Australian Crime Commission (Queensland) Act 2003, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Weapons Act 1990 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 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: Australian Crime Commission (Queensland) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [755].

Tabled paper: Australian Crime Commission (Queensland) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [756].

I am pleased to introduce the Australian Crime Commission (Queensland) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill enhances public safety through a diverse range of amendments. The impetus for the bill is the Commonwealth's merger of CrimTrac, Australia's policing information sharing agency, into the Australian Crime Commission, Australia's national criminal intelligence agency, which will take effect from 1 July 2016. The collaboration of the agencies will provide significant law enforcement and national security benefits. The combined resource will enhance understanding not only of major and organised crime but also in regard to volume crimes such as domestic violence. This will, in turn, provide an evidence base for policy makers, enabling effective decision-making in the response to crime. The bill facilitates the merger by replacing references in Queensland legislation to 'CrimTrac' with references to 'the ACC'.

Alongside the merger there has been an increase in the Australian Crime Commission board's membership from 14 to 15 members. The bill amends the Australian Crime Commission (Queensland) Act 2003 by increasing the quorum at board meetings from seven to nine board members so as to constitute a majority. The increase in the quorum will also ensure a more even representation between Commonwealth representatives and representatives from each state and territory on the ACC board.

This bill also provides an opportunity to address operational priorities within the public safety portfolio. One of the primary concerns of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is to ensure that the Queensland community and visitors to the state are accommodated in buildings compliant with fire safety standards. Students, backpackers and itinerant workers, such as those in the fruit-picking industry, are vulnerable to being housed in accommodation that does not conform with fire safety standards relating to maximum occupancy, exit access and lighting, maintenance of fire safety equipment such as extinguishers and provision of functioning smoke alarms. Too often, unscrupulous persons in charge of budget accommodation place financial gain above the safety of their tenants. In these instances, QFES will seek to identify the owner or person in charge of the accommodation in order for the safety breaches to be rectified and, in cases where there is continued transgressions, commence a prosecution.

Persons responsible for maintaining fire safety and who are aware of QFES scrutiny will often actively avoid identification. QFES has in the past sought assistance from the Residential Tenancies Authority in order to identify the lessor or person in control of a premises. In 2015 the RTA advised QFES that it could no longer provide this assistance due to concerns over confidentiality provisions. The bill will address this by providing a power for an authorised fire officer to require information about the identity of an occupier where it is reasonably suspected a contravention of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, or chapter 7 or 7A of the Building Act 1975, has been committed in relation to premises.

The authorised fire officer can require information that will identify or help identify an occupier of the premises from a government entity, an occupier of the premises or a person who may reasonably be expected to give the information. The bill creates an offence for failure to comply with the information requirement without reasonable excuse. The maximum penalty for the offence will be 20 penalty units. It is a reasonable excuse for a person not to comply with the requirement if compliance might tend to incriminate the person.

The Queensland Police Service currently has the capability to use drug detection dogs, without warrant, in a number of places to which the public has access. Specifically, a drug detection dog may carry out detection duties at a public place, a place at which an event is being held, licensed premises or a tattoo parlour. An explosives detection dog can only carry out explosives detection at a tattoo parlour. The bill amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 so that explosives detection

dogs can carry out detection at the same places as drug detection dogs. The amendment will enhance the safety and security of Queensland residents and infrastructure and will be particularly invaluable for events such as the 2018 Commonwealth Games, where explosives detection dogs will be used in areas of large public gatherings. The bill will also change the reference to 'explosives detection dogs' to 'firearms and explosives detection dogs'. This will ensure terminology is consistent in the PPRA and will better reflect the duties which the dogs perform.

The QPS is often involved in large operations or emergency situations such as public order incidents which culminate in the arrests of large numbers of persons. In such situations, a police officer may witness the commission of an offence through CCTV or from a distance. The police officer who witnesses the offence may have the requisite reasonable suspicion to make an arrest in accordance with section 365 of the PPRA. However, there may be another police officer who, because of their location or their specialist role, is better placed or more qualified to make the physical arrest of an offender. A recent Queensland Court of Appeal decision found an arrest to be unlawful, as police had arrested the appellant upon the direction of another police officer rather than forming their own reasonable suspicion about the commission of the offence. This has implications for police who are required to make an arrest in urgent circumstances or where it is otherwise not possible or practical for the arresting officer to be adequately briefed about the circumstances of an offence by an investigating officer.

The bill inserts a new section that permits a police officer to instruct another police officer to make an arrest where the instructing officer holds the requisite reasonable suspicion to make a lawful arrest. The bill will place a number of safeguards around the provisions. An instruction to arrest, without warrant, will only be lawful where it is not practicable for the instructing officer to personally arrest the person and it is not practicable, because of an emergency situation, or other particular circumstances for the arresting officer to form the suspicion mentioned in section 365(1), (2) or (3) of the PPRA. Further, the instructing officer must make a record of the instruction and the reasons for giving it, and take reasonable steps to give a copy of the record to the arresting officer. Also, the instructing officer must inform the arresting officer at the earliest reasonable opportunity if the instructing officer stops holding the reasonable suspicion that prompted the instruction to arrest.

When a person arrested under the new section is released from custody a police officer must give to the person, in writing: the name, rank and station of the arresting officer and the name, rank and station of the instructing officer. It must be emphasised the new section does not replace the historical obligation incumbent upon a police officer to form their own reasonable suspicion about the commission of an offence. Rather, the new section provides flexibility for when dynamic circumstances or the use of technology makes it difficult to abide by a traditional method of arrest.

When investigating an indictable offence, a police officer must comply with safeguards in the PPRA with regard to the recording of admissions or confessions. On occasion, due to circumstances beyond the control of police, there may not be full compliance with safeguards. For example, in a matter regarding the unlawful trafficking of drugs, the defendant refused to make admissions during a recorded interview due to a fear of retribution but after the interview made admissions to police. At trial, even though the admissions made were not disputed or in any respect unreliable, police were prevented from providing oral testimony of the admissions. In these instances, it is intended that section 439 of the PPRA provides the judiciary with the discretion to admit evidence. However, the current wording of the section does not permit this. The bill amends section 439 of the PPRA, allowing the judiciary to admit evidence where there is noncompliance or insufficient evidence of compliance with relevant safeguards. This will address judicial concerns that, without the discretion, people guilty of serious crimes may go free.

This government is committed to protecting the community from crimes involving the use of knives, firearms and other types of weapons. Due to their ready accessibility, knives are the most commonly used weapon in armed robberies. Knives are also carried by gang members and drug dealers who are willing to use a knife to fight, or to defend a stash of unlawful drugs or tainted money that may be in their possession. The Weapons Act 1990 restricts the use of weapons generally, as well as the possession of weapons in public.

Under Section 51 of the Weapons Act it is an offence to physically possess a knife in a public place or school without reasonable excuse. Under section 57 of the Weapons Act, particular conduct with a weapon in a public place is prohibited, for example, carrying a loaded firearm without reasonable excuse. Section 50 of the Weapons Act makes it an offence to possess a short firearm, for instance a handgun, in a public place. The section further clarifies that a public place includes a vehicle that is in, or on, a public place. The bill inserts the same clarifying definition of public place into sections 51 and

57 of the Weapons Act. This creates conformity between sections 50, 51 and 57 of the Weapons Act. This will ensure a person who unlawfully carries a short or long firearm, a knife, or another type of weapon in a vehicle, in public, will not be immune from the reach of the law.

It is acknowledged that people in the community can possess knives or weapons in public for a number of legitimate reasons, such as for work, recreation and entertainment purposes. The bill maintains protection of people with these legitimate purposes, while closing a loophole on those who carry a knife or weapon without reasonable excuse.

Lastly, the bill inserts the power for a police officer to search a vehicle where it is reasonably suspected an occupant of the vehicle is in unlawful possession of a knife. The amendment sends a strong message to those who believe they can possess a knife without lawful reason, with impunity. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.54 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.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUSINESS AGENCY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.55 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Disaster Management Regulation 2014, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Police Service Administration Regulation 2016, the Public Safety Business Agency Act 2014, the Public Service Act 2008, the State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983, the State Buildings Protective Security Regulation 2008 and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 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: Public Safety Business Agency and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [\[757\]](#).

Tabled paper: Public Safety Business Agency and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[758\]](#).

The House would be aware that our government made an election commitment to review the Public Safety Business Agency. We delivered on that commitment earlier this year. I have previously tabled the Public Service Commission's review. This review outlined the challenges and frustrations that staff within the agency experienced under the former government's arrangements. The agency suffered from a lack of purpose and direction and insufficient integration with the core business of the other agencies in the public sector portfolio. I made it crystal clear in this House in the previous parliament my thoughts about the Keely review that led to the formation of the Public Safety Business Agency under the former LNP government. The former government's agenda in creating this agency was to drive outsourcing and privatisation. We heard concerns from frontline workers, employees, unions and stakeholders. Those concerns were first raised prior to the Public Safety Business Agency even being set up and have continued unabated since. Those concerns could not be ignored.

I thank the Public Service Commission for their work in conducting the review. The review was comprehensive, inclusive and allowed relevant employees and stakeholders to have their say. The recommendations made by the review will revitalise and restore public safety support services and, more importantly, move appropriate services back where they belong. They will be returned to the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services so that these public safety agencies can effectively get on with the business of keeping Queenslanders safe.

As we well know, the Public Safety Business Agency was established by the previous Newman government as a result of the Police and Community Safety Review undertaken by Mick Keelty in 2012 and 2013. The Public Safety Business Agency was established in November 2013 and was formalised by the commencement of the Public Safety Business Agency Act 2014 in May 2014. Again, for the record, I did not support the original bill or the Public Safety Business Agency model. Indeed, the Keelty review provided no sound reasoning or rationale to support the model. I had also seen firsthand how a similar shared services model had failed the Australian Department of Defence over the past two decades. In my speech to the House on the original bill during the last parliament, I said—

Unfortunately, the true ramifications of this bill will only become evident over the medium term, when all the damage has been done. It will be difficult—very difficult—for a future government to repair the damage that is likely to occur. I do not have any confidence that this government understands the risks or ramifications or has given any real consideration to the eventual implications.

I also said in that speech—

... we want to let every Queensland Police Service officer, firefighter and emergency service worker and volunteer know that we respect their service, respect the culture that they have developed individually that will be trampled on by this bill and stand ready to pick up the pieces and repair the damage that is likely to be done when the LNP implements this legislation.

I stand here today to honour that commitment and those sentiments. The bill I am introducing today is all about picking up the pieces and repairing the damage caused by the previous government. It is about undoing the inefficiencies created by the current PSBA model and it is about returning control of relevant resources and processes to the Police Commissioner and the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner.

The bill amends various legislation within the public safety portfolio in order to implement the key recommendations made by the Public Service Commission review. Firstly, the functions and purpose of the Public Safety Business Agency have been reduced so that certain resources and functions can be returned to the Queensland Police Service and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. These include services such as operational functions, strategy, recruitment, education and training, local workplace health and safety, ethical standards, media services, right to information, ministerial services and cabinet legislation liaison. The Public Safety Business Agency will retain control of all ICT services, all financial services, all procurement services, all asset management services, some tactical human resource services, and advisory services on corporate service strategies.

The core purpose of the Public Safety Business Agency was to provide corporate and support services to portfolio agencies. Allowing the Public Safety Business Agency to take on operational functions worked against its core purpose. The review noted that the inclusion of operational functions may have contributed to the agency's identity crisis.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.30 pm.

Interruption.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Queensland Health System Payroll

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (2.30 pm): The Queensland Health rostering and payroll environment is large and complex. I am advised that staff are employed under two different acts, covered by nine different industrial awards and impacted by six different industrial agreements which include more than 200 different allowances. Each fortnight more than 95,000 pays are generated. This represents payments of \$286 million per fortnight, or approximately \$7.4 billion per annum in gross terms.

I refer to the questions asked of the Premier during question time this morning about an email dated 18 May 2016 concerning the processing of pay in the Department of Health which was tabled in the parliament. I am advised that the Department of Health can confirm that there has not been a failure in the Health payroll system. I am advised that the Queensland Health payroll and pay run have not been adversely affected. The email in question refers to the manual processing of a small number of payroll forms submitted by staff in the Health Contact Centre, Health Support Queensland.

I am advised that a small number of forms which cover casual shifts and overtime were not processed by Health department staff in time to be included in the pay run. Team members were asked to check their fortnightly pay advice and advise if they had been impacted. Fifteen staff were financially impacted. This represents 0.016 per cent of the 95,000 Health pays generated each fortnight. I am

advised that all 15 staff members received a payment after the pay run to top up their pay on 19 or 20 May 2016. The quantum of those payments was a gross sum of \$6,519.18. All outstanding forms relating to this matter have now been processed.

You cannot change the facts: the rollout of the payroll system was a disaster. It was a disaster for staff, a disaster for Queensland Health and a disaster for the state, and that is why as Minister for Health I apologised for it last year. The fact is that the payroll system that our government uses to pay staff is exactly the same payroll system that Lawrence Springborg and the LNP left us. I will confront our work on payroll in the same way I have confronted the other challenges in our health system: by treating staff with respect and by being honest and open with them, which is more than the previous government ever did.

PUBLIC SAFETY BUSINESS AGENCY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

Resumed from p. 1939.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.34 pm), continuing: As I said before the luncheon adjournment, the review also identified stakeholder agreements for transferring operational functions out of the Public Safety Business Agency. Consequently, as part of the realignment of the Public Safety Business Agency's functions two operational services will transfer out of the agency. Blue card services will transition to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The review found that because that department already issues licences to people working in certain industries, given the existing systems and processes for licensing that are already in place, the Department of Justice and Attorney General is best placed to undertake the blue card service. The State Government Protective Security Service will transition to the Queensland Police Service. The review identified a number of reasons why the protective security service would best fit within the Police Service, including the benefit of the police maintaining overall responsibility for public safety in Queensland and having the ability to easily coordinate responses and deployment in emergencies.

The review also recommended a substantial modification to the organisational structure of the Public Safety Business Agency, including the establishment of a board of management, and changes to the current position of the Public Safety Business Agency CEO. The board of management is to be established as the governing body and will consist of the Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner, the Police Commissioner and an independent member. The functions of the board of management will include providing leadership and oversight to the Public Safety Business Agency and reviewing and monitoring the performance of its functions. The role of the CEO will transition to the chief operating officer. The chief operating officer's role is to help the board perform its functions and to be responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Public Safety Business Agency. I can assure the House that during the implementation of the new model and the transition of services people will come first.

Unlike the former government, we value our public servants and our emergency services officers. Although there will be some changes for staff, those changes will be undertaken in line with the Palaszczuk government's commitment to public sector employment security. Implementation teams have been formed in each agency and have been working hard to make the transition of staff as smooth as possible with no disruption to the services provided. Staff are being kept up to date on transition and implementation activities. Relevant employee unions were also involved in the Public Service Commission review. In particular, the Queensland Police Union, the United Firefighters Union of Queensland and the Together union all provided substantial input into the review. These unions are also being kept up to date with implementation activities.

I acknowledge the important and hard work that the members of the Public Safety Business Agency have done over the last 2½ years, often in very difficult circumstances. There were fundamental flaws in the Public Safety Business Agency model and it is only through the professionalism, determination and resilience of its members that the Public Safety Business Agency was able to function at all. The review specifically noted the positive feedback that had been received from a range of stakeholders about the value and professionalism of the people employed in the Public Safety Business Agency. The review stated that 'staff in the partner agencies consistently identified that there are great people doing their best to serve their clients'. I am confident that the professionalism displayed

by these workers, combined with the new PSBA organisational structure and working arrangements resulting from this bill, will lead to better outcomes for the whole public safety portfolio. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.37 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.

MINERAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 23 February (see p. 400).

Second Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.38 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this bill is to give effect to the government's commitments and contribute to restoring the balance between landholders, the community and the resources sector here in Queensland. Coexistence between miners and landholders is a fundamental tenet that Queensland has operated under throughout its long, rich history. Due to the historic, current and future importance of the resource and agricultural industries, it is absolutely vital that the balance between rural landholders and the resources sector is maintained.

Queenslanders want both the agriculture and the mining sectors to continue to be strong and contribute to the economic prosperity and the lifestyle that we all enjoy. This balance, founded on the premise of coexistence, was drastically altered by the Newman government's Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 or, as it is colloquially called, MERCPC. This piece of legislation was another demonstration of overreach by the former government and was an intrusion on the mutual trust and goodwill that exists between the sectors. As succinctly stated by AgForce in its submission to MERCPC in 2014—

... we believe co-existence between the resource sector and the agricultural sector can only occur if the regulatory systems allowing approvals and operations of these resource industries is fair and if bargaining power is equitable.

MERCPC placed significant restrictions on the notifications and right of objection for both environmental authorities and mining lease applications and removed key restricted land protections for key pieces of infrastructure such as principal stockyards, dams and bores. This bill will re-establish the balance. This bill will return the protections that Queenslanders made explicitly clear they wished to retain. This bill proposes amendments to the MER(CP) Act to give effect to the government's commitments to restore community objection rights. It proposes to amend provisions which would have removed public notification and limited the grounds and standing for objections for mining lease applications and their associated environmental authorities.

Passage of this bill will reinstate the requirement for public notification of mining lease applications by way of newspaper notice and the broad grounds for objections by third parties. Third parties around the state will be given the assurance that they will not lose their right to have a say on mining projects that occur in or near their communities. Whether it is a community in Mount Isa, Moranbah or Kingaroy, they will all be able to have their say on a mining lease application. This will ensure that communities such as Kingaroy can rest assured that, if there is a resounding lack of community support in Kingaroy for a proposed mine, as indicated by the member for Nanango, or locals with a range of diverging views, they will all continue to be able to have their voices heard on all stages of the process, both on the environmental authority and on the mining lease application.

The bill also amends the new restricted land framework in MERCOP which is yet to commence. Under our legislation, key agricultural infrastructure such as principal stockyards, bores, dams, artesian wells and artificial water storage will be protected by a distance of 50 metres. This was a major concern of the resounding majority of submitters to MERCOP, and Labor in opposition recognised the need for these protections to be retained. This amendment will provide certainty to landholders that key agriculture infrastructure vital to their operations and businesses is protected.

The bill will repeal yet-to-commence provisions which would have amended the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to provide for the granting of a mining lease over restricted land where landholder consent has not been provided and compensation has not been determined. The ministerial power to extinguish restricted land will also be repealed by this bill. These are both consistent with the government's commitments.

Amendments in the bill will also promote the distances for restricted land from the supporting regulation to the primary legislation. Stakeholders highlighted the need for restricted land distances to be protected in primary legislation, ensuring that they will always be subject to the complete legislative amendment process and accompanying rigorous debate prior to any changes being made.

In addition to making changes to the MER(CP) Act to deliver on the government's commitments, the bill will also amend the MER(CP) Act to clarify the intended operation of some elements of this act. These clarifying provisions include placing a regulatory framework around persons entering land to identify the boundaries of proposed mining leases without holding a prerequisite tenure such as a prospecting permit. This clarifies the operation of the overlapping tenure framework and the transitional arrangements for land access. I will detail these later in my speech.

I thank the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee for its consideration of the Mineral and Other Legislation Bill 2016. I note that the committee tabled its report on 10 May 2016, putting forward seven recommendations and three requests for clarification. I welcome the committee's first recommendation, that the bill be passed. I now table the government's response to the committee's report.

Tabled paper: Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 26—Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, government response [\[759\]](#).

To give effect to a number of the committee's recommendations, I plan to move amendments during the consideration in detail of the bill. I will also move other amendments to clarify the intended operation of certain provisions within both the bill and the MER(CP) Act. To address concerns raised by stakeholders and echoed by the committee in recommendation 2 and recommendation 4 of the report, I will move amendments to the bill to require that the direct notification of mining lease applications be extended to owners of land adjoining the land that is subject to the proposed mining lease and to infrastructure providers that provide infrastructure that is wholly or partly on the land that is subject to the proposed mining lease. These two new direct notification requirements will be in addition to those already proposed. The minor impact of these amendments will be outweighed by these amendments significantly improving access to information about proposed mining projects for the community.

As highlighted in submissions from Ergon Energy and Powerlink, infrastructure providers do not always own land on which their infrastructure is placed. This may create difficulties in being made aware of and subsequently engaging in negotiations with the resources authority holder to ensure minimal disruption to their infrastructure. The government accepts the concerns of both the infrastructure providers and the committee and will move an amendment that infrastructure providers also be provided with direct notice.

The committee's third recommendation is that the bill be amended to include that a notice be placed on the land subject to a mining lease application, similar to those required for development applications assessed under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009. The government respectfully does not support this recommendation, as posting a notice on land subject to a mining lease is unnecessary and costly.

When the amendments made to the MRA by the MER(CP) Act commence, the mining lease applicants will not be required to post a copy of the certificate of public notice on a datum post at the site of the proposed mine. Certificates of public notice are usually an A4 sheet of paper in a plastic sleeve attached to the datum post at the site of the proposed mine. More often than not, these notices do not last the duration of the mining lease application assessment period due to the effects of weather, animals and fire. Mining lease applications are usually located in remote areas, where it is highly unlikely that the notices could be observed by the public. In many instances the applicant may be required to travel 700 kilometres solely to install this notice and may be required to make several

subsequent trips to ensure the notice remains in situ for the duration. The requirement to post a notice on a datum post is a throwback to the 19th century, to an era where this was an effective means of notifying the local community of the intent to establish a mining operation—and one of the only means. In addition to existing requirements to notify through newspaper and direct notification, landholders can make public searches for resource authority applications online.

Our changes will ensure that the community will be adequately informed of proposed mining projects. They will also afford concerned members of the community the opportunity to provide appropriate input to these developments. For these reasons I do not support the committee's third recommendation.

The committee has also recommended that the Department of Natural Resources and Mines develop a plain-English brochure that explains the environmental impact statement, environmental authority and mining lease assessment processes and the points at which the public can participate in or object to a mining project. Additionally, the committee has recommended that this brochure be made easily accessible on the department's website and be given to affected landholders and neighbouring landholders as part of the notification process. I am pleased to advise that the department will work with the departments of state development and environment and heritage protection to implement this recommendation.

The committee's sixth recommendation requests my department to report on its investigation into potential amendments to clarify the definitions of 'residence' in relation to accommodation and infrastructure used to house nonresident workers such as shearers and fruit pickers. I can advise that I will be moving amendments during consideration in detail to amend section 68 of the MER(CP) Act. This change is largely in response to concerns raised by the Queensland Farmers' Federation due to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee's inquiry process and in response to the recommendations of the committee. The Queensland Farmers' Federation submitted that nonresident workers accommodation can represent a significant investment for farming businesses and that, therefore, they should be protected under the restricted land provisions. The removal of the definition and the associated examples will clarify the definition of 'residence' by removing the limitations the definition and example put upon it. The ordinary definition of the term 'residence' would then apply for the purposes of restricted land.

The committee's final recommendation relates to opt-out agreements. Opt-out agreements, which are yet to commence under the MER(CP) Act, were a recommendation of the Land Access Implementation Committee. They are intended to operate where the landholder and resource authority have a longstanding mutually beneficial relationship and only in circumstances where the landholder expressly wishes to sign. The committee has made a recommendation to address landholder concerns that opt-out agreements could be used by resource companies to disadvantage vulnerable landholders. This recommendation is that the prescribed requirements for opt-out agreements include that information about opt-out agreements be provided to the landholder and an acknowledgement from the landholder that they have had the opportunity to seek legal advice about the opt-out agreement. To implement the committee's recommendation, DNRM will develop materials that clearly spell out the consequences and risks of entering into an opt-out agreement. These materials will have to be provided to a landholder before entering into such an agreement. These materials will be available upon commencement of the opt-out provisions in the MER(CP) Act and I will be happy to table that information then for the benefit of the House.

I want to take this opportunity to clarify the rationale for the restricted land distances under the restricted land framework. The restricted land framework has been in operation for mining and geothermal tenures for many years, with distances of 100 metres and 300 metres respectively around permanent buildings used for particular purposes such as a residence or business. Other infrastructure such as principal stockyards, dams and bores have a restricted land distance of 50 metres. Upon commencement of the restricted land framework under the MER(CP) Act, this framework will apply to new petroleum and gas tenures, including coal seam gas projects, for the first time—something I know many rural stakeholders will welcome. The restricted land framework gives landholders the right to say no to resource activities being undertaken on their doorstep unless they provide consent. It should be noted by the House that restricted land is not the only protection for this infrastructure. Restricted land is not intended to replace or replicate protections that exist under other relevant regulatory frameworks but rather is an additional protection to provide additional certainty to landholders. For example, the distances from which a resource authority can safely operate from certain infrastructure are managed through the conditions of an environmental authority. Activities that cause an environmental impact at sensitive receptors such as a residence cannot occur unless agreement is reached with the landholder.

It should also be noted that, when a resource authority holder needs to enter private land to conduct advanced activities, the landholder can negotiate a conduct and compensation agreement, or CCA, under the land access framework. During the negotiation process, both parties have the opportunity to reach a mutually beneficial arrangement that could include, for example, the potential to relocate infrastructure which would be affected by the resource authority holder's activities or to negotiate the location of the activities themselves. The intent of the restricted land distances is to provide a level of certainty to landholders and the resources sector regarding the types of activities which can occur near someone's home, business and other infrastructure. This is what the government committed to and this is what the bill provides. The actual distances themselves were the subject of a regulatory impact statement process in 2014 and were further consulted on as part of a draft regulation for the MER(CP) Act in late 2014. It was determined that consistent, consolidated distances would deliver a significant increase in certainty to landholders with minimal impacts on the resources sector. Combined with additional protections afforded through environmental authority conditioning and negotiations through a conduct and compensation agreement, the Queensland framework ensures coexistence.

At this point I want to clarify why certain agricultural assets such as irrigation channels and drainage, on-farm management infrastructure for controlling surface water flows and land that has been subject to laser-levelling are not protected under the restricted land framework. Generally speaking, impacts on the additional agricultural assets referred to by the committee are best dealt with through the conduct and compensation agreement negotiation process. This process provides a mechanism for both parties to negotiate, on a business-to-business level, to minimise or avoid the impacts on these types of agricultural assets. Additionally, irrigation infrastructure and laser-levelled cropping land are generally located in either priority agricultural areas or strategic cropping areas which are protected under the Regional Planning Interests Act 2014. These protections will be further extended by the government's commitment to re-establish protections that existed under strategic cropping land which the government intends to introduce into the House at a later date.

In response to the committee's query whether the term 'permanent building' within the definition of restricted land is adequate to achieve the policy aims of the bill, I want to highlight that this term has been applied to restricted land category A in the restricted land framework under the Mineral Resources Act 1989 for many years. This arrangement has applied to the state's mining industry under the restricted land framework for many years and is considered adequate to achieve the policy aims of the restricted land framework. I will also move other amendments to the bill that are not related to the committee's recommendations but which seek to clarify the intended operation of certain provisions within the MER(CP) Act itself. These amendments relate to the land access provisions and do not represent a shift in policy direction. Non-contentious amendments are also proposed to provisions for the new overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas. These amendments are a result of stakeholder feedback during the committee submission process. These amendments are technical in nature and will ensure the framework's effective operation at commencement. I now table the explanatory notes to the amendments that will be moved during the consideration in detail stage. I commend the bill to the House.

Tabled paper: Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham's amendments [760].

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (2.55 pm): The process of modernising the legislation that governs the resources sector in Queensland will take an unfortunate and regrettable step backwards when this bill passes the House. The major amendments in this bill relating to the notifications and objections process and the restricted land framework will impact negatively on Queensland's reputation as a jurisdiction in which to invest in the resources sector. These changes will certainly cost jobs in the resources sector, particularly in the regions. Unfortunately, this bill is another ignominious chapter in the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines occupancy of this portfolio. It continues his unmitigated surrender to the demands of Labor's left faction and the extreme Greens.

The Palaszczuk government has done nothing but undermine confidence in the resources sector in Queensland since February 2015, resulting in growing uncertainty, reduced investment and lost jobs. In addition to this bill, Labor has banned uranium mining in Queensland again, throwing an emerging industry into chaos and undermining investor confidence despite a robust, modern regulatory framework being put in place by the former LNP government; unnecessarily delayed the expansion of the port at Abbot Point, delaying the linear infrastructure associated with the development of the Galilee Basin while Central and Northern Queensland have begged for new job opportunities due to the downturn in the Bowen Basin; unnecessarily delayed the assessment and approval of New Hope's

Acland stage 3 coal project on the Darling Downs, despite the fact that it had been through a full, independent Coordinator-General's assessment and approvals process, while the Surat Basin has begged for new job opportunities due to the transition of the natural gas sector from construction to production; unnecessarily interfered with the approval of Glencore as the preferred proponent of the Aurukun bauxite deposit by undertaking a politically motivated review of the assessment process, only to reaffirm the process undertaken by the former LNP government and then passing retrospective legislation that impacted on the resources tenure granted to Glencore for that project; rolled back reforms under the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act to allow green groups to delay new resource projects by lodging objections in the Land Court against environmental authorities issued after a full and independent Coordinator-General's assessment and approvals process; and of course introduced a bill currently before the House to shut down sandmining on North Stradbroke Island by 2019, completely destroying the primary economic activity on the island, throwing hundreds of people out of work and completely undermining confidence in the community on the island against its wishes.

This is the track record of the Palaszczuk government and this minister when it comes to the new resources sector in Queensland. This is important in considering the context in which this bill and the further impact it will have on certainty and confidence among resource companies in Queensland. The downward slide in resource sector attitudes towards Queensland started last year. In November last year the Queensland Exploration Council released its fifth annual Queensland exploration scorecard, revealing that confidence in the resources exploration sector had declined steeply under the Palaszczuk government. That scorecard showed that industry uncertainty about Labor's resource policies had increased significantly under the Palaszczuk government and was heading back to the levels similar to the bad old days under the Bligh government.

After just nine months under Labor's administration, these resource industry measures were again heading in the wrong direction. In particular, policy uncertainty was nominated as the No. 1 concern for drilling companies on the front line of the exploration sector. Fast forward to May 2016 and these attacks on the resources sector by the Palaszczuk government, including in this bill, are clearly intensifying. Last week the Resources Council released its latest survey of resource companies, which reported confidence in the regulatory environment in Queensland at a near five-year low among resource companies. If companies do not have that confidence, they do not invest in your jurisdiction. It is called sovereign risk and it has become a real issue for Queensland under the Palaszczuk government and this minister.

As with most of the Palaszczuk government's agenda, in terms of the mining sector, it proffers no positive vision for the future. It seeks only to overturn the reforms pursued by the former LNP government. Labor has no plan for the Queensland resources sector. It takes its directions from the unions and the Greens, which provide it with funds and preferences respectively to win elections.

The former LNP government pursued a comprehensive reform agenda to modernise the legislative framework that interacts with the resources sector in Queensland. The reforms pursued by the former LNP government were implemented through the Mineral Energy and Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, known as the MER(CP) Act. Although passed by the Queensland parliament in late September 2014, the majority of the provisions within the MER(CP) Act were yet to commence at the time of the January 2015 state election owing to the pending development of subordinate legislation to support the implementation of provisions of the MER(CP) Act.

Although these changes were supported by the resources sector, they were misrepresented by the extreme green groups and certain legal firms. Certainly, with respect to the MER(CP) Act, I concede that these stakeholders were successful in winning the public relations exercise. The provisions in the MER(CP) Act were very effectively portrayed by those with vested interests as having a negative impact on landholders in Queensland, which is a view that I do not share.

The objective of this bill is to amend the MER(CP) Act to repeal yet-to-commence provisions within the MER(CP) Act that amended notification and objection rights for mining projects; include key agricultural infrastructure within the definition of 'restricted land'; enshrine the distances for restricted land in the primary legislation; repeal the proposed change that would have allowed a mining lease to be granted over restricted land where landholder consent had not been given and compensation had not been agreed; and remove the minister's power to extinguish restricted land from mining lease applications where coexistence is not possible on proposed mining sites.

The repeal of these MER(CP) Act provisions will result in existing public notification and objection rights for standard or variation applications for environmental authorities relating to mining leases under the EP Act being retained; mining lease applications under the MRA being required to be publicly

notified via a newspaper notice; allowing any entity to object to a mining lease application under the MRA on the existing grounds provided for in unamended section 269(4) of that act; provisions that allow the minister to extinguish restricted land for mining leases and the ability to grant mining leases over restricted land where no consent or compensation has been agreed being removed; an amendment to the definition of 'restricted land' to include land within 50 metres of a principal stockyard, dam, bore or artesian well and artificial water storage connected to a water supply; and an amendment to prescribe the restricted land distances within the primary legislation rather than through subordinate legislation.

Additionally, the bill will clarify but not repeal the intended operation of some other non-contentious provisions in the MER(CP) Act, including the new overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas; transitional arrangements for restricted land; and the requirements for entry to land to identify proposed mine boundaries without a mining tenement. The bill also includes amendments to the overlapping tenure framework to apply the requirement to have a joint development plan only to situations involving overlapping production tenures—that is, an overlapping mining lease and petroleum lease; replace the concepts of proposed and agreed mining commencement dates with a single mining commencement date, which is identified by the coal resource authority holder; preserve existing industry commercial arrangements; strengthen requirements for information exchange between overlapping tenure holders; clarify the operation of the dispute resolution process; and clarify transitional provisions and other minor miscellaneous provisions.

The bill clarifies the intended operation of transitional provisions for land access agreements by amending the current transitional provisions in the MER(CP) Act to ensure that the requirement for a conduct and compensation agreement under the 600-metre rule applies to a resource authority applied for or granted before the commencement of chapter 3 provisions relating to land access within the MER(CP) Act; and with the exception of restricted land, the land access provisions in chapter 3 of the MER(CP) Act are to otherwise apply to the negotiation of a conduct and compensation agreement.

The bill will clarify the right to enter land to identify mining boundaries without a mining tenement by applying a legislative framework that will require entry conditions and liability for any damage caused. The proposed amendments will set conditions for the person's conduct during entry; require the person to compensate the landholder for any damage, loss or injury incurred as a result of entering land for this purpose; prohibit entry to restricted land without landowner consent; prohibit entry to fossicking areas; require the chief executive to investigate any report made by a landowner that entry conditions or provision of the act were not being complied with; provide powers for the chief executive to take compliance action; provide powers for the chief executive to impose or vary conditions, stop entry or prevent further entry; allow for repeal provisions for decisions made by the chief executive; and allow the Land Court jurisdiction to hear and determine actions, suits and proceedings arising out of activities conducted.

The LNP's MER(CP) Act delivered a number of vital reforms that would have assisted with the economic development of Queensland, particularly regional Queensland, by reducing the complexity, volume and duplication contained within existing legislation for the resources sector. The MER(CP) Act took some significant steps towards modernising and streamlining Queensland's resources legislation. In particular, it was the first stage of creating a single common resources act under the landmark modernising Queensland resources act program for the mining, petroleum and gas, greenhouse gas storage and geothermal energy sectors. For those involved, this was a major undertaking for the Queensland resources sector.

The LNP's MER(CP) Act also made a number of other key amendments, including creating a new framework to resolve overlapping tenure issues between coal and coal seam gas tenures; reforming land access arrangements; reducing red tape for mining applicants, including the small-scale alluvial mining sector; enabling the government and industry to address uncontrolled gas emissions from legacy boreholes; and enabling a more efficient use of incidental coal seam gas produced during coalmining.

As an aside, given the complexity of the issues that were involved and the widespread scepticism that we would be able to progress those matters when I first became the minister for natural resources and mines, the reforms relating to the overlapping tenure framework responding to uncontrolled gas emissions from legacy boreholes and enabling the use of incidental gas are initiatives that I am rather proud of. I would like to pay tribute to those people in the Department of Natural Resources and Mines and in the industry who worked very hard to find solutions to those particular problems.

The MER(CP) Act started the process whereby provisions from the five existing resource acts could be migrated to a single consistent framework. However, the MER(CP) Act provisions that are the subject of the primary amendments in this bill are the restricted land framework and the notification and

objections framework for resource sector projects. I would like to once again explain what those reforms provided for before we get the distorted reports from Labor members and possibly other members from the crossbench who might stand up to make contributions to this debate and make assertions that have been repeated and often put forward by green activist groups and certain law firms with vested interests.

The MER(CP) Act implemented a consistent restricted land framework across all resource types that provided landholders and resource companies with greater certainty of their rights and obligations for gaining access to private land near residences and other infrastructure. Resource companies were required to have the consent of the landowner to undertake resource activities near infrastructure, such as residences. I heard the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines acknowledge the fact that that right was being afforded to people affected by gas sector legislation for the very first time. The minister cannot take credit for that innovation, because it was something that the former LNP government delivered with its reforms to the restricted land framework. The MER(CP) Act provided for increased restricted land distances for landholders engaging with coal and mineral companies and, as I just mentioned, for the first time provided landowners with the right to choose whether coal seam gas activities could occur near their home.

Restricted land distances also extended beyond the boundary of the resource authority, offering the same protections to neighbouring landholders for the first time. Once again, these were reforms that were put in place by the former LNP government under the restricted land framework: extra rights being extended to extra landholders for the very first time.

Further amendments provided for greater flexibility when dealing with and administering restricted land within a mining lease. For example, when a mining lease is issued over the entire area of the application, restricted land within the lease would not be able to be developed until consent from the landholder was obtained. The one exception to this proposal was where a mine is assessed as requiring access to the entire surface of the land such as for an open-cut mine. In those situations, while landowner consent would no longer be required for activities within the restricted land, the resource authority holder was required to enter into a conduct and compensation agreement with the landowner. The landowner retained the right to object to the removal of the consent rights for activities on restricted land in the Land Court.

The MER(CP) Act amended the notification and objection process for mining lease applications in order to remove duplication and create a more streamlined and efficient process between the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994. The reform process took into account the risk, size and impact of the proposed mining operation in determining the notification and objection process. The MER(CP) Act certainly sought to limit the opportunities for green activists and anti-economic-development groups whose motive was to stop resource projects or cause significant delays to the progress of resource projects by lodging ideologically based objections. There were a number of good reasons for these reforms, including so that smaller mining projects, which make up around 90 per cent of all mining lease applications in Queensland and whose impacts can be managed under the standard conditions of an environmental authority, did not have to follow the same process as a large-scale project which may have broader impacts.

The MER(CP) Act restricted notification for mining lease applications to affected persons, meaning that landholders and local councils would have the opportunity to object to the Land Court during the mining lease application process. The amendments were intended to prevent the misuse of the objections process which was intended to allow for genuine landholder and community concerns to be raised.

The MER(CP) Act also amended the requirement for public notification of mining lease related environmental authority applications for low-impact mines, which meant specified eligibility criteria for a standard or variation application. These EA applications would no longer be subject to notification requirements or potential objections to the EA. Where the mining projects did not meet these eligibility criteria, for example, all coal and large-scale mines, a site-specific application was to be required for the EA. For those mining projects all current notification processes were retained. I will say that again: for those projects where there was a site-specific EA, all current notification processes were retained. As such, the broader general public was still able to object to the grant or conditions of an EA for any medium to large size mine that required a site specific application for their EA.

Under the MER(CP) Act EAs for proposed mines which have environmental impacts on people some distance from a proposed mine, such as coalmines, would always be subject to public notification so that anyone, including landholders, local councils, adjoining landholders and the community at large could lodge a submission about a site-specific application for an EA on environmental grounds.

It was misleading and untruthful for green activists and certain legal firms with vested interests to suggest that the public had lost their rights completely to have a say on a proposed resource project. It was equally dishonest and inaccurate to suggest that landholder rights to object were being removed. In fact, a number of provisions in the MER(CP) Act provided landholders with more rights than they ever had before.

I just want to take one moment to speak about the committee report. The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report has provided a recommendation that this bill be passed. That is a reflection of its membership being made up of three Labor members and a member of Katter's Australian Party. To all members opposite who take an interest, even a passing interest, in the resources sector, I will not speak at length about this, but if you can lock yourself away in your office or at home in a quiet moment when you cannot be spied on by your fellow caucus members or faction members, go to the back of the report and read the statement of reservation that has been submitted by the member for Burleigh and the member for Gregory. Members opposite might actually learn something after they have gone through the process of considering the submissions that came to the committee about the circumstances in which the former LNP government introduced the MER(CP) Act and the reasons what they have been told by some of their colleagues in the ministry about what this bill is doing is not good for the resources sector, not good for regional Queensland and not good for the many people who live in their electorates who work in the resources sector either directly or indirectly.

I commend the member for Burleigh and the member for Gregory for participating in that committee inquiry. They certainly listened to both sides of the story. Their statement of reservation is something worthy of consideration in a quiet time. I do not expect the lemmings in the caucus opposite to suddenly line up over here and vote with the LNP on this issue, but I hope that some of them are inclined to think independently from time to time and inform themselves about what is actually going on in what are complex public policy issues about how the legislation impacts on the organisation and the administration of the resources sector in Queensland.

The explanatory notes accompanying the bill asserted that the Department of Natural Resources and Mines had undertaken some targeted consultation with key stakeholder groups regarding the proposed changes to the restricted land framework, notification and objection processes for proposed mining developments and other amendments that are in the MER(CP) Act and subject to amendment in this bill. These stakeholders included representatives from the Queensland Resources Council, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies. The explanatory notes state that feedback received from these stakeholders raised no significant points of contention. This statement came as an unpleasant surprise to myself who expected the QRC, APPEA and AMEC to strongly oppose these changes given their previous support for the MER(CP) Act. Given the political and administrative effort that was put into the MER(CP) Act reform process, this response from resource sector groups was disappointing. I note the unremarkable submissions from the QRC and APPEA to the committee about this bill. I note the absence of any submission by AMEC. I think it is regrettable that the Queensland resources sector is not prepared to defend genuine reforms that sought to modernise this jurisdiction's legislative arrangements pertaining to its industry.

I warn the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and the Queensland resources sector that the provisions of this bill as they relate to the notifications and objections process and the restricted land framework will increase the red tape imposed on industry and saddle it with outdated regulations. I warn the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and the Treasurer that this bill will impact on investment in the resources sector in Queensland and further diminish its reputation as a jurisdiction in which mining and energy companies can do business. I warn the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines and the Minister for Employment that this legislation will cost jobs in the Queensland resources sector, in particular in regional Queensland. Lastly, I warn the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines that he will be held responsible and accountable for this retrograde step in Queensland's legislative framework as it relates to the resources sector. It will stand as a monument to his ineffectiveness as the responsible minister and his inability to effectively reason worthy reform from politically expedient populism and opportunism.

 **Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (3.18 pm): I rise to speak to the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The primary objective of the bill is to amend the previous government's Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, known as the MER(CP) 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. 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.

This government is committed to restoring the balance between responsible mining developments and the community's right to have an appropriate input into those developments, which is a practice that had been in place for a long time. This is yet another example of where previous government legislation stripped away the rights of landholders. A wide range of stakeholders was consulted on the amendments proposed in the bill, including the Queensland Law Society; Indigenous groups; agricultural peak bodies such as AgForce Queensland and the Queensland Farmers' Federation; environmental and community groups such as the Lock the Gate Alliance, the Environmental Defenders Office, the Basin Sustainability Alliance and the Wilderness Society; and resource sector peak bodies such as the Queensland Resources Council, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, and the Association of Mining Exploration Companies.

When the committee took on this inquiry, it came through loud and clear that landholders were disappointed in the conservative government, which blatantly and without hesitation took away accepted and respected rights to object to mining developments. They were not only disappointed; they were angry and frustrated that they had had to put in a lot of work to get these necessary changes. As a government, we listened to the community. We stepped in to restore those rights before the LNP's laws had any practical effect. No project has proceeded under the LNP laws.

The LNP deserted rural landholders. It left National Party members red-faced over what it was doing to people by taking away their rights. Never before have I seen a group of people—potentially, conservative voters—so upset about what was happening to them under a government that they had supported and had put into parliament. You can pretty it up as much as you like, but the reality is that the people on the ground—that is, the landowners; people who have lived on the land for most of their lives and have been able to access water for almost a century—were afraid that they would lose their rights. We have to understand where they were coming from. I was raised on the land, although I left when I was 15 or 16. You could not find more genuine or down-to-earth people than farmers. I am very proud of the fact that I have an association with them. I can relate to what is happening in the agricultural and primary industry sectors. Things have changed in the 20-odd years or 30-odd years since I have been away from the land, but the basic fundamentals of farming are still the same. I do not think we give enough credit to farmers and their families or acknowledgement for the struggles that they go through.

There is no doubt in my mind that a lot of people felt that they had been done over by the previous government and the laws that it introduced. Many of them are red-faced and humiliated by the control that the Liberal Party has over the National Party. In this place, the Liberal Party has no respect for their coalition partners and the people they respect, because they do not understand. They have never been there, so they do not understand. National Party members go out into the electorate. They work with the farmers and the graziers. They have a good relationship and a good understanding. Even though I sit on this side of the House, there is no way in the world that I would ever do other than defend the value of having in this place people from the land and from small rural communities representing the people of regional and rural Queensland. It has to be so. People with the experience, the background and the knowledge to understand what is happening on the land should be in this place. We need elected members who can add balance to the debates on legislation as it progresses through the parliament. I wish members of the National Party well through the internal struggle within the LNP. As a long-term member in this place, I encourage them to go in even harder to look after the people on the land. They are good people and we should be defending them against people who do not really understand.

I have had 20-odd years working as an elected regional member and almost 12 years working in and representing the mining industry. Therefore, I am well aware that across Queensland many communities are reliant upon the resource industry. Towns such as Dysart, Tieri and Middlemount would not exist without mineral deposit discoveries in the local area. Over recent years, it has become clear that there is an increased angst in rural communities because of what is happening in the mining industry in terms of development. For example, mining companies such as BMA have unemployment policies that mean that local people do not get mining work, despite the fact that many people have moved into the area because they want to work in the coal industry and live in the community. People want to live close to the mine so that they can go home to their families every night. That is what families want to do. It is normal. That opportunity has been taken away from them by mining companies that simply have no conscience.

The mining companies have abandoned communities. There is a clear lack of conscience being exhibited in boardrooms by senior mine site management, and the broader community has been denied the right to object to the impacts of mine development in their area. The removal of objection rights by the former government has certainly had an impact on people living in regional and rural Queensland. I have spoken to a lot of people and I have learnt that they were quite embarrassed when they saw that the previous government had removed their objection rights. Some people will never change how they vote and it is the same with many people who support our side. However, certainly there are some who were embarrassed and had lost confidence in their elected members.

In the lead-up to the 2012 election, the LNP made policy commitments to strike the right balance between supporting strong resource and energy industries and looking after the interests of agriculture. However, in this case the LNP acted with arrogance, removing the rights of its own supporters to object to a proposal that, in their mind, obviously was going to cause a lot of concern, possibly even the loss of water. At one property we visited—and it is a long time since I have seen this—we saw a bore gushing water out of the ground when the pumps were turned on. That is a pretty good sign that the farm is on a decent water resource. However, that property is located close to a mine that could potentially drain that water, leaving the farm with less than it has previously had access to.

I think there is enough evidence out there to support the claims of rural producers that the former government turned away from the rural sector and gave preference to mining companies. That is pretty clear from a lot of things we have looked at over the last 18 months. This was clear to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee as we heard from people on the land actually facing the consequences of that. We spoke to representative groups who opposed the actions of the LNP.

I thought the committee did a great job in being prepared to go out and talk to people face to face. I think the deputy chair was up-front and learnt a lot. I know that the member for Gregory, who is off the land, spotted a few details at a mine where the company was spruiking about how their rehabilitation was working. To their credit it did look great when there was not a lot of cow dung around and the grass was up to the waist of the cattle. The member picked it. They had obviously brought the cattle in to make us feel happy about what they were doing. That is the way they work.

There were frivolous or vexatious claims made by mining companies, along with Michael Roche, the chief executive officer of the Mineral Resources Council, that environmental groups and others were deliberately holding up the process of approvals. We went into this inquiry having had a lot of people say to us that frivolous and vexatious objections were holding up the process. I do not think anybody wants to see that happen. Early in the inquiry I thought that was something we needed to address.

It was surprising to committee members that there was little or no evidence to support the frivolous and vexatious claims. The committee was made aware that the Land Court of Queensland held that the term 'frivolous or vexatious' should be given its ordinary meaning being the case is 'of little weight'. They really had nothing behind them to strongly support the claim that they were making. They were usually made without sufficient grounds and served only to cause annoyance.

The interesting thing we found out is that the Land Court has a system in place where these objections do not get past first base. The Land Court gets rid of objections that obviously lack the information and research to go forward.

The EDO, the Environmental Defenders Office, told the committee—

Contrary to claims made by representatives or stakeholders in the resource industry, there is no evidence that these objection rights have been used to commence frivolous or vexatious proceedings in the Land Court.

It continued that, in particular—

EDO has never represented any clients or assisted any community members with objections which were considered to be frivolous or vexatious.

The organisation that represents landholders and members of the community for no pay, because ordinary citizens cannot afford the cost of making these objections, the EDO, was saying quite bluntly that, as far as they were concerned, what was being said was not right. It was said to us on a couple of occasions that mining companies are more likely to make frivolous and vexatious claims or objections against other mining companies. In the couple of cases that I am aware of, that process is about deliberately holding up the development of another mine. Frivolous or vexatious claims are made by a mining company against another mining company.

For the mining industry to be saying that the conservation groups, individuals or local organisations are making frivolous and vexatious claims to slow down the process is a load of hogwash. It is another example of people like Michael Roche and mining companies putting it out there that the

people of Queensland are against mining. We all know that that is not the truth. I will have a bit to say about how people felt. It has been stated—

This bill ... constitutes the repeal of and an attack on the long-held legal rights of landholders, rural communities and all Queenslanders—the repeal of the right of landholders, rural communities and Queenslanders to know about mining applications in their community; the repeal of the right of landholders, rural communities and Queenslanders to object to mining applications in their communities; and the repeal of the right of landholders, rural communities and Queenslanders to be notified of an application for an environmental authority and to object to the environmental authority.

That statement was made in this place by Jackie Trad. She went on to say—

... stacking the process in favour of big miners and the resources industry at the expense of landholders, rural communities and all Queenslanders.

...

... the Labor Party understands that unless you have public notification and objection rights there is a whole range of things that the public cannot engage with significantly and genuinely in relation to land use management in this state.

It was interesting what Cotton Australia said in their submission. It stated—

The bill as it currently stands potentially reduces the rights of landholders and consequently Cotton Australia objects to any weakening of transparency, fairness or oversight.

AgForce submitted in 2014—

The primary concerns with the proposed changes in the two discussion papers can be summarised as loss of rights to object in many circumstances, limited protection for non homestead property infrastructure and reduction in negotiating power (of producers) in general. The overall concern being that the reduction in existing rights will erode further any goodwill between the agriculture and resources sector and will not increase the possibilities of co-existence ... the removal of these notifications will mean landholders in the vicinity who often have legitimate concerns will not be aware of what is about to occur with a particular mining lease that could impact on them.

QFF welcomes the state government's move to reinstate landholder rights to protect selected farm infrastructure from mining and petroleum activities.

I do not know where people have been, particularly people on the other side of the House, but it was a very strong view coming from people on the land and people living close to mining company operations that the taking away of their objection rights was simply not acceptable. They were very appreciative of the fact that Labor in government supported sending a committee out to their areas to sit down across the table, enjoy a scone and a cup of tea and listen to them as individuals and take on board their concerns. These changes will certainly help those people living out there.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.38 pm): I rise to add to the debate on the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I am not going to take up too much of the time of the House on this this afternoon, but I would like to counter some of the arguments put forward by the member for Mirani. I will not go into too much detail about this because I think the member for Hinchinbrook has outlined very succinctly exactly how I feel about this particular bill and how I suggest other members on this side of the House feel about this bill.

We did travel quite a bit in looking at this bill. We visited some properties and we held a few public hearings and we heard from people who were concerned about notification and objection rights, and rightly so. Some of the people whom we talked to live in sight of some of the mines. I think that they had every right to object to the mining tenures that are applicable to some of these coalmines. The people we visited were very passionate about their properties, about the water that they felt might be affected on their properties and about how their lifestyle might be affected.

While I am happy to look at expanding objection rights slightly, I still have a real issue with expanding objection rights to the whole world, and that is what we are talking about here. If we were talking about neighbours, people within a line of sight of the mine, people who are affected by changes in the water on their property, people who are affected by vibrations, dust, noise, smell—any of those things—then absolutely those people should have objection rights. The reason the committee accepted to pass this bill is more about the construction of the committee because there are three Labor members and one Katter's Australian Party member. It was the majority of the committee that decided to pass this bill.

Mr Deputy Speaker, if you read the report you will see that on a few occasions it talks about the majority of the committee voting a certain way. That is why it was necessary for me and the member for Gregory to write a nine-page statement of reservations. As the member for Hinchinbrook quite clearly said, it would be advantageous for those opposite to sit down and read that statement of reservations—in particular, the history that lays out how the Mineral Resources Act and MER(CP) Act work and how this bill changes particular provisions of the MER(CP) Act.

Once again, we see a Labor Party that is intent on reversing everything that the LNP government did. This bill does exactly that again. I have lost count how many times I have stood in this House and said exactly that—that a particular bill was simply reversing the position that the LNP government had put in place when we were in government. LNP bills have benefited this state in a great way. They have led to the number of cranes that we see out there on the skyline today. That will quickly evaporate under conditions that are put in place by this government—this government that is intent on reversing everything that the LNP did.

I was intending to talk about quite a few other things, but I think I will tackle the member for Mirani's assertion that there are no vexatious claims being made in our courts to stop mining tenures. I am glad that the member for Mirani brought up the EDO's statement to the committee. I will read it again for the benefit of the members opposite. The report states—

Despite mining stakeholders' claims that frivolous or vexatious cases are extensively used by landholders and other groups, the majority of the committee was unable to find evidence to support this view.

The majority of the committee did not find that evidence because they did not bother looking for it. It is not too hard to find if you look at this particular document which was given to the committee. This document is titled *Stopping the Australian coal export boom: funding proposal for the Australian anti-coal movement*, and it is from Greenpeace. In this document Greenpeace are seeking \$3.725 million to run a campaign. What sort of campaign is it? I table this document for the benefit of the members opposite.

Tabled paper. Document, dated November 2011, titled 'Stopping the Australian Coal Export Boom: funding proposal for the Australian anti-coal movement' [761].

I would strongly encourage them to read this because it lays out the strategy of their extreme green friends who aim to stop the coal industry dead in its tracks. They state—

Our strategy is essentially to 'disrupt and delay' key projects and infrastructure while gradually eroding public and political support for the industry and continually building the power of the movement to win more.

That is the strategy and the aim of people who are raising vexatious claims in our courts. I am not sure whether the member for Mirani has in fact sat down and read this. I would hope that the other members of the committee have bothered to sit down and read this because it is damning.

Mr Pearce: What does it say about the vexatious claims?

Mr HART: I will take the interjection from the member for Mirani. The issue with vexatious claims in our courts revolves around the definition of what vexatious is. It is very hard to lock that down. It is wide open to interpretation. I would suggest to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that our courts are being very careful about what they do and they are not ruling anything out as vexatious. Quite frankly, that is what they are doing. We have people such as Greenpeace who are out there putting forward these documents. Their proposal, if you turn to page 6 of this document, is to provide legal challenges. They state—

Legal challenges will draw on a range of arguments relating to local impacts on wetlands, endangered species, aquifers and the World Heritage Listed Great Barrier Reef Marine Park ...

How often do we hear about issues with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park that are affected by mining applications? Is it any wonder that those applications are appearing in courts constantly when we have documents like this floating around seeking funding from people who fake, in a lot of instances, concern for the environment?

I am glad that the member for Mirani mentioned the EDO in Queensland. Part of the funding proposal in this document seeks funding for the EDO to process litigation on behalf of these people. They are looking for \$225,000 for two extra lawyers for the EDO in Queensland and \$170,000 for litigation costs. In total, if these people get their way, if they get the necessary funding that they want from this, they want the EDO in New South Wales and Queensland to have additional funding of \$1.35 million—\$1.35 million—in order to shut down the coal industry. That is what they are attempting to do.

We hear from those opposite that they are all about jobs over there. Are they supportive of this document? This document will kill jobs in Queensland. It will kill jobs throughout Australia. If they are supportive of this document, they are out there killing jobs. There is no doubt about it.

Mr Pearce interjected.

Mr HART: If the member for Mirani cares to have a look at this, on page 15 there is another amount of money listed—\$220,000. What is its aim? 'Creating investor uncertainty'. 'Creating investor uncertainty'—is that what we really want in this state? Do we want our investors to be uncertain? As the member for Hinchinbrook said—

Mr Minnikin: Sovereign risk.

Mr HART: I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. This is all about sovereign risk. In everything they do, every time they turn around, the government are introducing more sovereign risk into this state. This state will be strangled under a Labor government. The more legislation we see, the further backward we are going. We are going back years and years. We had massive advancement under the LNP. We had massive advancement under the member for Hinchinbrook as our minister in this area. We are going backwards at a great rate of knots. It is only an LNP government that can fix this state because the Labor government are taking us down that big black hole that we do not want to go down.

Mrs LAUGA (Keppel—ALP) (3.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and the amendments moved by the minister. Can I take a moment to respond to some of the comments that have been made in this debate by the member for Hinchinbrook and the member for Burleigh. The member for Hinchinbrook referred to people who want objection rights reinstated as 'interest groups'. I can tell the member for Hinchinbrook that these so-called interest groups that he speaks of are the landholders of Queensland. They have an interest in mining projects proposed on their land because they have an interest in the ongoing sustainability of their land and their business. I do not understand why the member for Hinchinbrook has a problem with these 'interest groups' given that he has a problem, then, with landowners who have concerns about mining impacts on their land. The member for Hinchinbrook also said that there is a misuse of the objection process. We heard the member for Burleigh also swirling that argument around. Despite mining stakeholders' claims that frivolous or vexatious cases are extensively used by landholders and other groups, the majority of the committee was unable to find evidence to support this view.

I want to raise an important point because last week in this chamber we debated some planning bills. The opposition's planning bills before the House gave mining companies—in fact, anyone all over the world—the right to object to the development proposals that landholders make on their own land, but those opposite have a problem with giving landowners the right to object to mining projects on their land. I think it is hypocritical that in one bill they will give mining companies the right to object to development on landholders' land, but in this bill they are objecting to giving landowners the right to object to mining projects on their land.

There was no doubt a swing against the LNP in rural and regional Queensland at the last state election and it was result of this. It was as a result of Strong Choices and asset sales. We heard the member for Clayfield sidestepping that issue today, but stripping away objection rights by those opposite who claim to be friends of landholders, farmers and graziers across rural and regional Queensland proves they are not friends of landholders. I understand today they will vote against the reinstatement of objection rights which so many landholders across Queensland want reinstated.

At the Brisbane public hearing for the MER(CP) Bill in August 2014, Mrs Letitia Farell, research officer of the Queensland Land Court, confirmed—

In the court's experience, there have not really been a lot of stalling tactics. If there is, it generally comes from both sides. It is not just landowners or objectors who generally are not ready to proceed; it is also often the mining companies that are not ready.

At the Brisbane public hearing for the MER(CP) Bill in June 2014 Mrs Elisa Nichols, Executive Director of Reform and Innovation in the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, stated—

There is no evidence of vexatious litigation in relation to those low-level, what we call standard applications.

The department undertook an analysis of all of the submissions received on those types of applications back to 2009, and the department did not receive one objection from anyone who was not a landholder directly affected by the mine. The bill will not cost jobs. It is not added red tape, as those opposite claim. This bill will just restore objection rights to the way they were. In fact, the MOLA Bill will bring relief to many people in Queensland.

I know that there are many landholders across the state who are very eager to see the reinstatement of objection rights to mining and projects. It is extremely disappointing that the LNP does not support the reinstatement of objection rights. I believe it is a slap in the face of rural and regional Queenslanders and landholders. It was appalling that in 2014 the LNP at four minutes to midnight moved a series of amendments to restrict objections to mining leases. It was appalling that the LNP stripped the right of landowners to object on matters such as—

Mr CRIPPS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The amendments to which the member for Keppel refers are amendments to the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act, which is not the subject of this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Furner): Order! Member for Keppel, I remind you to be relevant to the bill we are debating.

Mrs LAUGA: It was appalling that the LNP stripped the right of landowners to object on matters such as impacts on groundwater of large mines. The changes sparked—

Mr CRIPPS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member for Keppel is continuing to make remarks in relation to amendments that refer to provisions within the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act, which is not relevant to this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I call the member for Keppel.

Mrs LAUGA: The changes to the MER(CP) Bill sparked blistering criticism. *Queensland Country Life* described them as ‘a sellout’. Cotton Australia objected to the LNP’s ‘weakening of transparency, fairness or oversight’. AgForce said that the reduction in rights would erode further any goodwill between the agriculture and resources sector and will not increase possibilities of coexistence. Broadcaster Alan Jones called the changes ‘corrupt’ and ‘unbelievable’ amidst other colourful language.

Many of those opposite are members of organisations like Cotton Australia, AgForce and the Queensland Farmers’ Federation. Many of those opposite are members of organisations which support the reinstatement of objection rights. The Queensland Farmers’ Federation said that it welcomes the state government’s move to reinstate landholder rights to protect selected farm infrastructure from mining and petroleum activities. Cotton Australia said, ‘We are encouraged to see the exemption of notice provisions and rights of objection have been repealed.’ How can those opposite sit there and oppose this bill which is supported by so many of their constituents in rural and regional Queensland and which is also supported by industry organisations of which many of those opposite are members?

No doubt the member for Gregory will be ashamed the next time he attends a Cotton Australia meeting and the member for Warrego, who is a member of AgForce and Property Rights Australia, and the member for Condamine, who is a member of AgForce. All of these organisations support the reinstatement of objection rights and yet their parliamentary friends—the member for Gregory, Warrego and Condamine—are stabbing them in the back on an issue so important to their members. Why would the members in this place who represent rural and regional landowners vote against a bill which will reinstate the rights of their constituents to object to mining projects?

The LNP deserted rural landholders when they took away their rights to object to mining projects. The LNP deserted people like Desley whose family has been farming and grazing around the Acland area for over 100 years. I met Desley when the committee travelled to Acland recently. Desley supports giving the community the right to appeal a mining lease. I agree with Desley. I thank Desley, Lynn and Jane for their outstanding scones, too. It is essential that the community, like Desley, have the right to have their concerns heard with respect to proposed mines.

Desley lives in the electorate of Nanango. When she expressed concerns to the member for Nanango, the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition, about the LNP’s removal of objection rights because it would affect her and her family, Desley did not receive a response. The same goes for Fiona Hayard and Peter and Rhonda Selmanovic who contacted their local member, the member for Callide, with concerns about the removal of objection rights, but the member for Callide did not have time to meet with his constituents about an issue of great importance to them.

I know many of the people of the land like Desley, Peter, Rhonda and Fiona will be disappointed to know that their local members did not stand up for them here in this place and support the reinstatement of objection rights. When I last saw Rhonda, with tears in her eyes she hugged me and said, ‘Please make this right.’ The Palaszczuk government is committed to reinstating objection rights to mining projects, and this bill will do just that. It was a Queensland Labor election commitment to reinstate these important community objection rights. I rise in this place to right a wrong that was made by the LNP—a wrong that deeply hurt people like Rhonda. We have listened to the community concerns that these laws restricted landholder and community rights, and our bill will rectify this.

Most importantly, we have stepped in to restore these rights before the LNP’s laws had any practical effect. No project has proceeded under the LNP’s laws. This bill will help set the scene for a productive relationship with resource companies by helping to lessen anxiety towards research development amongst landholders and agricultural stakeholders. This bill represents another important step towards restoring the balance between landholders, the community and the resources sector in Queensland. Why will the LNP not support a bill to reinstate the objection rights that the people of rural Queensland desperately want restored?

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee secretariat, in particular, Jacqui, Margaret, Mary, Lucy, Marion and Dianne for their work and also Megan from Hansard, who travelled with us from Toowoomba and Rockhampton. I am proud to rise today to support the Palaszczuk government's reinstatement of objection rights so that landowners can again object to mining projects which may have impacts on their land.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.00 pm): I rise to speak on the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. There is no doubt that our state—in fact, our economy—needs to have the right balance between mining, farming and the community. Right now agriculture is still the unsung hero of our economy as we experience a massive downturn in the resources sector. The seat of Gregory generates a lot of wealth for this state from both agriculture and mining, so it is in the best interests of the state and our economy that we need to get this right.

Both high-value agriculture and mining have been a part of the region I represent for a long time. Of course, agriculture has been around for well over 150 years in the seat of Gregory. Mining, which was started by Utah back in the 1960s and 1970s, has played a significant role in growing our region's economy, especially in the seat of Gregory. Without it we would not have towns like Blackwater, Tieri, Middlemount, Moranbah and Dysart or the existing agriculture towns like Emerald, Capella and Clermont. We would not have the population increase, the upgrades to schools, the sporting facilities and hospitals, schools and police stations—and the list goes on. We also would not have the opportunities of the jobs it creates—apprentices in diesel fitting, boiler making and electricians. They are all jobs that bring families to our regions and those families send their children to our local schools and participate in the local community. Mining will still play a key role in the economic viability of our region.

As I come from agriculture, I also know too well the importance of protecting valuable agricultural land. I represent some of the finest farming and grazing land in the country. There is the Emerald irrigation area—the golden triangle—the vast grazing country in that area which has some of the best beef-fattening country in the state. Like I said, right now agriculture is an unsung hero in the state's economy despite the drought in the west, so it is important that we get this right. While I do not oppose the notification of objection rights being extended, I do have concerns that people outside Queensland should be able to bring court action that delays job growth in our regions. I am talking about people who are just anti coal and are doing so because of their green, left-wing policies. Ironically, they are the same people who are against agriculture in terms of the live cattle trade and increasing production areas. They are the same people who I think sometimes take the good natured and very real concerns of landholders over mining but they use it for their own political extreme green views because they are anti coal no matter where it is.

We only have to go to the document that the member for Burleigh mentioned earlier, *Stopping the Australian coal export boom*. They have a six-element strategy: to disrupt and delay key infrastructure—and this is the real concern—to increase investor risk, create uncertainty and heighten the perception of risk over coal investments. We are talking about the economy of this state and jobs growth in this state. A part of their plan is to mount a legal challenge to the approval of several key ports, mines and rail lines and run legal challenges that delay, limit or stop all major infrastructure projects—mines, rail and ports—that have been identified as high priority in the strategy. I think that is very dangerous. They have no concern or regard for jobs growth and the people in my electorate of Gregory, where the mining industry and the agricultural industry are key to our survival. The mining industry provides those jobs—those new jobs and new careers—for the apprentice electricians, the apprentice boilermakers and the apprentice diesel fitters which are so important.

One of the most talked about issues in the electorate I represent is when is the Carmichael mine and mining opportunities going to come to the Galilee Basin? Because of the massive downturn in mining in the Bowen Basin, we have seen many small businesses looking for the next opportunity. They have had to lay off staff, downsize operations and cut spending. Some have had to look for opportunities elsewhere and leave the area. This hurts our local economy and it hurts our local community.

While I believe strongly that landholders directly impacted by mines have every right to be a part of the objection rights—and I sincerely hope mining companies take notice of them, sit down with them and address their specific issues—I still have very real concerns about groups outside of this state, outside of Queensland, who are green activists with an agenda of anti coal and, in turn, anti opportunity for regional Queensland.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.05 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I would firstly like to thank the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee chair, Mr Jim Pearce, for the work that he did. The member for Mirani brings to

the 55th Parliament a great deal of experience and knowledge. He is insightful, passionate and professional. I thank him for his dedication to his electorate and to Queensland. Thanks must also be given to the secretariat under the guidance of Dr Jacqueline Dewar and the entire team in the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. I would also like to thank the 21 submitters to the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and those who gave evidence at the public hearings.

Being able to stand here today to speak in support of the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 is just another example of why I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government. This is a government that listens to communities and stakeholders and gives these same people the right to have their say, to be heard and to right wrongs.

The Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 will repeal the yet-to-commence provisions of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act, which limit objection rights. The Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will reinstate objection rights for mining projects. Broadening the objection rights ensures that the potential impacts of mines are considered and are crucially important in the public interests so that the costs and benefits of projects can be debated and tested. This ensures the best environmental, economic and social outcomes for projects, providing an opportunity to protect high-value agricultural land and, in turn, protect long-term agricultural jobs in regional Queensland, supporting this important international industry. Further, the bill will protect water access, either in the potential drawdown on bores or the loss of overland water.

While there has been some discussion or suggestion by mining stakeholders of vexatious and frivolous appeals being used by landholders and other groups, there was no evidence to support this view. The Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will also repeal the yet-to-commence provisions of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act, which limit notification for mining projects. The committee heard from submitters that they were pleased that the notification provisions were to be repealed and will require an applicant for a proposed mining lease to directly notify the landholders of the adjoining land that is subject of the proposed mining lease as well as entities that provide infrastructure, wholly or partially, on the land. These are in addition to directly notifying the owners of the land, the owners of access land and the relevant local council as well as requiring a notice be placed in the local newspapers.

This bill will also include important key agricultural infrastructure within the definition of 'restricted land' and will repeal the proposed change which would have allowed a mining lease to be granted over restricted land where the landholder consent has not been given and compensation has not been agreed to. This important aspect of the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will remove the minister's power to extinguish restricted land for mining lease applications where coexistence is not possible on the proposed mining lease and it will repeal changes that allow the minister to grant a mining lease over restricted land prior to compensation being agreed to with the landholder.

This will restore the balance between landholders and the resources sector in Queensland and protect landholders' rights. The committee heard from many stakeholders across the sector, and I would like to thank all of them for taking the time to provide important information to the committee and their ongoing work to provide employment, food and resources to Queenslanders and, indeed, the world. This government is committed to restoring the balance between responsible mining developments and the community's right to have appropriate input into them. The Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 will restore the balance. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.10 pm): I rise to address the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 which is currently before the Legislative Assembly. This legislation proposes amendments to the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act, the MER(CP) Act, which was passed by the previous LNP government in late September 2014, but the majority of the provisions in the act had not yet commenced at the time of the January 2015 state election. The delay in their commencement occurred primarily because of the work that was required to develop the subordinate legislation and regulations to support the implementation of the then act.

At that time this act was part of the comprehensive and long overdue reform and modernisation process which had been undertaken by the previous LNP government into the complex legislative framework under which the resources sector operates in Queensland. The importance of such reform was clearly recognised by the previous LNP government which understood, like all current LNP members, the key role of the resources sector to the Queensland economy and the consequent necessity of striking a difficult, but necessary, balance between protecting the interests of the

environment; our agricultural sector; regional, rural and remote communities as well as the public at large, whilst also not imposing needless and wasteful legislative burdens on the resources sector in Queensland.

Whilst there is bipartisan agreement on the need for reform, it is clear from the new bill that there is a difference in emphasis with respect to its implementation. It is from that perspective that I comment on the following changes that are proposed. The content of the bill relates primarily to: firstly, objections to mining leases; secondly, restricted land; and thirdly, overlapping coal and CSG tenements. While the bill proposes extensive changes to the act, many changes merely seek to preserve the status quo by repealing provisions of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 which have not yet commenced.

With respect to public notification requirements and community objection rights the bill retains much unchanged, particularly: public notification and objection rights as they relate to mining leases provided for by the Queensland Environmental Protection Act 1994; public notification via newspaper notice of mining lease applications as required by the Queensland Mineral Resources Act 1989; and that any person can object to a mining lease application on essentially any ground. Whilst I agree with the notion that, with respect to mining endeavours, potentially affected individuals should have the right of appeal to protect their lifestyle, local environment and relevant assets, in essence I can see only as a retrograde step the change enabling any individual or organisation located anywhere to object to some development which does not even tangentially directly affect them. If the Land Court is not meticulous in striking out frivolous or vexatious objections, the retention of this well-meaning but ill-conceived provision will lead to lost mining opportunities, poor economic outcomes, reduced job growth in Queensland and protracted court proceedings with significant and often prohibitive legal costs for all parties concerned.

I can certainly reassure the member for Mirani that there are LNP members in Brisbane, including myself, who have a detailed understanding and appreciation of rural and remote Queensland and their associated communities. It is highly desirable and proper that environmental objections can be raised on genuine environmental grounds; however, potentially assisting professional protesters and activists to indulge their radical agendas via this legislation is a mark of poorly considered public policy. It is certainly acceding to the socialist left of the Australian Labor Party.

This legislation also proposes changes to the restricted land framework so that: firstly, the minister can no longer extinguish restricted land for a mining lease; secondly, the minister cannot grant a mining lease over restricted land irrespective of the landowner's consent but that the landowner can give consent for a mining lease; thirdly, the protections for key agricultural infrastructure provided by the Mineral Resources Act 1989 Queensland are retained; fourthly, that the definition of restricted land is expanded to include within 50 metres of a principal stockyard, dam, bore and artificial water storage connected to a water supply; and finally, that the restricted land distances are to be incorporated directly in the amended act rather than being separately prescribed by regulation. As before, these provisions reflect little more than a different balance between the interests of various parties who are potentially affected by this legislation; however, one provision again requires more careful consideration.

In expanding the definition of restricted land to include dams, bores, artesian wells and artificial water storage facilities, the legislation explicitly excludes interconnecting pipelines. Does this mean that the bill sanctions resource activities disrupting existing agricultural infrastructure, or did serious consideration of this simply go into the too-hard basket?

The other major section of the bill seeks to clarify the regime managing overlapping coal and coal seam gas tenure to: clarify the operation of relevant provisions; align the act with the provisions of the Queensland Resource Council's May 2012 white paper; and also respond to stakeholder concerns. The bill proposes significant changes to the act which in itself have materially altered the preceding arrangements. These changes do in fact align the act more closely with the white paper. This area of the bill is concerned with resolving conflicts between industry stakeholders who seek simultaneous access to the same land. These stakeholders, and presumably their legal advisers, appear satisfied with such proposals to date.

In summary, this bill seeks to make amendments to the existing act and is driven by the election commitments made by those opposite during the last state election. The previous LNP government's comprehensive reform agenda to modernise the legislative framework within which the resource sector operates was positive for Queensland. Maintaining the delicate balance between the differing interests of our vital resource industries, our agricultural sector and urban and other state infrastructure is essential for Queensland's economy. In my view, elements of this bill move the balance too far in favour

of protest and objection rights. The Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 will increase the regulatory burden of red tape on some of our key resource industry sectors; however, I accept that these views are not universally endorsed. The LNP will always deliver a balance with respect to environmental protections, mining and/or resource sector interests and those of the broader community.

Finally, I would encourage all members opposite to read and truly understand the LNP's statement of reservation which is part of the parliamentary committee's report. I conclude by congratulating the member for Burleigh and the shadow minister, the member for Hinchinbrook, on clearly articulating the growing sovereign risks to Queensland of the Palaszczuk government's legislative agenda.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.17 pm): I rise to speak to the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac regions surround the electorate of Mackay, and it has a balance of mining and agriculture which is comprised of beef cattle, grain, sugar and vegetable crops. Each industry is important to the economy of our region. There needs to be a balance so that each can continue to grow.

The primary objective of the bill is to amend the previous government's Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 to deliver two of the government's key election commitments. The amendments will restore public notification requirements and Land Court objection rights in relation to the assessment of proposed mines to all members of the community. Importantly for the agricultural community, the bill will ensure the protection of key agriculture infrastructure under the restricted land framework.

We need to be able to grow food and fibre and protect our rural communities, and at the same time we need to be able to develop the resource sector and provide valuable jobs for Queenslanders. For both mining and agriculture to develop and remain vital there needs to be a balance so that legislation does not favour one sector over the other. There needs to be an environment where farmers and mining companies can operate with a level of goodwill and cooperation. This bill brings back balance to landholders and the resources sector. The timing of this bill is important. Many of the provisions of the act are yet to be implemented, and repealing those provisions before their planned start dates gives certainty to landholders.

The primary concerns of AgForce for landholders can be summarised as a loss of rights to object in many circumstances, limited protection for non-homestead property infrastructure and reduction in negotiating power of producers in general. In its 2014 report it states—

The overall concern being that a reduction in existing rights will erode further any goodwill between the agriculture and resources sector and will not increase possibilities of co-existence.

It also states—

... the removal of these notifications will mean landholders in the vicinity who often have legitimate concerns will not be aware of what is about to occur with a particular mining lease that could impact on them.

The requirement for the publication of a mining lease application in a newspaper notice will allow parties to know of the application, see how it will affect their land and be able to lodge an objection appeal if needed under the unamended section 269(4) of the act.

I have seen mining operations and farmers living and working side by side. Farmers are kept informed by the mining company of their operations. Neighbours of the mine are encouraged and invited on to the mine site for regular updates on the site operations. Landowners may prefer not to have a mine in their backyard, but with negotiations a common ground can be found.

This bill assists landowners by protecting the land framework. The minister will no longer be able to grant mining leases over restricted land where no consent or compensation has been agreed to. The land being farmed needs to be protected so it is viable for agriculture. This bill restricts land within 50 metres of a principal stockyard, dam, bore or artesian well and artificial water storage connected to water supply. The legislative amendments will ensure there is no doubt that landholders fall either under the new restricted land framework or under the previous agreement requirements.

In my electorate of Mackay, residents rely on both the mining sector and the agriculture sector working together for the continued prosperity of the region. Young people from farms take up jobs at mines, using the skills learned on the farm, operating heavy machinery. Mineworkers are looking to the Palaszczuk government to support innovation in the agriculture sector to develop new industries for the future, when mining has reached its end. The people in my electorate want to see a balance. They know that with balance there is a future for our community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.22 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to the debate of the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contributions from those on my side are well valued. I know that the committee did some very hard work on this legislation, and it is reflected in the bill to be amended as a result of our acceptance of some of the committee recommendations. In relation to the ones we did not accept, we have good explanations. I also thank those opposite, although the reference material used—the shutdown of the coal industry—was their only reference source. I find that quite amazing.

There is no doubt that we are restoring objection rights. We know that those objection rights are extremely valuable for a lot of members of the community. I reflect on the mine that is proposed for the Kingaroy area. If it were not for our legislation restoring community objection rights, where would that community be under the MER(CP) Act? One has to reflect on where they would be. I personally thank the chair of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. His speech was well accepted by me. He put a lot of effort and heartfelt warmth into his speech.

This bill fully implements our election commitments. Last year we took the first steps to rectify the trampling of community objection rights by the LNP government when we repealed section 47D of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act. We had to do that. This bill respects and restores that balance between the resources community, the agriculture community and the wider Queensland community. There is a right for the public to be aware of proposed mining projects in their communities and to have input in the process. It is a fundamental right in any democracy, and it was interfered with by the Newman government. The passage of this bill will ensure that public notification and community rights to object to mining lease applications and all environmental authority applications associated with a mining lease will be retained. That includes the placement of newspaper advertisements.

Amendments will be moved during consideration in detail to extend the direct notification requirements to adjoining landholders and infrastructure providers. While the previous government's Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act attempted to constrain those who could object to proposed mining projects and also the grounds on which they could object, this bill will repeal these yet-to-commence provisions. This means that all third parties, such as concerned community groups and residents in Kingaroy, will retain their right to object.

The restricted land framework will also deliver on this government's commitments. Infrastructure, artesian wells, bores, dams and water storages will all be protected, with a protection zone of 50 metres. This restricted zone will be prescribed in legislation, not by regulation. If it needs to be changed or is to be changed by those opposite, there will need to be debate in this House. Additionally, this bill will retain the requirement for a resource authority holder to obtain the written consent of the landholder prior to the inclusion of restricted land in the mining lease. The ministerial power to extinguish restricted land where coexistence is not possible will be repealed by this bill.

The definition of 'residence' and the supporting example, which included accommodation used for nonresident workers such as shearers and fruit pickers, has created confusion for stakeholders. As a result of concerns raised by the agricultural sector during the committee process, an amendment will be moved during consideration in detail to remove the definition of 'residence' under the restricted land framework. The removal of this definition means that the ordinary definition of 'residence' will apply for the purposes of restricted land. To be clear, buildings used for temporary accommodation purposes which are easily relocatable such as dongas will not be protected under the restricted land framework.

While the resources sector accepts the amendments to retain existing public notification and broad objection rights for any member of the community, it does not support these amendments. To address industry concerns regarding the duplication of appeal rights, the government will retain aspects of the MER(CP) Act which will remove the requirement for an environmental authority application to undergo public notification if it has already been subject to an environmental impact statement assessment process under either the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act or the Environmental Protection Act. This will ensure there is a pathway through which legitimate community concerns can be raised and addressed while streamlining the mining project assessment process.

Similarly, the resources industry has concerns that environmental groups may use the objection process to delay or derail mining projects. In many cases, lengthy delays to the approval of a mining project can render the project unviable. By retaining the Land Court strike-out powers under the MER(CP) Act, the Land Court will have the ability to strike out proceedings which are vexatious, frivolous, outside the jurisdiction of the Land Court or otherwise an abuse of the Land Court's time.

Several stakeholders have raised concerns regarding the adequacy of the restricted land distances. Many landholders and environmental groups have called for restricted land distances to be expanded to 600 metres or even more. To clarify, the 600-metre rule, which does apply to current petroleum and gas tenures and exploration tenures, does not give landholders the right to say no to a resource company. The 600-metre rule only obligates landholders to enter into a conduct and compensation agreement if the resource company wishes to undertake an authorised activity within 600 metres of their home.

It is not intended for the restricted land distances to be specified under the MER(CP) Act to provide protection from the environmental impacts of a resource activity. Managing environmental impacts is achieved through the conditions of the environmental authority, which all resource authority holders require to operate. The conditions of an environmental authority contain strict parameters for managing the impacts of pollution including noise, dust, light and waste. To achieve compliance with the conditions of the environmental authority, a resource company will often be required to locate their activities at a distance greater than what is prescribed under the restricted land framework.

In many instances the conditions of the environmental authority make it difficult for landholders to determine how close a resource company can undertake their activities in proximity to residences, businesses and schools. The benefit of the restricted land distances is that they provide landholders with a clear line in the sand to say no to a resource company undertaking authorised activities in close proximity to certain infrastructure such as their homes. It should also be noted that under the land access framework landholders and resource companies must negotiate a conduct and compensation agreement prior to entering land to conduct advanced activities. The CCA process provides an opportunity for negotiating mutually beneficial arrangements between the parties which could include, for example, the location of resource activities or the potential for relocation of impacted infrastructure or other arrangements.

Our government is committed to balancing the interests and sustainable growth of the resources industry with protecting the rights of landholders, and this bill delivers exactly that. Queensland's prosperity has been based on the cooperative coexistence of landholders and resource companies for more than a century, underpinned by laws that balance their interests and that of communities. The resources sector has and will continue to support our state's economy into the future and Queenslanders should be justifiably proud of the legacy of our mining and resources industry. Restoration of the public notification and community objection rights for mining lease applications allows the community to have an appropriate level of input into mining developments. The introduction of a consistent restricted land framework for all new resource authorities will be beneficial to landholders and other groups that regularly deal with resource companies, as consistent rules will apply across all new resource tenures granted after the commencement of the MER(CP) Act. The bill also contains non-contentious amendments to the new tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas and these amendments will ensure that the framework operates effectively upon commencement. Overall, the new framework will facilitate the co-development of the coal and coal seam gas industries to optimise the development of the state's resources for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

I now want to address some of the points raised during the debate. I refer firstly to the points raised by the member for Hinchinbrook. The government has been consistent in its support of Queensland's resources. This is because we understand the importance of the sector to Queensland's communities. I remain committed to finding ways to continually improve how we operate to support the sustainable development of our resources sector and the jobs it can generate for Queenslanders. What the member for Hinchinbrook failed to acknowledge in his speech is that, while MERCP will apply the new restricted land framework to petroleum tenures for the first time, including CSG tenures, it is Labor that is restoring the protections over key agricultural infrastructure that the LNP planned to strip away from Queensland's agricultural community.

The member for Hinchinbrook would have us believe that the changes proposed in the MOLA Bill would have a negative impact on the Queensland sector and will reduce investment and therefore jobs. However, if we look at the recent Fraser Institute annual survey of mining companies we will see that 2015 is Queensland's best year yet, scoring 77.79 per cent. Investment attraction in Queensland is actually ranked 16th globally in 2015 under Labor, an improvement from 22nd in 2014 under the LNP. With regard to the policy perception index, Queensland is ranked 32nd globally in 2015, essentially the same position as 33rd in 2014. In terms of the best practice mineral potential index—the jurisdiction's policies are based on best practices—Queensland is ranked 14th globally in 2015 under Labor, an improvement from 22nd in 2014 under the LNP. With regard to the overall ranking, Queensland rates 16th in the worldwide ranking.

The member for Burleigh has indicated support for expanding notification and objections even slightly. This indicates that those opposite have just started to understand the real issues with their legislation in the MER(CP) Act. I am on the record as to my view about the Land Court and access to community members: every person deserves their day in court but not four years in court. The member for Burleigh would have us believe that Labor is undoing everything that the LNP did, but this is not correct. We are actually retaining a significant portion of the amendments in the MER(CP) Act, and one that I think is worth highlighting again is that we are retaining the amendments that give the Land Court the authority to strike out objections that are considered by the Land Court to be outside its jurisdiction, frivolous or vexatious, or otherwise considered an abuse of the process of the Land Court.

As a consequence of the committee's scrutiny of the bill, I am going to move amendments to implement recommendations 2, 4 and 6 from the committee's report. To give effect to recommendations 2 and 4, I am proposing to amend the direct notification provisions for persons affected by a mining lease application to include adjoining landholders and infrastructure providers. This will be in addition to the public notification requirements and direct notification requirements to affected landholders and local government. To give effect to recommendation 6, I am proposing an amendment to remove the definition of residence and the associated example, which includes accommodation used to house non-resident workers. I am also proposing to move some minor amendments during the consideration in detail stage to land access provisions. These amendments are intended to clarify the intended operation of the land access framework and do not change the policy intent of the framework. Further non-contentious amendments are also proposed for the industry-developed overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas. These amendments are as a result of the stakeholder feedback during the committee's submission process and will ensure the framework's effective operation at commencement.

I commend the work undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources and Mines, including with concerned stakeholders. I also want to thank all stakeholders who provided feedback on the bill. Once again, I thank all honourable members for their contributions to the debate today. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 6, as read, agreed to.

Clause 7—



Dr LYNHAM (4.36 pm): I move the following amendments—

- 1 **Clause 7 (Amendment of s 68 (What is *restricted land*))**
Page 11, line 25, after '200m'—
insert—
laterally
- 2 **Clause 7 (Amendment of s 68 (What is *restricted land*))**
Page 12, line 20, after '50m'—
insert—
laterally
- 3 **Clause 7 (Amendment of s 68 (What is *restricted land*))**
Page 12, line 32, after '50m'—
insert—
laterally
- 4 **Clause 7 (Amendment of s 68 (What is *restricted land*))**
Page 13, after line 3—
insert—
(2A) Section 68(3), definition *residence*—
omit.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 7, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 30, as read, agreed to.

Clause 31—



Dr LYNHAM (4.37 pm): I move the following amendments—

5 Clause 31 (Amendment of s 130 (Requirement for agreed joint development plan))

Page 23, line 10, after 'Section 130(2)(a)'—

insert—

and (c)

6 Clause 31 (Amendment of s 130 (Requirement for agreed joint development plan))

Page 23, after line 12—

insert—

(2A) Section 130(2)(d), 'proposed'—

omit.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 31, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 32 to 34, as read, agreed to.

Clause 35—



Dr LYNHAM (4.37 pm): I move the following amendments—

7 Clause 35 (Replacement of s 134 (Authorised activities allowed only if consistent with agreed joint development plan))

Page 25, line 18, 'petroleum resource authority'—

omit, insert—

PL

8 Clause 35 (Replacement of s 134 (Authorised activities allowed only if consistent with agreed joint development plan))

Page 25, lines 19 and 20, 'petroleum resource authority'—

omit, insert—

PL

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 35, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 36 to 43, as read, agreed to.

Clause 44—



Dr LYNHAM (4.38 pm): I move the following amendments—

9 Clause 44 (Replacement of s 147 (Authorised activities allowed only if consistent with agreed joint development plan))

Page 29, line 22, 'petroleum resource authority'—

omit, insert—

PL

10 Clause 44 (Replacement of s 147 (Authorised activities allowed only if consistent with agreed joint development plan))

Page 29, lines 23 and 24, 'petroleum resource authority'—

omit, insert—

PL

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 44, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 45 to 51, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Dr LYNHAM (4.39 pm): I move the following amendment—

11 After clause 51

Page 33, after line 11—

insert—

51A Amendment of s 170 (Minimising compensation liability)

Section 170(2), 'coal seam gas'—

omit, insert—

natural gas

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 52—



Dr LYNHAM (4.39 pm): I move the following amendments—

12 Clause 52 (Amendment of s 172 (Reconciliation payments and replacement gas))

Page 33, line 18, 'coal seam gas'—

omit, insert—

natural gas

13 Clause 52 (Amendment of s 172 (Reconciliation payments and replacement gas))

Page 33, after line 24—

insert—

(1A) Section 172(2)(b), 'coal seam gas (**replacement gas**)'—

omit, insert—

natural gas (**replacement gas**)

(1B) Section 172(2)(c)(ii), 'coal seam gas (also **replacement gas**)'—

omit, insert—

natural gas (also **replacement gas**)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 52, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 53 to 88, as read, agreed to.

Clause 89—



Dr LYNHAM (4.40 pm): I move the following amendments—

14 Clause 89 (Replacement of s 436 (Replacement of ss 252-252D))

Page 67, after line 8—

insert—

adjoining land—

(a) means private land that adjoins—

(i) subject land; or

(ii) a lot, within the meaning of the *Land Act 1994* or the *Land Title Act 1994* that contains any part of subject land; and

(b) includes land that would adjoin land mentioned in paragraph (a)(i) or (ii) if it were not separated by a road, watercourse, railway, stock route, reserve or drainage or other easement; and

(c) does not include land only because it adjoins land necessary for—

(i) access to subject land; or

(ii) transporting things to subject land.

15 Clause 89 (Replacement of s 436 (Replacement of ss 252-252D))

Page 67, line 13—

omit, insert—

(c) an owner of adjoining land; or

16 Clause 89 (Replacement of s 436 (Replacement of ss 252-252D))

Page 67, after line 13—

insert—

(d) the relevant local government; or

(e) an entity that provides infrastructure wholly or partially on the subject land.

17 Clause 89 (Replacement of s 436 (Replacement of ss 252-252D))

Page 67, after line 15—

insert—

infrastructure means infrastructure relating to the transportation, movement, transmission or flow of anything, including, for example, goods, material, substances, matter, particles with or without charge, light, energy, information and anything generated or produced.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 89, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 90—

 **Mr CRIPPS** (4.40 pm): Clause 90 removes the limit on the parties who can lodge an objection to an application for the grant of a mining lease and restores the broader community objection rights to those that existed in the pre-amended Mineral Resources Act 1989.

My question to the minister is: will he confirm, for the benefit of all members of the House, that this amendment will allow an individual or an entity who is not resident or based in the state of Queensland to lodge an objection to an application for a mining lease in Queensland? This clause is one of the major amendments in this bill. It will restore the objection rights to individuals and entities, as I understand it, to people or groups who are not resident within the state of Queensland and not based in the state of Queensland. In fact, as I understand the effect of the amendment, someone in Berlin, Amsterdam, New York—

Ms Grace: Rome.

Mr CRIPPS: Rome, or any other city or community right across the globe now will have opportunities to lodge an objection to a resource project in the state of Queensland. This clause goes to the nub of the issue, which a number of members on this side of the House have spoken to, about the balance involved in the notifications and objections process.

Mr Rickuss: Broccoli Broccoli.

Mr CRIPPS: I am reminded of the famous Mr Broccoli Broccoli—although he was not really gender specific, was he? We do not know if it was Mrs Broccoli, or Mr Broccoli or whether Broccoli identified as any gender at all. We should not make any assumptions about how Broccoli identified themselves in relation to their gender.

This clause goes to the manipulation of the process that we have spoken about. In this respect, clause 90 is the operative clause. I think it is fair enough for the minister to get up and say to every member of this House that the inclusion of this clause will open up a resource project in the state of Queensland to an objection process for any individual or any entity not just in the state of Queensland, but in other states in Australia or territories or in any other country around the world. It is patently ridiculous to put this amendment to the House, because of the unrestricted nature of rights that it will bestow on people right across the globe, let alone in the state of Queensland and the Commonwealth of Australia.

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Hinchinbrook, because this is an area that I want to explain to the people of Queensland and I now have that opportunity. We can address this clause on two fronts. The first is that the member believes that we live in an isolated world, that we let only Queenslanders object to mines. If the member believes in a fantasy world where someone in Paris cannot have an agency, or an offshoot, or a subset of their business or a person living in Queensland to object on their behalf, then he is deluded. You cannot restrict the world. It does not matter.

The second issue I want to raise is that, under the government's act and under the opposition's act, the Land Court can strike out frivolous or vexatious claims. There are two issues here. The first issue is an isolationist policy. If the member thinks that we can remove Queensland from the world, then he is deluded. Secondly, frivolous or vexatious claims can be struck out by the Land Court. Therefore, on two grounds clause 90 stands.

Clause 90, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 91 to 109, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—

 **Dr LYNHAM** (4.45 pm): I move the following amendment—

18 Before clause 110

Page 92, before line 10—

insert—

109A Omission of s 560

Section 560—

omit.

109B Omission of s 564

Section 564—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 110 to 114, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.46 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (4.46 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.

PENALTIES AND SENTENCES (QUEENSLAND SENTENCING ADVISORY COUNCIL) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 March (see p. 686).

Second Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.46 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 15 March 2016, the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016 was introduced into the Queensland parliament. The bill reinstates the Sentencing Advisory Council, delivering on a central election commitment of the Palaszczuk government. The bill amends the Penalties and Sentences Act to establish what will be known as the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. It sets out the new council's functions, structure, membership arrangements and reporting requirements. Enshrining the council in legislation ensures transparency, accountability and clarity and the council's roles and responsibilities.

This bill does more than deliver on an election commitment; it represents this government's ongoing commitment to promote public confidence in the administration of justice and, in particular, the sentencing practices of Queensland courts. Sentencing will quite rightly always be a matter of significant public interest. Our courts are charged with the important task of acting on behalf of the community when sentencing those who have broken its laws. That task is often a difficult one, with judicial officers required by law to balance a number of competing considerations, just some of which are the need to punish an offender in a way that is just in all the circumstances; to fashion sentences that the court considers will help the offender to be rehabilitated; to deter the offender or other persons from committing the same or similar offence; and to make it clear that the community, acting through the court, denounces the sort of conduct in which the offender was involved.

Our system of justice requires that the power to review or challenge those decisions will always be carried out by appellate courts with no role for executive interference or influence in that process. As a government that understands and respects the doctrine of the separation of powers, we will never seek to breach that model.

However, this government believes that public confidence in sentencing will be greatly strengthened by the reinstatement of the Sentencing Advisory Council. We believe that sentencing policy can be enhanced and our criminal justice system strengthened by reinstating a body that combines independent research with the practical experience and expertise of its diverse membership.

I will turn to the specific functions of the council in due course, but first I will turn to the hardworking members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. Upon introduction the bill was referred to the committee for consideration and its report was tabled on 29 April 2016. I now table the government's response to the committee report.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 25—Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016, government response [\[762\]](#).

I thank the committee for its timely and detailed consideration of the bill. I would also like to thank those who made written submissions to assist the committee in its consideration of the bill, as well as all of those who contributed to the development of the bill in the earlier stages of this process. Whilst the committee was unable to reach an agreement on whether or not the bill should be passed, two recommendations were made for amendments to the bill. The Queensland government has accepted both recommendations.

Firstly, the committee recommended that an amendment be made to remove the word 'suffering' from the example provided in clause 5, proposed new section 201(3)(d), which relates to the appointment of council members. The council will comprise up to 12 members. In making recommendations to the Governor in Council for the appointment of council members I must be satisfied the proposed appointees have expertise or experience relevant to the functions of the council. Proposed new section 201(3) includes a new non-exhaustive list of relevant areas of expertise or experience relevant to the council. The list includes persons with experience or expertise in relation to vulnerable persons facing the criminal justice system. One of the examples of vulnerable persons set out in the bill is 'person suffering mental illness'.

The committee concluded that the use of the term 'suffering' was inappropriate in the context and recommended that the bill be amended to delete the word in proposed new section 201(3)(d) in favour of appropriate terminology. I will be moving an amendment to clause 5, proposed new section 201(3)(d), during consideration in detail of the bill to omit the word 'suffering' and instead provide the example as 'persons who have a mental illness'. This approach is consistent with the wording used in the Mental Health Act. I take this opportunity to thank Queensland Advocacy Incorporated for bringing this important matter to the committee's attention.

Secondly, the committee recommended that an amendment be made to clarify the operation of clause 5, proposed new section 203F(3), which provides how a presiding member for a council meeting will be selected if neither the chairperson or deputy chairperson is in attendance. I will be moving an amendment to clause 5, proposed new section 203F(3) during consideration in detail of the bill to clarify that in the absence of both the chairperson or deputy chairperson it is the members who are present at the council meeting who select a presiding member.

The committee report contains a comment made by the government members of the committee that the bill mandate at least one member of the council be a woman. This comment was not supported by the non-government members. The recommendation of members for appointment to the 12-member council is at the discretion of the Attorney-General and allows for as many women to be recommended for appointment based on experience and expertise as the Attorney-General sees fit. This government is committed to the Queensland Women's Strategy 2016-21 which includes a commitment to deliver on women's leadership initiatives, including to proactively increase the number of women on boards to achieve the government's 50 per cent target by 2020. While I appreciate the good intentions of the committee members in this regard, I fear that a target of one could grow to be seen as the standard or a limit rather than an absolute minimum of participation of women on the council. Far, far greater participation would and should be expected.

Upon passage of the bill I will be seeking expressions of interest for members of the council with the aim of the council being operational later this year. Information about how to submit an expression of interest will be placed on the Department of Justice and Attorney-General website and advertisements inviting expressions of interest will also be placed in newspapers around the state.

As some may recall, Queensland previously had a legislatively established sentencing advisory council which commenced operation in 2010. This valuable resource was lost when it was dissolved in 2012 by the former government. The bill provides a council that has been modelled on its predecessor which represented a comprehensive approach to the establishment of a sentencing advisory body. At the time of the dissolution of the 2010 council there was ongoing public support for its continuance and

praise for the work it had undertaken. I want to take a moment to quote a Queensland Law Society 22 May 2012 media release headed, 'Society opposes abolition of Sentencing Advisory Council'. It states—

Queensland Law Society is disappointed to learn of the Government's decision to disband the Sentencing Advisory Council.

The Sentencing Advisory Council is a useful channel for Queenslanders to be informed on sentencing trends.

The Council is an important public organ that serves essential public functions, in particular, the provision of information to the community to enhance knowledge and understanding of matters relating to sentencing; the publication of information relating to sentencing; the research of matters relating to sentencing; and publication of the research results.

Queensland Law Society President Dr John de Groot said that the Council's public education function means that the scope of the Council is broader than that of the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

'Queenslanders greatly benefit from the public education service provided, including newsletters and presentations,' Dr de Groot said.

'The Council has also been effective in its community consultations and has produced well balanced reports that feed into Government policy considerations.

'The Council has a diverse composition, including experts in law enforcement, criminal law and juvenile justice and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice issues and therefore has access to a range of views on sentencing policy matters.

'A properly established and functioning Council does contribute positively to the operation of the criminal justice system in Queensland and the Society would urge the Government to reconsider its decision.'

During its period of operation, the 2010 council reported on two terms of reference that had been issued by the then attorney-general and commenced work on a third terms of reference. The 2010 council undertook specialised research and statistical analysis on sentencing outcomes and published a range of information documents, including sentencing fact sheets and research papers. The 2010 council also hosted the first sentencing seminar series, as well as a national gathering of Australian sentencing advisory bodies.

This government has already committed to referring two sentencing matters to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council for consideration. The first of these matters is consideration of sentencing practices associated with domestic and family violence offences. The second matter is to review the system used to classify images of child exploitation material that is routinely used by the Queensland courts when sentencing offenders for offences involving child exploitation material.

I will also take this opportunity to address the utility of the council's proposed function to provide its views to the Court of Appeal if the court is considering giving or reviewing a guideline judgement. The council will be uniquely positioned to provide assistance to the court if requested should the court choose to exercise its judicial discretion to give or review a guideline judgement. Ultimately though the court must remain and must be seen to remain entirely independent of government and it is for that reason that the bill empowers the court to draw upon the council for submissions rather than requiring them to do so. During intensive consultation on the draft bill, legal stakeholders, including heads of jurisdiction, raised the significance of this distinction and that advice guided the government in arriving at this bill. May I remind those opposite that it is the role of the executive to provide the tools for the court to use but not dictate to the court when to use them.

As an independent, discrete authority with a dedicated focus on sentencing matters concerning adult and child offenders in Queensland's criminal justice system, the council will provide the conduit between the community, the judiciary and the lawmakers, as well as the means to educate and facilitate balanced and informed public debate on sentencing matters. The members of the council will bring the wealth of their own knowledge and experience to inform sentencing policy, as well as provide the general community with an accessible avenue in which they can contribute to sentencing policy development and reform.

A robust but fair sentencing regime is vital for creating a safe community for all Queenslanders. The community should have the opportunity to be properly informed about sentencing practices in Queensland and sentencing practices should be commensurate with community expectations. Through the establishment of this council, the government is giving Queenslanders greater access to sentencing information and a stronger voice in sentencing issues.

I advise the House that I will be moving an amendment to the bill that is not related to the establishment of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. The amendment to the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013 will postpone the commencement of schemes aimed at excluding participants in criminal organisations from working in certain licensed industries until 1 July 2017.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: These schemes were deferred once by the former attorney-general, who is interjecting at the moment, in 2014. In 2014 they were conveniently deferred until 1 July 2015, which was well past the then proposed election. I wonder why that would be? It might have something to do with the fact that they knew—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: Operation silence! He was allowed to come back into the chamber to do one thing, which was to move the postponement of this change. I suspect that the postponement had something to do with the fact that once they put it into legislation they realised how unworkable it actually was. In 2015 the provisions were further postponed by the Treasurer. As all sides of the House would know, these matters have been considered by the Task Force on Organised Crime Legislation and the deferral of commencement will allow the government to consider the task force's recommendations in this regard.

Mr Walker: You said things would stay the same until the legislation came in.

Mrs D'ATH: I will pick up on that interjection. The member for Mansfield said that I said things will remain the same. That is absolutely true. They will remain postponed. I thank the member for pointing that out. They were postponed by the former attorney-general, last year they were postponed by the Treasurer and they will remain postponed as a consequence of this amendment. I thank the member for Mansfield for pointing out the obvious, which is maintaining consistency and extending the postponement.

As I have said, when we consider the bill in detail I will move the amendment for the purpose of maintaining the status quo so that these provisions do not come into operation until the recommendations of the task force and any new legislation brought in have been considered. More than 100,000 licence and permit holders will be impacted if these amendments to the three acts are allowed to commence on 1 July 2015. Does the opposition want that on their head? If they want to talk about 100,000 jobs being impacted by a provision that they put into law, although they could not get it into operation and chose to postpone it themselves, let us have that discussion. I am happy to do that.

As I have said, the Sentencing Advisory Council legislation fulfils on election commitment and delivers on something that is supported across the legal sector. It is a good piece of law. We call on those opposite to support it. In the previous debate, I heard a criticism that this government seems to be reversing a lot of what the Newman government did. That is absolutely true. That is what we took to the election. That is what we promised the people of Queensland and, guess what? That is what the people of Queensland voted for! The Newman government did a lot of damage and we have spent the past 12-plus months fixing it. This is another example of that. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (5.04 pm): I rise to address the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill and the amendments foreshadowed firstly in this morning's *Courier-Mail* and now by the Attorney-General which delay furthering licensing requirements that would otherwise ensure that our building and construction trades are free of the influence of organised crime. This is a sad day for the parliament. Not only do we have a poor piece of primary legislation, once again tacked onto the back of it at short notice; we have a disgraceful bit of legislation that has nothing to do with the primary bill. This is an example of poor governance. I will come to the detail of that later. I will address my initial comments to the substantive bill and then to the amendments that the Attorney-General will move outside the long title of the bill.

As has been said, this bill highlights that the government has no plan for Queensland and is simply focused on undoing legislation and policy decisions of the previous LNP government. The reintroduction of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council will be at a \$1.8 million cost to the justice system in Queensland. The simple question is: is it worth it? We on this side of the House have the clear view that it is not worth it and I will explain why.

The Australian Labor Party is used to spending money and spending it at a great rate. In the federal election campaign, we see the old 'spend-o-meter' going around at a great rate. Once again, this government is putting on to the backs of Queensland taxpayers significant expenditure that could be better used in other ways. If there is \$1.8 million sitting in the Treasury ready to be spent, it could be much better spent within our justice system, where Legal Aid is crying out for support and community legal centres are crying out for support. Instead, because of an ideological commitment to reverse the

previous LNP government's position, this government will spend \$1.8 million of taxpayers' money, achieving nothing in return. This body is not a statutory body; it is merely an advisory body. The work that it would or could do is already being undertaken by bodies such as the Queensland Law Reform Commission and the minister's own Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

The functions of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council are stated in the explanatory notes of the bill. First, if requested by the Court of Appeal, the council is to state in writing to the court the QSAC's views on the giving or reviewing of a guideline judgement. In her introductory speech, the Attorney-General said that it is the executive's prerogative and duty to provide resources to the court, but not to direct the court in how it uses those resources. Let us test whether the court is interested in this resource. Let us look at the previous iteration of the council during the years 2015 to 2012. Do members know how many times the Court of Criminal Appeal asked for the opinion of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council? Exactly none! That is a test as to whether the court is in the least interested in what the Sentencing Advisory Council says about sentencing matters. The first function of the advisory council is to, if requested by the Court of Criminal Appeal, give an opinion. However, the Court of Criminal Appeal did not want its opinion when it was in existence previously, thank you very much.

Secondly, if requested by the Attorney-General, the council is to provide advice to the Attorney-General on matters relating to sentencing. This could be done at any time and does not need to be formulated through a standing body. The department and the Attorney regularly consult with key legal bodies such as the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association about matters related to the dispensing of justice in Queensland, including sentencing. There is absolutely no need for a \$1.8 million addition to the justice budget for the provision of that advice.

Thirdly, the council will provide information to the community on matters relating to sentencing to enhance community knowledge and understanding of sentencing matters. The LNP members of the committee dealt with this in their statement of reservation. Saying that you are going to educate the community about sentencing matters implies that there is a lack of community knowledge and understanding of those matters. The LNP and its members of the committee, as well as many members of the community do not accept that the public needs to be educated. In any case, I challenge anybody to show me how, during the years in which the Sentencing Advisory Council existed, any member of the community became better educated as a result of its existence. There was no substantial change in the community's knowledge or understanding of sentencing. That simply did not happen.

Fourthly, it is to publish information in relation to sentencing. Again, this is a task that could be undertaken by the department, the Law Reform Commission or the courts themselves in their annual reports. There is no need for \$1.8 million to be spent on a new council.

Fifthly, it is to research matters relating to sentencing and to publish the results of the research. Again, that research could be undertaken as a specific task rather than needing a standing body to undertake it. It also usurps and replicates a research role that is already undertaken by the Queensland Law Reform Commission.

Sixthly, it is to obtain the community's views on sentencing and matters relating to sentencing. There are already 89 people forming a committee to do that—and that is us. Our job as parliamentarians is to find out what people think about how the courts are reacting to sentencing and to bring that back to this House and to formulate laws accordingly. Again, there is no need for a separate body to do that that will cost the taxpayer \$1.8 million. We already do it and represent those views by bringing legislation through the parliament.

The LNP supports evidence based policymaking, but the creation of another bureaucracy to do this is unnecessary, not warranted and expensive. We note that a sentencing advisory council exists in other states. However, it would be difficult to attest that issues relating to sentencing, including education and research regarding penalties and sentences, are more advanced in those states than they are in Queensland. There is clearly not a discrepancy between the various jurisdictions in that regard.

The explanatory notes state that the council's establishment is part of a process to improve the effectiveness of sentencing practices in achieving the principles of sentencing: punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, community protection and denunciation. They also state that the intent is that QSAC would promote consistency in sentencing, stimulate balanced public debate on sentencing issues including reforms, and strengthen public confidence in the justice system by education and incorporating informed public opinion in the process.

These are lofty ideals, but, again, I challenge anybody to show me how this body had those effects in our community between 2010 and 2012, when the body operated. It simply did not. It does not have the ability to do so. It does not have the budget to do so. It can be easily replicated by other means. It does not effect the high and lofty ideals that the bill claims that it will.

As well as arguing that the education of the community is important, it is equally open to argue that the public interest in Queensland at the moment in ensuring that penalties and sentences are set as strong deterrents is high. That is a view that we will all be hearing from our constituents.

Rather than talking about penalties and sentences and setting up bureaucracies to deal with them, the LNP in government got on with the job of listening to the concerns of Queenslanders and making the improvements that were necessary. They include a long list: introducing mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years, known as the two-strikes policy; increasing the non-parole period for murder to 20 years; introducing a non-parole period of 25 years for the murder of a police officer; increasing the non-parole period for multiple murderers to 30 years; increasing the penalty for the serious assault of a police officer from seven years to 14 years imprisonment; introducing a minimum \$5,500 fine and two-year licence disqualification for evading police; passing laws to force criminals to explain how they acquired their wealth or otherwise face its confiscation—the unexplained wealth provisions; introducing drug trafficking declarations aimed at stripping convicted drug traffickers of their assets; introducing laws requiring drug traffickers to serve a mandatory 80 per cent of their sentence; increasing penalties for child exploitation material offences and other child sex offences and inserting a new offence of grooming into the Criminal Code; ensuring that the law keeps pace with emerging developments in the manufacture and supply of dangerous drugs, including synthetic drugs; creating a new offence of trafficking in precursors—the substances used to manufacture dangerous drugs; increasing the maximum penalty for supplying a dangerous drug to a child under 16 years—an offender becomes liable to a maximum penalty of 25 years to life imprisonment depending upon the type of drugs supplied; introducing the toughest anti-hooning laws in the nation, with cars clamped and off the road for a first offence and cars forfeited or crushed for any subsequent offence; cracking down on graffiti crime by mandating that offenders, both adult and children, remove their graffiti and increasing the maximum penalty for all graffiti crime from five to seven years imprisonment; enabling a victim to read their victim impact statement—a powerful thing to read before a sentencing court—if the victim so wishes and it is reasonable to do so in the circumstances; making it an offence to breach bail conditions that require a defendant to participate in a rehabilitative program; cracking down on members of organised crime groups through the strong antigang legislation; significantly strengthening the powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission to allow it to investigate criminal organisations and their participants; establishing a parliamentary Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee crime inquiry; introducing a new offence of serious animal cruelty into the Criminal Code, with a maximum penalty of seven years in jail; introducing amendments to ensure the maximum penalty for procuring a child or a person with a mental impairment for prostitution is increased from 14 years to 20 years imprisonment; and introducing amendments to allow the court to list a predator convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender.

That is not a list of how to create an airy-fairy committee at a cost of \$1.8 million to the taxpayer. It is a list of positive things that were done—actual actions rather than investigations. Again, this government, with its 84, 85 or 86 inquiries out there, is great at hitting the ground inquiring but not hitting the ground by acting and doing. That is what the LNP government did. The list I have just read shows how we took seriously the issues of penalties and sentences with real action, not setting up another bureaucracy at a cost to taxpayers.

I want to finally address the amendments that were foreshadowed in the *Courier-Mail* this morning about delaying the fit-and-proper test that was to apply to construction and trade licensing in Queensland from 1 July this year as part of the 2013 criminal gang laws that were introduced by the former LNP government. I want to make it clear that the community expected those laws to take effect on 1 July this year. That is what they expected. Surprise, surprise—we are not going to have that. Surprise, surprise—they were measures that were opposed by the unions.

At the time of their introduction John Battams, then president of the Queensland Council of Unions, called them too broad a brush for dealing with the problem of bkie gangs. The Electrical Trades Union was also particularly critical of the proposed licensing changes, claiming that they would imperil the employment prospects of innocent workers without criminal backgrounds. According to ETU State Secretary Peter Simpson, at least 50 members of the union could be unjustly affected by the new licensing requirements. 'It is manifestly unfair to pick on people because of who they hang around,' he said at the time the laws were introduced.

The simple fact is that if a person is not a member of a criminal gang then they have nothing to worry about in respect of these amendments. That is the simple truth. If one is not a member of a criminal gang they have nothing to worry about. We strongly oppose any further delay of these important reforms which will create further lawlessness in the construction industry in Queensland.

The reforms were previously held over until the findings of the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption were released. Those findings were both important and damning. The royal commission heard evidence that outlaw motorcycle gangs are utilised by the industry as debt collectors to bypass civil processes and that people are unwilling to report criminal activity in the construction industry because they are in fear of reprisal. One submission to the royal commission detailed a number of cases of alleged standover tactics employed by the union, including at least one incident in which two bikie gang members and others attended the home of a person who owed money to a building subcontractor.

Today's amendment is nothing more than this government's continued payback to the CFMEU for donations received, preselection votes promised and campaign support at the last state election. We know that this is a government of the unions, by union lackeys, for union bosses. We call on the Attorney-General to tell us the advice she received. We want to know what information she received from the Queensland Police Service about this further delay and its impact on their ability to tackle organised crime in this state. We call on the Attorney-General to advise the House whether she has consulted with the Crime and Corruption Commission about these amendments and the result of that consultation, if it was undertaken.

We know that Labor are soft on crime and they want to roll out the red carpet to criminal gangs. The actions today speak for themselves yet again. They ignore the continued advice of our two chief law enforcement agencies—the Queensland Police Service and the Crime and Corruption Commission. Let us look at what they had to say about Labor's plans. In a letter of 17 December 2015 to the Hon. Alan Wilson SC, the chairperson of the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation, the CCC chairperson, Alan MacSporran QC, said—

It is clear from the recent developments that several clubs (including three of the major clubs) have been actively recruiting new members on the Gold Coast. The timing of the recruitment activities suggests that, following the change of government in January 2015, it is perceived by clubs that there is a softening of the stance against OMCG activity.

Haven't we seen today that that is exactly what is happening—a softening of the stance against OMCG activity? What was to come into effect on 1 July—strong regulation within the construction industry—has now been ditched. The advice of the QPS in relation to this issue from their submission to the Wilson task force review is—

In summary, the QPS considers that the legislation has generally been effective and has contributed to increased community confidence. The recent decision by the South Australian Government to introduce legislation into the Parliament which is consistent with the Queensland legislation, shows public confidence in this regard continues to grow.

The application of this legislation introduced by the former LNP government was based on advice from our chief law enforcement agencies and included weapons, liquor, security providers, tow truck and other occupational licences to rid these industries of the influence of organised crime—an appropriate and sensible thing for a government to do, yet this government is taking its foot off that exact pedal. The advice of our law enforcement agencies is clear. The submissions to the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption are damning, yet this government continues to bury its head in the sand as it continues on a path to weaken the strong stance taken against criminal gangs in Queensland. It is not just bikie gangs but all forms of organised crime.

The process we are talking about is quite simple. For those who rely on state government as part of their job, including the relevant building, trade and high-risk work licences, if you are a member of a criminal gang then the Queensland Police Service will not allow your licence to be processed. You will be issued with a show-cause notice at which stage a final determination can be made and that can be appealed to QCAT. For the vast majority of people who do the right thing, nothing will change at all. What is wrong with a government wanting to rid important industries in Queensland of criminal infiltration?

This is about disassociation and ridding these industries of the types of standover tactics that have been reported to the royal commission. I interpose that we have sought from this government a response to that royal commission which it has failed to give. We want nothing more than for these Queenslanders to get an honest job and we want the people who work in these industries to be free from fear of reprisal and intimidation.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Minister, I would like to hear the member, please.

Mr WALKER: Today's amendments, which, as I said, are nothing more than a payback to the union bosses who control this government, are a backflip from the Premier's comments on 5 April this year. On 5 April the Premier said—

I reassure Queenslanders the current laws will stay in place until the new regime is being enforced.

Part of that was an understanding that on 1 July these provisions would come in. That is what one would have expected from the Premier's statement—that things would stay in place and move forward as they had been planned to do unless and until this government brought its laws to this House, had them tested here and brought them into effect. Other than that, everyone expected that what was going to happen would happen.

Now we see the first chink in the armour, the beginning of a wind-back of these provisions. Here we have an Attorney-General bringing in provisions which start the wind-back of the LNP government's strong stand against criminal organisations. It is a disgrace to this House that a government is taking this attitude. We on this side will continue to stand up for the silent majority in this state because they want to live, work and raise their children in a community that is safer and protected by the police who are given the resources and the legislative tools to effectively do their job.

Before I finish, I want to make a quick but important point about process. The Premier promised to lead a government of consensus and consultation. Instead, it has been a government of bungles, review and political self-interest. How have the measures that are being put before us today, the postponement of these important provisions, been tested in the public domain? What consultation has taken place? What do we know of what the Queensland Police Service or the Crime and Corruption Commission think of this—those bodies that are important in protecting our community and keeping people safe? We know nothing. What do we know about what the committee thinks about this? We know nothing because nothing has been put to it. What do we know about what the community think? We know nothing because they have had no input into this. It is a high-handed government which has simply taken this course without any consultation publicly with any of the arms of government, without any reference to this House and without any reference to the people of Queensland.

Mr Seeney: Just like preferential voting.

Mr WALKER: Exactly, and that is a very good point. We saw 18 minutes notice for that change—again, another change tacked on by '18-minute Yvette', the rorter from Redcliffe. She tacked that on to a provision which once again had nothing to do with—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know that the member does not have much longer, but he is certainly no longer relevant to the amendment or the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I call the member.

Mr WALKER: I will stay relevant to the point. The point is about process and consultation with respect to this bill. That is an important point.

Mr Seeney: She's embarrassed.

Mr WALKER: She is embarrassed and she deserves to be—'18-minute Yvette', the rorter from Redcliffe. That was a dark day in her time as Attorney-General in this House whereby public consultation and the confidence in our voting system was turned on its head. Once again, we saw a provision that had nothing to do with the substantive bill added on without consultation. That is not the only example.

We saw an extension of the JP QCAT trial forgotten and then suddenly tacked on to the crime and corruption bill without going through a committee process. Now we see important changes to criminal gang reforms in Queensland tacked on to another bill. What on earth does watering down the bokie legislation have to do with a sentencing tribunal? We are debating today the provisions of the sentencing tribunal, and with less than 24 hours notice this Attorney-General introduces an important provision in relation to the safety of Queenslanders with no public consultation and tacks it on to the end of an irrelevant bill. It bypasses the committee review. It bypasses proper process. The first time Queenslanders will hear of this will be on the day it will happen, when they wake up and read it in the *Courier-Mail*. So much for consensus and consultation. So much for respecting the parliament, for respecting parliamentary committees, and for respecting proper process and all of those Fitzgerald principles that were signed up to so magnificently before the last election.

This shows a government that is lazy. It shows a government that is disorganised. It shows a government that is contemptuous of process. It shows a government that is asleep at the wheel. It is another example of shabby legislation and Queenslanders expect more from this Attorney-General. We on this side of the House oppose the bill and the foreshadowed amendments. We call on the crossbenchers who want to protect their communities from organised crime to do exactly the same.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (5.27 pm): Can I firstly congratulate you, Mr Deputy Speaker Millar, on your appointment to the esteemed position of temporary speaker in this chamber. I rise to speak in support of the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill and also the amendment moved by the Attorney-General this evening. The bill amends the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to establish the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. The bill sets out the QSAC's structure, function, membership arrangements and reporting requirements to ensure transparency, accountability and clarity in its role.

Some of the functions of the QSAC are to, if requested by the Court of Appeal, state in writing to the court the QSAC's views on the giving or reviewing of a guideline judgement; if requested by the Attorney-General, provide advice to the Attorney-General on matters relating to sentencing; provide information to the community on matters relating to sentencing to enhance community knowledge and understanding of sentencing matters; publish information relating to sentencing; research matters relating to sentencing and publish the results of the research; and obtain the community's views on sentencing and matters related to sentencing.

Turning to the membership composition of the council, the QSAC will comprise up to 12 statutory appointed members. The membership composition of the QSAC ensures broad based community representations from a range of persons with expertise or experience in areas relevant to the functions of the QSAC. The bill provides a non-exhaustive list of such areas.

To support an understanding of the issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contribute to their overrepresentation in the criminal justice system, the bill provides that at least one member of the QSAC will be an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander. Digressing slightly, last week this committee travelled to North Queensland to hear evidence about another bill. However, it certainly gained an appreciation of the importance of the need for representation in our legislation to support people in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Notwithstanding this requirement of mandating one member to be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, government members also proposed that the bill should ensure at least one woman is appointed to QSAC by introducing an amendment to proposed section 201 of the Penalties and Sentences Act, and the Attorney-General has covered that issue. Certainly our position on this side of the chamber is to ensure we have equal, if not fifty-fifty, representation of women appointed to boards and in our cabinet. We on this side of the chamber see the importance of having women involved in all aspects and ranks in our community.

This position was also supported by Soroptimist International Brisbane Inc. In their evidence, SIB suggested that consideration of women as a minority group affected by domestic and family violence and consideration and recognition of the increasing number of women in custody were grounds supporting this amendment. In addition, SIB submitted the rate at which women are being incarcerated in Australia has increased dramatically in the last 20 years. Reviewing data collected between 1995 and 2002, the ABS calculated that the female imprisonment rate has more than doubled—58 per cent—over those seven years.

Interestingly, the non-government members of the committee did not support the government members' suggestion that the bill mandate the appointment of at least one woman as a member of the council, believing that all appointments should be on the basis of merit and the unique qualifications and experience each member would bring.

Government members interjected.

Mr FURNER: I do not know what members opposite have against women, but we on this side of the chamber certainly support women.

The composition of QSAC ensures broad based community representation for a range of persons with expertise or experience in areas relevant to the function of QSAC, and the bill provides a non-exhaustive list of such areas. Where recommending a person to the Governor in Council, the Attorney-General must be satisfied the person has expertise or experience relevant to the functions of the council including, for example, in relation to the following: victims of crime, justice matters relating to Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islanders, justice matters relating to domestic and family violence,

vulnerable persons facing the criminal justice system, law enforcement, crime prevention, criminal prosecutions, criminal defence representation, civil liberties, corrective services including offender rehabilitation, juvenile justice matters, criminal justice policy and criminal law including sentencing and criminology.

The committee received four submissions and received a written briefing from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in March and April of this year. There are four sentencing advisory councils operating across Australia, located in Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia. When this bill is passed, we will be the fifth state providing the government and the wider community with a valuable and independent resource that has unique and dedicated functions specific to sentencing matters.

I thank the Attorney-General for supporting both recommendations of the committee. The committee, firstly, recommended that the bill be amended to delete the word 'suffering' in proposed section 201(3)(d) of the Penalties and Sentences Act and replace it with appropriate terminology. In their evidence, Queensland Advocacy Inc. suggested that proposed section 201(3)(d) includes unnecessary qualifiers and contestable value judgements that do not belong in legislation. They indicated that 'persons suffering mental illness' should be better framed as 'persons with mental illness' or 'persons who have suffered mental illness' or 'persons who have lived experience of mental illness'. 'Suffering' warrants pity, and being pitiable is not a sound foundation on which to build equitable relationships with other council members.

The second recommendation relates to presiding members of the QSAC meetings. Clause 5 of the bill inserts, inter alia, new section 203F into the Penalties and Sentences Act regarding who presides at the QSAC meetings. Pursuant to subsection (1), the chairperson presides at all QSAC meetings at which the chairperson is present. If the chairperson is absent from a meeting, the deputy chairperson presides. Subsection (3) states that if neither the chairperson nor the deputy chairperson is present at a meeting, a member of the council chosen by the members presides. Therefore, it is quite possible that the intended meaning of this provision is that a presiding member will be chosen from the members present at the meeting rather than by all members. On this current drafting, however, all members including absent members would be entitled to participate in choosing a member to preside over a meeting from which the chair and the deputy are absent. On that basis, in recommendation 2 the committee recommended that the bill be amended to insert the word 'present' in proposed new section 203F(3), such that the section reads—

If neither the chairperson nor deputy chairperson is present at a meeting, a member of the council chosen by the members present presides.

I want to turn very briefly to the other amendment that has been circulated in the chamber by the Attorney-General. As people would know, recently the task force handed down a proposal with respect to what the government is considering. The objective that is proposed in this amendment is to further postpone the commencement of parts 8, 14 and 24 of the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act until 1 July 2017. That is to allow the government to finalise its policy and its legislative response to the findings and also the recommendations of the task force to ensure that we have captured all the issues. We are not going to rush this. We are going to treat this with the respect that it deserves and with the commitment that this Labor government was elected to this House to display. We will make sure we do a thorough job, unlike those opposite. I commend the bill and the amendment to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (5.36 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Millar, I also say congratulations on your new role. I rise tonight to speak on the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016. I want to limit my comments to the late amendments to the bill that the Attorney-General has introduced in the last 24 hours. Specifically, I rise to speak against the deferral of amendments to the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013. If there was any further evidence that we on this side of the House needed about this Labor government going soft on crime, I cannot think of a better example. The original amendments that were to commence on 1 July this year were about excluding participants of criminal organisations from working in certain licensed occupations. How could anyone possibly argue against that particular amendment and why would the government defer it?

The former LNP government took a stand against criminal organisations and in particular criminal motorcycle gangs. We did that because the public of Queensland demanded that we do it. Let us just briefly go over again the circumstances that led to the laws that we brought in that were the toughest in this country—and we were proud they were the toughest in this country.

Mr Minnikin: Broadbeach.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Chatsworth. We will begin at Broadbeach. Families were out having dinner on the main street of Broadbeach when a brawl broke out between criminal motorcycle gangs, causing terror and trauma in those streets. Once the police came and in and made the necessary arrests, the next thing a posse arrived at the police station demanding that the people who had been arrested be released.

Mr Walker interjected.

Mr MANDER: That is exactly right. I will take that interjection from the shadow Attorney-General. They were demanding that the people who had just caused havoc be released. They were scenes like from the wild west. A couple of weeks later at a shopping centre on the Gold Coast there were shots fired in public and an innocent member of the public was shot and wounded. Somebody doing their shopping in a supermarket was wounded by a member of a criminal motorcycle gang.

These are the people who proudly say they are part of the one percenters—the one per cent of people who do not have to worry about the law—and the people of Queensland, particularly people on the Gold Coast, were demanding that we do something about it. The previous laws were not working. The previous laws were treating the symptoms; they were not getting to the core of the problem. We were not interested in controlling criminal motorcycle gangs; we were focusing on eliminating them—

Mr RYAN: I rise to a point of order. On the point of order of relevance, the member is clearly speaking to an amendment which is yet to be moved in the House. There is nothing in the bill which relates to criminal motorcycle gangs, and I wish to draw the member's attention to the standing orders on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! I call on the member to stay relevant.

Mr MANDER: We were not interested in controlling criminal motorcycle gangs; we were focusing on eliminating them, and that is why we brought in the toughest laws in the country. Yes, they were tough, but they needed to be tough in order to rid ourselves of the scourge of criminal motorcycle gangs. The *Courier-Mail* at the time said that these were extraordinary laws for extraordinary circumstances, and they definitely were extraordinary circumstances.

What were the results of the laws that we brought in? The results were clear for everyone to see. Criminal motorcycle clubs were closed. I know that I had one in my electorate in the suburbs of north-west Brisbane, and people were glad to see them gone. Hundreds of motorcycle gang members from all around the country were going through the suburbs of Everton Hills and Everton Park. Gangs stopped coming to Queensland because they were scared off by these laws, and that is exactly what they were meant to do. They were meant to be a deterrent.

What were the other positive results? Small businesses had the confidence to speak out about extortion rackets right across the Gold Coast and the state because they knew that the state would back them and they knew that the police now had the resources to address these particular issues.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The amendment that has been foreshadowed by the Attorney-General relates to a law that is not in force and does not exist. I ask for you to provide guidance to the member for Everton to ensure that he speaks to matters that are before the House rather than the enforcement of a range of laws that are not being debated before the House, which are those matters that he is referring to.

Mr SEENEY: Not only is the government trying to introduce an amendment without consultation but they are trying to introduce it without debate in this parliament. Of course it is relevant to the legislation, and for the government to try and avoid debate in the parliament is an indication of their embarrassment. There is no point of order and you should rule accordingly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There is no point of order.

Mr MANDER: Thank you for your ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker. One of the other great outcomes of the tough laws that this government brought in is that families once again, particularly on the Gold Coast, felt safe to take their children out to a restaurant without the fear of some brawling bikies coming in to disrupt them and cause danger. The message was clear from this government that we would not tolerate criminal motorcycle gangs, and our laws showed that.

Relating to the issue we are discussing now, the work that we started was not completed. We had to eliminate these gangs from every influence that they have in society. Every bit of intelligence that we received from law enforcement agencies told us that bikies had infiltrated a whole range of

sectors, so we needed to look at areas like tattoo parlours to make sure that they were licensed so that criminal motorcycle gangs did not have undue influence in those areas. Then we come to the influence that they had in the building and construction industry and the electrical sector, and the member for Mansfield has already outlined that extremely well. It was a known fact that criminal motorcycle gangs were being used as enforcers in these sectors, and ordinary working people were too frightened to speak out against union thuggery because they were using these criminal elements to enforce that type of thuggery in those sectors.

This bill was about not only criminal organisation disruption but also elimination. With the rhetoric that is coming from across the chamber, it is now apparent that the doors are open again for criminal motorcycle gangs. They now feel free to come back to assemble and resume operations as normal.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr MANDER: Absolutely. We are unashamedly against criminal motorcycle gangs. We are proud of the laws that we introduced and the people of Queensland, particularly the people of the Gold Coast, do not want to see any weakening of these laws whatsoever. I strongly speak against this bill and specifically these amendments that the Attorney-General has brought in at the last moment.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.46 pm): Today I rise in support of the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BROWN: I am one of those Laming's or lemmings. I would like to thank the committee and my committee members and especially the member for Ferny Grove for his chairing role. I would also like to thank the secretariat for the work that they have done for this report.

The previous government did a lot to tinker with law and order in our state. They made a big show of how tough they were, and they got good headlines with tales of prisoners dressed in pink and bike riders wearing *Sons of Anarchy* T-shirts being pulled over. It certainly was the making of the career of the member for Kawana—so much so that, after being the minister for justice and the shadow minister for police, his success in law and order matters has seen him now moved as far away from law and order as possible with his new portfolio.

The current government's work continues to unravel the legislative adventures of the previous government, one of which was the dissolution of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, or QSAC. The council's role is to be a resource for the judiciary and the community, to provide novel focus on sentencing reform and to have a committed community education and engagement focus. The council's role is not to be a headline-grabbing stunt but to actually do the hard work that is required to reduce crime rates and address the causes of crime in the community. In doing this the council will give its views to the Court of Appeal and the Attorney-General if requested when giving or reviewing a guideline judgement. The QSAC has a community education role and will research and publish information on sentencing matters to enhance community knowledge and understanding but, more importantly, it will also work to obtain the community's views on sentencing and matters relating to sentencing. This is a valuable role and, given the widespread misunderstanding in our community about the way the judiciary works and its interaction with political and legislative processes, I am certain that QSAC will provide great value and is a worthy investment. Given some of the things that the judiciary have reported during his time as the state attorney-general, the member for Kawana may benefit from availing himself of the services of this new council.

It has been brought to my attention by the member for Chatsworth that there may be a need for me to clarify something in my contribution to the Retail Shop Leases Amendment Bill on 10 May. In my speech I said that I have seen the member for Chatsworth in his consultancy role at Capalaba Park once; however, in the future I would like to see the member for Chatsworth a lot more outside of his marginal seat down at Capalaba in his consultancy role. In fact, after the next election he will be doing it full time. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.49 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill. Mr Deputy Speaker Millar, at the outset I join my colleagues in congratulating you on your appointment to the temporary speakers panel. I know that it is a role you will execute with absolute aplomb.

I join my colleagues on this side of the House in opposing not only the bill that is before the House—the substantive bill that the committee actually had a chance to consider—but also the amendment, of which we did get about 24 hours notice. I read about it in the *Courier-Mail* this morning.

It was certainly nice to get at least a couple of hours notice. I am sure that my good friend and colleague the shadow Attorney-General would agree with me that it was nice to get slightly more than 18 minutes notice this time. At the very least, in the Attorney-General's favour, she did not introduce an amendment with very little notice on the same day that the Premier said that 'consultation with committees was one of the most important things and that is why I am introducing a bill to amend the Constitution'.

As I said, I will be opposing this bill. I acknowledge the contribution of my fellow members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and thank the secretariat for the work they did. Unfortunately, I have moved on to a different committee. I am sure that the chair, the member for Ferny Grove, will very much miss the contribution I made to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. In particular, I am fairly sure that the member for Ferny Grove will most miss my red pen. I know that is something he was particularly fond of.

What we have seen continuously from this government is an attempt to 'de-Newman-ise' everything in this state. What the government fails to realise is that more Queenslanders voted for us than voted for it. Clearly, its attempt to 'de-Newman-ise' everything is actually a slap in the face of the people of Queensland, who overwhelmingly in 2012 put their trust and faith in us and who again in 2015 voted for us more than they voted for the Labor Party. That is something the Labor Party never wants to acknowledge in this House, because it does not want to admit that it does not have a mandate from the people of Queensland to 'de-Newman-ise' the state of Queensland.

What those opposite do not want to admit is that they are very, very wrong about many of the things they seek to do. When they say that they are doing so with the support of and after consultation with Queenslanders, we know that, simply by the fact that they have not given Queenslanders an opportunity to comment on some of the very many significant reforms they have put through this House—such as how people vote in this state or whether we should weaken our stance on criminal motorcycle gangs and organised crime in this state—it is absolutely a slap in the face of the people of Queensland.

I have a number of issues with the Sentencing Advisory Council bill. First and foremost is the fact that, given that between 2010 and 2012 the former iteration of the Sentencing Advisory Council was not used once, it is absolutely a waste of \$1.8 million. I can think of much better things that this Attorney-General could be doing with \$1.8 million a year. For example, the Attorney-General could make a contribution towards the Robina Community Legal Centre, because apparently a city the size of the Gold Coast—the sixth largest city in the country—does not need two funded community legal centres.

What we see time and time again is the Labor Party failing to use Queensland taxpayers' money in a sound and efficient way. This is another prime example of that. Perhaps that \$1.8 million per annum could be contributed to Legal Aid or the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. There could be other mechanisms within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General rather than having just another advisory body that has no power to actually change anything. Just occasionally, maybe it will be asked its opinion on something but it has no binding force on the Court of Appeal in the first place.

We have seen—it has been noted in the report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee—that this is modelled on the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council. What the non-government members address in their statement of reservation is the fact that, I think in its entire iteration, the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council has been used maybe twice. When the model this is based on has been hardly ever used and the previous iteration of this exact same body was not used in a two-year period before its abolition, one really must wonder why we are wasting not only our time but also the \$1.8 million, which I think could be used in a much better way.

Mr Stevens: Health.

Miss BARTON: We could be using it to pay the nurses that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition today pointed out we are not even paying.

Mr Crandon: Additional police on the northern Gold Coast.

Miss BARTON: We could be using it to put extra police on the northern Gold Coast, as my good friend and neighbour the member for Coomera has pointed out. There are many things we could be using this \$1.8 million for.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to hear the member, please.

An honourable member: Very interesting!

Miss BARTON: It is a great contribution, Mr Deputy Speaker. What we have seen time and time again is the Labor government in this state not only ignoring the wishes of the people of Queensland but also wasting \$1.8 million while slapping the faces of the people of Queensland by not even giving them what they want.

What really gets my goat about what we are discussing today is the Labor government again proving that it is weak on crime. What it is again doing is rolling out the red carpet to organised crime in this state. What we have seen is the organised crime and trade union royal commissions identify very serious concerns. What we do have is a government that is ruled and controlled by unions. The shadow Attorney-General himself said that this is a government of the unions by the unions for the unions. This is not a government that cares about the wants of the people of Queensland. If it did, it would be saying to the people of the Gold Coast, 'Absolutely we understand your concerns about organised crime.' We would not be rolling out the red carpet to organised crime, in particular criminal motorcycle gangs on the Gold Coast.

The shadow police minister and member for Everton touched on the experience we had on the Gold Coast before the very tough laws we introduced. He spoke about the fact that there were people on the Gold Coast who feared for their safety. He spoke about the fact that criminal motorcycle gangs in this state thought it was okay to rock up to the Southport Police Station and demand that people who had been arrested and were accused of committing crimes in this state be released. It is an absolute disgrace that we have in this state a government that simply wants to go weak at the knees when it comes to tackling organised crime, that wants to roll out the red carpet for organised crime in this state.

What I find particularly galling is that we have seen time and time again, particularly from the trade union royal commission, reports about corruption within the CFMEU. We have seen consistent reports of corruption within the union movement. The Labor government does not care, because what it cares about more is making sure organisations like the CFMEU pay their dues and contribute to election campaigns. That is what it is about for this Labor government. As I said, it is ruled by unions and for unions. It does not care about what the people of the Gold Coast want. It does not care about what the people on the north side of Brisbane want when it comes to making sure that the criminal motorcycle gang clubhouse that was there does not reopen.

We have seen time and time again evidence, ahead of not only this parliament but ahead of the trade union royal commission, about the absolute contempt the CFMEU has for not only the people of Queensland but also the people of Australia. This government absolutely ignores that. It does not seem to care about corruption in union ranks. It cares about making sure the unions in this state have power. That is why all it ever does is meet with unions. That is why all it ever does is union bidding. It is only concerned about what its mates want—whether it is jobs for the boys, whether it is making sure that the CFMEU is given an opportunity in this state—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater, I know that you are on a roll, but could you please move that the debate be adjourned.

Debate, on motion of Miss Barton, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports and Reporting Dates

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.59 pm): I seek to 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 194B that Auditor-General report to parliament No. 17 of 2015-16, *Results of audit: local government entities 2014-15*, be referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee and Auditor-General report to parliament No. 18 of 2015-16, *Results of audit: education sector entities 2015*, be referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee.

The committee has also resolved pursuant to standing order 194B to vary the committee responsible for the consideration of Auditor-General report to parliament No. 7 of 2012-13, *Results of audit: Queensland state government financial statements 2011-12*; report to parliament No. 11 of 2013-14, *Results of audits: state public sector entities for 2012-13*; report to parliament No. 12 of 2013-14, *Results of audit: Queensland state government financial statements 2012-13*; report to

parliament No. 4 of 2014-15, *Results of audit: state public sector entities for 2013-14*; report to parliament No. 6 of 2014-15, *Results of audit: public non-financial corporations*; and report to parliament No. 7 of 2014-15, *Results of audit: Queensland state government financial statements 2013-14*, from the Finance and Administration Committee to the Transportation and Utilities Committee.

The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136 that the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee report on the Education and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 by 2 August 2016 and that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Australian Crime Commission (Queensland) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 by 2 August 2016 and the Public Safety Business Agency and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 by 2 August 2016.

Reporting Date

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.01 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding any previous order under the provisions of standing order 136, the Committee of the Legislative Assembly report to the House on the Constitution of Queensland and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 15 August 2016.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Vehicle Registration

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.02 pm): I move—

That this House directs the state government to ensure registration fees for the family motor vehicle do not increase by more than the consumer price index in the forthcoming financial year.

If we needed more proof that this Palaszczuk Labor government is asleep at the wheel, that it is captured by a handout mentality—be it from the federal Turnbull government or from the Queensland taxpayer—and that it misled Queenslanders in the lead-up to the last election in saying it could deliver key infrastructure without selling assets, without raising taxes and without cutting services, then this evening this registration rise of 3½ per cent is it. This is a government incapable of preventing Queensland families from being slugged by another 3½ per cent increase in their registration costs. Why should we be surprised though? The reality is that Labor governments have form when it comes to jacking up the cost of the family car registration year in, year out. If we look at the last four years under premier Anna Bligh, what did we see? We saw a 30 per cent increase in the registration cost of the family vehicle, which is why in the lead-up to the 2012 election the then Newman LNP opposition committed to freezing registration on the family vehicle for the length of our term, and once in government that is what we delivered. That was why at the end of our term in government—2014-15—the cost of registering a four-cylinder family vehicle sat at \$280.05, a six-cylinder family vehicle at \$443.45 and an eight-cylinder vehicle at \$620.95.

Queenslanders need to understand that the consumer price index, the CPI, currently sits for Brisbane at 1.7 per cent. Last year in the Palaszczuk Labor government budget and this year again in the lead-up to the second Palaszczuk Labor government budget, Queenslanders have been slugged with registration increases more than double CPI. What does that mean? For a four-cylinder vehicle it has gone from \$280 to \$300.10, a rise of more than \$20 in just two years; for a six-cylinder vehicle it has gone to \$475.05, which is a rise of \$30 over two years; and for an eight-cylinder vehicle it has gone to \$665.20, a rise of nearly \$45 over two years. Queenslanders are sick and tired of Annastacia Palaszczuk and the Labor Party treating motorists as cash cows. Under Labor Queensland became the most expensive state to own and operate a vehicle, and it is heading that way again under Premier Palaszczuk.

Before the Treasurer claims that he was captured by projections put in place by the former LNP government, let me put paid to that. It is correct that at the time the LNP government passed a regulation that would see fees rise by 3½ per cent, but that was when the CPI was around the three per cent mark. The LNP would never allow such a disparity to continue—never allow such a disparity to continue. We did not in 2012 and we will not now, and that is why we will cap registration on family vehicles to CPI and it is why we are calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to do exactly the same. If the Treasurer

needs help, it is simple: it is called an ECM, an Executive Council minute. Hang on: those opposite do know how to use those, because they had to use one of those to appoint Peter Beattie as the chair of Goldco! It is something that the Treasurer knows how to use and all it takes is for the Treasurer to direct his department to change that fee increase from 3½ per cent to 1.7 per cent. This government is asleep at the wheel, treating motorists as cash cows. The LNP will ease the cost-of-living pressure on Queenslanders. We are calling on the Palaszczuk Labor government to do the same.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (6.07 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Glass House and the opposition. The former government not only planned to introduce the rego increase from 1 July; it factored it into its midyear fiscal and economic review released in December 2014.

Mr Seeney: That's not true.

Mr PITT: It is not true? I will table last year's midyear review. I table page 25 for the benefit of the member for Callide.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'LNP's Mid Year Review, page 25' [763].

Table 18 on that page very clearly shows revenue from registration increasing by 3.5 per cent plus a volume growth assumption of more cars on the road. Last year those opposite tried to rewrite history by claiming that the LNP was planning to continue with a freeze on rego. Wrong! Now those opposite are claiming that they want to link it to the consumer price index. They cannot make up their minds. They have had as many positions on this as they have had leaders in the last three years!

Let us be clear: the rego freeze was only intended to be for three years. The LNP had no plans to continue it. The budget documents say so. Neither side of politics went to the election promising a freeze on registration prices in Queensland. It is absolutely mischievous and ultimately hypocritical for the LNP to suggest otherwise. During this term we have introduced new payment schemes, including the option to pay every three months. This new payment scheme is one way that we are offering families options to manage their household budgets. We all know the record of the LNP on cost-of-living expenses in Queensland: power bills went through the roof—a whopping \$440 increase on the average bill when they promised they were going to save Queenslanders \$120 a year. Have mercy! Queensland's electricity prices went from well below the national average to well above it.

Under the member for Clayfield, we saw unemployment go through the roof. The LNP has no budgetary plans other than selling assets. It now has 'Mr Strong Choices' back in charge and he wants to get back on this side of the House and in charge of the books. We all know his go-to strategy of selling everything.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr PITT: He wants to get everything off the books. That is his strategy. Those opposite continue to tell the media that they need to get asset sales up in the future but, as was reported in the *Australian* earlier this month, all they need is a 'succinct and clearer campaign'. We know that the Leader of the Opposition wants to sell 49 per cent of Powerlink. He has been backgrounding journalists on that too.

It is time for the Leader of the Opposition to come clean and tell Queenslanders of his plans in terms of selling assets. Today we saw a remarkable reveal. Prior to the leadership spill, the member for Clayfield told the media that asset sales would not be back on the agenda if he became leader. On 6 May the member for Clayfield told the media—

... the people of Queensland have spoken.

I have accepted that resolution.

Yet today, when pressed on asset sales, the member for Clayfield told the media, 'We'll be making our position known in due course.' Why did he not just say what he said on 6 May? It is a modern-day LNP equivalent of 'Don't you worry about that.'

I say to the Leader of the Opposition that there is no time like the present to come clean. Would the member for Everton's backers have voted against Lawrence Springborg if they had known of the turncoat politics that the member for Clayfield was about to play? The time for the Leader of the Opposition to come clean with Queenslanders is now, not 'in due course'.

We oppose this motion. I reiterate that, in the recent federal budget, Scott Morrison did not talk about Queensland. Of course, after that, during the federal election campaign we have seen this exercise of potentially pork-barrelling. Maybe those opposite taught the federal coalition the way to do it? I do not know. Those opposite are making—

Mr Emerson interjected.

Mr PITT: The member for Indooroopilly should listen. He might learn something. We know that he still has his training wheels on. The LNP is making a mockery of the preparation of budget papers. They are making a mockery—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr PITT: They should pay attention. The members opposite are making a mockery of the presentation of the Midyear Fiscal and Economic Review documents, which show clearly, as I tabled, that that increase was built into their forward estimates. That was not done by accident. You do not suddenly stumble into a room and say, 'Oops, a 3½ per cent indexation policy. Where did that come from?' That does not happen. That was a deliberate act. The members opposite knew very well that they were not promising that at the last election campaign. Of course, now they are trying to rewrite history.

That is typical of those opposite, particularly the member for Clayfield, who campaigned against asset sales in the 2012 election. Then they spent three years telling people that they had to sell assets. Then they say, 'We don't need to do that. The people have spoken. We accept the resolution.' Today, we have heard it again. The member for Clayfield is not coming clean. Now it is, 'We will give our position on asset sales in due course.' That is the modus operandi of those opposite. That is what they do. Shamefully, they come in here and try to pull the wool over Queenslanders' eyes yet again. Queenslanders are not having any of it.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (6.12 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister, the member for Glass House. The LNP understands that any increase to motor vehicle registration is a direct hit to the hip pocket of Queenslanders, who are already struggling under this do-nothing, asleep-at-the-wheel Queensland Labor government.

It was the former LNP government in its term that froze motor vehicle registration costs for family vehicles. As soon as this accidental Labor government stepped in, it moved immediately to increase car registration costs for Queensland families by twice the rate of inflation. Not only did the former LNP government during its term freeze registration, as has been noted by the shadow minister, it guaranteed that registration for family cars would not rise by more than the inflation rate during the first term of an LNP government.

If it is not already hard enough for Queensland families who are struggling to make ends meet owing to the inability of this Labor government to keep Queensland's economy growing and progressing, we see the pain for families deepen as Labor continues to treat Queenslanders as cash cows. It is ironic that this government is spruiking that it is here for all Queenslanders, especially the battlers, when this increase will hit hardest those who can least afford it, namely, the mums and dads of Queensland.

The Treasurer is clearly out of his depth. The Treasurer spoke about stumbling. He stepped into the Treasurer's role by accident, with no plan and no understanding. He has continued to stumble and fumble throughout this term. Queensland has a Treasurer who is showing that he has no idea about raising revenue, except by breaking the trust of Queenslanders through stealing their hard-earned superannuation and smashing their hip pocket through increasing government taxes and fees. I say to the Treasurer that this Labor government's inaction and inability is causing the Queensland economy to stall and Queenslanders' jobs to disappear.

This government is no different from every previous Labor-union government that has plagued Queensland. No sooner are they elected, they commence accruing debt at a rate of knots and have no idea how to service it. The end is always the same result. Queensland families are financially penalised for the Labor government's economic failings, being purged at every available opportunity to pay for their spiralling debt and continuing mismanagement. The travesty of this inherent trait of Labor is that we are fast approaching a time when the public debt level of the Queensland economy will pass the point at which we will be unable to recover.

It was about this time last year when Labor first announced that it was going to slug Queensland families by increasing the cost of car registration by twice the rate of inflation. At that time, I took to the streets of the Gaven electorate and spoke with local residents and businesses about what this price slug will have on their lives.

Mr Costigan: What did they tell you?

Mr CRAMP: I can tell the member for Whitsunday that the local residents I spoke to were absolutely united against any such price increases. However, it was the local business community that were absolutely against any such price hike. I say to the Treasurer that the business community will suffer greatly as a result of the increase in registration, as will Queensland's wider economy.

I need all the members of the government to listen closely, because this is economics 101. I say to them to get out their butcher's paper and crayons. Not only are our local small businesses some of the very people who will be directly and immediately affected by being forced to pay more for their registration as a result of this increase but also they will continue to be affected as their customers, who, as a result of having less money owing to these excessive registration costs, will subsequently have to tighten their belts as they will no longer be able to afford to purchase as much as they used to. In turn, that belt tightening puts pressure on employment, as businesses earn less revenue, which therefore makes it harder for businesses to keep staff. That is when the unemployment rate goes up. I am not going to explain it any further, because Labor is expert in how to increase unemployment.

Mr Costigan: Gold medallists.

Mr CRAMP: I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. They are absolutely gold medallists. It would be the minimum expectation that any increase in registration costs will be directly funnelled back into maintaining roads. However, the main roads minister, Mark Bailey, stated, 'There has never been a direct linkage between registration and road expenditure.' When we have an M1 in the south-east that is already at capacity, it seems ludicrous that the government would raise the cost of registration just to contribute to its spiralling debt bill.

During its term, the former Newman LNP government froze registration costs. That was a fantastic result for all Queenslanders. The least that this Labor government could do is to match the guarantee of the former LNP government and only raise car registration no more than the increase in the rate of inflation.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (6.17 pm): It is always good for us to have some things in life that are predictable, and if there is one thing that is always predictable about those opposite it is that they will never let—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members will be warned. I cannot hear the contribution of the member for Bulimba.

Ms FARMER: Thank you, Mr Speaker. If there is one thing that is always predictable, it is that the members opposite will never let the facts get in the way of a good story.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are now warned under standing order 253A.

Ms FARMER: The one thing that is always predictable is that the LNP members will never let the facts get in the way of a good story. If they are going to wreak havoc and create stress for some good, innocent people along the way, they will not care. This morning, they were trying to set fear into the hearts of nurses in this state—the same nursers for whom they would not guarantee a minimum nurse-to-patient ratio in the last sitting. They were trying to scare them into thinking that there was a huge payroll crisis looming. The health minister was able to put us straight and say that, in fact, the issue that was raised was about the manual processing of a small number of forms from the Health Contact Centre that had not been included in the pay run.

The LNP members wanted to set fear in the hearts of public servants by somehow suggesting that there were going to be no funds to support their superannuation payouts. In fact, as was explained by the Treasurer, there was a consideration, acting on the advice of the State Actuary, to take a portion of the substantial surplus from the defined benefit fund to fund the very infrastructure that those opposite are always saying to us that we need to be funding in this state.

Tonight, we hear from those opposite another attempt at rewriting history and somehow a pretence that we are not following exactly the budget and the regulation that they set down in their own budgets. Let us be clear: the Palaszczuk government went to the election with a commitment that we would not increase taxes beyond the level already set by the previous government—and we have not. The Newman government never intended to continue with the registration freeze, as the member for Clayfield said in the budget released in June 2014. The new opposition leader frontloaded the Treasurer's indexation policy into the forward estimates in budget paper No. 2. The member for Clayfield not only factored in the change to registration in his budget, he repeated it in his midyear review released on 18 December 2014 just weeks before the election. You do not hear from those

opposite that this is something that they had set in place. They want to look like they are taking the high moral ground, just like they did before the 2012 election when they promised Queenslanders that they were not ever going to increase electricity prices but, quick as a flash, those very mums and dads they are talking about today suffered a \$440 increase in the time that they were in government.

They were not only dishonest about their intentions, they are sloppy about the fact that this is pretty much the same debate that they raised in a disallowance motion last year. I think it must be their pre budget trick, but let us hope they come up with a new one next year. This had been something they had planned for anyway, but they are trying to dupe Queenslanders again by promising that they have some wonderful solution in sight just like they did before 2012 when, in fact, we do not know what their plans are. We do not know how they are going to fund any of this infrastructure. The opposition leader, when he was elected into his position, said, 'We have heard Queenslanders. There are going to be no asset sales,' but now he is saying to us, 'Well, maybe. We have just got to see. You will find out.' We know that not increasing registration fees would see the state forego an estimated \$51.8 million in revenue and an estimated \$580 million less funding frozen out of spending.

I would like to point out the list of projects that the member for Glass House, who started this debate, is fighting for. My goodness, there are so many things we need to fund: speed reduction on the D'Aguilar Highway, a pedestrian crossing and roundabout in Montville, upgrades to the Conondale pool, a new aquatic centre in Maleny and more. He is fighting for so many things, but where is he going to get the money? Come clean, members of the opposition!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Whitsunday, I cannot hear the member speaking. You are warned under standing order 253A. Member for Mudgeeraba, you have not stopped talking during the contribution of the member. If you persist you will be warned under 252.

Ms FARMER: I would like those opposite to come clean. In their press releases they all have projects they want but there is nothing about where they are going to get the money from and what they will really do if they are elected.

(Time expired)

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (6.23 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the shadow minister. It was extraordinary to hear the member for Bulimba start her contribution by saying that it is good to have some things in life that are predictable. There is nothing more predictable than that Labor will put up registration by twice the inflation rate. Today we have had confirmed the two central planks of the latest Palaszczuk government budget: one is to raid super and the other is to rip off motorists with rego. Today we heard that this is not a raid; it is a repatriation of funds. Tonight across Queensland crooks are in courtrooms telling the judge, 'Judge, I didn't steal; I repatriated.' The late Ronnie Biggs was not a great train robber; he was a great train repatriator. That is the fiscal incompetence we see from this Treasurer.

This government is increasing rego twice the inflation rate. They did it in their first budget and they are doing it again. The inflation rate in Brisbane is 1.7 per cent. In the last quarter it was zero. Every Queenslanders who owns a car will suffer because of what this government is doing. It is a return to the bad old days of Labor. Let us not forget what they did when they were in office last time. They put car rego up 30 per cent in four years. The RACQ declared that Queensland was the most expensive place to own and run a motor vehicle. Motorists are being made cash cows by this government with rego going up by twice the inflation rate.

Not everyone on the government's side supports that policy. I had a look back to see what the Deputy Premier told the *Brisbane Times* about a year ago when she was asked about the rego increase. She said—

What we do ensure is that registration fees are pegged to the GIP (Government Indexation Policy) so they are in step with wage and prices increases and not beyond that.

The Deputy Premier told the *Brisbane Times* that rego should only go up as much as prices. Prices are going up by CPI. The CPI is 1.7 per cent. This government is putting rego up by 3.5 per cent, which is twice the inflation rate.

Tonight we are having confirmed two central planks of this government's budget. First there is the raid and then there is the rego rip-off. They are the two ideas that this government has—they are the only ideas that this government has. Every public servant should be concerned because the economic denier, the Labor Treasurer, will raid their super. Every motorist across Queensland should be concerned, particularly those in rural and regional Queensland where alternative public transport

may not be easily available, because they will be paying twice the CPI. They have used motorists as cash cows. They have made Queensland the most expensive place to own and run a motor vehicle. They did it when they were last in office. We are back to the bad old days of Labor. They are putting rego up twice the inflation rate. I urge colleagues to support the motion of the shadow minister. Stop this increase to rego; stop treating motorists as cash cows.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Minister for Main Roads, Treasurer, I put you on notice. If you persist with your interjections you will be warned.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.28 pm): What we are seeing here today is a desperate attempt by an opposition to re-establish any credibility at all when it comes to the cost of living. But the facts betray them; we know what their record is: 43 per cent electricity price increases and the highest level of unemployment in 11 years under Tim Nicholls as Treasurer. We are seeing a desperate attempt by the opposition to re-establish credibility despite the facts.

Let us look at the facts. Those opposite wax lyrical and rail against the indexation decision in this budget, but where did it come from? It was in their last budget! Not only was it in their last budget, it was in their last midyear economic review as well. There are two different documents from the last six months of the Newman government that outline their policy of a 3.5 per cent increase over the forward estimates. It is in black and white. Let me quote from the Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review 2014 under Tim Nicholls as treasurer, page 25: motor vehicle registration for 2015-16 up to \$1.65 billion; up to \$1.72 billion the year after; and in 2017-18 up to \$1.8 billion. That is the policy of the previous LNP government in black and white. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled '6. Taxation and royalty revenue and assumptions' [764].

In their last budget document, at page 57, they said the same thing. For 2014-15 under 'vehicle registration' we see \$542 million, \$570 million and \$598 million. There it is in black and white. I also table that document.

Tabled paper: Extract from State Budget 2014-15: Budget Strategy and Outlook—Budget Paper No. 2, page 57 [765].

The truth is revealed in their own budget document on page 61, where they allege that there would be no increase in registration fees for private vehicles during 'this term of government', that is, the Newman government. The truth is that this is a policy established by the Newman government. It is a policy we have decided not to adjust. It is an LNP policy. They can try to squirm away from it all they want, but it started with them. That is the truth.

Their problem is that in the community they have no credibility whatsoever on cost-of-living issues. People remember Queensland having the highest level of unemployment in 11 years under Tim Nicholls. The LNP ignores the fact that under their government compulsory third party car insurance went up 80 per cent. It went from five per cent to nine per cent. They do not mention that about their record. It is probably another reason why they are in opposition.

If only they had concentrated on spending money on roads, rather than privatisation and contestability, we would all be better off in Queensland. The member for Indooroopilly had a secret branch for contestability and privatisation in Transport and Main Roads. He spent \$30 million, which is documented, that could have been spent on Queensland's roads. He appointed Michael Caltabiano as the director-general of Transport and Main Roads. The opposition are going to have to come up with some policy, rather than four-word phrases. If they think four-word phrases will get them across the line, they will be on the opposition side for a long time.

Let us look at the annual costs of motoring. The opposition's allegation that we are the most expensive state is simply not factual when one looks at the compulsory charges for motorists in Queensland versus other states. When registering a Nissan Micra and taking all the costs together, three other states are more expensive than Queensland; for a Mazda 2, three other states are more expensive than Queensland; for a Toyota Corolla, four other states are more expensive than Queensland; for a Holden Commodore, New South Wales is considerably more expensive than Queensland; and it is the same for four-wheel drives. When we look at the annual compulsory costs of motoring, the opposition's position does not stack up whatsoever.

The opposition wants more spending on infrastructure, but they do not want to pay for it. They want to blow a black hole in our budget. On last year's estimation—and the figures would be slightly different but comparable this year—there would have been a \$51 million black hole this financial year and \$580 million, or thereabouts, over the forward estimates. They have no credibility at all in terms of making the figures add up.

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

AYES, 39:

LNP, 39—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seene, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

NOES, 41:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

Pairs: Pease, Frecklington; Miller, Nicholls.

Resolved in the negative.

Sitting suspended from 6.37 pm to 7.37 pm.

PENALTIES AND SENTENCES (QUEENSLAND SENTENCING ADVISORY COUNCIL) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from page 1978, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (7.38 pm), continuing: As I was saying before we adjourned for the 6 pm debate on the private member's motion and the dinner break—

Mr Perrett: You were on a roll.

Miss BARTON: I was on a roll. I expect my good colleagues on this side of the House to make sure that I get back my mojo. As I was saying, we have consistently said that, instead of being a government of the people for the people and by the people, this Palaszczuk Labor government is of the unions by the unions and for the unions. We have consistently seen that this Palaszczuk Labor government not only is asleep at the wheel but also does not care about what it is that the people of Queensland want. If it did care, it would take the opportunity to put things to them, for example, changing the way Queenslanders vote. Another example would be the government taking the opportunity to put to the people of Queensland the amendments that have been proposed and that are outside the long title of this bill.

They consistently talk about the fact that they are a government that wishes to consult with the people of Queensland. What I say is: hypocrisy, thy name is Labor. The actions of this government consistently show that they do not consult with the people of Queensland; they consult with the unions. Time and time again we have seen union thuggery in this state. This government does not give a damn. They do not. All they care about is making sure that they get their dues from union members and they get their election contributions from organisations like the CFMEU, the MUA, the ETU and the like.

Consistently we have seen grave problems with corruption amongst the CFMEU and their officials and in the construction industry. We saw from the trade union royal commission recommendations come forward about the way that we need to deal with this rampant union corruption. We have seen it consistently on the Gold Coast which is ordinarily a construction hub of Queensland. We are seeing it today with the Commonwealth Games—

Mr Stevens: Carrara.

Miss BARTON: At Carrara. I take the interjection of the member for Mermaid Beach. We have seen today continued interruption by the CFMEU—

Mr Stevens: Thuggery and extortion.

Miss BARTON: It is thuggery and extortion. Not only are they rolling out the red carpet to criminal motorcycle gangs and organised crime in Queensland by saying that they want to get rid of the toughest laws in this country that deal with organised crime, they are rolling out the red carpet to thuggish unions. They are rolling out the red carpet to thuggish unions because that is what they do. That is what Labor does. All they do is listen to the unions and do exactly what the—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. Nowhere in the legislation before the House or indeed in the amendment that has been foreshadowed by the Attorney-General is there any mention of trade unions or any other sort of industrial organisation. I ask you to please direct the member for Broadwater to come back to the substance of the bill and the very narrow substance of the amendment.

Mr STEVENS: On the point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker, quite clearly the member was drawing a nexus between the CFMEU and the behaviour at Carrara and the changes in the amendment that have been foisted on this House at a very late stage. What the member is saying is totally relevant and she should continue.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Member for Broadwater, if you can stay relevant to the bill and all other members do the same we can get out of here at an early hour.

Miss BARTON: By the government delaying the introduction of this measure they are saying to organised crime that they are welcome in Queensland again. That is what they are saying. When we look at organised crime in Queensland, we see that there are the criminal motorcycle gangs. The Gold Coast experienced the scourge of those. The shadow police minister and I mentioned the riot in Broadwater. The member for Mermaid Beach well knows the impact the criminal motorcycle gangs have had on the Gold Coast.

It is not just organised crime in criminal motorcycle gangs. We have seen organised crime in the union movement. We have seen such findings come from the trade union royal commission. They said that there are significant wrongdoings in the union movement. I read in the papers the other day that in an attempt to truly stamp out the wrongdoings of individual members of the union that looks after the construction sector they said that instead of making the union pay the fine—which, of course, is not a deterrent for a union with coffers the size of those of the CFMEU—they wanted to start fining the individual members. That is to be a true deterrent.

What we know is that this government does not care about prosecuting people who commit wrongdoings against the good people of the Gold Coast when it comes to making sure that the venues for the Commonwealth Games are built. As the member for Burleigh said, they are soft on the crime. We have consistently seen that.

That is why the good people of my electorate of Broadwater consistently tell me that they do not want the VLAD laws weakened or reduced in any way, shape or form. They absolutely know that the measures that we put in place when we were in government were wholly and solely focused on making sure that the people of Queensland were safe. That is why we took tough action when it needed to be taken.

The actions that we took are so respected that the South Australian Labor government is looking at doing exactly what we did. What we said is that we did not want members of organised crime gangs, whether it is criminal motorcycle gangs or others, being able to associate so they can commit their crimes. They could be criminal motorcycle gangs, drug rings, paedophile rings or members of organisations that might be perpetrating criminal acts, like unions.

This government does not want to stop people from committing the crime in the first place. They say, 'These are things that we are going to do.' They want to copy what New South Wales is doing. The problem is that New South Wales realise that their laws do not stop people from colluding and committing crimes in the first place. They simply say that once they have committed a crime they can no longer get together.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Broadwater is very clearly ranging into discussing laws that are not before the House—laws in relation to criminal association and those sorts of matters. They are not laws that are before the House at the moment. The matters that are before the House are the Sentencing Advisory Council and the particular matter that relates to the postponement of the application of one particular element.

Mr WALKER: I rise on the point of order. The government cannot have it both ways. They cannot say that this is a bill about the Sentencing Advisory Council and we should not be talking about the wider ranging debate that they have brought on us by adding this amendment at the last moment. The member for Broadwater is absolutely entitled to talk about those things that are triggered by the late addition of this provision to the main bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think we can give a degree of latitude, but there is clearly a line. Member for Broadwater, can you keep your comments to the bill where you can.

Miss BARTON: What we have seen through the amendment that has been tabled by the Attorney today and was foreshadowed not in this House but in the *Courier-Mail* is evidence of this government weakening its stance against criminal actions, particularly within the construction industry. One of the things that we were very clear about when we were in government, and which was widely respected particularly by the broader Gold Coast community and across Queensland, was that we were not going to tolerate illegal action, particularly not in the construction industry.

We wanted to make sure that people who were engaging in those industries, like the construction industry, and needed licences were of good character. It not only goes to the people we give licences to and making sure that we do not give them to people who should not receive them but also goes to the integrity of the system. In terms of those people who are of good character and have those licences it is about making sure that they are not associated with criminal elements of organisations like the CFMEU. It is about making sure that they are not associated with elements of criminal motorcycle gangs. It is about sending a message to the people of Queensland that we as a state will not tolerate criminal activity and criminal organisations. The message that the Labor government is sending is that they will tolerate it. They will roll out the red carpet.

The thing that galls me the most is that whilst they are sending a message that we will be soft on crime, we will tolerate criminal activity within organisations like the CFMEU and we will tolerate organisations like criminal motorcycle gangs and roll the red carpet out for them we are wasting \$1.8 million on an advisory council that in its previous iteration between 2010 and 2012 did nothing. In my contribution before the 6 pm motion and dinner I talked about some of the things that we could be spending that \$1.8 million on. A prime example is the Robina Community Legal Centre. The Attorney-General has said that the sixth largest city in Australia does not have any need for two community legal centres. The Attorney-General should go and see the work that the Robina Community Legal Centre does on a Thursday night. I know that that is a much better way to spend \$1.8 million.

Here is a novel idea. They could put it into legal aid. They could put it into the department of public prosecution. They could use it in another way in the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Instead, they are using \$1.8 million not to employ extra nurses or employ extra doctors, but to set up an advisory council that has no power and will simply say if requested, 'This is what we think you should do.'

What I think they should do is send a message to the Queensland community: (1) that they care about what they think, because they clearly do not—that is why all they ever do is listen to the union movement; (2) that they do not want to be soft on crime; and (3) that they believe in spending money in the right way. The problem is that we know that Labor does not know how to spend money in the right way. That is why when we came into government in 2012 the incoming Treasury briefing said that it was unsustainable because Labor do not know how to spend money.

As I said, there are much better ways that they could be spending the \$1.8 million per annum that is proposed for the Sentencing Advisory Council. They could use it to make sure that the police on the Gold Coast have the opportunity to tackle the criminal organisations that they are now about to give free rein to. There is a novel idea. As I say, they could use it to fund community legal centres. They could use it to support community legal centres that work with women who have been victims of domestic and family violence. They could use it to support community legal centres in rural and regional Queensland. There is a novel idea. That is a much better way to spend \$1.8 million.

Instead, what we see is a government that is run by unions, for unions, of unions. Government members do not care about the people of Queensland. They do not care about the fact that they are rolling out the red carpet to organised crime not only in this state more broadly but particularly within the construction industry. What we have seen is the government slap the people of Queensland across the face and say that they do not care about what they want. They do not care about consulting with Queenslanders. If they did, this amendment would have gone to the committee and the people of Queensland would have had an opportunity to have a say. At least we were given more than 18 minutes notice. At least I had the opportunity to read about it in the *Courier-Mail* rather than when the Attorney-General launched the debate today, but it is still an absolute disgrace and it is a waste of \$1.8 million.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (7.51 pm): I wish to—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Member for Bulimba, you have the call.

Ms FARMER: I hope the member for Coomera will allow me to speak on this occasion. I wish to speak only briefly on this bill. I am actually going to talk about the bill, as opposed to matters not related to the bill. I can only say to the member for Broadwater, who has spoken very passionately, that I hope she speaks equally passionately to Malcolm Turnbull and George Brandis to ask them to restore funding to community legal centres. The thought that we have spent so much time in this House—

Miss Barton interjected.

Ms FARMER: That is probably the only comment I will make on that, that that passion is directed towards the people who actually have some control over that funding.

What I would like to talk about is what this bill achieves, which is actually restoring something that was lost—one of a long list of things that were lost when the LNP was in government in the three years before the Palaszczuk government was elected last year—that is, the restoration of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. We all know that that is going to be an independent body comprising up to 12 part-time council members, and it will be supported by a multidisciplinary secretariat of Public Service officers. We have all seen the range of functions that this council is set to perform including, upon the request of the Attorney-General, providing advice on adult and juvenile sentencing matters. We know that the council incorporates key features from the very successfully established sentencing advisory councils in New South Wales and Victoria.

I saw the statement of reservation to the committee report from the non-government members. They were making comments about the fact that all of the functions that we are talking about with this council could be performed by government and that there really does not need to be anything else there. The whole issue about this is the independence of the council and the fact that it will be made up of members who can truly reflect community opinion and different aspects of the community. I know that the Premier, when she was introducing this bill, referred particularly to the fact that the council will have at least one person who is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. This is specifically about what contributes to their overrepresentation in the criminal justice system. The fact that the council itself will comprise a cross-section of not only expertise but also experience means that the Attorney-General and the judicial system can be informed by that.

One of the key outcomes that I see arising from this council is that we can actually increase community awareness of, a respect for and a faith in not only sentencing but the criminal justice system. I was very interested to read the submission of Queensland Advocacy Inc. They made a range of points, but they are obviously very much in favour. They campaign for the rights of people with disability, particularly vulnerable people with disability. They were making some points about their constituency, but I think they go to the heart of what this council is all about. They state—

Non-legal, non-expert, non-professional Council members will give the community a stronger voice in relation to sentencing in Queensland and will likely secure greater public confidence in judicial processes.

They also talk about the fact that the council will ‘provide the public with a more nuanced understanding of judicial processes’ and ‘help dispel a popular one-size-fits-all notion of sentencing’. They state—

While Queensland crime rates have trended downwards over the last decade, vulnerable people remain over-represented as victims, offenders and repeat offenders.

They give some quite confronting figures in relation to some of those vulnerable groups and the proportion by which they are represented in the criminal justice system.

They talk about the fact that one of the things you often hear when you are talking at a backyard barbecue is, ‘If you do the crime, you must do the time.’ I think the advice of the Sentencing Advisory Council can inform the judicial system of the particular vulnerabilities, say, of people who have impaired mental health functioning or some other disability which may really go to the heart of how they should be dealt with in the criminal justice system. I wanted to go to that because I think the whole essence of this is community engagement. We know that that is a signature of the Palaszczuk government and it is the polar opposite on the other side. It is probably not surprising that the LNP is speaking so strongly against something which is essentially a community engagement function.

The last thing I want to talk about is the changes in attitude towards domestic violence sentencing. We know that a change in attitude is something that we are desperately seeking in our fight against domestic violence. I must preface that by saying that I appreciate that members on both sides of the House are passionate in that fight. This will provide a mechanism for us to track what community attitudes are around domestic violence. We made some excellent legislative changes in this House around domestic violence. We are seeking to change community attitudes with that legislation and the

legislation to come. I see this as a great way of addressing and tracking how that change is panning out across the broader community. I commend the bill to the House and hope that it will be passed this evening.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.58 pm): Thank you for the opportunity to stand tonight to speak to the bill that clearly is a very passionate subject for the member for Broadwater. All I can say is that if the rest of the House takes note of what she said and passes that on to their communities they will understand how ridiculous this particular issue is. The member for Broadwater encapsulated the issues in her two-part contribution. If members go looking for it, they should ensure they go to the left and the right of the matinee. There were 10 minutes before and 10 minutes after, or thereabouts.

While the LNP supports evidence based policymaking, the creation of another bureaucracy that adds no value and offers no additional research or support outside existing agencies is simply not warranted. The roles undertaken by the Sentencing Advisory Council can easily be undertaken by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Law Reform Commission and, in terms of the guideline judgements, the legal profession and academics as and when required, as opposed to a standing full-time body. It has no statutory authority and is merely an advisory body.

We think the money could be better spent providing access to justice for vulnerable Queenslanders through Legal Aid or, as was quite rightly pointed out on more than one occasion by the member for Broadwater, community legal centres. The Robina Community Legal Centre was one case in point. I was there just recently to witness what they do. It really is a valuable service to the community on the Gold Coast. The concept of having only one funded legal centre on the Gold Coast right now indicates that this government does not realise that if one party to a matter goes to that legal service then the other party has nothing. The other party has nowhere to go except the Robina legal centre, which is making it happen on a mere \$10,000 a year. It is looking after people every Thursday night. Anywhere between 25 and 40 people are being supported by the Robina legal centre on a Thursday night. The onus should be on this government to ensure that there is some funding for that legal centre in the immediate term.

This is another example of government reviewing and not doing, of a government whose plan is to go soft on organised crime, which includes stitching up the terms of reference for a predetermined report—and how many times have we seen that before—watering down penalties, scrapping the VLAD laws and reducing police resources that are our first line of protection against organised crime. Later tonight, in my adjournment speech, I will be talking about the issue of police. I can assure honourable members there is a lot to be said for the essential need for additional police in the northern Gold Coast because of the massive growth in the population there—growth that no-one in this House has seen. It is so big that there are over 42,000 electors in my electorate, something in the order of 35,000 or 36,000 in the Gaven electorate, and the Albert electorate has something like 38,000. We are talking about something in the order of 120,000 electors—not population, electors. Now let us add the rest of the population: the young people, the people who cannot vote for us, the many people who are coming from New Zealand, the Pacific islands and other parts of the world such as South Africa and England because they know the northern Gold Coast is an absolutely wonderful place to live and to move to. These are the people who are being left behind by wasteful expenditure—\$1.8 million on this wasteful expense.

That \$1.8 million would go a long way to providing some of the 50 additional police—this is \$1.8 million a year—that we need on the northern Gold Coast just to catch up to the growth in the population on the northern Gold Coast. We are talking about something in the order of 200,000 people. The other night someone on the other side of the House was saying that they had a population of 4,000 people in a particular community in their electorate and the number of police had been increased to four. That is one police officer for every 1,000 people. The northern Gold Coast has close to 200,000 people and yet we have 65 police officers—almost 200,000 people to 65 police officers. That is one police officer for every 3,000 people. I will be talking more about this in my adjournment speech tonight.

We had an incident recently where police were not in a position to attend one of my schools that was in a lockdown situation until four o'clock in the afternoon. Why were the police not in a position to go to that school? It is because the officers who were on deck, the officers who were working their tails off, working so hard—

Mr RYAN: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, the member has already foreshadowed that he is going to be talking about this matter in the adjournment debate. I ask that you draw him to the standing orders in respect of relevance and ask him to speak to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Member for Coomera, if you can stick to the bill, I am sure you will have your three minutes later on.

Mr CRANDON: I certainly will have my three minutes. I was about to sit down but, given that a point of order has been made, I am more than happy to stand here and talk for the next four minutes. I thank the member opposite because it gives me the opportunity to talk about the \$1.8 million waste that is this organisation.

Let me go back to some of the things that I have often said in this House about the need for our committees to look at the evidence as it is provided to them by all of those people who come and spend their time before our committees, the witnesses. Let us look at all of the evidence, not just cherry-pick it and pick this little piece here because this guy over here thought it was a good idea and this guy over here thought it was a good idea. Let us make sure that we look at all of the evidence and then weigh up that evidence—and I see the member for Stretton is very interested; I am glad that he is taking this as an opportunity to learn—and come to the appropriate conclusion. The appropriate conclusion in terms of this particular bill is that this \$1.8 million could be much better spent on so many other things. As I said earlier, the Robina legal centre is a perfect example of that. A \$300,000 contribution to the Robina legal centre in a year would allow them to go full time and allow them to provide to the people on the Gold Coast a full service, in conjunction with the other legal centre that is on the Gold Coast, so that they can easily and properly provide advice and support to people who are suffering domestic violence, for example.

If honourable members have been reading the media they would know that there has been an explosion in the reporting of domestic violence issues, and I applaud that because the reality is that domestic violence issues were hidden away for far too long. If there is one thing that this House has done, both sides of the House in conjunction with one another—and I give no weight to one side or the other; I give equal weight to both sides—they have ensured that the issue of domestic violence has come to the fore. What that has done, and what we have to back up now, is encourage women in particular—obviously the majority of people suffering domestic violence are women and children—to come out of the woodwork and to leave the place in which they were living, the place where they were in danger, and to go and seek support. The problem is that that support is not fully funded, and the Robina legal centre is a perfect example. The other legal centre on the Gold Coast, the Gold Coast Community Legal Centre, does a wonderful job. The Robina legal centre also needs that funding so that it can provide that additional material support.

I ask the Attorney-General to go down to the Robina legal centre and have a look at what they are doing and appreciate how much more they could do. All they need is \$300,000 of that \$1.8 million that is going to be wasted on this.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (8.09 pm): I rise to speak on the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill. The current bill before the House is yet another example of this Palaszczuk Labor government creating bureaucracy over accomplishing a positive direction for the Queensland public. The Palaszczuk 'review and not do' Labor government is again rewinding policy for no reason other than petty political pride and jobs for the boys and girls who will be associated with the panel of 12 expending \$1.8 million per year in taxpayers' money while doing precisely nothing. What occurred during the Labor years of 2010-2012 will be repeated again, and I will talk about that a little bit later.

The main purpose of the bill is to establish a Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, which is essentially a body to advise the Court of Appeal and Attorney-General on sentencing matters and guideline judgements if requested. As we know from what we have seen from the judiciary and the Attorney-General, we should be well aware. As soon as you go into the area of mandatory sentencing the judges will jump up and say, 'We know all about sentencing. Don't talk to us about mandatory sentencing,' yet we are putting in this \$1.8 million panel to give them some guidance on appropriate sentencing.

The Sentencing Advisory Council will be canvassing and providing information to the community to enhance their knowledge and understanding of sentencing matters, yet members on the opposite side of this chamber seem to have forgotten that these functions can be readily performed by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Queensland Law Reform Commission, which is an independent statutory body, or the legal profession and academics when required at lesser cost to the Queensland public compared with a full-time, paid advisory body that has no statutory authority. Surely at a cost of \$1.8 million per annum this is a budgetary cost that could be better spent, as other members have said, to assist vulnerable Queenslanders who struggle to access justice through increased Legal Aid and community legal centre funding.

Indeed, that was the reasoning behind the previous LNP government abolishing the QSAC body and referring advice on these matters to the Queensland Law Reform Commission, ensuring better fiscal responsibility and to safeguard all Queenslanders having access to justice. It should be noted that members of the committee made mention of the extreme infrequency that the previous body of this name, which was abolished in 2012, was utilised. In other words, they were getting money for jam, not doing anything.

Mr Costigan: Collecting dust.

Mr STEVENS: Indeed. Between 2010 and 2012 the QSAC did not provide any advice to the Court of Appeal in terms of guideline judgements. That is \$1.8 million per annum for no advice for two years. I think this is another great Labor Party deal. When do they stop looking after their Labor Party mates? This is not to mention the exceptionally infrequent use of equivalent bodies in other jurisdictions. Viewed in this manner, the creation of another bureaucracy that offers no additional value, no additional research and no additional support outside the pre-existing agencies is not only unwarranted but also nonsensical.

In the spirit of bipartisan support for my Labor Party friends on the other side I have brought with me a copy of the *Queensland Parliamentary Record* to see if we can find 12 members to collect the \$1.8 million a year of taxpayers' funds. Here are some great suggestions for you! It seems that they have forgotten to give a job to one Reginald John Mickel. Just because Judy Spence and Robbie Schwarten could not stand a bar of him, he has not picked up a job. He would be perfect for the advisory panel. I can think of another one: Paul Lucas. Paul is a former attorney-general who has not done anything at all. You could give Paul a bit of a guernsey down there in the run-on side. I have Jason O'Brien from Cook; he has not been seen for a while. He would be a perfect member for the advisory council. He is full of experience. Now I have a cracker for you. You have to put some females on there, and I reckon I have a special for you in Lily van Litsenburg. She is absolutely the doyenne of legal advice, and we can put Lily on this council that is getting \$1.8 million. I will even go further. There is one of my very good Labor Party mates that they have forgotten, and he is the absolute Lord Denning of the Labor Party: Peter Lawlor. You should put Peter on this advisory council; he would accept part of that \$1.8 million they are going to distribute amongst their Labor Party friends.

That is what I think of this ridiculous sentencing council which will provide nothing—no advice—at a cost to taxpayers of \$1.8 million a year. Furthermore, there is an amendment before the House in the spirit of Fitzgerald, I cannot understand why he is not out there criticising this Labor government. I can think of a couple of reasons, but it would not be fair to Tony Fitzgerald. We have not heard about him and he is not commenting now that there is a Labor government in power. He was very keen to comment when the Newman government was in power.

We are turning back the VLAD laws that were put in place, and it is funny that it has taken 15 months for this Attorney-General to wake up about three weeks or four weeks before it is due to become law and say, 'We have to roll this over and "de-Newman-ise" it. This will stop people with criminal associations working in the CFMEU and other unions.' I was involved with these bikie gangs before they became popular and well publicised. There was a clubhouse behind Pacific Fair. I could see all the rotten criminal bikies hanging around the Broadbeach and Nobby Beach areas intimidating people left, right and centre. It was bad for the tourism industry and very bad for the family image of the Gold Coast. Police minister Byrne knows that I made nine speeches in this parliament about the problems with criminal motorcycle gang members. Then we had the terrible incidents that we are all aware of in Broadbeach and the shootings at Robina and Broadbeach. I am well aware of the bikies. Some of these other members in Stretton and other areas up there might not have the problems, but we have the bikie problem on the Gold Coast. It is unfortunate that those opposite do not have any members on the Gold Coast to know about these matters, but if they want to come and visit I will show them around. The criminal bikies love operating on the Gold Coast because it is a beautiful place to live.

The problem with winding back any of these measures as proposed in the bill and the amendment here tonight is that it has nothing to do with the VLAD laws whatsoever. I find it absolutely humiliating for the Attorney-General to put forward this amendment. You may notice that it is becoming a real habit—I think 'hubris' is the word they use—when the Attorney-General gets away with things such as compulsory preferential voting with 18 minutes notice. We are getting into the same situation. This winding back of the VLAD laws tells me exactly why this government has procrastinated for so long in attacking the VLAD laws. Here in this House they voted for the VLAD laws. Now they are trying to take away the efficacy of those laws, and the police are telling them that they are great laws. It tells you that something is rotten in Denmark when they want to wind back those laws. It is politically wonderful for me on the Gold Coast, but they are winding back these laws to protect their mates who are involved with criminal units in the CFMEU and other unions.

The royal commission established that there were contacts there, and this legislation was put in place to finalise the royal commission results. That is where we get the association between this wind-back of VLAD laws and the CFMEU and the involvement with the outlaw criminal motorcycle gangs. They are the standover men: 'You pay up or we'll be around to see you,' and that is exactly what is happening at Carrara right at this moment. 'You pay up and meet our union demands or we're going to stop working. We've got the boys behind us to enforce it.' There is no doubt in my mind that no normal government would walk away from good laws to protect the community of the Gold Coast. This government is doing that because of its absolute connection to the union movement and, by default, outlaw criminal bikie gangs.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (8.19 pm): I rise to address the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016 now before the Queensland parliament. At the outset I acknowledge the outstanding contribution made to this debate by the member for Broadwater. The contribution of the member for Broadwater was passionate, articulate and absolutely evidence based. We also heard from the member for Mermaid Beach. The speech he made was very positive and evidence based as well.

Mr Walker: Eloquent.

Dr ROWAN: I take that interjection. The primary objective of this bill is to establish a sentencing advisory council in Queensland. Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia all have sentencing advisory councils, so clearly this is not the first time such an entity has been created. Indeed, we should remember that a similar body was abolished by the previous LNP government. In establishing another such body, whose budget is \$1.8 million per year, there is a clear need to be certain that it can and will justify both its funding and purpose and will deliver a real outcome for Queensland. I note that the previous body between 2010 and 2012, when it was abolished, provided no advice whatsoever to the Court of Appeal in terms of guidelines for judgements. Further, equivalent bodies in other jurisdictions do not appear to have delivered a value benefit proposition for taxpayers in other states.

Value for money and respect for the taxpayer dollar are surely an essential underpinning of all deliberations in this House. There is a clear onus on this House to be certain that there is in fact a need and that such an advisory council can meet that need and deliver an enhanced outcome with respect to sentencing.

I also refer to other non-financial aspects of the bill. If the members of such an advisory council are to contribute usefully to such a broad domain as the sentencing of a wide range of offenders over a perhaps even wider range of offences, then members of such an advisory council require a correspondingly broad range of backgrounds and expertise. I note within the proposals by the government that at least one council member must be of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background. I also note that members of the reviewing Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee further recommended that at least one woman be included. Regrettably, as is so often the case with this Labor government, whilst its intention may have some limited merit, the process, structure and implementation are often completely flawed, particularly given that the Palaszczuk Labor government is soft on outlawed criminal motorcycle gangs.

As I have argued, the broad scope of this advisory council demands that members with a wide range of professional expertise are vital to its potential effective functioning. There is no point in simply establishing an advisory council of lawyers to simply advise other lawyers. Technical legal expertise within the advisory council is absolutely essential, but so is the real-world experience of members drawn, for example, from social work, police, employment and rehabilitation services, to name but a few.

The continual quest of sentencing reform is to reduce reoffending rates. Therefore, I ask: if there is no experience in the advisory council of the real-life consequences of street violence, drug addiction and serial unemployment, how can the advisory council usefully advise on sentencing strategies to reduce reoffending rates? In my view, the composition of this advisory council is crucial to any potential success, or in this case failure, of the legislation. Whilst proposing a gender balance and cultural diversification, the legislation is otherwise silent on this. In moving this bill, it was stated—

The establishment of the sentencing advisory council is also an important part of the process to improve the effectiveness of sentencing practices to support the principles of sentencing, namely punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, community protection and denunciation.

Ultimately, how certain can we be that this advisory council will have a composition that ensures, or would even be capable of, let alone actually able to confer, any tangible benefits whatsoever on the community that ultimately pays for it with its taxes? Unfortunately, I believe that the proposed implementation of this body in Queensland will result in wasted public funds which might be better applied elsewhere in front-line services including via Legal Aid or community legal centres.

The Liberal National Party supports evidence based public policy initiatives. Additional bureaucracy that does not add value can never be supported. The Palaszczuk Labor government should take strong action against criminal gangs. The Labor government should ensure community safety for all Queenslanders, including my constituents in Moggill, by tackling all forms of crime including illegality uncovered by the Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption. Since we have seen the findings handed down by Commissioner Dyson Heydon, so far in Queensland none of those recommendations have been adopted or implemented by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Only the LNP has the track record of keeping our communities safe via evidence based legislation and the appropriate resourcing of our Queensland Police Service and other relevant agencies. We know that Labor is soft on crime. Labor is absolutely soft on criminal gangs. The safety of Queenslanders is at risk because of this Palaszczuk Labor government and certainly I oppose this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the next member, I inform the House of the presence in the gallery of school leaders and children from Runcorn State School as well as the principal, parents and teachers.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (8.25 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate of the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016. In doing so, I acknowledge the work of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the team of research staff for their deliberations regarding this bill. Having only recently joined this committee, I wish to place on record recognition of the work of former members the honourable members for Mount Ommaney and Broadwater. I thank ongoing committee member the honourable member for Beaudesert for helping the honourable member for Coomera and me get up to speed on deliberations that preceded our appointment to this committee. I also thank the committee chair, the honourable member for Ferny Grove, and the government members for welcoming me to this committee.

Pleasantries aside, I am sorry to say that the committee could not reach agreement on whether or not the bill should be passed. This is becoming a recurring theme as poor legislation is rejected by opposition members, and it will continue to be if it is not in the best interests of Queenslanders and is not proven to be cost effective.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 25 of the 55th Parliament was tabled on 29 April. The committee's task was to consider the policy outcomes to be achieved by the legislation as well as the application of fundamental legislative principles. The committee received only four submissions and held a public departmental briefing on Monday, 11 April 2016.

There were just two recommendations made by the committee. They were, firstly, to delete the word 'suffering' in proposed section 201(3)(d) and, secondly, to insert the word 'present' in proposed section 203F(3). Mr Deputy Speaker, may I point out that I am actually on this committee and I think I should be allocated a little longer timeslot.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Member for Currumbin, I refer you to the Speaker's previous ruling. I cannot see you mentioned in the list of members of that committee, so you have a 10-minute time limit.

Mrs STUCKEY: The key objective of the bill is to establish the Sentencing Advisory Council in Queensland. However, it is fair to say that the bill before us really is purely an attempt to re-establish a sentencing advisory council, as was flagged in Labor's pre-election commitments—a council that would cost \$1.8 million per year and with limited outcomes. Mind you, Labor's policies were pretty light on and still are. Apart from some 'appease the Greens' pieces of legislation, what we have seen these past 12 months can be described as revenge politics, evidenced by the raft of reversals of LNP legislation. Bereft of ideas or a plan for Queensland's future, this lazy, frozen-at-the-wheel Labor government also decided to copy a number of pieces of LNP legislation rather than come up with its own.

The Attorney-General has said that this was a central piece of Labor's 2015 election policy—not desperately needed job-creating infrastructure. No, it is another bureaucracy—one that adds little value or additional research outside existing agencies.

The explanatory notes advise that the council's establishment is part of a process to improve the effectiveness of sentencing practices in achieving the principles of sentencing: punishment, deterrence, rehabilitation, community protection and denunciation. The intent is that the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, QSAC, would promote consistency in sentencing, stimulate balanced public debate on sentencing issues, including reforms, and strengthen public confidence in the justice system by educating and incorporating informed public opinion in the process.

The bill would amend the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to establish QSAC, and a number of QSAC's functions have been mentioned previously. QSAC is due to commence in the second half of 2016, which is rapidly approaching. Labor established a similar advisory council in 2010. However, it was dissolved by the LNP government in 2012. Objections to the re-establishment of this council were raised by LNP committee members and duly noted in their statement of reservation.

One of the reasons mentioned for not continuing with this council was the fact that it failed to provide any advice to the Court of Appeal between 2010 and 2012. It was observed that equivalent bodies in other states infrequently exercised theirs and that functions outlined in the explanatory notes could be readily performed by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Further, they commented that the function in relation to supplying information to the community on matters relating to sentencing to enhance community knowledge and understanding of sentencing matters leaves open the inference that the government considers there to be a lack of community knowledge and understanding of sentencing matters. Undoubtedly some sectors of the general public would take offence at the intent of these functions. They not only suggest an absence of knowledge or understanding but of inferior levels of education compared to the judiciary. It does not assist the perceptions of many people that the judiciary live in ivory towers totally separated from real society and the world that we live in.

As I stated earlier, the intent of the bill is to strengthen public confidence in the justice system by educating and incorporating informed public opinion in the process. Is this an admission that the justice system has failed to win over public confidence and now this bill will allow for further channelling of public opinion? Is this a way to steer people to a certain way of thinking that the government wants? The LNP's statement of reservation expresses the views of many in the community that, rather than educating people via QSAC, sentencing policy needs to better reflect the expectations and the values of the community. All too often sentences are handed down that the majority of the community believe are manifestly inadequate and fail to inspire confidence or feelings of safety in communities. The Baden-Clay case is a classic example of public outrage of what was seen as an unacceptably light sentence. The Premier stated in her introductory speech to parliament on 15 March 2016—

The council will be an independent body comprising up to 12 members appointed by the Governor in Council on recommendations of the Attorney-General. To support an understanding of the issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that contribute to their overrepresentation in the criminal justice system, the bill provides that at least one member of the council is to be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person. The council members will represent a cross-section of the community that have expertise or experience in areas relevant to the functions of the council.

Considering the overrepresentation of Indigenous persons in our courts and prisons, it seems at odds that one should have to legislate that at least one member be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person. Surely on merit they would be represented and as it is the Attorney-General who will be recommending them I find it unfathomable that she will not be having a say in the composition of this group.

I note the terms of reference that are to be determined should this bill pass include domestic violence. It beggars belief that if the Premier wanted at least one Indigenous person she did not vocalise a point of view that women deserve to be fairly represented on this council given the rising rate of not only female incarceration but also females who are victims of domestic violence. Having said so, I concur with the non-government members' statement of reservation that they do not support mandating at least one woman as a member of the council, believing that all appointments should be on the basis of merit and the unique qualifications and experience each member would bring. I recognise the submission from Soroptimist International Brisbane which advocated for at least one member of the council to be a woman. Whilst I have considerable admiration and respect for this association, with which I was associated many years ago in my life pre politics, I cannot support it for reasons already espoused. The Premier continued—

Promoting an understanding of our criminal justice system, and in particular our sentencing regime, is vital to ensuring public confidence in the administration of justice.

It all sounds very inspirational and comforting. It is all about ensuring public confidence in the administration of justice. What about listening to the general public—not a top down 'we speak, you heed' approach? Hollow words if you look at this government's track record when it comes to genuine

community consultation—‘go to the end of the queue if you are not a union’. The proposed new Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council is modelled on its predecessor, with some changes such as no minimum membership. This bill does not mandate the number of council members to be 12; rather, that it can comprise up to 12 statutory members. Just how that will boost public confidence I do not know. It is one thing to consider sentencing issues but another altogether to authentically reflect the heartfelt and often emotional views of the general public.

Having read this report and other documents I fail to see the necessity for this legislation and nor can I see the necessity for the \$1.8 million per year cost because, when you ask other jurisdictions which have a similar council, they will advise that they rarely exercise their functions. If this Palaszczuk Labor government is serious about stimulating balanced public debate about sentencing issues, it could start by listening to the public about VLAD laws. Amendments circulated today to delay further the commencement and implementation of parts 8, 14 and 24 of the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act until 1 July 2017 are unacceptable. I have spoken many times in this House of the importance of ridding our great state of the scourge of criminal motorcycle gangs and how fearful residents and businesses across the state are of their return.

The LNP is tough on crime and criminals but Labor is the opposite, and that is another reason we vehemently oppose any more delays to licensing requirements designed to expunge organised crime elements from the construction industry. The shadow Attorney-General listed over 20 pieces of legislation that were designed to promote community safety and confidence in the administration of justice under an LNP government. What have we seen from this Labor government rabble, who are almost halfway through a standard term of government? Next to nothing, that is what! Now we have a \$1.8 million rehashed idea that did not produce much when it was last in existence and is not warranted. The roles outlined in QSAC can easily be undertaken by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the money spent in a more beneficial manner on services such as community legal services. We are crying out for more of these on the Gold Coast, particularly the southern Gold Coast where I live. This is why the LNP will not be supporting this bill.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (8.36 pm): I rise in support of the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016. This bill will reinstate the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council and demonstrates our government’s ongoing commitment to promoting public confidence in the administration of justice and in particular the sentencing practices of Queensland courts. Throughout the debate tonight we have heard that the previous government quite wrongly abolished the Sentencing Advisory Council when previously in government.

Many people spoke out against the decision to abolish the Sentencing Advisory Council when it was made by the previous government. In particular, I note the comments of the then president of the Queensland Law Society, John de Groot, who said that Queenslanders greatly benefit from the public education service provided from the Sentencing Advisory Council and that the council has also been effective in its community consultations and has produced well balanced reports that feed into government policy considerations. He also said that the Sentencing Advisory Council was a useful channel for Queenslanders to be informed on sentencing trends and that the decision to disband the Sentencing Advisory Council by the previous government was very disappointing.

Throughout the debate tonight we have heard those opposite claim that the Sentencing Advisory Council in its original iteration was useless, that it did not do any work, that it did not provide any guidance to the Court of Appeal, that it did not provide any useful function. There may be numerous members of the opposition who will be getting up very shortly to—

Ms Bates: Yes, very shortly!

Mr RYAN: No, very shortly to correct the record. Madam Deputy Speaker Farmer, you are well aware of the privileges of this House that members should not mislead this House. While I was listening to the contributions of those opposite, I did a quick Google search on the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. On the first page of that Google search I found a report from September 2011 titled *Minimum standard non-parole periods—final report* by the Sentencing Advisory Council. I wonder who wrote that report. It states—

Published by the:

Sentencing Advisory Council

Level 30, 400 George St Brisbane ...

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: They might crow, but they will be getting up very shortly to apologise to the House for misleading the House because they quite clearly said that the Sentencing Advisory Council did nothing. They quite clearly said that it did not produce any reports. They clearly said that it provided no guidance to any court. It is blatantly wrong and a simple Google search has shown that. That is proof that they are the laziest opposition. They have always been the laziest opposition. Their leader is lazy. Every single one of those members is lazy. They do not let the facts get in front of providing a proper—

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order. I find the member's comments personally offensive. I am most certainly not lazy.

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

Mr RYAN: On the point of order, I referred to no individual member. It cannot be a personal reflection.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that there is no point of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Would everyone just settle down, please.

Mr HART: I rise to a point of order. The member clearly said, 'Every member over there.'

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

Mr RYAN: As I was saying, we should be soon hearing apologies from all of those members opposite who have contributed to this debate and misrepresented the work of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council. I take members to page 70 of that report, which was produced in September.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will members please cease interjecting. I appreciate that this is a fiery debate, but we still need to be able to hear the member for Morayfield.

Mr RYAN: Page 70 of that report, which was produced in September 2011, refers to recommendation 12 of the Sentencing Advisory Council, which states—

A court should be required to set the minimum standard non-parole period as the non-parole period for a prescribed offence otherwise meeting the eligibility criteria. ...

This is a report of the Sentencing Advisory Council providing recommendations to courts about a very important subject, minimum standard non-parole periods. I am sure that if those members opposite stopped being lazy and did some work, they, too, could have found that report. I am happy to table the extract of that report. The report goes to about 130 pages. If members opposite want to have a read of it, they can look it up online.

Tabled paper: Extract from Sentencing Advisory Council: Minimum standard non-parole periods—Final Report, September 2011, pp. ii-iv, 70 [766].

We know that the Sentencing Advisory Council will do great work for Queensland. Last week, during Law Week, I was very fortunate to have President McMurdo come to a number of events in the Morayfield electorate. We started off with a visit to Morayfield State High School. The president very kindly made a presentation to the students of Morayfield State High School and Caboolture State High School. The very topic that the president spoke about was the myth of leniency in sentencing. It was a very instructive contribution from the president of the Court of Appeal.

Mr Walker interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Thank you, member for Mansfield. Please let the member for Morayfield continue.

Mr RYAN: The president is on record talking about this subject when she made a submission to an inquiry by the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in 2014. In that submission she said that many people 'may perceive judges as out of touch with community expectations and that sentences are too low.' President McMurdo then referred to a couple of studies. One was a study by the New South Wales Parliamentary Research Service in 2014, which concluded that, when people were given a bit more information about sentencing and the role of courts, they understood more clearly the process that a judge goes through when setting a sentence. President McMurdo also referred to the 2010 Tasmanian Jury Sentencing Survey, which concluded that, when people are more informed of the sentence, they are more highly likely to endorse it. There is an interesting conclusion to this 2010 survey that maybe members opposite could take notice of. The authors of this survey concluded that 'It is an

important finding which should be heeded by politicians and policy makers.' That is, when you inform members of the public about sentencing, members of the public understand more clearly the role of the criminal justice system and how sentencing works.

I note that Stephen Keim SC wrote a nice little article with reference to the submission made by President McMurdo to the committee. In his article, Stephen Keim comes to an interesting conclusion. He states—

If it would appear that, when we actually have an understanding of the details of a case, we, as ordinary members of the community, can park our prejudices out back and respond, as human beings, to that complexity of factors that judges wrestle with, every day.

The Tasmanian Jury Sentencing Survey also concluded, '... informed members of the public overwhelmingly approve of the sentences given by our judges.' The role of the Sentencing Advisory Council is not only to feed community feedback into the process of sentencing but also to provide that important educative function—to ensure that our communities are aware of sentencing processes, are aware of the processes that judges go through and have a better understanding of the criminal justice system. Stephen Keim said further in his article—and perhaps this also may be relevant to the contributions of members opposite—

If the committee—

the committee that President McMurdo gave her submission to—

heeded the evidence as well as heeding Justice McMurdo's call, they should conclude that those who have the strongest views about judges and sentencing are the most ignorant on the subject, sometimes, deliberately so.

It is very important for us to appreciate that the Sentencing Advisory Council is about informing members of the community of a very important aspect of our criminal justice system. It is about making sure that information is available to members of the public and, in that regard, the Sentencing Advisory Council can make a good contribution.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: I hear the contributions from those opposite about a waste of money and all of those things. It is not a waste of money if the very first referral that will go to the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council will be the consideration of domestic and family violence. What an insulting thing for those opposite to be saying that it is a waste of money to be taking action on domestic and family violence! What a disgraceful thing to say!

Those opposite have not only been misleading in this debate but also deliberately skewed their arguments to ensure that those perceptions of criminal justice sentencing are perpetuated in our community. The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council will do good work for Queensland. It is important for ensuring that people understand sentencing processes and our criminal justice system in Queensland.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (8.46 pm): After that contribution from the member for Morayfield, I am sure that the people of Queensland would be happy to know that the member thinks that they are ignorant. When the people of Queensland raise issues about judgements that have been given, it is because of public perception. The member for Morayfield has just called the Queensland public ignorant.

I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill 2016. This bill seeks to re-establish the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council—a bureaucracy created by the previous Labor government that adds no value and offers no additional research and support outside existing agencies. Let me be clear: this is another Labor government re-establishing another Labor bureaucracy for no good reason.

Under this bill, the functions of a re-established Sentencing Advisory Council would be to provide views on the giving or reviewing of a guideline judgement, but only if requested by the Court of Appeal; to provide advice to the Attorney-General on matters relating to sentencing, but only if requested by the Attorney-General; to provide information to the community on matters relating to sentencing to enhance community knowledge—because apparently they are all ignorant, according to the member for Morayfield—and understanding of sentencing matters, which is something that could be done easily by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; to publish information relating to sentencing, which I am sure could be done through the department's website; to research matters relating to sentencing and publish the results of the research, which is something that I am sure the many legal officers in the department are capable of doing; and to obtain the community's views on sentencing and matters relating to sentencing, which is something that this government should already be doing prior to introducing any sentencing reforms.

In fact, when considering the functions of this \$1.8 million per annum bureaucracy, Queenslanders could be forgiven for wondering whether this new body serves any real purpose that could not be performed by existing departmental bodies. That is why the former LNP government dissolved Queensland's previous Sentencing Advisory Council in 2012 under the Criminal Law Amendment Act. At that time, the main focus of the council's work had been to provide advice to the Attorney-General on sentencing matters. In reality, that was a function that was already performed by the Queensland Law Reform Commission, meaning that the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council was duplicating the commission's functions.

Dissolving the council was the most logical way to enable a more efficient use of public resources by the rationalisation of law review functions across government. As this Labor government spends millions of dollars of taxpayers' money on an unnecessary bureaucracy that adds no value to the justice system, we also see them moving sneaky amendments through this bill that water down the former LNP government's tough-on-crime legislation. Already under this Labor government we are seeing our police resources slashed as Taskforce Maxima struggles to keep our streets safe with no support from George Street. In fact, the *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported today that we have seen concerning reports that 'the budget for Queensland's bkie gang fighters has been slashed by a third as the state government refuses to guarantee more resources.' According to these reports, Taskforce Maxima staff are concerned about staff transfers from the Gold Coast, with full-time-equivalent staff dropping from 104 in 2014-15 to 95 in 2015-16. As the Leader of the Opposition said today, we are seeing officers sent out on the streets to fight crime with their hands tied behind their backs. Today this Labor government and this Attorney-General are moving amendments that stop tough criminal gang measures introduced by the former LNP government from coming into effect.

Our measures included licensing changes which were aimed at preventing bikies from gaining licensed work in construction, workplace health and safety or as an electrician. These changes were due to come into force on 1 July this year, adding another enforcement measure to stop bikies from ruling our streets and doing so under the guise of legitimate businesses. This is a far cry from the Premier's statement of less than two months ago when she said that this government would empower police to bring down individuals in criminal organisations, be they child sex predators, drug traffickers, boiler room fraudsters or outlaw motorcycle gangs. The Premier said she wanted more convictions not less and wanted criminals locked up and serving time for the crimes they commit.

The Attorney-General's amendments today tell a very different story. In my electorate of Mudgeeraba residents are growing increasingly concerned that the effective laws which have been keeping their families safe are being progressively watered down by this government. Before the LNP came to government my electorate was home to the Nomads bkie gang clubhouse at Carrara which, thanks to the actions of the LNP, was closed down and its occupants forced out of my electorate by police. A lot of people think that the Mudgeeraba electorate is a sleepy hollow where there is not any crime. I can tell them that we have had three Taskforce Maxima raids in my electorate over the last 18 months. In fact, during the election campaign in 2015 I was sitting in my back yard having a cup of tea at seven o'clock in the morning with PolAir circling around my home. I could not work out what was going on. I sent one of my family members down the street to find that six doors down from my house, in the biggest house in the street, was a Hells Angels outlaw motorcycle gang member who was raided by Taskforce Maxima and had \$1 million worth of methamphetamine, shotgun, flak jacket, et cetera. About four months later in the sleepy hollow of Berrigans Road in Mudgeeraba there was another raid by Taskforce Maxima on outlaw motorcycle gangs. In San Fernando Drive in Worongary there was another one. There was millions of dollars worth of methamphetamine being cooked out on acreage blocks because it cannot be detected as easily as the methamphetamine lab that I found in Merrimac in 2006 when I was doorknocking.

We had a problem with bikies on the Gold Coast. Every Saturday and Sunday the Nomads would sit on the verandah of Wallaby Bob's Hotel. They would line their bikes up and sit on the verandah in their colours and terrorise young families. That was one of the only places in Mudgeeraba where you could take your kids to have a counter meal if you were a low socioeconomic family. We do not have that element in my electorate anymore. My residents are concerned at the watering down of the legislation. Tonight we are seeing another example of that.

Mr Walker: It is the start of it.

Ms BATES: I take that interjection from the shadow Attorney-General. It is the start of it. We all know the bikies are waiting over the border in Tweed Heads revving their motorbikes up waiting to come back to places like Mudgeeraba. My residents' fears are being confirmed by the latest attempt by this government to stop our laws from coming into force.

As the shadow minister for the prevention of family and domestic violence I thank the member for Broadwater tonight for her very passionate speech. She mentioned the fundraiser that we attended, along with the member for Southport, for the Robina Community Legal Centre. This is a community legal centre that has accreditation but no funding from the state government. They are turning away victims of domestic violence from Robina. In my area, since both the former LNP government and this government has raised, quite rightly, the issue of domestic violence in the media arena, police tell me that there has been a 96 per cent increase in reporting of DVs in the Mudgeeraba police district alone. They are talking about reports from 13-year-olds up to 83-year-old women. The amount of \$1.8 million would easily fund the Robina Community Legal Centre. For the Attorney-General to say that the sixth largest city in Australia has enough community legal centres in Southport, which serves the northern end of the Gold Coast but not the southern end of the Gold Coast, is quite ridiculous.

In her contribution the member for Bulimba asked why George Brandis and the federal government were not doing anything? There was an announcement of \$30 million by the federal Attorney-General to fund community legal centres such as Robina. I would like to see the Labor government here in Queensland match that funding so that the Robina Community Legal Centre can continue its good work. We have \$1.8 million going to something that we abolished, that we do not believe will do what it needs to do. There are amendments tonight that will only open the floodgates for bikies to return to the Gold Coast. On behalf of my community on Mudgeeraba I will not be supporting these amendments or this bill.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (8.57 pm): I have this sudden feeling of déjà vu. About four or five hours ago I stood in this place and said that the government of the day is all about reversing the good work that the previous LNP government had done. The minister stood up and said that was not the case, but here we go again. It does not matter what we did; those opposite say it is bad. It is ideologically driven by the Labor Party that whatever we did needs to be urgently reviewed, urgently undone, urgently reversed. That is what is happening here. However, 'urgently' takes this government a year and a half to do. Imagine how we will go with the state budget in a couple of months time. It is going to take forever.

We have here a government quango that cost \$1.8 million a year to run and does not actually achieve anything. We have heard from numerous members tonight about the results of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Committee. One needs to look no further than the statement of reservation of the LNP members on the committee to see exactly what happens with the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Committee. It would do members opposite a world of good to sit down and read the statement of reservation that is contained in about every committee report coming out of this government. The statements of reservation make a lot of sense. The LNP members on the committee sit and listen to the evidence presented to them and come up with logical conclusions.

The members on this committee reported in their statement of reservation that the previous sentencing advisory committee did not provide any advice in terms of guideline judgements to the Court of Appeal between 2010 and 2012 when it was abolished. They also noted that in other jurisdictions similar bodies exercised their functions extremely infrequently. Those bodies do not actually achieve what it is their governments intended. The LNP committee members stated that the functions of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Committee could be readily performed by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. They noted that 'education of the community' implies there is a lack of community knowledge and understanding of sentencing matters, which is a view rejected by many members of the community.

During the debate it was interesting to listen to the member for Morayfield. He stood in this place and said that he had done a Google search that had come up with one report. The member sat over there for the past two hours and listened to the debate. He went to his iPad or iPhone, did a Google search and came up with one 130-page report. I am told that, from the committee's inquiry, even the department did not know about that particular report. That is interesting. The member for Morayfield could find one report. This is a \$1.8 million bureaucracy and all the member can find is one 130-page report.

I am not sure whether the members on the other side are capable of using a calculator. Their smart phones probably have a calculator function. Have they bothered to divide \$1.8 million by 130, which is the number of pages in that report? A little while ago I dragged out my smart phone and had a look. A \$1.8 million report that is 130 pages long costs \$13,845 per page. Does the member for Morayfield think that a government bureaucracy report is worth \$13,845 per page? The problem with those opposite is that they have no concern about wasting other people's money. The money that they are wasting belongs to the public of Queensland.

Mrs Smith: Taxpayers.

Mr HART: Yes, it is \$1.8 million that belongs to taxpayers. I can tell the member for Morayfield that the previous LNP government scrapped the Sentencing Advisory Council because it cost \$1.8 million. Let us keep this simple: this is a waste of \$1.8 million and that is why we oppose the bill.

In the time that I have left, I will talk about the amendments that the Attorney-General will shortly seek to move. This is another case of a lack of notice and a lack of consultation from a government that tells us constantly that it is all about transparency, accountability and consultation. Where was the consultation on this amendment? The only consultation we have had—

Mr Walker interjected.

Mr HART: I take the interjection from the member for Mansfield. The people of Queensland read about it in the newspaper this morning. Is that the level of consultation that this government thinks is acceptable? I for one do not think that is any form of consultation at all. The people of Queensland deserve the right to look at legislation that is introduced into the House, give feedback to their members of parliament and have input. Again, the people of Queensland have not had that opportunity. The members of this parliament have not had that opportunity. We have had only since this morning to consider this amendment.

The explanatory notes to the amendment that the Attorney-General will move state, in part, that the aim of the legislation that she is attempting to defer is to exclude participants in criminal organisations from working in certain licensed occupations. Are we to take the deferral of this law to mean that the Labor government is happy to have participants in criminal organisations working in licensed occupations? That is about all one can take from it.

Mrs Smith: Yes.

Mr HART: I take the interjection. You cannot read anything else into this amendment. By supporting this amendment, members opposite are, in fact, giving a big tick to criminals working in licensed occupations. That is the simple fact behind this amendment. Let us not overcomplicate the matter. Let us keep it clear and simple: here we have a \$1.8 million bureaucracy that serves no purpose that we can see and amendments are to be put to this House that seek to allow people in criminal organisations, such as the bikies who are causing such a big problem on the Gold Coast, to participate in certain licensed occupations. I do not know about those opposite and I do not know about other members of parliament in this place tonight, but I will not support people who are criminals in any fashion whatsoever, whether or not they are participants in licensed occupations. I will not support criminals, at all. I will not be supporting this bill.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (9.06 pm): I will make a few comments on the bill, as I was on the committee that examined the bill. When this bill came to the committee, I immediately thought of Jack Thompson. A few years back Jack Thompson appeared in an ad the slogan of which was 'the drink to have when you're not having a drink'. Therefore, I refer to this bill as the Clayton's bill, because it is a bill that will do nothing. This bill will achieve nothing other than cost the poor long-suffering taxpayers money.

The LNP members of the committee raised a number of concerns in our statement of reservation. Tonight, many of my colleagues have spoken about the cost of setting up the Sentencing Advisory Council. Non-government members have real concerns about the cost to taxpayers of \$1.8 million a year—I repeat, \$1.8 million a year—which will be the cost for the Sentencing Advisory Council to perform its functions.

The first function of the Sentencing Advisory Council is to, if requested by the Court of Criminal Appeal, state in writing to the court views on the giving or reviewing of a guideline judgement. Let us look at how that worked out previously. As my colleagues have said, from 2010 to 2012 the council was never once asked to perform that function. To me, that is not value for money. The committee received a briefing from the department. I asked one of the department staff—

Just out of curiosity, given the experience of other jurisdictions, how many requests for case guidelines would they be looking at?

I wanted an understanding of how busy this council would be.

The departmental representative said that in relation to that particular function between 2010 and 2014 it was only asked for once in Victoria. This is where I question whether this is an efficient use of \$1.8 million of taxpayers' dollars a year. We saw in Queensland over two years that this function was not requested once. When we compare that to other jurisdictions, we find that in Victoria over four years it has been asked for on only one occasion. By my calculations, in Victoria they are behind the eight ball at \$7.2 million over four years.

To me that is not value for money. That \$1.8 million could be much better utilised in my electorate. For years we have been trying to get the St Catherine's Football Club clubhouse built and the Oxley United Football Club clubhouse built. It would cost less for both of those than the annual budgeted amount of \$1.8 million. The interesting thing with that is that that would provide employment, provide long-term viability for the clubs and get our kids active. It would satisfy three or four functions. That is value for money.

The second part of the statement of reservation regarding the functions of the Sentencing Advisory Council which causes me a little concern is obtaining community views on sentencing and matters relating to sentencing. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General could readily perform that function. Again, I am not seeing this expenditure of \$1.8 million of taxpayers' money as value for money.

The one thing that my colleague the member for Broadwater and I felt strongly about was the recommendation of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee that the bill mandate the appointment of one woman as a member of the council. Appointment should always be based on merit, on unique qualifications and the experience that each member brings. I will not stand in this House and support something that does not open up opportunities for all people and is not based on merit.

In summary, it is my view that the introduction of this bill will achieve nothing, which is the hallmark of this do nothing, asleep at the wheel, Labor government. Stop wasting Queenslanders' time and stop wasting Queensland taxpayers' money.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (9.12 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: Thank you, member for Mermaid Beach, for your encouragement in making this address to the House tonight. I will be opposing the bill, as the opposition will be. Before I address some of the points in this bill this evening, I commend the work of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and, in particular, the secretariat. They are always rendering terrific assistance to all members of the committee, government and non-government members alike. We very much value that assistance. We are a busy committee, due mainly to the fact that we deal with legal affairs, which is what this parliament deals with all the time.

The idea of forming a body to consider sentencing matters, to consider matters of policy in relation to sentencing and to take into account community expectations about those policies in sentencing is not a bad idea. It is not a bad idea, but it is not an idea that needs to be reflected in the bill that we have before us tonight. This parliament is a body that is designed to reflect community expectations about sentencing. This body, the Queensland parliament, should be considering what the government and judiciary should be doing about sentencing policy.

When I look at the non-government members' statement of reservation, I note that it is a cogent and strong statement of reservation. At the bottom of page 18 non-government members point out—

... this process of sentencing policy better reflecting community expectation and values would be achieved most efficiently through the consideration and adoption by government of input from the community provided through their elected representatives, supported if necessary by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General.

That is the nub of the issue. Everything that is sought to be achieved by the Sentencing Advisory Council, with its \$1.8 million annual budget, could be achieved by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, with assistance from us, the members of the Queensland parliament. What it is seeking to achieve is input from the community.

If I am not mistaken, that is what we are here to do. The Sentencing Advisory Council is duplicating a function of government. In the process, it is spending \$1.8 million of taxpayer dollars each year to achieve something that we are elected to do, that the government is paid to do and that bureaucrats and public servants in the department are actually keen to do. The function is being outsourced to another body of government, the Sentencing Advisory Council.

Other members have looked at the statement of reservation in much detail. I want to make a couple of points about this. I heard some of the comments from the member for Morayfield tonight. He referred to matters that will be referred to the Sentencing Advisory Council if the bill passes this House tonight, is assented to and the council is established. Can I say that I welcome the fact that there will be work referred to the Sentencing Advisory Council. The matters that he has referred to are very important matters.

We do not have an argument with that at all, but I maintain that the functions, the reviews and the community input that is being sought through the council could be achieved through government within the existing budgets of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. We are very unsure—

in fact, we have grave doubts—about the value of the Sentencing Advisory Council. In the statement of reservation it was also said that the former Sentencing Advisory Council established in 2010 never provided a piece of advice to the Court of Appeal. It was never requested by the Court of Appeal to provide advice on an advisory judgement.

That is a matter that the member for Morayfield referred to in his contribution tonight. It was never requested by the Court of Appeal even though in the bill that was repealed by the former government in 2013 or 2014 it was mandatory for the Court of Appeal to seek the advice of the council if it was going to issue a guideline judgement. That advice was never sought.

In this bill setting up the Sentencing Advisory Council, it is even more unlikely that the council is going to provide such advice because not only is the activity of the council, both in Queensland when it was in existence previously and in other states like Victoria where it exists now, infrequent, it hardly does anything. In this bill it is actually not even mandatory for the Court of Appeal to seek the advice of the council.

We are setting up a council that in the past has done very little and in other states has done very little. In this bill the Court of Appeal is not even required to seek its view. Again, I ask: is this the best value for the spending of taxpayer dollars? Could not that function be performed better and more efficiently within the existing roles of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General? These arguments have been put by a number of members tonight. I will not labour them other than to say that the past history shows that what the government is intending to implement here tonight is not the best use of resources. In fact, it could be better achieved in other ways because the Court of Appeal is not even required to ask for the Sentencing Advisory Council's view on particular guideline judgements.

When I think about \$1.8 million, it does not sound like a lot of money when we have a state budget that is around \$50 billion per year. Nearly \$2 million compared to \$50 billion is not much, but when you think about what you can do with \$1.8 million in individual circumstances it can be a lot of cash. I think at the moment of the trauma that is going to unfortunately be visited upon the dairy industry in this state because of the volatility in world dairy markets. We see what is happening in Victoria at the moment where prices have dropped through the floor. The Victorian government is taking action to implement financial counselling services. I see the member for Morayfield probably asking the question about whether this is relevant to the bill or not. I am saying to you, member for Morayfield, that this is relevant because \$1.8 million—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Member for Beaudesert, if you could direct your comments through the chair, I would be grateful.

Mr Ryan: You are milking this argument.

Mr KRAUSE: Member for Morayfield, \$1.8 million would be a significant contribution to employing debt counsellors for dairy farmers who may be suffering or for any other industry group in Queensland who is suffering under tough economic times. We are talking about value for money and whether this bill represents value for money for the Queensland taxpayer. Member for Morayfield, every time we spend money in this House—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Beaudesert, direct your comments through the chair.

Mr KRAUSE: My apologies.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Morayfield, I have asked you to cease interjecting.

Mr KRAUSE: I think you should warn him, Madam Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Beaudesert, I am okay without your advice. It is your call.

Dr Rowan: Real jobs.

Mr KRAUSE: Exactly. It is about real jobs, as the member for Moggill just interjected. The amount of \$1.8 million would also fix significant parts of Beaudesert-Nerang Road or Lamington National Park Road in my electorate. When it comes to talking about value for money, there are real improvements that can be made if money is spent wisely. As non-government members have pointed out tonight, there are questions about whether the expenditure set out in this bill or anticipated if this bill is passed would be value for money. As the member for Broadwater so eloquently pointed out earlier on this evening, \$1.8 million would certainly assist in community legal centres being established on the Gold Coast and also in the Beaudesert electorate, west of the Gold Coast.

Non-government members will not be supporting this bill tonight. I thank the committee secretariat and I should also say government members of the committee who were also very cooperative with non-government members in allowing us to explore the deficiencies in this bill. I just make this point that the government members on the committee made a couple of recommendations that have not been picked up by the government tonight. Perhaps they were a little bit off track in the way they were looking at things and need to be brought back into the fold somewhat. Non-government members will be opposing this bill tonight.

 **Mr GORDON** (Cook—Ind) (9.23 pm): I rise tonight to speak to an amendment that I will be moving in relation to the bill. Indigenous people in Queensland make up less than four per cent of our population, but they make up almost a third of our prison population. Let me repeat that: Indigenous people in Queensland make up 3.6 per cent of the population, but they make up almost one-third of the prison population. If we are going to be so tragically overrepresented in the prison system then Indigenous people should be equally represented on the Sentencing Advisory Council. If we are going to truly hear the voices of Indigenous people in this state then we should be heard loud and clear on this council.

As at 2 April last year, a total of 2,327 inmates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent were in custody. At the time the *Guardian* newspaper noted that this is the 'highest Indigenous prison population' on record. Former prime minister Kevin Rudd warned last year that Australia is facing a second stolen generation if we do not reverse the course of Indigenous incarceration.

Until we have fundamental action on Indigenous disadvantage, the Indigenous prison population will not improve. Economic opportunities and jobs are at the heart of addressing this disadvantage. At a time when Indigenous economic development should be at the core of addressing massive gaps in health, education and employment outcomes, everything we do should be pushing in the same direction—towards jobs, towards real opportunities for Indigenous and regional communities.

I am proud of my Indigenous heritage because it is not only part of one of the oldest living cultures on this earth but also a heritage built on the struggle of survival. That is a struggle that in 2016 we should not be confronting. In my electorate of Cook, 52.1 per cent of people sit in the most disadvantaged socioeconomic group. Across the rest of Queensland that figure is just 20 per cent. The electorate of Cook has more than four times the rate of homelessness than the rest of Queensland. Thirty-six per cent of people in the electorate of Cook are Indigenous—the largest proportion of any community in Queensland.

In Aurukun, where we are confronting serious community issues at the moment, 92 per cent of the population is Indigenous. Unemployment is a staggering 54 per cent compared to 6.3 per cent for Queensland. According to the Queensland government statistician, 100 per cent of people in Aurukun are in the most disadvantaged socioeconomic group compared with 20 per cent for Queensland. Only 16 per cent of people make it to year 11 and 12 compared to 55 per cent across Queensland. Only 18 per cent of people have access to the internet compared to a staggering 78 per cent across Queensland.

The time has come. The time has come for us as a parliament, as a state and as a nation to address Indigenous disadvantage that is resulting in record levels of incarceration. Incarceration is not the solution. Education, health care and jobs are the answer—books, not booze; old age, not middle age; jobs and investment, not boredom, violence and jail; opportunity and hope, not despair. We should be celebrating a culture rich in history but a culture that we must ensure has a rich future as well.

We have the power to change the course of these issues hand in hand with our Indigenous leaders in Indigenous communities. Rather than throwing our hands up in the air and saying it is all too complicated, we need to work harder with community leaders every day to make a difference. I say to everyone here tonight that I will do everything in my power to address these issues. It starts with recognising Indigenous voices, particularly on this Sentencing Advisory Council. It starts here tonight at the front line of Indigenous disadvantage. I commend the bill to the House. I also commend the amendment that I will be moving to the House.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.28 pm), in reply: I thank members for their contribution. I thank the member for Cook for his contribution and the important issues he has just raised in relation to Indigenous disadvantage and overrepresentation in the justice system and in our corrective services both in our adult prisons and in our youth detention centres. It is certainly something that I am very mindful of, as I know the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services is. It is an issue we must address

absolutely. It is the reason why the only position that is mandated in this bill is to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on this council. We are ensuring that it is mandated. No other positions are mandated.

I certainly appreciate the position of the government members and some of those who put submissions before the parliamentary committee who said that we should be doing the same in terms of women and ensuring there is at least one female member as well. We have declined to mandate that in the actual bill. As far as having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation, I believe it was absolutely imperative to mandate it because we do recognise that there is overrepresentation in our justice system. If we are to make any difference we do need to make sure that we have got that representation. I absolutely agree that it needs to go further—a lot further. We need a lot of our appointments to reflect that broader diversity in representation including in our judicial appointments. We need to have that diversity in all of our appointments. We need to make sure that our appointments at any level are reflective of the broader community. I certainly welcome the points that the member made.

In relation to the member's amendment—and I will speak to it when we get to it in consideration in detail—the government would have difficulties at this time mandating at least four because we have not actually prescribed that it must be 12 members; we have said up to 12 members. Based on the applications that come forward and the expressions of interest, if we decide that this committee is made up of only six people, then according to the member's amendment, potentially at least four of the six must be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. It may be difficult to find that expertise and the diversity in skills and experience we are looking for to make up that quota. That is the reason I flag at this stage that mandating four would be difficult. I certainly hope that the member for Cook appreciates and acknowledges why we chose to prescribe this in the bill in the first place: to ensure there is that representation.

I thank those members on this side for their contribution and their comments in relation to the Sentencing Advisory Council and about the importance of the amendment being moved in consideration in detail. Despite the hyperbole from the other side, that amendment is simply seeking to extend the delay in implementation of the licensing changes that came out of the Newman government's legislation. I heard all of the arguments that we are stopping this and unwinding this. However, we cannot stop something that never started in the first place. Let us be clear on that. We heard the carry-on that this is such short notice, no-one knew this was coming and why did we not bring this in earlier? Let us be clear that when—

Mr Walker: You haven't got an answer to that. What's the answer to that?

Mrs D'ATH: There is definitely an answer. The member opposite might want to look at his own record. When those opposite come in here and make statements and accusations against this side, they fail to look back at history. They might want to do that from time to time because they might be surprised to see that when the former attorney-general came in and introduced a regulation to delay the commencement of the changes to the Electrical Safety Act, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act and the Work Health and Safety Act that were due to commence by proclamation on 1 July 2014 and it was deferred until 1 July 2015, that was actually done 18 days before those changes were due to commence.

Mr Walker: That is not an answer for your position.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. It is okay for the opposition to do it 18 days before it is due to commence, but I am doing this in May for the 1 July date and it is too short a notice? The reason given at that time was to allow time for the government to consider the outcomes of the federal government's Royal Commission into Trade Union Governance and Corruption except that royal commission was announced in February 2014, so it did not sneak up on them. They knew that was happening.

In terms of the carry-on about the timing of this, the fact is that when the Treasurer moved an amendment to postpone the commencement of these provisions last year he did so and specifically stated that it was to give the government the opportunity to consider the task force, any recommendations coming out of that and their implications. He also indicated the significant implications on jobs in this state if this were to go ahead. I do take offence at the comments of the member for Everton that these people should go and get a legitimate job.

Members opposite take no responsibility for the fact that 100,000-plus people in this state who hold licences and permits as tradies would have had to suddenly go through a big licence check and a police check to see whether they could still hold their licence to do their job. That is what was required under their scheme. They take no responsibility for that, for how that was going to work in practice or what that was going to do in terms of creating uncertainty for all of those jobs.

We heard time after time those on the opposition side saying that there was nothing done by the Sentencing Advisory Council, nothing at all. However, the reality is that since the council started in 2010, they reported on two terms of reference that had been issued by the then attorneys-general; they commenced work on a third terms of reference; they undertook specialist research and statistical analysis on sentencing outcomes; they published a range of information documents, including sentencing fact sheets and research papers; they hosted the first sentencing seminar series as well as the national gathering of Australian sentencing advisory bodies—before they were scrapped in 2012. That is not bad for the two years in which they had the opportunity to operate.

We have heard the arguments that this can be done by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. I can guarantee that if it were the Department of Justice and Attorney-General that was putting this information out about sentencing and those on the other side did not like what was being reported, the first thing they would say is that it is biased; it is coming from within a department; it is not independent. However, if we try to set up an independent body, they criticise that and say no, it should be done by a department.

I take the comments of the member for Beaudesert who said that we do not need these sorts of advisory councils; it can all be done by government agencies. Does that mean that we should do away with the disability advisory council, the Multicultural Queensland Advisory Council, the Queensland Carers Advisory Council, the family and child advisory council, the Veterans' Advisory Council or maybe the small business council? We should just get rid of those because we do not need them; apparently these things are a waste of money. They do serve an important purpose. Certainly there are those out in the community who acknowledge that, even if those on the other side do not.

I wish to make one last point about those on the other side, and I will wait and see if a point of relevance is brought up because I have never heard an argument that the debate is just so diverse. We did get on to community legal centres, the amount of \$1.8 million and what we could get for \$1.8 million. We could do a lot of things with \$1.8 million. I have answered the questions numerous times of those on the other side in relation to Robina Community Legal Centre, and I support what they do. At the end of the day there is a triennial funding arrangement and that money has already been allocated. Those on the other side are worried about funding. However, that centre was started in February 2014 and I did not see the Newman government funding them under that triennial funding arrangement. If they are worried about CLC funding, why do they not stand up and call on the federal government, who plans on cutting \$2 million from community legal centres next year, to stop that cut?

Let us be genuine. If they really want to criticise these sorts of funding initiatives, let us talk about what the \$2.6 million that was spent on the Commission of Audit for Peter Costello would actually get us. Let us talk about what the \$100 million that was spent on Strong Choices would get us in terms of jobs. If members opposite want to carry on about \$1.8 million and what a waste of money it is and what that could have done for their communities, I can tell them what \$100 million would have done for the community of Redcliffe, what it would do for CLCs and Legal Aid—more money for our courts and justice system. That would have gone a long way, instead of wasting it on a Strong Choices campaign and funding agencies to spend \$30 million in preparation for asset sales before you are even endorsed by the voters to do it, so do not come in here complaining about where \$1.8 million is going when you just threw it out the window. You talk about a waste of taxpayers' dollars!

It is my pleasure and my honour to commend this bill to the House. It is an election commitment that we promised the people of Queensland, and once again we are delivering on our election commitment.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Clause 5—



Mrs D'ATH (9.41 pm): I move the following amendments—

1 **Clause 5 (Insertion of new pt 12)**

Page 7, line 12, 'suffering'—

omit, insert—

who have a

2 Clause 5 (Insertion of new pt 12)

Page 11, line 3, 'presides'—

omit, insert—

present is to preside

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [767].

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 5, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 6, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mrs D'ATH (9.42 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside of the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 44:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 39:

LNP, 39—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Pease, Frecklington; Miller, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.



Hon. YM D'ATH (9.49 pm): I move the following amendment—

3 After clause 6

Page 12, after line 30—

insert—

Part 2A Amendment of Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013

6A Act amended

This part amends the *Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013*.

6B Amendment of s 2 (Commencement)

Section 2(3), '1 July 2016'—

omit, insert—

1 July 2017

Amendment No. 3 is to acknowledge that, in addition to the Penalties and Sentences (Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council) Amendment Bill, we are also amending the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013 to extend the commencement date to 1 July 2017.

Mr WALKER: The opposition's position on this has been pretty clearly canvassed in the debate to date. What we say is that this is an amendment made without proper notice to the people of Queensland. It takes away significant protection from them, in that they expected from 1 July to have a construction industry that was properly policed and free from corruption and coercion. They now will not have that. We oppose that strongly and we will be voting against the amendment.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Members, it is proposed that all future divisions will be of one minute's duration. I urge all members to stay in the chamber.

AYES, 44:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 39:

LNP, 39—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Pease, Frecklington; Miller, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 7, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.55 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Mr WALKER (Mansfield—LNP) (9.56 pm): I inform the House that, although the opposition did not divide at the second reading, in view of the amendments that have been passed in consideration in detail we will be dividing on this the third reading and opposing it.

Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

AYES, 44:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 39:

LNP, 39—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Hart, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Pease, Frecklington; Miller, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.59 pm): I move the following amendment—

4 Long title

Long title, after 'and to amend'—

insert—

the Criminal Law (Criminal Organisations Disruption) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2013 and

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Aspley Electorate, Schools

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (10.00 pm): Queensland is home to some great school communities including those in the Aspley electorate. Early last week I joined Team H and walked with them to school as part of Aspley State School's Walk Safely to School Day. Walk Safely to School Day is a national event that encourages all primary school students to walk and commute safely to school. The aim of this initiative is to raise awareness of road safety as well as the health and environmental benefits of walking. It was wonderful to start the day with some of our local schoolchildren and of course the wonderful parents who volunteered their time to support this initiative.

Walk Safely to School Day is actually part of Aspley State School's Active School Travel program, which has been running for a number of years. The school is one of only 45 around the state participating in the Active School Travel program. The students are encouraged to actively travel to school every Tuesday, and they are rewarded for their amazing efforts throughout the year. I had a great time and I say a big thank you to the students for sharing their morning with me.

An exciting and entrepreneurial initiative was launched at St Paul's School Bald Hills last week. In partnership with River City Labs, the St Paul's School Entrepreneurs Club will provide an opportunity for students, staff and parents to grow their own businesses by learning how to develop and pitch their ideas to investors. Participants will have access to coaches and mentors, market-leading resources and the facilities they need for learning, workshopping and skill development.

This is Australia's first school entrepreneurs club. I am very proud to have it located in the Aspley electorate. It was fantastic to meet some amazing young entrepreneurs and learn about their current enterprises and future ideas. I had a great chat with school captain Riley. Riley established his dog-grooming product business, A Boy and His Dog, when he was 14 years old. Although Riley has taken a break from his business this year as he concentrates on year 12, I am confident that Riley will achieve great things in his future business endeavours.

The club was officially launched by the Assistant Minister for Innovation, federal member for Longman, Wyatt Roy. It was terrific to have my LNP colleagues the members for Mansfield and Everton also in attendance seeing firsthand the calibre of students and the potential for this program to take school based ideas into the real world.

The landscape of life after school is changing, and we must realise that students will need to be able to think big and global about opportunities that do not even exist yet. It is crucial that our schools become increasingly driven by technology, innovation and entrepreneurialism, and the entrepreneurs club is an example of the opportunities that our schools can be providing young Queenslanders.

All eight schools in the Aspley electorate are fantastic—great students, great teachers, great principals and great school community spirit. As I meet people in my role as the new shadow minister for education it is clear to me that we have many wonderful schools, teachers and students right across this great state. I look forward to updating the House about the great things happening in the schools from the Aspley electorate into the future.

North Queensland, Tourism

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (10.04 pm): Tonight I rise to give the House an update on the tourism economy in Tropical North Queensland, in particular the electorate of Barron River. Tourism is again going from strength to strength in the Tropical North. For some time now there has been wide discussion about the upcoming tourism boom from Asia, and I can tell members that the door is open and we are well and truly inside that space now. We are seeing significant growth in passenger numbers at the Cairns Airport coming from our domestic market in addition to strong increases from China and Japan along with the North American market, Europe and the UK also doing well. Our major hotels are reporting increased occupancies along with increased day-touring products. One of the largest reef operators informs me that their domestic numbers are up 12 per cent and that this is from an already significant base. I am told that their Japanese numbers are up 16 per cent, their Chinese numbers are up 28 per cent and their German numbers are up 12 per cent. These results are being played out across the Tropical North, not to mention the huge benefits that come to those associated businesses in the region.

International passenger numbers have continued to grow strongly during April 2016 compared to last year. Our airport reports 13,360 more international passengers through the international terminal this April. This is a 33.7 per cent increase on last year. The Wet Tropics traditionally has a downturn between December and April during the off-season due to the rain, but this year that season did not eventuate and the tourists are still coming quite strong.

The renewed popularity of Cairns and Great Barrier Reef as a destination amongst the Japanese is continuing to rise, with almost 38 per cent growth in our Japanese passenger numbers for April. The total of 13,493 was the largest international market for the Cairns Airport, with many using the direct services between Cairns and Tokyo and Cairns and Osaka. Cathay's Hong Kong service and our Air Niugini and QantasLink services to Port Moresby have contributed to our international passenger numbers.

Domestic passenger numbers continued to grow during April compared to last year. We welcome the ongoing commitment by our domestic airline partners with an additional 5.4 per cent, or 68,000 seats, scheduled into Cairns for April, May and June this year, taking the total for this quarter alone to a reported estimated 1.3 million passengers. Thanks to the impact of our new international services that commenced between Cairns and Bali, Singapore, Hong Kong, Manila and Auckland and the continuation of the China Eastern seasonal service from Shanghai that operated through to the end of the month, I am very confident that, with a new airline attraction fund and trade delegations to China from our government, we can continue to grow these numbers for strong inbound tourists to Queensland, to Cairns and to further afield to explore Queensland. When we talk tourism in Queensland, we talk about jobs, we talk about job opportunities and the training opportunities, apprenticeships and the prospect of solid growth and economic stability.

Collinsville, Redevelopment Master Plan

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (10.07 pm): The people of Collinsville may be down, but they are certainly not out. Tonight I want to share with the House a plan devised by some passionate Collinsville residents to get the town of Collinsville back up on its feet again. In boom times Collinsville's population was exploding. The town's 2011 census population was 1,501. It is interesting to note that prior to the mining downturn it was projected that the town's population was going to double to almost 3,000 by 2026. However, times have changed dramatically in Collinsville. Businesses have closed, families have had to move away to find work and, like many in the north, they are fed up with delays of the Abbot Point redevelopment. Glencore's scaling back of mining operations has also impacted on the town and has delivered a significant blow. Collinsville is wallowing in debt and its unemployment level is one of the highest in the state, currently estimated at 17 per cent. However, this resilient community is determined that it is not going to be all doom and gloom for Collinsville.

Following on from the successful campaign to entrench Collinsville as the pit pony capital of the world, community members have identified a Collinsville redevelopment master plan. Prepared by two fourth-year James Cook University town planning students, Taryn Pace and Frances Mahlouzarides, this master plan promotes tourism and builds on Collinsville's strong community spirit which, I can tell you, they have bucketloads of. The plan concentrates on the development of key precincts over a five-year period—namely, the Collinsville Showgrounds, Rugby League club and Memorial Park, which is home to a stand-alone World War II memorial. Collinsville's redevelopment master plan is concentrating on a series of beautification upgrades such as irrigation and tree planting, pathways and walking tracks, picnic tables and park bench seating, road sealing, the creation of an alfresco cooking and dining area, lighting and shade covers over the tennis, squash and volleyball courts and the skating rink.

The revitalisation of Collinsville's Mighty Miners Rugby League Club will centre on creating a designated RV and caravan rest area, as the current 72-hour rest area at the showgrounds is limited in space and facilities. Collinsville recently became an RV-friendly town and, as such, the main focus is to encourage tourism through the town by creating an attractive RV-friendly designated space. The inland route for coalminers, cattle freight and road trains is also a popular route for grey nomads and backpackers wanting to get off the beaten track and explore Australia's outback towns, and Collinsville wants to capitalise on this.

I also acknowledge Glencore, which provided \$10,000 in funding for Collinsville's telecentre, championed by Sue Clark, to conduct a plan with JCU urban planning students. They are keen to convey the message that the project is being driven by the whole community and that this is a good example of what can be achieved when communities work together. I have every confidence that the Collinsville community will succeed with its redevelopment master plan and I look forward to seeing this project delivered in the coming months.

Chamier, Mr N; Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (10.10 pm): Like many people who have worked with Nigel Chamier OAM, I was flabbergasted to see him swiftly dispatched as chair of Goldoc for no apparent reason and to be replaced by former premier Peter Beattie less than two years out from the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. I wish to place on the public record my deep gratitude for Nigel's unswerving commitment to delivering the best games yet in 2018. We should not underestimate the legacy that Nigel Chamier leaves as a result of his superior business and negotiating skills and nor should we forget his gracious, unassuming manner that made him so welcome in boardrooms and community meetings alike. Importantly, Nigel recognised that the Commonwealth Games was not a vehicle for grandstanding and required a statesmanlike approach, not a self-confessed media tart. However, Nigel was no silent chairman. He spent up to 30 hours per week selling the games message.

In May 2012, a board of equal numbers of government and Australian Commonwealth Games Federation members was formed. The organising bid committee, ably led by former Olympian Mark Stockwell, had done its job exceptionally well and it was time to move to phase 2 of the games, the huge task of planning and preparation. Nigel Chamier was selected as the new board chair. Winning the games bid was a magical moment, but the open chequebook approach that was adopted by the Bligh government was scandalous, placing the government at huge financial risk. Nigel's stewardship and the LNP's careful management have left the 2018 games in good shape. All 17 venues were locked in for delivery 12 months out and the aquatic centre upgrade was completed two years ahead of schedule.

Nigel skilfully found close to \$1 billion in savings. The games village plan under Bligh would have cost the government hundreds of millions of dollars, but the contract with Grocon meant minimal risk to the government. The federal government has already committed its \$156 million and the Gold Coast City Council is now paying its fair share—\$100 million over five years. The council keeps \$320 million worth of infrastructure.

Channel 7's broadcasting deal is complete and a considerable amount of secured sponsorship is just waiting for the minister to announce. The procurement program commenced a record four years out and the Ahead of the Games website and the Embracing2018 legacy strategy were up and running under the LNP.

I am pleased to see the change of heart by the CGF, the ACGF and Goldoc to include beach volleyball, having resisted the LNP's request, stating that it was not played by enough countries or at the standard required. It would cost about \$10 million and the only viable beaches were, of course, around Coolangatta—my home. Beach volleyball was always going to have a place as an exhibition sport or similar. Therefore, I find it not only childish but also insulting to deny me invitations to announcements in the Currumbin electorate, which I have represented proudly for over 12 years. For Minister Hinchliffe to make statements that I was excluded because I spiked beach volleyball's request is untrue and cheap political point-scoring. The preparation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games is in truly fine shape. I thank everyone who has contributed to this journey. Let us see some bipartisanship for a change.

Ipswich Festival

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (10.13 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak about a wonderful annual event that recently took place in my home town of Ipswich, the Ipswich Festival. I count myself truly lucky to serve as one of the representatives in state parliament for the city of Ipswich. Having been born and raised at Woodend, an inner suburb of Ipswich, and attended St Mary's Primary School and St Edmund's College, the city of Ipswich is in my blood and I am always happy to sing its praises.

The Ipswich Festival is a celebration of all of those things that make Ipswich great. The festival ran for three weeks—from 7 April to 24 April—and saw an incredible range of sporting, cultural and family activities as part of an exciting program that engaged directly with the community. I had the pleasure of attending a number of Ipswich Festival events, including the jazz, wine and blues festival in our beautiful Queens Park. There I enjoyed the hospitality of the St Andrews Ipswich Private Hospital, where we celebrated what Ipswich has to offer in terms of food, music and culture.

I also attended the Ipswich Festival car parade, which saw the main street of Ipswich closed off to allow attendees to take in a variety of cars and vehicles from across the years. I enjoyed attending the Ipswich Arts Awards, where the best of Ipswich artists was on display.

Sport tragics—I am sad to say that I count myself as one—were treated to the excitement and speed of the Ipswich Festival Criterium, whilst the ever-growing multiculturalism in Ipswich was celebrated with a global fiesta. Other Ipswich Festival events included the historical tours of Ipswich, the incredible parade of light and a public performance of Roald Dahl's *The Witches* at the Ipswich Transit Centre.

Events such as the Ipswich Festival do not just happen overnight. I take this opportunity to, firstly, thank Ipswich Mayor Paul Pisasale and his great team of councillors who have championed this festival over many years, helping to make it the great celebration that it is today. I would also like to thank the chairman of the Ipswich Events Corporation, Paul Casos, and his hardworking staff who put in an enormous amount of time and energy into the festival. They should be heartily commended for their good work. In closing, I would like to formally extend an invitation to all of my colleagues from both sides of the chamber to join me at next year's Ipswich Festival to celebrate everything that we love about the great city of Ipswich.

Surf Life Saving Queensland; CPR

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (10.16 pm): This evening, we all had the pleasure to attend the Surf Life Saving Queensland season wrap-up function in the Premiers Hall, where we learned that, during the 2015-16 patrol season, Surf Life Saving Queensland's services combined to directly save the lives of 3,396 beachgoers through in-water rescues; they treated 18,692 first-aid patients; they performed 718,926 preventive actions to proactively safeguard beachgoers; and they watched over and protected more than 15.2 million beachgoers. Sadly, despite that work, since 1 July 2015, 11 people have drowned. That is the highest number since 2004-05, when we lost 13 people. Importantly, all of those drownings occurred outside of patrol hours or at unattended or unpatrolled beaches. That is an important point. I am told that there has never been a drowning between the red and yellow flags of Surf Life Saving Queensland. To curtail the loss of life and injury, some key initiatives have been implemented by Surf Life Saving Queensland, including increased patrol hours and dusk patrols in key areas, such as Surfers Paradise, and also an increase in its education and safety programs around the state.

Key points that came out of tonight's briefing and wrap-up included that we are all responsible for spreading the word, that we need to promote safe practices around our beaches and that we need to somehow educate our visitors—people from European countries, people from Asian countries. How often have we heard of visitors from Asia or Europe finding themselves in difficulty or, in fact, drowning off our beaches and destroying their holidays and the holidays of their loved ones and all of the grief that goes with that?

A not-so-surprising fact came out of my discussion with some of the people who were at that function tonight—people who are expert in CPR—and that is that Queensland is out of step with other states in terms of our recommendations regarding CPR on our charts. Those recommendations state that we need to do two breaths and then 30 compressions. That recommendation flies in the face of the advice of experts and it flies in the face of recommendations made in all the other states of Australia. They know the correct way to do CPR, and that is to start immediately with 30 compressions. I believe that we need to review our position and get back into step with best practice and the advice of those experts.

Gympie Show

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (10.19 pm): Gympie has just spent three days celebrating all that is great about the produce, industries, businesses and activities of the region with its 128th annual show. While attendance numbers are not yet official, they are expected to show crowds were up 25 to 30 per cent on those of last year. The show's success is a testament to the work and commitment of the local organising committee of president Joe Mooney, vice-president David Warren, secretary Donna Dodson and treasurer Steven Smith. They were, of course, helped on by the fine weather, fireworks, rodeo and a spread of new events which drew in the crowds. Our show is the third largest in Queensland, which is a mighty feat for an area which has to compete with larger regional centres and cities.

The large numbers of exhibitors providing more displays, exhibits and entries demonstrates the wonderful kaleidoscope of our region. Major sponsors who helped set up a strong promotional and financial basis for the committee to gear up to the big event included: Gympie Regional Council; Tom

Grady Real Estate; and Budget Steel/Cavalier Engineering. Other large sponsors, reflecting the wide variety of industries within Gympie, were Corbets Group, University of the Sunshine Coast, Cooloola Custom Stock Feeds, Cooloola Milk and Nestle. New to the list of sponsors are Keba Engineering, Cleanaway, RRR Towing, the Recreational Flying Company, Vanderfield, Madills Isuzu, Gympie Isuzu and Pacific Hyundai, PHE, ICUC Spectacles and Repairs, In House Monograms, Mary Valley Timbers, and Saw Kitchen and Cabinetry.

Congratulations also to the wonderful promotional efforts of the two rural ambassadors and the fundraising efforts of the four showgirls, who raised in excess of \$71,000. Horse events, dairy cattle judging, stud beef finals, pedigree dog events and trials, horticulture, poultry and cage bird judging, sheep-shearing demonstrations and some fiercely competitive woodchop events reflect the foundations of our local agricultural industries.

The chief stewards—Ray Zerner in dairy, John Warren in the ring, Shane Jocumsen in the pavilion, Terri-Jayne Ramsey in prime cattle, Warren Smith in stud beef and Stephen Clough—are to be commended for their hard work in making sure everything ran smoothly. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Narelle Towner, who is partly employed by the show society, for putting in many hours of work.

We all know that show societies in Australia have the largest number of volunteers and our show would not be able to run without the strong support, efforts and many unpaid hours of work of our volunteers. Unfortunately, as with many events these days, the numbers of volunteers were down this year so the result is a fitting commendation of the hard work of those who continue to make the Gympie Show one of the most successful in Queensland.

Keppel Bay, Dive Wreck

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (10.22 pm): I want to sink a decommissioned navy vessel off the Capricorn Coast to create a dive wreck that will generate significant tourism and economic benefits to the Keppel community. The federal government recently announced that former navy vessels HMAS *Tobruk* and HMAS *Sydney* will be decommissioned and offered to states and territories for the creation of dive wrecks to support the tourism industry. In April I wrote to the Premier and put forward Keppel Bay as one of the possible locations to be considered as a navy vessel dive site. It is absolutely wonderful news that these two great ships are going to be offered as dive wrecks and not simply scrapped for their metal.

HMAS *Tobruk* was used extensively during regional peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, as well as border protection in Northern Australia. HMAS *Sydney* was deployed to the Persian Gulf on five occasions in support of operations during the Gulf War, Afghanistan War and the 2003 invasion of Iraq. Closer to home, HMAS *Sydney* was involved to support Australia's response to regional uprisings and humanitarian operations. The addition of HMAS *Tobruk* or HMAS *Sydney* as a diving destination could provide a significant boost to the southern Great Barrier Reef's tourism industry and economy and to the identity and morale of the local community. A dive wreck, ex-HMAS *Adelaide*, was scuttled off Avoca Beach in 2011 and is now home to some wonderful new marine life including giant cuttlefish, blue groper, kingfish, yellowtail and octopus.

The addition of this dive site will provide the tourists visiting our region who are looking for nature oriented activities—this accounts for around 26 per cent of visitors—a richer choice of experiences. My campaign for one of the navy vessels to be sunk in Keppel has received widespread community support and I have received dozens upon dozens of emails and messages in support from local residents, dive groups and tourism operators. Capricorn Enterprise CEO Mary Carroll supports the initiative and its potential to bring divers from worldwide. Local divers say a dive wreck will certainly boost economic activity in the industry. A dive wreck would offer tourism and economic benefits to Keppel that could well last for the next 100 years or more.

Of course, there is still a long way to go pending approval, and any decision on where to sink the ship would need to satisfy all environmental approvals. We must also take advice from experts about the most appropriate location. The Keppel community already has a strong tourism focus and client oriented service vital to capitalise on this fantastic opportunity. We have the necessary infrastructure, with access from Roslyn Bay Marina, and existing quality tourism operators in place to provide diving trips to the wreck. I know the Premier and her government are great supporters of tourism in our region and indeed throughout the state. I believe Keppel Bay would be a fantastic choice for the location of one of these naval vessels.

Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (10.25 pm): I am very pleased to see the passage of the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The bill has three major components: reinstatement of notification and objection rights and the specification of restricted access. The MOLA Bill reinstates public notification requirements and objection rights for standard or variation applications for environmental authorities relating to mining leases. The requirement to publicly notify mining lease applications by means of a newspaper notice allows community members to be informed of due processes and to have input on matters that affect them. It also restores objection rights previously removed by the MER(CP) Act introduced by the LNP which amended these provisions to limit objection rights to affected persons and additionally reduced the grounds of objection. However, it essentially removed the voice of communities, farmers and landowners. These provisions were originally put in place by the LNP government's Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act.

Landowner rights were eroded in dealing with resource companies. The LNP's MER(CP) Act gave the minister powers to extinguish restricted land for mining leases or to grant mining leases over restricted land where no consent or compensation has been agreed to. I am pleased that under the MOLA Bill the definition of 'restricted land' is to include areas within 50 metres of a principal stockyard, artesian wells, bores, dams and water storage facilities. The restricted land framework applies to all resource authorities, including petroleum leases. It is a good thing that the distance between mining operations and significant agricultural infrastructure be enshrined in legislation. We are also pleased that the proposed changes would not allow mining leases to be granted over restricted land where landowner consent had not been given.

The LNP bill that removed the objection rights in respect of the grant of mining leases was a low act. The committee's report proved there was a lack of frivolous claims. The Land Court has the power to strike out any objection that is outside the jurisdiction of the court, vexatious, frivolous or an abuse of the court process. The MOLA Bill restores a sensible balance between the rights of landowners and the rights of miners. I congratulate the committee on its work on this bill. I am pleased to support the Mineral and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

South East Queensland Regional Plan

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (10.27 pm): On Friday, 13 May I joined the Deputy Premier, the mayor and representatives of many of the South-East Queensland councils to launch the community conversations about the South East Queensland Regional Plan. In our truly transparent style, to which this government is deeply committed, we are using these community conversations to increase awareness of the plan and what it means and to give the people of South-East Queensland a chance to articulate the things that are important to them.

Planning is a truly critical issue for the people of the Bulimba electorate and that is why it was so important to me to be part of the consultation on the South East Queensland Regional Plan right from the beginning, whether we are talking about planning at council level and important legislation like the planning bills that we passed in the last sitting week to restore the right of residents to object to the development that is happening in the street or their neighbourhood or their community, or the long-term plan for our area which I have been advocating for a number of years now that would identify what our population will be like in 20 years time and what we need to put in place to make sure we preserve the quality of life that we so treasure in our area—things like preserving green space for formal and informal recreation, addressing traffic congestion, ensuring development does not occur at the expense of local amenities, supporting our land-locked schools to make best use of their space, ensuring our teachers, nurses, childcare workers and others who serve our communities can also afford to live in those communities and many other matters.

I also mean dealing with the really pressing issues like the matter of the 21-hectare Bulimba Barracks site, which the Department of Defence is putting up for sale. Working with my colleagues the federal member for Griffith, Terri Butler, and Shayne Sutton, councillor for Morningside, and the mighty and awesome people of the Bulimba electorate, we have fought every step of the way to make sure this site did not turn into a high-density jungle and completely overwhelm the quality of life we value so much in our local area.

We simply cannot thank the Deputy Premier enough for the support she has shown to us and our local community in that fight: the negotiations with Brisbane City Council to make sure we got a master plan that reflects community priorities, to the offer from Economic Development Queensland to the federal government to purchase the land, to the latest, the temporary local planning instrument that

has given the community certainty about what happens on the site. Her support is greatly welcomed, particularly with a council that has such form in ignoring its local planning schemes. We are so proud of our area and Terri, Shayne and I are so proud to represent our feisty local residents. We hope we will be working with them over many years to protect the area we all love so much.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, 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