



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>  
 Email: [hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au)  
 Phone (07) 3553 6344 Fax (07) 3553 6369

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

### Tuesday, 1 November 2016

Subject	Page
<b>ASSENT TO BILLS</b> .....	<b>3921</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Message, dated 20 October 2016, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills. ....	
	3921
<b>PETITIONS</b> .....	<b>3921</b>
<b>TABLED PAPERS</b> .....	<b>3922</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3924</b>
<b>Dreamworld, Fatalities; Moorooka, Bus Incident</b> .....	<b>3924</b>
<b>Roma Hospital</b> .....	<b>3925</b>
<b>Queensland Rail</b> .....	<b>3926</b>
<b>Queensland Rail</b> .....	<b>3927</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Rail Briefing Note, endorsed 21 September 2016, for the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, titled 'Redcliffe Peninsula line update—new timetable'.....	
	3928
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Rail Briefing Note, endorsed 7 October 2016, for the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, titled 'Traincrew resourcing and cancelled services—Friday, 30 September 2016'.....	
	3928
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, dated January 2016, by Indec titled 'Train Service Delivery Review: Report—Draft' . ....	
	3929
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, dated February 2016, by Indec titled 'Train Service Delivery Review: Report' . ....	
	3929
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 1 November 2016, from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, to the Acting CEO Queensland Rail, Mr Neil Scales, regarding the report titled 'Train Service Delivery Review' conducted by Indec for Queensland Rail in January 2016. ....	
	3929

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 1 November 2016

	<i>Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 November 2016, from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, regarding the independent investigation into the current disruptions to the Citytrain timetable.</i>	3929
	<b>South East Queensland Regional Plan</b>	<b>3930</b>
	<b>Queensland Economy</b>	<b>3930</b>
	<b>Queensland Tragedies, Emergency Services Personnel</b>	<b>3931</b>
<b>MOTION</b>		<b>3932</b>
	<b>Amendments to Sessional Orders</b>	<b>3932</b>
<b>PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE</b>		<b>3933</b>
	<b>Reports</b>	<b>3933</b>
	<i>Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 98—Annual Report 2015-16.</i>	3933
	<i>Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2015-16 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on controlled operations applications for corruption offences.</i>	3933
<b>LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>		<b>3933</b>
	<b>Reports</b>	<b>3933</b>
	<i>Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 41—Limitation of Actions (Institutional Child Sexual Abuse) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and Limitation of Actions and Other Legislation (Child Abuse Civil Proceedings) Amendment Bill 2016.</i>	3933
	<i>Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 42—Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.</i>	3933
<b>TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE</b>		<b>3933</b>
	<b>Report</b>	<b>3933</b>
	<i>Tabled paper: Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 27—Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.</i>	3933
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION</b>		<b>3934</b>
	<b>Disallowance of Statutory Instrument</b>	<b>3934</b>
	<b>Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill</b>	<b>3934</b>
<b>PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b>		<b>3934</b>
	<b>Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games</b>	<b>3934</b>
	<b>Moorooka, Bus Incident</b>	<b>3935</b>
	<b>CFMEU</b>	<b>3935</b>
	<b>Moorooka, Bus Incident</b>	<b>3936</b>
	<b>Queensland, Tragedies</b>	<b>3936</b>
<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE</b>		<b>3937</b>
	<b>Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games</b>	<b>3937</b>
	<i>Tabled paper: Document, dated February 2016, by Indec titled 'Train Service Delivery Review: Report'.</i>	3937
	<b>Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games</b>	<b>3938</b>
	<b>Wynnum-Manly, Community Health Centres</b>	<b>3938</b>
	<b>Queensland Rail, Train Crew</b>	<b>3939</b>
	<b>Adolescent Mental Health Services</b>	<b>3940</b>
	<b>Public Transport, Rail Services</b>	<b>3940</b>
	<b>South East Queensland Regional Plan</b>	<b>3941</b>
	<b>Moreton Bay Rail Link</b>	<b>3941</b>
	<b>Jobs</b>	<b>3942</b>
	<b>Jobs</b>	<b>3942</b>
	<b>Department of Health</b>	<b>3943</b>
	<b>Queensland Rail, Train Crew</b>	<b>3944</b>
	<i>Tabled paper: Email, dated 25 October 2016, to the Clayfield electorate office regarding Queensland Rail train crew shortage.</i>	3944
	<b>National Disability Insurance Scheme, School Transport Assistance</b>	<b>3944</b>
	<b>Public Transport, Rail Services</b>	<b>3945</b>
	<b>Child Protection</b>	<b>3946</b>
	<b>Mining Industry</b>	<b>3946</b>
	<b>Education and Training</b>	<b>3947</b>
<b>MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST</b>		<b>3948</b>
	<b>Queensland Rail</b>	<b>3948</b>
	Division: Question put—That leave be granted to move a motion without notice.	3950
	Resolved in the negative.	3950
	<b>Tropical North Queensland, Tourism</b>	<b>3950</b>
	<b>Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games</b>	<b>3951</b>
	<b>Jobs</b>	<b>3952</b>
	<b>Moorooka, Bus Incident</b>	<b>3953</b>
	<b>Queensland First Home Owners' Grant</b>	<b>3954</b>
	<b>Palaszczuk Labor Government, Rail Services</b>	<b>3954</b>
	<b>Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements</b>	<b>3955</b>
	<b>Public Transport, Rail Services</b>	<b>3956</b>
	<b>Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance</b>	<b>3957</b>

Table of Contents – Tuesday, 1 November 2016

<b>MOTION</b> .....	<b>3958</b>
<b>Order of Business</b> .....	<b>3958</b>
<b>APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)</b> .....	<b>3958</b>
<b>Second Reading</b> .....	<b>3958</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>3963</b>
<b>Queensland Rail</b> .....	<b>3963</b>
<b>APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)</b> .....	<b>3963</b>
<b>Second Reading</b> .....	<b>3963</b>
<b>PRIVILEGE</b> .....	<b>3970</b>
<b>Comments by Member for Stretton</b> .....	<b>3970</b>
<b>APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)</b> .....	<b>3970</b>
<b>Second Reading</b> .....	<b>3970</b>
<b>Consideration in Detail</b> .....	<b>3981</b>
Clauses 1 and 2, as read, agreed to .....	3981
Schedule, as read, agreed to .....	3981
<b>Third Reading</b> .....	<b>3981</b>
<b>Long Title</b> .....	<b>3981</b>
<b>MOTION</b> .....	<b>3981</b>
<b>Order of Business</b> .....	<b>3981</b>
<b>MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL</b> .....	<b>3981</b>
<b>Second Reading</b> .....	<b>3981</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>3986</b>
<b>Queensland Rail</b> .....	<b>3986</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 17 March 2016, from the Project Director, GIRO, Mr Francois Fortin, to the Project Manager, Queensland Rail, Mr Paul Mitchell and the Senior Manager TSD Queensland Rail, Mr Mick Skinner, regarding a statement of work for the final iteration for MBRL job cars optimisation for Queensland Rail .....	3987
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 21 October 2016, from the Project Director, GIRO, Mr Francois Fortin, to the Project Manager, Queensland Rail, Mr Marcus Sanker and Senior Manager TSD, Queensland Rail, Mr Mick Skinner, regarding a statement of work for MBRL job cards optimisation for Queensland Rail .....	3987
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Min Statement Number Three' .....	3987
<b>MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL</b> .....	<b>3987</b>
<b>Second Reading</b> .....	<b>3987</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 20 October 2016, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, to the Chief Executive Officer, Tabcorp, Mr David Attenborough, regarding proposed merger of Tatts Group and Tabcorp .....	3992
<b>PRIVILEGE</b> .....	<b>3998</b>
<b>Comments by Member for Stretton</b> .....	<b>3998</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Parliamentary Library Research Brief, dated 22 September 2016, regarding TransLink public transport fare increases 2012 to 2016. ....	3998
<b>MOTION</b> .....	<b>3998</b>
<b>Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill</b> ....	<b>3998</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Proposed amendment moved by the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the private member's motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, on 1 November 2016. ....	4001
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from the <i>South Burnett Times</i> , dated 21 October 2016 .....	4003
Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to. ....	4004
Resolved in the affirmative .....	4004
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b> .....	<b>4004</b>
<b>Sunshine Coast, Road Infrastructure</b> .....	<b>4004</b>
<b>Mackay Electorate, Tourism</b> .....	<b>4005</b>
<b>State Penalties Enforcement Registry, Restitution to Victims of Crime</b> .....	<b>4005</b>
<b>Capalaba Electorate, Community Support</b> .....	<b>4006</b>
<b>Western Queensland Regulated Airports</b> .....	<b>4006</b>
<b>Wilson, Ms MC</b> .....	<b>4007</b>
<b>Sunshine Butterflies</b> .....	<b>4008</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Landscape concept plan: Our Back Yard—468 Mckinnon Drv Cooribah' .....	4008
<b>Thuringowa Rapid Action and Patrol Hub</b> .....	<b>4008</b>
<b>Kawana Electorate</b> .....	<b>4009</b>
<b>Fairer Fares</b> .....	<b>4009</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE</b> .....	<b>4010</b>

## TUESDAY, 1 NOVEMBER 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.

### ASSENT TO BILLS



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

The Honourable P.W. Wellington MP  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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

Date of assent: 20 October 2016

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Weapons Act 1990, and to amend the Acts mentioned in schedule 1, for particular purposes”

“A Bill for an Act to regulate the governance and administration of grammar schools, and to amend this Act, the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001, the Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Provisions Act 2009, the Information Privacy Act 2009 and the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for an Act to regulate distribution and use of medicinal cannabis in Queensland and to amend the Health Act 1937 and the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for an Act to apply the Gene Technology Act 2000 (Cwth) and Gene Technology (Licence Charges) Act 2000 (Cwth) as laws of Queensland, to repeal the Gene Technology Act 2001, and to amend this Act and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes”

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

Yours sincerely

Governor

20 October 2016

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 20 October 2016, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills [[1908](#)].

### PETITIONS

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

#### Bells Creek Arterial

**Mr McArdle**, from 918 petitioners, requesting the House to fast-track the completion of the Bells Creek Arterial from Caloundra Rd to the Bruce Highway and install traffic signals and exit slip-lanes at the Caloundra Rd/Nicklin Way roundabout [[1909](#), [1910](#)].

#### School Transport Assistance Program

**Hon. Jones** and **Mr Ryan**, from 20,135 petitioners, requesting the House to support the Queensland Government's efforts in lobbying the Turnbull LNP Federal Government to guarantee that the current school transport assistance program for students with a disability in Queensland will continue to be available under the NDIS from 1 January 2020 [[1911](#), [1912](#)].

### Rules Beach, Baffle Creek

**Mr Bennett**, from 110 petitioners, requesting the House to conduct a consultation with Gladstone and Bundaberg regional councils and the affected residents of Rules Beach, Baffle Creek and surrounding areas to determine support for a boundary realignment of these areas back to the Bundaberg Regional Council [[1913](#), [1914](#)].

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

### Pimpama State School

**Mr Boothman**, from 238 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately re-instate the funding for the construction of a new administration block at Pimpama State School [[1915](#)].

### Peek, Mr S

**Mr Dickson**, from 2,061 petitioners, requesting the House to grant an amnesty for Steve Peek to administer whole plant medicinal cannabis to his terminally ill 8-year-old daughter [[1916](#)].

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

14 October 2016—

- [1871](#) Report on release of images to the Queensland Police Service during the financial period 2015-16
- [1872](#) Professional Standards Councils—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1873](#) Professional Standards Councils—Financial Statements 2015-16
- [1874](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a petition (2634-16) presented by the Member for Cleveland, Dr Robinson, from 155 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade as a matter of urgency the pedestrian crossing at Birkdale Road and Main Road, Wellington Point
- [1875](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a petition (2636-16) presented by the Member for Condamine, Mr Weir, from 112 petitioners, requesting the House to extend the consultation period of the Warrego Highway upgrade project taking into consideration the effect of the seven sets of traffic lights, and the possibility of two additional sets, with heavy vehicles travelling along the Warrego Highway through the township of Dalby
- [1876](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a petition (2637-16) presented by the Member for Condamine, Mr Weir, from 1,525 petitioners, requesting the House to extend the consultation period of the Warrego Highway upgrade project taking into consideration the effect of removing front of business parking access along Drayton Street, which forms part of the Warrego Highway, and to reconsider submitted options and alternatives to removing these parking bays

17 October 2016—

- [1877](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 21, 55th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General's Report 12: 2014-15—Oversight of recurrent grants to non-state schools
- [1878](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 22, 55th Parliament—Subordinate Legislation tabled from 15 June to 16 August 2016
- [1879](#) Guidelines for the Financial Management of the Office of the Speaker, October 2016
- [1880](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to an ePetition (2566-16) sponsored by Mr Brown, from 830 petitioners, requesting the House to assume responsibility for future management, upgrade and design to improve Rickertt Road and local connections
- [1881](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Hinchliffe) to a paper petition (2638-16) presented by Mr Madden, from 40 petitioners, requesting the House to give different service numbers to the two routes for TransLink Bus Service 529, which are two very different bus routes, and a paper petition (2639-16) presented by Mr Madden, from 38 petitioners, requesting the House to add two additional services to TransLink Service 529

18 October 2016—

- [1882](#) Document, dated 14 December 2015, by SMEC, titled 'MBIR Options Analysis Project: Issues Identification and Alignment Refinement of the ARTC Inland Rail Alignment between Toowoomba and the NSW Border, Final Report
- [1883](#) Document, dated 14 December 2015, by SMEC, titled 'MBIR Options Analysis Project: Issues Identification and Alignment Refinement of the ARTC Inland Rail Alignment between Toowoomba and the NSW Border, Final Report—Appendix A: Long List Dashboard Assessment'

- [1884](#) Document, dated 14 December 2015, by SMEC, titled 'MBIR Options Analysis Project: Issues Identification and Alignment Refinement of the ARTC Inland Rail Alignment between Toowoomba and the NSW Border, Final Report—Appendix B: Long List Constraints Maps'
- [1885](#) Document, dated 14 December 2015, by SMEC, titled 'MBIR Options Analysis Project: Issues Identification and Alignment Refinement of the ARTC Inland Rail Alignment between Toowoomba and the NSW Border, Final Report—Appendix C: Short List Dashboard Assessment'
- [1886](#) Document, dated 14 December 2015, by SMEC, titled 'MBIR Options Analysis Project: Issues Identification and Alignment Refinement of the ARTC Inland Rail Alignment between Toowoomba and the NSW Border, Final Report—Appendix D: Short List Constraint Maps'
- [1887](#) Document, dated 14 December 2015, by SMEC, titled 'MBIR Options Analysis Project: Issues Identification and Alignment Refinement of the ARTC Inland Rail Alignment between Toowoomba and the NSW Border, Final Report—Appendix E: Strategic Comparative Cost Estimate'
- 19 October 2016—
- [1888](#) Document, dated 18 October 2016, by Ernst & Young, titled 'Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service—Budget build analysis, Final'
- 21 October 2016—
- [1889](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 24, 55th Parliament—Hendra virus EquiVac® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland
- [1890](#) Mental Health Court—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1891](#) Residential Tenancies Authority—Annual Report 2015-16: Erratum
- [1892](#) Document, undated, titled 'State Library of Queensland Ministerial Review into a Serious Workplace Incident identified in October 2012'
- 24 October 2016—
- [1893](#) Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 26, 55th Parliament—Rail Safety National Law (Queensland) Bill 2016
- 25 October 2016—
- [1894](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 31, 55th Parliament—Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016
- [1895](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 25, 55th Parliament—Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
- 26 October 2016—
- [1896](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 35, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 June 2016 and 30 August 2016
- [1897](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 28, 55th Parliament—Adoption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
- 27 October 2016—
- [1898](#) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries—Annual Report 2015-16: Erratum
- [1899](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 23, 55th Parliament—Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Bill 2016
- 28 October 2016—
- [1900](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 32, 55th Parliament—Industrial Relations Bill 2016
- [1901](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 43, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 15 June and 30 August 2016
- 31 October 2016—
- [1902](#) QSuper—2016 Annual Report
- [1903](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 24, 55th Parliament—Hendra virus EquiVac® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland: Corrigendum
- [1904](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade and Investment Mission to the United States by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham), 26 September—1 October 2016
- [1905](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade and Investment Mission to the United Kingdom, France and the United Arab Emirates by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Trad), 20 September—1 October 2016
- [1906](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 26, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled 16 August 2016
- [1907](#) Queensland State Archives—Annual Report 2015-16

## TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

## STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1917](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 184

[1918](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 184, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1919](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 185

[1920](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 185, explanatory notes

Public Trustee Act 1978—

[1921](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 186

[1922](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 186, explanatory notes

Criminal Code Act 1899—

[1923](#) Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 187

[1924](#) Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 187, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

[1925](#) Fisheries (Commercial Trawl Fishery—Fin Fish) Quota Amendment Declaration 2016, No. 188

[1926](#) Fisheries (Commercial Trawl Fishery—Fin Fish) Quota Amendment Declaration 2016, No. 188, explanatory notes

Further Education and Training Act 2014—

[1927](#) Further Education and Training (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 189

[1928](#) Further Education and Training (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 189, explanatory notes

Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Act 2015—

[1929](#) Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2016, No. 190

[1930](#) Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2016, No. 190, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1931](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2016, No. 191

[1932](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2016, No. 191, explanatory notes

Building Act 1975—

[1933](#) Building (Swimming Pool Safety—CPR Signs) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 192

[1934](#) Building (Swimming Pool Safety—CPR Signs) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 192, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

[1935](#) Fisheries Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 193

[1936](#) Fisheries Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 193, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

[1937](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme—Drought Assistance Concessional Loans) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 194

[1938](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Farm Business Concessional Loans Scheme—Drought Assistance Concessional Loans) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 194, explanatory notes

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Dreamworld, Fatalities; Moorooka, Bus Incident



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am): Last week was an emotional week for our state and our nation with the tragic events at Dreamworld and the death of a bus driver. The lives of these families have been changed forever and their loss has touched all Queenslanders. The events of last Tuesday at Dreamworld have been felt throughout Queensland with four lives so tragically lost and, by some miracle, two young children surviving. On behalf of all Queenslanders, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Kate Goodchild, Luke Dorsett, Roozi Araghi and Cindy Low.

On Thursday I travelled to Dreamworld and placed flowers on behalf of all Queensland families to remember the lives of those who were lost. Whilst I was there, I met with Assistant Commissioner Brian Codd and senior detectives and also spoke to members of the public. From the outset, I want to commend the Queensland Police Service and our front-line personnel, including our paramedics and health practitioners, who worked tirelessly to try to save the lives of those who were tragically lost. I was told that it was an absolutely horrific scene and many of these workers are now undergoing trauma counselling. I also want to pay tribute to the young Dreamworld staff members who rushed to the scene to assist families who were traumatised at the time. I have promised that as a government, we will leave no stone unturned until we have all the answers around what went so tragically wrong. I reiterate that to the House today.

I also want to thank UnitingCare Queensland and Lifeline for setting up a dedicated 24-hour helpline to assist people in need. I also thank Kids Helpline. I urge anyone who needs to talk to someone to please ring these numbers and speak to someone because this is a very sad time for many people. The shock of this tragedy will stay with people for a long time. I want to ensure that everything that can be done will be done to assist those who witnessed this horrific event. I know that I speak for all members of this House when I say that our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who tragically lost their lives.

On Friday we saw the tragic death of Manmeet Sharma. Mr Sharma was a bus driver for the Brisbane City Council and a tireless worker for the Indian community. Everyone who has spoken about Mr Sharma has described him as a wonderful person—a talented musician and someone who was always willing to stretch out his hand to help anyone in need. Yesterday, I had the opportunity to speak with the family of Mr Sharma. As members can imagine, they are distraught by the death of their much loved family member.

The commitment I have made is that I will work with the Indian community and the Brisbane City Council to ensure that Mr Sharma is remembered by all Queenslanders as a man who was loved and admired by his friends and family and was a leader in his community. The Minister for Multicultural Affairs has invited members of the Indian community to come to Parliament House today. We want to assure the Indian community that they are a valued and respected part of our Queensland community.

I also wish to place on record today my heartfelt thanks to a real local hero, local taxidriver Aguek Nyok, who was one of the first people to respond to the fire emergency on Friday. I have written to the Australian Bravery Decorations Council to nominate him for recognition. Mr Nyok's selfless actions saved the lives of over six people. In the eyes of all Queenslanders, he is a true local, community hero. I spoke personally to him and he said to me, 'This was my community. I would do anything for my local community.' I know I speak on behalf of everyone in Queensland and every member of this House when I offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of Kate, Luke, Roozi, Cindy and Manmeet.

### Roma Hospital

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): I pleased to report to the House that the first of two early work packages at Roma Hospital will get underway today, with the relocation of the pathology department. The full program of pathology refurbishment and relocation works are to be completed by mid-December. Once the relocation is completed, the existing separate pathology building, the old nurses' quarters and the hospital swimming pool will be demolished to clear the area for the start of the construction of the new \$70 million hospital.

This new hospital was announced by my government in January and is set to contribute hundreds of jobs to the Roma community during the construction phase. The hospital is part of the Queensland government's \$180 million Enhancing Regional Hospitals program and is being built specifically to meet the needs of the region and its people and to reflect the latest advances in health care and technology.

The current Roma Hospital was built in the 1940s and, while it has served the area quite well, it has been my government which has committed to building a new one. I want to thank the health minister and the Treasurer. We are committed to making Queenslanders among the healthiest people in the world by 2026 and this means improving access to quality and safe health care in all of its different forms and settings, including in regional areas like the south-west.

In addition to the \$70 million new Roma Hospital project, a further \$11.3 million worth of health infrastructure works were either recently completed, underway or about to get underway in the south-west. They include upgrading and improvement works at Roma, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Injune and Quilpie.

I congratulate the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Cameron Dick, on his commitment to making this project a reality. These works underline our determination to ensure that health facilities throughout the south-west remain up to date and fit for purpose now and into the future.

### Queensland Rail

**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): My government is determined that Queensland Rail provides a safe and reliable passenger rail service for the travelling public. That is why we were so pleased that the Redcliffe peninsula line was launched into service on 4 October. That is why we are so furious about Queensland Rail's advice to government on Thursday, 20 October of the need to cancel or alter services the following day—Friday, 21 October. As the then chief executive officer of Queensland Rail, Helen Gluer, said last Monday, 24 October—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** If members want to interject, please do so in a way that I can identify you.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I quote—

My advice to the Minister prior to last Thursday was Queensland Rail absolutely believed it would be able to deliver the timetable as scheduled from the 4th of October, clearly we have got that wrong.

Let me make it clear: they got it wrong; the minister will get it right and the travelling public will get certainty. The minister and the Acting CEO of Queensland Rail, Neil Scales, are determined to ensure Queensland Rail implements the five-point plan announced last week. By the end of this week, a timetable for city passenger rail services to operate until the end of the year will be released. The timetable for services for next year will be developed ahead of the implementation of fairer fares for the travelling public in the New Year.

We are determined to ensure that there is a safe and reliable rail service for the travelling public. To get it right, we do need to get to the bottom of what went wrong.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A for those interjections. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have commissioned former Rio Tinto executive Phillip Strachan to investigate the matter thoroughly. After receiving the Indec report last night, my director-general has forwarded it immediately to Mr Strachan as part of his investigations. Mr Strachan has a three-month brief, and I expect progress reports and findings during that time. Mr Strachan will have my government's full cooperation. Today I request the full cooperation of both the member for Clayfield and the member for Indooroopilly as the Queensland Rail shareholding ministers on behalf of the former government.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Full cooperation.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Recommendation 15 of the Peter Costello Commission of Audit report handed to the member for Clayfield stated—

City passenger rail services and network infrastructure be opened up to contestability, like bus services, to allow different providers, including private providers, to bid to operate services and maintain below-rail assets in a particular franchised area under franchise and lease arrangements.

The then government's response to this recommendation of the Commission of Audit stated—

The Government accepts this recommendation for City Passenger services and rail infrastructure and notes that it is consistent with Government's current direction and will be considered as part of the ongoing reform activities in the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

Furthermore, the 2013-14 annual report of Queensland Rail under the headline 'Market Readiness' stated—

This agenda aligns with the Queensland Government's response to recommendations relating to Queensland Rail set out in the Queensland Commission of Audit Final Report 2013.

When the then CEO of Queensland Rail, Helen Gluer, appeared before budget estimates in July 2014, she spoke of the job cuts at Queensland Rail since the former government's election in 2012.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They do not like it. They do not want to hear the truth.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Glass House.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The then CEO conceded that 'since March 2012, there has been a reduction of 19.6 per cent FTEs'.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. You will have ample opportunity to speak or ask questions this morning. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I expect—and the travelling public expect—the members for Clayfield and Indooroopilly to cooperate fully and for that cooperation to extend to the actions of their government on the following: train crew recruitment; recruitment freeze; the design and fitout of the next generation rolling stock, including planned operating models for drivers and guards; and the franchise of Queensland Rail, including consultants' reports and preparatory work done by or for the government, Queensland Rail or Treasury.

### Queensland Rail

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (9.46 am): There are a number of issues concerning Queensland Rail and projects within the Department of Transport and Main Roads that I wish to address in the House this morning. I start by placing on record my thanks and acknowledgement for the hardworking train crew, our drivers and guards for their delivery of service over the past week. I am outraged on behalf of all of our public transport—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** On behalf of all of our public transport users I am outraged at the treatment they have received from Queensland Rail in recent weeks. Customers rightfully expect the highest level of service delivery on our rail network. They have not been receiving this from Queensland Rail. The lack of notice, the changes to timetables and now the increasingly apparent position that senior personnel within the organisation knew of these risks are beyond acceptable.

Queensland Rail has achieved solid on-time running results for many years, up to and including September this year, of above 95 per cent. Today we are running more train services than we were in September and we are running them with solid on-time results—this morning's a.m. peak ran at 95 per cent. Even on the interim timetable, on Monday to Thursday we are running 4.76 per cent more services than in September and on Fridays we are running 5.3 per cent more services than in September, but we have reached this place after the worst possible journey.

It is evident that the timetable released into service on 4 October was not able to be delivered by Queensland Rail with the resources available. The former CEO described that timetable as 'ambitious'. The Premier has established an investigation led by Phillip Strachan into just how an organisation of this size and capacity—an organisation like Queensland Rail—could allow such an error to occur. As the opposition have said, this issue did not happen overnight. The seeds of this problem were sown during periods of mass retrenchment under the previous government. This is highly disappointing. Over the course of the previous government there was a reduction of 1,773 full-time-equivalent workers at Queensland Rail. Critically, there was a reduction of 66 members of the driver training unit, including drivers.

This does not excuse the failure of Queensland Rail to foresee the impact and address these cuts in delivering a new timetable, but it does go some way to explain the impact and tightness of the train crew team. Last year the government lifted the recruitment freeze and opened up positions to train 100 new drivers and 100 new guards. Of those positions, Queensland Rail has recruited 74 new guards and 79 new drivers. Currently, 12 guards and 33 drivers are being trained. The guards and drivers who have been recruited but are not currently in training are booked into upcoming schools. There is clearly a capacity constraint and means of fast-tracking are being considered now. Some of the schools are due to be completed as early as this month. I am advised that 66 members of the driver training unit, including drivers, as I said, were made redundant from July 2012 to December 2014. I am advised that under the Palaszczuk government we have recruited an additional nine trainers.

On 24 October 2016 I announced that an additional 100 driver and 100 guard placements would be opened up. They are currently open for internal applications through to 7 November. Following that process, Queensland Rail will assess capacity and ability of external applicants. In regard to the practice of Queensland Rail seeking internal applicants before external recruitment, I note that this practice was strengthened in the enterprise bargaining agreement struck in 2013 under the then minister and now shadow Treasurer. It has been a longstanding practice.

In regard to the opening of the Redcliffe peninsula line, until Thursday, 20 October I was informed that Queensland Rail was able to deliver the timetable as proposed. On 21 September, in a brief to shareholder ministers Queensland Rail stated that the 4 October—

... timetable undertook internal review through a Quality Assurance process to ensure the timetable was fit-for-purpose and mitigated impact to freight and Traveltrain services.

I table the document.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Rail Briefing Note, endorsed 21 September 2016, for the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, titled 'Redcliffe Peninsula line update—new timetable' [1939].

On the evening of Friday, 30 September there was a large number of unexpected cancellations on the network of which I was not advised in advance. Upon becoming aware of these cancelled services via rail advocates, I sought a briefing from Queensland Rail. I should note that it has been my practice as minister that I listen to rail advocates and passengers, and seek advice from Queensland Rail or TransLink in order to reply to their questions or complaints. In regard to the cancellations on 30 September, the Treasurer and I, as shareholding ministers, received an information brief on 7 October on these cancellations. The brief noted that training on the Redcliffe peninsula line was causing strain on rostering but that 'to date, rostering for training has been successful, with minimal impact on normal operations'. The brief notes that there was a shortfall of driver numbers but reflects that recruitment drives are underway. I table that brief.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Rail Briefing Note, endorsed 7 October 2016, for the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, titled 'Traincrew resourcing and cancelled services—Friday, 30 September 2016' [1940].

I sought further information about the matters raised in this brief and at a departmental senior executive leadership meeting—which I convene regularly—on 17 October I was advised that minor service alterations would continue to occur on Fridays whilst training on the new line was completed and that Queensland Rail was appropriately managing their train crew. At all stages of these briefings I was repeatedly assured by the CEO of Queensland Rail that these cancellations would last only for the month of October. On the afternoon of 20 October I was advised that there would likely be a large number of cancellations on the network the following day. I was also advised that in order to limit the cancellations two lines would be closed after 7 pm on Friday, 21 October and replaced with bus services. I was in Mount Isa at the time, having just completed a regional visit with the CEO of Queensland Rail.

The CEO then briefed me in person on more details of the planned cancellations. In that meeting the CEO also disclosed to me for the first time that QR personnel may have been aware of advice that there were train crew shortages that meant Queensland Rail was unable to deliver the 4 October timetable. Before returning to Brisbane, I ordered a meeting of Queensland Rail and the Department of Transport and Main Roads for the next morning. At this meeting I was informed by Queensland Rail that they were unable to maintain an acceptable level of service for coming weeks. My focus at this meeting was to minimise disruptions for commuters in the approaching peak period and understand the options for minimising impacts for commuters across the following week. Queensland Rail's preferred option for addressing train crew shortages was to implement an interim timetable with service alterations spread across the day to minimise peak impacts. I requested that the interim timetable be made with a full 24 hours notice to customers.

Shareholder ministers then requested that the Queensland Rail board convene an urgent meeting as soon as possible. We requested that the board address key matters including the cause of recent high levels of cancelled services and train crew shortages, and that the board satisfy itself with the interim proposal of the executive leadership team. The board convened on Sunday morning, and both I and the other shareholding minister, the Treasurer, dialled into the meeting remotely. On Sunday evening I received details of the proposed interim timetable. It was uploaded and released to the public on the TransLink website by 4 am Monday, 24 October and media were advised of the changes that evening. The board also stated to shareholding ministers—

The Board and Responsible Ministers were not alerted to the extent of the shortages, or their impact on service delivery, until late last week.

In relation to the interim timetable the board stated—

The Board has carefully considered the information provided by management in relation to the interim timetable and crewing arrangements, and is satisfied that the arrangements will allow current operations to stabilise in order to meet required service levels for the interim timetable.

This morning the Premier has made clear that by the end of this week a timetable for city passenger rail services to operate until the end of the year will be released. Further, the timetable for services for next year will be developed ahead of the implementation of the Fairer Fares package for the travelling public in the new year.

Last night, following media inquiries from the *Courier-Mail*, I discovered the existence of a report held by Queensland Rail since at least January 2016. The report commissioned by QR from Indec clearly shows that personnel inside of the organisation were aware of the significant risks associated with major projects as a consequence of a train driver shortage. There has been a fundamental failure of management, and last week we saw the CEO and chair of Queensland Rail resign. Helen Gluer said last week—

My advice to the Minister prior to last Thursday (20 October) was Queensland Rail absolutely believed it would be able to deliver the timetable as scheduled from the 4th of October, clearly we have got that wrong.'

I table the draft Indec report received by me late last night at 9.20.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated January 2016, by Indec titled 'Train Service Delivery Review: Report—Draft' [1941].

This morning Mr Paul Pluta emailed media outlets a document purporting to be the final copy of this document. I have asked the acting CEO to verify this document this morning. However, in the interests of transparency, I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated February 2016, by Indec titled 'Train Service Delivery Review: Report' [1942].

I have written to the acting CEO of Queensland Rail regarding this matter. I also table that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 1 November 2016, from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, to the Acting CEO Queensland Rail, Mr Neil Scales, regarding the report titled 'Train Service Delivery Review' conducted by Indec for Queensland Rail in January 2016 [1943].

Again, as the opposition have stated, the seeds of this issue were sown long ago and we need to get to the bottom of this. This morning I have written to the Leader of the Opposition calling on him to allow the release of all relevant briefing notes, reports and other documents under the former government concerning the following matters: train driver recruitment; recruitment freeze; the design and fit-out of the next generation rolling stock including planned operating models for drivers and guards; and the franchise of Queensland Rail including consultants' reports and preparatory work done by or for the government, Queensland Rail or Treasury. I have asked that the Leader of the Opposition release these documents to the investigation led by Philip Strachan for his immediate review, and I table that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 1 November 2016, from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, regarding the independent investigation into the current disruptions to the Citytrain timetable [1944].

With regard to training progress, to date there are 198 qualified guards signed off for Kippa-Ring and 129 qualified drivers. There are still 218 drivers and 131 guards required to train on the Petrie-Kippa-Ring corridor. At its core there are issues of both a driver shortfall and some work practices.

I can announce some measures agreed to yesterday between our employees and the acting CEO in order to free up driver capacity and speed up driver training. One, the existing rosters and roster practices, namely the 20 minutes break after 2½ hours, will be optimised by implementing certain aspects of a proposed new train crew enterprise agreement about working hours and meal breaks. Two, Queensland Rail has proceeded to reemploy recently retired train divers who wish to return to work on either a full-time or a part-time basis in accordance with existing safety practices. Three, Queensland Rail will fast-track the training processes for existing trainee drivers and trainee guards with a focus on increasing the number of route tutors to assist with the training and the appointment of a new route tutor coordinator. Queensland Rail believes that progressing on these issues will free up drivers through more flexible work arrangements in order to deliver more reliable train times.

I am 100 per cent focused on addressing this mess and these challenges, and I will continue to update the House as they progress.

## South East Queensland Regional Plan

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.00 am): On 20 October 2016 the Queensland government released the draft South East Queensland Regional Plan titled *ShapingSEQ*. This plan details a 25-year direction for South-East Queensland and for the first time a 50-year vision for our future.

South-East Queensland is a rapidly growing region with nearly two million extra people expected to call it home by 2041, only 25 years away. This leads to a need for more than one million extra jobs and more than 780,000 new homes. Catering for this future growth requires skilled planning to maintain those things that are cherished by the people here such as a connected region, affordable housing and the protection of our natural environment.

The South-East Queensland mayors were united behind the plan at its release. Toowoomba mayor, Paul Antonio, commended the government on good long-term planning saying, 'We're in, great stuff. When you talk about 50 years you're doing something good for the next two or three generations.' Gold Coast mayor, Tom Tate, said, 'The next generation, you too can have your dream.' Sunshine Coast mayor, Mark Jamieson, importantly noted that the plan identifies Beerwah East in the urban footprint. He also welcomed the government working with council to retain and secure the northern interurban break, a high priority for his region.

The industry is backing the plan, too. The Property Council of Australia's Queensland Executive Director, Chris Mountford, said, 'The plan's release was an important moment for industry, councils and the broader community.' The Urban Development Institute of Queensland President, Steve Harrison, said, 'The plan is a key document that will start to drive growth and also create opportunity for South-East Queensland.' Demographer Bernard Salt said that the plan 'is a fantastic effort and a really big tick to the department for its big picture long-term strategic thinking'.

The plan identifies the need to look beyond traditional types of housing, to create greater choice by filling in the missing middle between high-rise apartments and suburban houses with more townhouses and terrace style developments. For the first time the majority of future development will be in-fill rather than greenfield so that the plan places a greater emphasis on valuing design and making better use of existing infrastructure.

This is more than just about providing affordable housing; it is also about providing affordable living. For the first time the Palaszczuk government also made sure the preparation of the plan was informed by extensive community consultation. We are now continuing this conversation with the community and asking people to read and comment on the plan with an extended public consultation period of 90 business days right through until 3 March next year. More than 20 community drop-in events will be held with at least one in each of the 12 local government areas where people have the chance to meet the planners and help shape South-East Queensland. In particular, we are urging young residents to have a strong choice as they will benefit most in the long term by the direction of the plan. The first will be held at Jimboomba this Saturday, 5 November.

With the region growing rapidly, it is vital we now get this direction right. By delivering this plan, the Palaszczuk government is making sure our children and their children have the best places in which to live, work and play.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the Treasurer, I am informed that we have the former minister and former member for Mulgrave, Warren Pitt, and his wife, Linda, observing our proceedings from the gallery. Welcome. They are also the parents of our Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport.

## Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.05 am): I might add that it appears that we also have the former member for Woodridge, Desley Scott, in the gallery. Welcome.

Since the House last met a range of reports and indicators have provided more independent evidence and hard data highlighting the strength and growth of the Queensland economy. In its latest Business Outlook publication, Deloitte Access Economics forecast the Queensland economy to grow 3.7 per cent in 2016-17 and 3.9 per cent in 2017-18. These nation-leading forecasts are broadly in line with the Treasury's 2016-17 budget forecast as well as a range of other private sector forecasts such as the Commonwealth Bank, National Australia Bank and Westpac. All these forecasts show Queensland is expected to record the strongest economic growth in the nation in 2016-17. Deloitte

forecast this trend to continue through to 2025-26, over the next decade. Deloitte has also released its Investment Monitor for the September quarter. It shows Queensland with a pipeline of major projects underway or planned worth \$182.9 billion. Once again, it shows us leading New South Wales and Victoria, with forecast work of \$134 billion and \$67.5 billion respectively.

In October ratings agency Standard & Poor's Global reaffirmed Queensland's AA-plus credit rating, citing the 'very strong economy, strong financial management and budgetary performance and low contingent liabilities'. Standard & Poor's noted that our recent budgets delivered surpluses by controlling spending in the face of revenue writedowns. Moody's also affirmed its AA-plus equivalent, AA1, credit rating. However, the state remains on the negative outlook flagged in 2012 after the first budget handed down by the former treasurer. Moody's recognises significant balance sheet reform initiatives of the past two budgets as well as the government's ongoing fiscal discipline. It should be noted that maintaining our position should be viewed in the following context. Since all of the budgets of states and territories have been handed down this year, Standard & Poor's has put New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT on negative watch. Moody's has downgraded Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory.

Prospects for the state's vital export resources sector continue to improve. I have informed the House previously of recent rises in coal prices. The latest spot price was US\$257 a tonne. While we are yet to see if higher prices can be sustained, we are seeing some tangible benefits. In particular, Glencore has said it will start recruiting for more than 200 jobs as its Collinsville mine returns to production. Peabody and Glencore have signed contracts for the December quarter 2016 for premium hard coking coal at US\$200 a tonne, up from the less than \$100 per tonne in the previous quarter and higher than the US\$88 per tonne in the budget. In addition, Australia Pacific LNG has confirmed the start of operations from its second LNG production train. This means that all six trains at LNG plants in Gladstone are up and running, boosting the state's exports and economic growth.

The latest ABS labour force data shows the state's trend unemployment rate edged lower to 6.1 per cent in September 2016. This is a full half a per cent lower than the 6.6 per cent rate in January 2015 when we were elected. Over this same period we have seen a net increase in jobs of more than 40,000. At a regional level, we have also seen some pockets of improvement. Unemployment rates for Darling Downs, Maranoa, Fitzroy, Mackay, Sunshine Coast and Wide Bay all declined in the 12 months to September 2016. In terms of youth unemployment rates, two regions recorded significant falls in the year to September 2016: Fitzroy, down 5.7 per cent and Mackay, down 5.9 per cent. Unfortunately, employment conditions in North Queensland remain challenging. I can assure Queenslanders that this government knows we must do more to tackle regional and youth unemployment.

The information I have presented is just some of the hard data and indicators showing the strong fundamentals and the growth of our state economy. While we have more to do as we transition to a post mining boom economy, the hard data totally rebuts the blatantly political campaign of negativity that some have been pursuing. Above all, the information presented here shows Queenslanders can have confidence that our economic plan, as expressed through the last two budgets, is working.

### **Queensland Tragedies, Emergency Services Personnel**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.10 am): Last Tuesday our emergency services were called to a terrible tragedy at Dreamworld on the Gold Coast. I would like to acknowledge the family and friends of the victims and the staff and visitors who were present at the park that day. You are in our thoughts and you have the support of communities not only across Queensland but across the country at this difficult time.

I wish to make special mention of the emergency services officers, namely, the numerous paramedics and emergency medical dispatchers who worked together in responding to a difficult and traumatic event. These men and women are in the business of saving lives. They are driven by the desire to help those in need. Their motives for doing so are selfless. No paramedic wants to attend a job where they cannot make a difference. Whether working physically at the scene or providing operational support behind the scenes, all staff involved deserve our utmost respect and gratitude. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all emergency workers, paramedics, medical dispatchers and health employees for the job they did that day and for the job they do each and every day across Queensland to help Queenslanders in their time of need.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to those QAS and Queensland Health primary healthcare centre staff who also serve on the front line and who responded to the recent tragedy at Kowanyama. The Queensland Ambulance Service field officer was Melissa Keune. The Torres and Cape Hospital and

Health Service nursing staff at Kowanyama were Annemarie Scully, Jebet Kipsaina, David Nunn, Laura Higgins—who is a clinical nurse consultant—Catherine O'Connor, Rebecca Hadwin, Faye Spencer and Anne MacGillivray. On behalf of all Queenslanders, I would like to thank all of our frontline Health staff for their courage and dedication to duty.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am informed that we have students from the Clover Hill State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba observing our proceedings. Welcome.

## MOTION

### Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the amendments to Sessional Orders circulated in my name be agreed to.

#### Amendments to Sessional Orders

##### 1. Sessional Order 1 (d) after 'Thursday 12.00pm—1.00pm'—

*Omit, insert—*

Debate of petitions (in accordance with Sessional Order 2A) and Debate of Committee Reports (in accordance with Sessional Order 2) or if no petitions or reports to debate, Government Business

##### 2. After Sessional Order 2—

*insert—*

##### Debate of Petitions signed by 10,000 or more persons

- 2A (1) The subject matter of every petition tabled in the House and announced by the Clerk as having been signed by 10,000 or more persons, shall be set down on the notice paper by the Clerk that the House is to take note of the petition, unless:
- the Committee of the Legislative Assembly determines that the subject matter of the petition is so frivolous or vexatious as to not warrant the attention of the House by way of debate under this sessional order; or
  - the Committee of the Legislative Assembly determines that a debate on a petition on the same subject has already taken place in the same session; or
  - the Committee of the Legislative Assembly determines that debate on a petition would anticipate debate on another order on the notice paper; or
  - the Committee of the Legislative Assembly determines that other petitions on the same subject are also set down on the notice paper, in which case all such petitions shall be combined in the same order.
- (2) In determining whether a debate on the same subject has already taken place in the same session in 2A(1)(b) the Committee of the Legislative Assembly will have regard to whether the subject of the petition is the same in substance (not form) as a previous petition which has already been debated in that session.
- (3) Motions that the House take note of a petition will be brought on for debate in the time set aside each Thursday in the order in which they are placed on the notice paper.
- (4) Any further petitions received before the first order on the notice paper is disposed of shall be set down on succeeding Thursday's in the order in which they are presented (with the time limits for speaking as set out on Sessional Order 5).
- (5) If a Member does not seek the call when the Order of the Day to note a petition is called on that Order will lapse.
- (6) The Order of the Day cannot be amended and at the conclusion of the debate the question shall be put.
- (7) A division on any question or quorum call shall not be permitted during debate of the Order of the Day.

##### 3. Sessional Order 5—Maximum time limits for debates, speeches and statements

After row starting 'Debate of Committee Reports'—

*insert—*

Debate of Petitions	Sessional Order 2A	
-Total Time		16 minutes
-Mover		5 minutes
-Member next speaking		5 minutes
-Two other members		3 minutes each

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Reports

 **Hon. L SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.12 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee's annual report for 2015-16.

*Tabled paper:* Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 98—Annual Report 2015-16 [[1945](#)].

I also lay upon the table of the House the Crime and Corruption Commission's 2015-16 annual report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on controlled operations pursuant to section 138 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001.

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption Commission: 2015-16 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on controlled operations applications for corruption offences [[1946](#)].

## LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Reports

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (10.13 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 41 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee titled *Limitation of Actions (Institutional Child Sexual Abuse) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and Limitation of Actions and Other Legislation (Child Abuse Civil Proceedings) Amendment Bill 2016*.

*Tabled paper:* Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 41—Limitation of Actions (Institutional Child Sexual Abuse) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and Limitation of Actions and Other Legislation (Child Abuse Civil Proceedings) Amendment Bill 2016 [[1947](#)].

The report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the bills, including considering the policy outcomes to be achieved by the legislation as well as the application of fundamental legislative principles. The committee has unanimously agreed that the Limitation of Actions (Institutional Child Sexual Abuse) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 be passed and that the Limitation of Actions and Other Legislation (Child Abuse Civil Proceedings) Amendment Bill 2016 not be passed.

I also lay upon the table of the House report No. 42 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee titled *Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.

*Tabled paper:* Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 42—Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [[1948](#)].

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the bill, including considering the policy outcomes to be achieved by the legislation as well as the application of fundamental legislative principles. On behalf of the committee I thank those individuals and organisations who lodged written submissions. I would also like to thank the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and committee staff for their assistance. I commend the reports to the House.

## TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

### Report

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 27 of the Transportation and Utilities Committee titled *Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.

*Tabled paper:* Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 27—Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [[1949](#)].

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the bill which proposes to amend the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994 to allow for financial assistance to be paid to the taxi and limousine industry and the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 to better align the obligations of chain-of-responsibility parties and executive officers with national safety laws, improve compliance and simplify enforcement.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank those individuals and organisations who lodged submissions on the bill and attended public hearings held across the state over recent weeks. Whilst the bill proposes to create a head of power to make taxi and limousine industry assistance regulation

to allow payments under the assistance package, we as a committee listened to taxi and limousine industry stakeholder concerns about both the assistance package and the reform of the personalised transport industry. The committee has made numerous recommendations in relation to both. I am pleased to report that the committee was able to unanimously agree to all of the recommendations in the report. I commend the report to the House.

## NOTICES OF MOTION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument



**Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.16 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That part 3, section 16 of the Weapons Regulation 2016, subordinate legislation No. 131 of 2016 tabled in the House on 16 August 2016, be disallowed.

### Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing or sessional orders, debate of the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill take precedence over all other government business until the bill is passed or disposed of.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.16 am): It has long been known that this Palaszczuk Labor government has their 'Captain Risky'; it is now very clear that they have their own 'Sergeant Schultz'—Sergeant 'I know nothing' Schultz. Quite frankly, Premier, how can you trust this minister to get the rail crisis right when he simply knows nothing. Over two weeks ago more than 50 rail services were suddenly cancelled with no explanation—zero. What did we hear from the minister? Zero. Nothing. Some 11 days ago more than 100 commuter services were cut across South-East Queensland. There was rail chaos for commuters across South-East Queensland. What did the minister say? 'I know nothing.' The Queensland Rail board met that weekend and what did the minister know? Nothing, because he was on the Gold Coast watching the Gold Coast 600.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. Alongside the other shareholding minister, as I explained to the House this morning, I was on a dial-in call to that board meeting.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr POWELL:** Not long after that Queensland Rail board meeting an interim timetable was released which cut more than 200 services across South-East Queensland. I might add that that interim timetable did not even make it to Friday of that week and again what did the minister say? 'I know nothing.' Services were cut on Sunday, and this time the minister did know something about it because the first commuters knew about it was through a tweet from the minister late on Saturday night. Last week the minister called for drivers and said there would not be a better time in the state of Queensland for people to apply to become drivers with Queensland Rail. Someone forgot to tell the minister that you have to work for Queensland Rail first before you can apply to be a driver with Queensland Rail. Again the minister knew nothing. In March an email was received from a concerned Queenslanders, but that is okay because the minister did not know about that either. Clearly someone in his office dealt with it. Today we have seen that back in January of this year Queensland Rail initiated an in-depth report into what was going on with trainer drivers in Queensland Rail, but it is okay because again we hear that the minister knows nothing.

Knowing nothing is as bad as being complicit in this complete and utter rail fail. The minister cannot be a Sergeant Schultz and constantly claim to know nothing. He needs to do the right thing: he needs to tender his resignation. If he does not, the Premier must sack him.

### Moorooka, Bus Incident

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.19 am): Last week a senseless tragedy occurred in my electorate which has shocked so many. Mr Manmeet Sharma, a bus driver, a taxidriver, a singer and a widely respected emerging leader in his community, was at work for Brisbane Transport, driving his 125 bus along Beaudesert Road, Moorooka. He was serving the public and going about it in his usual cheerful, careful and respectful way. At 9.06 am, when he pulled in to the main Moorooka stop at Moorvale Shopping Centre, his life was suddenly taken from him in a most violent and unspeakable way. Something so extreme and so vicious occurring at such an ordinary and everyday place as Moorooka has shocked people not just in our state and our nation but also across the globe, including in Mr Sharma's original country of India. My deepest and sincerest sympathies go out to Mr Sharma's family and friends.

In response to this sudden attack, the actions of two people in particular deserve highlighting in this place. Coopers Plains taxidriver Mr Aguek Nyok, who witnessed the attack, smashed open the bus doors to assist the trapped passengers and in doing so saved the lives of at least six people. On behalf of my local community I thank Mr Nyok for his bravery and courage, saving the lives of passengers. I commend the Premier for nominating him for a bravery award. A tow truck driver, Mr Peter Buxton, also assisted in helping people to safety. I also thank Mr Buxton on behalf of the south side community and the Queensland government for his courage.

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk has agreed to a memorial in Moorooka to remember Mr Sharma, and I thank the Lord Mayor, the council and local councillor Steve Griffiths for their leadership. Councillor Griffiths was instrumental in organising the poignant vigil last Saturday night which was attended by 500 people including many council bus drivers, members of the Indian community and local Moorooka residents as well as the Minister for Transport and the federal member, Graham Perrett. The sense of loss was profound throughout the ceremony.

I welcome the announcement by the health minister that an external review of the mental health treatment of the alleged perpetrator will occur. It should be acknowledged that there is great concern in the Indian community that this was a racially motivated murder. This House knows my strong opposition to any form of racism, and I am sure that the Queensland parliament is of like view. At this early stage in the investigation it is unclear whether it was a random attack or a racially motivated one. We must allow the police the opportunity to do their job and report when their work is complete. I sincerely thank all of the emergency personnel who were first on the scene—the Moorooka and Annerley police, the ambulance paramedics and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services officers. I also acknowledge the work of Mr Owen Doogan and the members of the Rail Tram and Bus Union who have been very supportive of Mr Sharma and his family, setting up a fund for the public to donate to help Mr Sharma's family. The details are on their website.

Our whole community feels a profound sense of grief at Mr Sharma's passing, especially all those who knew and loved him. We condemn this attack in the strongest possible terms and we commit to doing everything we possibly can as a community to learn what we can to assist us in preventing it from happening again.

### CFMEU

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.23 am): Yesterday we saw a video emerge of CFMEU officials plotting to strengthen their influence on the Labor Party. You do not have to plot influence on something you already own. There is no plotting of influence, because the ownership is already there. A week prior to that another video was released which showed the CFMEU bullying not only workers—subcontractors—but also government officials. Day after day we have seen the union that claims to be a champion of the workers demonising the workers, threatening the workers and using thuggish behaviour. There are 100 CFMEU officials before the courts at the moment for alleged offences. The CFMEU are not there for the workers; they are there for the CFMEU and the CFMEU officials. The Labor Party conference last weekend even joined in solidarity with a motion—something about loving the union movement. It probably came with a cheque for \$100K from the CFMEU. Who knows?

Under Minister Grace, Plumbers Union president Brad O'Carroll rolled into the department and got a job. There was no application and no appointment process; he just got a job. More concerning now, we see reports that another union boss is about to get a gig from this government. Yesterday's *Courier-Mail* article titled 'Top insurer job tipped for ex-chief of miners' states that Bruce Watson, national secretary of the CFMEU, is about to be appointed the CEO of WorkCover Queensland.

That appointment would be totally unacceptable. Businesses would be shivering in their boots knowing that a CFMEU national secretary will be in charge of claims by workers of \$1.2 billion. They say that he will be independent. Putting a CFMEU official in charge of WorkCover is equivalent to putting a fox in charge of the henhouse. When the *Courier-Mail* asked the Minister for Industrial Relations yesterday if this inappropriate appointment was happening, a spokesman for the minister's office said that he was unable to locate the minister.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Maybe she was at the V8s. Maybe she was at Splendour in the Grass with Shannon Fentiman. Who knows where they were? This morning I went onto eBay and found that you can get a GPS tracking device for \$31 and you can get a spy mini generation 2 tracking device for \$2. I suggest to the minister's staff who are watching proceedings downstairs that they download the app 'Where's my minister?' This appointment will be completely unacceptable to businesses and employees right around the state of Queensland.

### Moorooka, Bus Incident

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.26 am): I have more important things to talk about this morning. I would love for the member for Kawana to ask me a question. I would be grateful and willing to answer any question he put to me in this House at any time, instead of him getting up and making statements that he cannot substantiate and statements that are completely wrong and off the record.

I join with the member for Yeerongpilly in expressing my deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of Manmeet Alisher, whose life was tragically cut short in Moorooka on Friday. Last night I joined with the local Indian community, who are pulling together in these tough times. Hundreds of members of Brisbane's much valued and respected Indian community were at the memorial service at the Sikh temple at Eight Mile Plains on Brisbane's south side. The event was a very emotional and sombre event. It was also a celebration and a memorial of Manmeet's life and a reminder of the tremendous contribution the local Indian community makes to Queensland.

Manmeet's life was full of promise. He was a much loved son, brother, entertainer and emerging community leader who was serving the public at the time of his death. That his death occurred in Moorooka, which is at the heart of Brisbane's multicultural community, is of great concern to me as Queensland's multicultural affairs minister. Moorooka is well known for its tremendous multicultural diversity and community spirit, and nothing captured this spirit better than the heroic actions of taxidriver Aguek Nyok, whose selfless actions on Friday saved many lives. He deserves his bravery award nomination, no doubt.

Today here at Parliament House I will be meeting again with local Indian community leaders, along with the Premier and Deputy Premier, to assure them of our unwavering support. Yesterday I met Mr Manmeet Alisher's brother. On behalf of us all in government I expressed our sincere condolences and sympathies to his family in India and also to his extended family. The local Indian community knows that the government is with them every step of the way at its time of mourning.

While the motivation for Friday's attack remains unclear, let me make it very clear that we reject any form of culturally motivated violence and that justice will run its course. I send a clear message to the local and international community that Queensland is a safe, welcoming and harmonious place. I also assure all Queenslanders that authorities are handling this matter with the professionalism it warrants. I extend my heartfelt condolences to all of the Indian community. It was an honour to be with them last night.

### Queensland, Tragedies

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.29 am): We have to acknowledge that last week was a week that brought unimaginable heartbreak to many people in Queensland and across Australia and reminded us all of just how fragile life is. Today just after two o'clock we will all stop and enjoy the race that stops a nation, but just over a week ago just after two o'clock we all stopped and witnessed the unbearable pain and loss that those who were at Dreamworld suffered as four people perished on that ride. I am sure that all of us here today continue to send our thoughts and our prayers and our hearts continue to feel for the family, the friends and

those who knew those four people who died on that ride—on an innocent ride on an innocent day out. While the investigation into what went wrong must leave no stone unturned, we remain especially cognisant of the need to do whatever we can to help repair and rebuild the lives of those left behind.

Within days we learned of the brutal murder of a Brisbane mother of Macedonian extract at The Gap—another dreadful story tearing apart a community of people who came here over 30 years ago. Then of course there was the shocking news on Friday at around about 11 o'clock as it started to filter through that a Brisbane bus driver had died in a senseless act of violence at Moorooka. That this should happen in our city I think shocks all of us and all Queenslanders, and that it should happen during the Indian Festival of Lights, Diwali, is poignant as well. A festival that celebrates the success of light over darkness, of knowledge over ignorance, is particularly poignant. I was unable to attend the memorial service that was organised at the location late on the Friday afternoon and on the Saturday, but I did send a message from the opposition to the community expressing our condolences and our thoughts. There is no doubt that Manmeet Alisher was regarded by his community as a wonderful person—a kind soul who had a zest and a spirit for life—and we can only imagine how painful it must be for his parents and for those who knew him to have suffered such a senseless loss. We will continue to support the Indian community and all those involved in relation to that horrific event.

I also join with the Premier in congratulating taxidriver Aguek Nyok for his bravery. It takes something to be able to do something when others stand around, and to do what he did I think is a tremendous act of bravery and of course we support the Premier's nomination. As Queensland police Superintendent Jim Keogh remarked, as terrible and as tragic as this matter has been, it is evidence that community spirit is still strong and remains so. It has been a terrible week for all involved.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before we proceed to question time, I am informed that we have students from St Augustine's Parish Primary School in the electorate of Currumbin observing our proceedings. Welcome. Question time will finish at 11.32.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.32 am): My question is to the Premier. I table a copy of the Indec train service delivery report, and I ask: given that as early as November 2015 it was identified that Citytrain needed more guards and drivers, how can the Premier have any confidence when the transport minister says he was not advised of the problem?

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated February 2016, by Indec titled 'Train Service Delivery Review: Report' [[1950](#)].

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As the transport minister has said very clearly, he was simply not advised. I am absolutely angry and furious at the fact that Queensland Rail kept this from shareholding ministers, and it is my understanding that it also kept it from the board. The real question for the Leader of the Opposition today is this: will he cooperate with the Phillip Strachan—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, this is all relevant.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is all relevant, because let us go back in history. The Minister for Transport made it very clear that those opposite do not want the history lesson, but they will get it. What we saw under the former government was over 1,700 positions axed—gutted. Why did they gut Queensland Rail? For one purpose: they were getting ready to flog it off. That is what they were doing under the leadership of the former treasurer who is now the Leader of the Opposition. I want to get to the bottom of this. The public wants to get to the bottom of this. The transport minister wants to get to the bottom of this, and to do that we need all of the information. The report today which came to light to the minister last night after nine o'clock has been forwarded to Phillip Strachan for his analysis. I have glimpsed through that report as well and it is very clear that some 20 senior people in Queensland Rail were interviewed as part of this report and not one of them saw fit to raise it with government—not one! That is atrocious and appalling. We are determined to fix this up.

Let me also make it very clear what the then chief executive officer, Helen Gluer, said on Monday, 24 October. Let me read it again. I said it this morning in my ministerial statement, but for those opposite who were so rudely interrupting me let me repeat it. She said—

My advice to the Minister prior to last Thursday ... was Queensland Rail absolutely believed it would be able to deliver the timetable as scheduled from the 4th of October, clearly we have got that wrong.

That was the advice to the minister. That was what the CEO at the time said. My question is this: did the CEO at the time know about this report? Did they sit on it? Did they do nothing?

*(Time expired)*

### **Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games**

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My question is to the Premier. As the minister will not follow the Westminster convention and resign and take responsibility for the rail fail, why does the Premier not have the guts to sack the transport minister?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Queensland Rail got this completely wrong—completely wrong—and I have asked the transport minister to fix this up. Let me continue very clearly: under the former government, the former treasurer and the former transport minister were the shareholding ministers, and they are sitting there side by side. They have a very clear decision to make today: are they going to table the cabinet documents and detail what they did to rip the guts out of Queensland Rail? I want the truth and the public wants the truth.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Glass House. I can hear you loud and clear.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We talk about the new generation rolling stock. We know who ordered that and who signed the contracts—the two people sitting opposite. What did the then treasurer say at the time about the contracts that they signed about the new generation rolling stock? Let me quote it—

Mr Nicholls said the multi-billion dollar contract will deliver the new trains over the next five years and maintenance for a 32-year operational period, at a fixed price to ensure 'there are no hidden surprises for taxpayers.'

He said that there would be no hidden surprises for taxpayers and the former transport minister, the member for Indooroopilly, was raving about how he was going to save \$11 million per train. Today is the day. We want the truth to come out about the cuts to the train drivers made under his watch. Today the real test is: will they provide the documents and will they cooperate with the investigation? I believe that honestly—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. I am trying to hear the Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Today we want to see the documents. It is very easy. Just pick up the phone and call the cabinet secretary. They can table them today. Let us see the truth. Let us reveal the real truth about the cuts to the train drivers that were made under the opposition's watch. They do not like it. They were getting Queensland Rail ready for sale.

### **Wynnum-Manly, Community Health Centres**

**Ms PEASE:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier please outline how the Palaszczuk government is expanding community health centres in the Wynnum-Manly area?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I would like to thank the member for Lytton very much for that question, because we know how important health services, especially community health services, are for people right across our state. Once again I go back to that former government. What did it do? It cut people's jobs and it cut people's services. That is the legacy.

I can remember very clearly going down to the Wynnum area and standing on the site where the former government was preparing to get rid of that centre. It was getting ready to just sell it off. I remember very clearly people coming to Parliament House and presenting me, as then leader of the opposition, with a petition demanding that a community health service remain in the Wynnum-Manly area. In opposition we promised that we would deliver a brand-new community health service.

Today I am very pleased to report to the House that, through the very strong advocacy of the member for Lytton, working with the health minister we were able to turn the sod on a brand-new community health centre for the Wynnum-Manly area. My government is delivering for the people of

Queensland. Recently, it was a great day down there to be able to turn the sod. The public were completely happy with the fact that we were able to deliver this new service for them. We expect that it will be completed by the end of 2017. Construction work is already underway—

**Mr Springborg** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Do not worry, member for Southern Downs. I will come to him very shortly. We know that he is missing the limelight.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. Unlike the former health minister who is sitting there, it took a Labor government to deliver a brand-new hospital for Roma! We can always go back to the inquiry and what they said about the member at a later date. I go back to the issues at hand. The expansion of services—

**Mr Springborg** interjected.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you have had a pretty good go. You will join the list if you persist. Your colleague beside you, the member for Chatsworth, will also join if he persists.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The expansion of services has been designed around the future health needs of the local community. It will include a new specialist outpatient service addressing chronic disease, access to telehealth services and, of course, a new rehabilitation service.

I thank the member for Lytton for her strong advocacy. The people of that region deserve good-quality health services and, unlike those opposite, that is exactly what my government is delivering. They wanted to sack people and cut services where they were needed the most. That is the clear difference between my government and those opposite.

### Queensland Rail, Train Crew

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Last week the Deputy Premier said that 'driver training was in hand' while she was the transport minister, but the Indec report says that in November 2015 driver training was barely meeting attrition and will likely be impacted by the delivery of Cross River Rail. When was the Deputy Premier aware of this report?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the honourable member for the question. In fact, it is my first question from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I am feeling very lucky today. I will point out that it is on a topic that currently is not in my portfolio, but I am very happy to answer it because it is the first time that my counterpart has asked me a question in the House. I am feeling very lucky. I can absolutely inform the House that in all of my—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I am very happy to answer the question, but the honourable member must listen. Considering that it is her first question to me in the House, it would perhaps be really advisable for her to listen. I can inform the House that during my time as transport minister I had a number of briefings in relation to the preparedness of the Moreton Bay Rail Link. At no stage did DTMR or Queensland Rail raise with me issues in relation to train crew numbers.

In fact, in relation to the risks associated with the opening of the Moreton Bay Rail Link, at no stage were train crew numbers identified. The honourable transport minister, Stirling Hinchliffe, has absolutely outlined in great detail the consistent advice given by Queensland Rail over the course of his time as transport minister. That completely reflects the advice given to me during my time as transport minister.

In fact, on 20 November last year Queensland Rail furnished both me and the Treasurer as shareholding ministers with advice to say that 100 train drivers and 100 guards were being recruited to be trained and deployed in 2016 in order to ensure that additional services were provided with the opening of the Moreton Bay Rail Link. That advice was consistently given to me and consistently given to the Minister for Transport over the course of this year. We have to remember the deep cuts that those opposite tore through the Public Service to diminish—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** The cuts that they delivered are responsible for the mess that we are currently in.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Ferny Grove for his question, I am informed that we have students from year 12 and school leaders from Laidley State High School and teaching coordinators in the electorate of Lockyer observing our proceedings. Welcome.

### **Adolescent Mental Health Services**

**Mr FURNER:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline the progress being made towards the establishment of a new adolescent mental health facility for Queensland?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Ferny Grove, unfortunately, there was too much cross-chatter. Could you repeat your question, please?

**Mr FURNER:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline the progress being made towards the establishment of a new adolescent health facility for Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Ferny Grove for that very important question, because it gives me the opportunity to talk about my government's 100 per cent firm commitment to ensure that young people across our state who have complex and severe issues dealing with mental health have a safe place to go to get help and to get the support that they need. Once again I need to go back in history to talk about what happened under the former government to where we have arrived today. Unfortunately, it is quite a tragic story. It was raised with me at a personal level when I was leader of the opposition that the former government had decided to close the Barrett centre that looks after young people in this state. Once again, that was a decision that was made by those opposite who sat around the cabinet table who were looking at cutting to save money, not about saving lives.

I had the opportunity to meet with the families and the young people involved. In fact, it is very personal for me because I actually met one of the young girls who are no longer with us. It is times like these when you can actually make a difference and change people's lives. That is what we are elected to do in government. We are elected to first and foremost look at the person, look at the family and say, 'As a government what more can we do to improve people's lives in this state?' I really want to thank the Health minister. We have had the commission of inquiry. The Health minister has worked incredibly closely with those families involved to come to where we are today.

I am very pleased to report to the House that I, along with the Health minister and Dr Anthony Lynham as the local member, visited the site at Prince Charles Hospital which will be the new home to treat young people with complex and severe mental health issues in this state. It was a very proud day for me to be there and it was a very proud day for those families. What it said very clearly is you never have to give up hope because we will stand with you, we will stand by your side, to ensure that young people who are turned away from hospital and where their families cannot help, have a safe place to go. My government says very clearly through the education minister that if you are a young person going through these tough times we will ensure that you get an education. We say to the families that we are there to work with you and to help you no matter what. Once again, it is beyond my comprehension that those opposite, including the now Leader of the Opposition as the Treasurer, would shut down a facility that was there merely to help young people in our state.

### **Public Transport, Rail Services**

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Will the minister tell the House and the commuters of South-East Queensland exactly when this rail crisis will be fixed?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I want to thank the member for Glass House for his question. We will have a consistent and reliable timetable going forward. We have heard from the Premier and from myself, confirming the advice from the acting CEO of Queensland Rail, Mr Neil Scales, that this week we will have in place a consistent and reliable timetable for the remainder of this calendar year. What we will also be doing is working with the whole of the organisation to ensure that as we develop and build the capacity of our train crew capability that we will be able to determine a timetable for the new year to be introduced in line with the introduction of the Fairer Fares commitment of this government to support our community to have access to the best and most affordable public transport.

That timetable has been set down today and that timetable is one that I have great confidence in as I work with the acting CEO. I must say that I acknowledging the support, engagement and assistance of the employees at the front line in this space—the train drivers and guards themselves—who are seeking to undertake the reforms that are needed to work with us to ensure that we increase the capacity of our train crews to crew our city services. This is vitally important because the customers, the commuters across our Citytrain network, expect and want to have this sort of reliability. I know when I have been travelling by train over the last few days into the city, when I have been talking to other

customers and other commuters, that I have been hearing from them on platforms across our city network the challenges that they have experienced with the failed implementation by Queensland Rail of the 4 October timetable. I have heard some very good feedback more generally about that timetable and will be acting on that as part of these reviews and reforms to deliver a timetable that all of our commuters can rely upon and have confidence in.

Let me be clear: what we have been delivering under the current interim timetable is Monday to Thursday, 4.76 per cent more services than people were getting in September. On Friday we are getting 5.3 per cent more services than the network was getting in September. We will continue to work to make sure that we deliver reliable services that the community can have confidence in.

### **South East Queensland Regional Plan**

**Mr KELLY:** My question is of the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the South East Queensland Regional Plan will protect South-East Queensland's enviable lifestyle and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative views?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Greenslopes for the question. I know he is passionate about ensuring that we manage our region's growth alongside protecting our enviable lifestyle as well as our precious environment. As I outlined earlier in the House, with two million extra people over the next 25 years we need to start strategically planning now for how we will accommodate those additional two million people as well as ensure that they have the jobs and the places and spaces to continue to make South-East Queensland a great place to live, work and raise their family.

We know that we need to get this right through deep consultation with the community. That is why I have announced an extended statutory consultation period for the South East Queensland Regional Plan—not 60 days but 90 days—to give the community a very clear understanding of what we are trying to do and how they can be a part of it; seeking their feedback to ensure that the South East Queensland Regional Plan is embraced by all.

That stands in stark contrast to those opposite who took on board the ideological pursuit of cutting Public Service positions, cutting services to Queenslanders and inhibiting their ability to have a say on things. Our position is completely different. We have already had some great feedback from local mayors that I have explained to the House earlier today, even from industry, but there are also members of this chamber who have already started to give their feedback, like the member for Glass House, who is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of the South East Queensland Regional Plan. He has enthusiastically embraced it. He told ABC Sunshine Coast, 'There are some real positives in terms of the Halls Creek and Beerwah East approach.' He says, 'It does reflect what the community desired on the Sunshine Coast.' He went on to say that he has been fighting for this for eight years, since he came into this place; but Labor delivered. It takes a Labor government to deliver to the Sunshine Coast. I would implore the member for Glass House to speak to his colleague—he is right beside him—the member for Mansfield, who is running around on a scare campaign saying it is the death of the backyard. He cannot even get LNP Lord Mayor Graham Quirk to agree with him. Graham Quirk rejected the claim and said, 'Over the course of this plan, I would still see the backyard as fundamental to the character of most of the housing in our city.' He does not even have to change his city plan. It is time for those opposite to grow up around planning.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, you are warned under standing order 253A. You have had a pretty good go. If you persist I will take the appropriate action. I am informed there is a group of students from the St Augustine's Parish Primary School in the electorate of Currumbin observing our proceedings. Welcome.

### **Moreton Bay Rail Link**

**Mr EMERSON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Can the minister explain why it did not occur to him in the first 10 months he was transport minister, before the opening of the Moreton Bay Rail Link, to ask three simple words: are we ready?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I want to thank the member for Indooroopilly for his question and I want to make it clear that questions around the readiness of our system of Queensland Rail and of the Department of Transport and Main Roads, about whether we were ready for the coming on line of the Moreton Bay Rail Link, I think have been fairly fundamentally canvassed in this place before. In fact, there were very clear questions I asked. I asked them of both these agencies and got slightly different responses and took decisive action to make sure that we delayed the bringing on line of the Moreton Bay Rail Link.

That is why whenever I was asking questions I was seeking detailed responses and in relation to the train crew the responses I was getting were, 'It is in hand. It is being dealt with. There are no issues.' However, since the member for Indooroopilly has asked the question, let us come to the root source of these challenges. Not to excuse Queensland Rail for its failure to act and advise in recent times, but the root cause is the fact that 1,700 Queensland Rail employees were shown the door by the member for Indooroopilly; it is the fact that 66 members of the driver training unit were shown the door by the member for Indooroopilly in his time as the transport minister.

The question from the member for Indooroopilly provides me with an absolutely great opportunity, as part of my response on these very important issues, to recommend that the member speaks to his colleague the Leader of the Opposition, so that they can agree to release all of the documents that show how the former government acted in relation to these matters. It is very important that, through his work, Phillip Strachan gets to the bottom of this gross failure, which is impacting the commuting public of Brisbane and Queensland. We need to get to the bottom of this gross failure and the documents, reports and decisions of the previous government need to be part of the analysis of those issues. I welcome analysis of my engagement and involvement. I trust that those opposite welcome it as well.

### Jobs

**Mr KING:** My question is to the Treasurer. I refer to recent labour force figures released by the ABS, and I ask: will the Treasurer outline the significance of the figures and their relevance to the government's economic plan?

**Mr PITT:** I thank the honourable member for the question. He is a very big advocate of jobs in his electorate. Let us put this into context: when we came to office, we inherited a 6.6 per cent unemployment rate, which came down from a high of 6.7 per cent through September to December 2014 under the former treasurer, Tim Nicholls. The rate is now down to 6.1 per cent and, while we are very pleased with that result, we have much more work to do. Since we came to office, a net 40,400 jobs have been created. In around half the time, we have created more net jobs than the former government created across its entire three years in government.

Let us get to the heart of this: laziness starts at the top. The new opposition leader has been laziest of all. From the former Labor government he inherited a 5.5 per cent trend unemployment rate. They promised to get it down to four per cent in six years. They said that, by the end of their first term, it would be down to about five per cent. However, when the Leader of the Opposition as treasurer was pushed on that, he said, 'The four per cent goal was a stretch target'. True to form, he was just too lazy to do the task and he gave up. One would hate to have the member for Clayfield, who of course has racetracks in his electorate, down at the Melbourne Cup. Members know what he would do: he would never get out of the gate. He would say, 'Winning the race was just a stretch target. I wouldn't want to be doing that. Why would I want to be doing that?' He is definitely not going to be doing that.

We know that the difference between this side of the House and that side of the House is that Labor believes in jobs, not cuts. It is as simple as that. Let us put into context the 14,000 job cuts that happened under Tim Nicholls as treasurer. I ask members to think about that number. Fourteen thousand people would fill this parliament 157 times. That is how many people and their families were affected by the Leader of the Opposition when he was treasurer.

That is a disgrace. It was a disgrace at the time of his first budget and it is a disgrace now. It is galling when, month in and month out, those opposite continue to say how wonderful they were as champions of job creation, when we know that in half the time we have created more jobs than they did in three years in office. They should not come into this place and tell us that we are not doing enough for employment. That is why we put in place Back to Work, that is why we are focusing on regional Queensland and that is why those opposite will stay over there. They will stay over there until they finally get it that on this side of the House we care about people, we care about jobs and we care about the dignity of work.

### Jobs

**Mr CRIPPS:** My question without notice is to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. Immediately following question time, will the minister address the hundreds of workers currently assembled outside this parliament to explain why this government's policies are putting their jobs at risk?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Hinchinbrook for the question. It has been eight months since the member for Hinchinbrook has asked me a question in this House. I remind those opposite that in those eight months I have approved three major mining leases for the Carmichael coal project, which is something those opposite never did. I remind those opposite that I have taken the advice of the Coordinator-General and declared the Carmichael coal project a critical infrastructure project, which is something that those opposite could have done at any stage. I also remind those opposite that those mining leases were approved by me going over those mining leases page by page to make sure that they stood up. If the member for Hinchinbrook had signed those mining leases, he would have signed them as soon as they hit his desk. They would have been open to JR after JR after JR, simply demonstrating the ineptitude of the member opposite.

**Mr CRIPPS:** I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as the minister's history lesson is, will he answer the question about whether or not he will proceed to address the workers assembled outside the parliament directly?

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Dr LYNHAM:** My record is clear on the jobs I have created in the mining industry. It would be inappropriate for me to comment on the new Acland case when that case is still before the Land Court.

### Department of Health

**Mr PEARCE:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline the challenges facing the Health portfolio and what the Palaszczuk government is doing to address them?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Mirani for his question. There is no doubt that when we came to government the No. 1 issue that we faced in the Health portfolio was the cuts to the front line implemented by the Newman-Nicholls government. Queenslanders will never forget that, when he was treasurer, the member for Clayfield put the front line into the firing line. Fourteen thousand jobs went from the public sector and personal, professional and public sector devastation were caused as a consequence. Of the 14,000, 4,400 were from the Health system, including 1,800 nurses and midwives. Along with sacking nurses and midwives, they slashed nurse and midwifery training positions. We have heard a lot about training. They slashed nursing and midwifery training positions by 14 per cent. Now, the member for Surfers Paradise, the shadow minister, says there is a lack of clinical training in maternity services.

I have had enough of the hypocrisy from the LNP. They cut 29 staff out of the Queensland Health Patient Safety and Quality Service. They cut mental health. They cut the mental health budget for the first time ever in Queensland and they did that for two years in a row. At that time, spending on mental health services was the lowest of any state or territory in Australia. They closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre. What about the report that was done in relation to the Barrett Adolescent Centre? It was not a report that was not briefed up by a statutory authority. It was not a report that was not briefed up by a department. The commission of inquiry found that the report was provided to the minister's office and no-one read it. More than that, it was tabled in the Legislative Assembly before all of those former cabinet ministers, including the member for Clayfield and the member for Southern Downs, and no-one read it.

The two men that those opposite believe should lead Queensland are their two most recent leaders, the member for Southern Downs and the member for Clayfield. The worst part of it is that none of them have the decency, the grace or the humility to apologise to the family devastated by that decision. They did nothing about that report.

Enough of the hypocrisy about the report. Enough of the pomposity from the Leader of the Opposition about Westminster responsibility. Where was the Westminster responsibility when the expert panel handed down its report into the Barrett Adolescent Centre, member for Clayfield? He said nothing then. He says nothing now. It is all hypocrisy.

This mess in health services was created by the member for Clayfield, executed by Campbell Newman and forced on Queensland by all of those members opposite. We can say one thing about them. They do not embarrass easily. They have wiped the last three years, but Queenslanders will never forget.

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Rail, Train Crew

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. I table an email from QR recruitment dated 22 April 2016 to a job applicant for a Citytrain guard role.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 25 October 2016, to the Clayfield electorate office regarding Queensland Rail train crew shortage [1951].

It reads—

Please be advised that due to a change in business requirements we are no longer recruiting externally for these roles.

Can the minister explain why QR has not employed new, external trainee guards for six months when the Indec report clearly shows recruitment was necessary?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for Everton for his question. It gives me an opportunity to revisit my ministerial statement from earlier this morning when I made it clear that the recruitment process that relates to drivers and guards is, in the first instance, an internal one that is determined and was strengthened by the arrangements contained in the enterprise bargaining agreement which was established in 2013. The former chief executive, Helen Gluer, said in correspondence on 3 February 2016—

Queensland Rail also has obligations under the Queensland Rail Traincrew Certified Agreement 2013—  
which was signed off by those opposite when in government—

which requires us to follow a process when recruiting for train drivers. Before any external recruitment is to be undertaken, vacancies are to be filled through internal driver transfers and with Queensland Rail train guards. However, please be assured, should we be unsuccessful in filling all vacancies internally Queensland Rail will look to commence the recruitment of external applicants within the first half of this year.

That has not occurred. I reiterate that that is a failing of Queensland Rail. I have reiterated this morning that there have been numerous failings of Queensland Rail in this regard. What I am about is working closely with the acting CEO to make sure we address these issues and that once we have gone through the process of internal recruitment as required that we open up to external recruitment opportunities.

This is already occurring now in consultation and engagement with the employees. As I flagged this morning, there is a process underway to immediately seek to recruit recently retired drivers and to bring them in to have their capability and ensure that they support the moves we are making to build our capacity.

The reality is that we have seen some recently retired—maybe some not retired by choice, as they might otherwise have been—because of the actions of those opposite. We will be in a good position, I trust, to work with our employees to make sure that we bring on train drivers and guards to crew our trains, to ramp up our capacity, to improve reliability and to deliver reliability that quite rightly and quite justifiably commuters in South-East Queensland demand and should expect. I demand it of QR as well.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Capalaba, member for Albert you are now warned under standing order 253A for your interjections which are disorderly. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

### National Disability Insurance Scheme, School Transport Assistance

**Mr BROWN:** My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister outline what is being done to advocate for families who are concerned about school transport assistance for students with a disability under the NDIS?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for his question and for his advocacy on behalf of families with children with a disability who attend state schools in Queensland. As we saw this morning, the petition which the honourable member for Morayfield and I tabled through the Clerk contained more than 20,000 signatures of parents who are deeply concerned about what transport services will look like for their children with a disability under the NDIS.

Everyone in this parliament knows that it was the former government in Queensland, the LNP government, under the leadership of the now Leader of the Opposition, that signed the transport services in Queensland over to the NDIS—that is, \$40 million over to the NDIS—without putting in place any plans in terms of what the transitional arrangements will look like for those families. That is why the

families of Queensland are worried. Those opposite handed over the money to the NDIS and had no conversation and no plan in place to support the families who rely on that transport to get their children with disabilities to school.

I am very proud that the Minister for Disability Services and I have, since we came into office, been working to put in place a plan which was not put in place by those opposite. As a result of the lobbying of members on this side of the House and ministers we have put in place a new system which means the current arrangements will be in place until 2019.

We do not think that is good enough. Our leadership has requested that the federal government leave the current arrangements in place beyond 2019. That is what parents are telling us they want. We will stand up for the parents of Queensland who deserve to have genuine answers from the federal government about what those services will look like for their children post 2019.

Members would be very surprised to see a letter that was written by the honourable federal member for Dickson, Peter Dutton, to the state government. It reads—

Ms Osborne and other members of the School community have been alerted to this possibility through email ... indicating that the current set up may be changed at the end of 2019.

As you would expect, the parents of these young students have grave concerns about the welfare of their children should this eventuate, as well as having reservations about relying on taxi services ...

Thank you, Mr Dutton. Perhaps he might want to do something about it. Please can the LNP at the state level and the federal level stand with us and support families with children with disabilities get to school. They love the current arrangements. They want to keep the current arrangements. I am calling on the LNP to stand with us to keep them in place.

We know their track record when it comes to Education is the same as with every portfolio—cuts, cuts, cuts. There is no planning for the future and cuts. How many teachers did they cut—100, 200, 300, 400, 500 teachers. That is how many they cut.

*(Time expired)*

### **Public Transport, Rail Services**

**Mrs SMITH:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. Will the minister guarantee that no more services will be cut from the latest interim QR timetable?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her question and reiterate the statements we have heard in the House this morning from the Premier and me and in my answer to an earlier question highlighting the work that is being done with the acting CEO, Neil Scales, to confirm and deliver a timetable that all customers and commuters can rely on for the remainder of this calendar year and the commitment to work on an improved and enhanced timetable to come in line with the delivery of the Fairer Fares policy—a policy that delivers lower public transport fares for all people across the South-East Queensland public transport network—in January.

Let me take the opportunity to highlight how we have been delivering in relation to the interim timetable that has been in place. I want to acknowledge and thank the train crew, drivers and guards who have committed to support us in maintaining and delivering the level of reliability that we have been able to deliver in these very challenged circumstances as a consequence of the misdeeds and misaction of Queensland Rail.

When we look at the on-time experience for last week, I note that on Tuesday, 25 October the a.m. peak on-time running performance was 98.63 per cent and the p.m. peak on-time running performance was 93.84 per cent. On Wednesday, 26 October, the a.m. peak on-time running performance was 91.78 per cent and the p.m. peak on-time running performance was 93.15 per cent. On Thursday, 27 October, the a.m. peak on-time running performance was 99.32 per cent—

**Mrs SMITH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I asked the minister if he could guarantee that there would be no more cuts to interim services. I do not believe he has answered the question. Can you guarantee it, Minister?

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister's answer is relevant. I call the minister if he has anything further to add.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** On Thursday, 27 October, the p.m. peak on-time running performance was 95.21 per cent. On Friday, 28 October, noting that Fridays are one of the challenging periods in the way the rosters are working, the a.m. peak on-time running performance was 96.71 per cent and the p.m. peak on-time running performance was 95.71 per cent.

The question was around cuts. I think the question that hangs very heavily on those opposite now is about their responsibility for cuts—their cuts to the Queensland Rail driver unit. I encourage the member for Mount Ommaney to implore her leader to provide the information that is relevant to their time in government.

*(Time expired)*

### Child Protection

**Mr RUSSO:** My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister outline the progress that the Palaszczuk government is making in reforming Queensland's child protection system?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. The Palaszczuk government continues to keep our child protection reforms on track. I am pleased to update the House that 31 of the recommendations from the commission of inquiry are already completed, 89 are underway and we have one outstanding recommendation due to commence in 2019. We are adding to our investment, on top of implementing the recommendations, with our \$6.6 million investment in Triple P parenting, getting parents the help they need earlier so that small problems do not reach crisis point. This financial year we have invested 129 full-time additional Child Safety staff. That will immediately reduce caseloads to 17, which is the lowest they have ever been.

However, it is unfortunate that some members of the opposition continue to play politics with this critical issue. I think it is time that we revisit, for the benefit of those opposite, what the commissioner said when he provided government the road map to reform our child safety system. He said, 'If we want a better system ... everyone needs to play their part, including politicians, to move away from risk-averse approaches.'

I think it is only fitting that we ask what the member for Mudgeeraba's role has been in keeping our child protection reforms on track. Most recently the member for Mudgeeraba dismissed the investment of 129 new full-time staff as too little too late, which is further evidence of LNP hypocrisy given that she was part of a government that cut 225 full-time staff from Child Safety. The member for Mudgeeraba is also on the record saying that Child Safety staff are leaving in droves. She is wrong again. The fact is that Child Safety front-line staff are reporting improved job security—38 per cent higher than when the LNP were in government. With the quarterly job security data up, the separation rate for our child safety officers is at 2.6 per cent. It was double that under the LNP. The member for Mudgeeraba is also claiming that our child safety service centre budgets have been cut. She knows that is not the case because I answered a question on notice on this matter. It was due to staff being transferred due to court reforms that the LNP supported in this House. I call on the LNP to stop blowing up our child protection reforms.

As recently as last week, according to the member for Mudgeeraba, the data was in freefall. All of the stakeholders have said that the latest data shows that our reforms are on track, that there are positive signs, and they keep calling on the member for Mudgeeraba and the LNP to stop playing politics with child safety.

*(Time expired)*

### Mining Industry

**Dr ROWAN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Environment. Will the minister address the workers assembled outside the parliament and affirm his commitment to coalmining in Queensland as a source of jobs and economic development?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for his question and his sudden interest in jobs in Queensland. What I can do for those opposite is be very clear—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I call the minister.

**Dr MILES:** What I can do for those members is be very clear that I am, and continue to be, closely talking to those workers. I met with them at the weekend. I am scheduled to meet with them again this week. I met with the QRC twice last week to discuss—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Was that the CFMEU or workers?

**Dr MILES:** Do you want to hear the answer or not?

**Mrs Frecklington:** Yes, I do.

**Dr MILES:** Well, listen.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I want to hear the answer. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. They are disorderly. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action. I call the minister.

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Hinchinbrook, you are now warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. They are disorderly. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

**Dr MILES:** I am scheduled to meet with those workers again this week and also with New Hope management again this week in order to find a resolution that allows them to progress, while also ensuring that the impact of these projects on groundwater is properly assessed. While the member for Nanango has walked in here with a stunt today to try to stop that proper consideration, we will continue to work with the workers affected and the company to find a resolution.

Let us be clear about what is happening here. Those opposite have come into this House and again turned their back on the farmers who could be affected by groundwater impacts of these projects. They have come in here and demanded that these projects be approved without any consideration of the groundwater impacts. Who else relies on groundwater? Who else is impacted when mines take groundwater? Who else is impacted by the LNP's unlimited guaranteed right to take? It is the farmers who are impacted. The LNP again turn their back on their constituencies for a stunt—another stunt. They do not care at all about the farmers who will be impacted by the groundwater take of these projects. They never have. They pay lip-service to them. It is this side who always has and always will continue to engage with workers and representatives of—

**Dr ROWAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Before the minister finishes, specifically I asked: will the minister address the workers assembled outside the parliament and affirm his commitment to coalmining in Queensland?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is not a point of order just to ask the question again.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the minister. Do you have anything further to add?

**Dr MILES:** I do, Mr Speaker, and no doubt we will get to discuss this hypocrisy further later tonight. The member for Nanango is all for coalmines until they are in her backyard! She says she supports the farmers near Morven and she opposes that mine, but as to the other farmers she could not care less.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Before calling the member for Logan, I am informed that we have students from the Faith Lutheran College in the electorate of Lockyer observing our proceedings. Welcome.

## Education and Training

**Mr POWER:** My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Will the minister inform the House about the impact that funding cuts have had on the training sector and what investment the Palaszczuk government is now making in training and skills?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I call the minister for a maximum of two minutes.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Logan for his question. He, unlike those opposite, supports jobs and investment in training and skills in this state. We have heard from many ministers today about the cuts by Liberals, whether it is at a state level or a federal level. We are facing a significant cut from 1 July next year because the federal Liberal government is not investing in the national skills plan, the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform. They have failed to even start negotiations on it.

We know that those opposite when in government cut thousands of jobs. The Leader of the Opposition in his first budget, in his own words, stated, 'Today I can confirm the total number of FTEs to be lost in 2012-13 will be 14,000.' That was just the start, as we know. We now know that part of those 14,000 jobs included 66 trainers in the rail training unit within Queensland Rail, but those opposite like to pretend that the previous three years of government never happened. When they talk about governments they just skip that completely.

It is the former government that tried to starve our TAFEs of their own assets and facilities so they could shut down our public training provider. It is those opposite who scrapped Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which for every \$1 of investment returned almost \$8 to the economy. That is the legacy of Liberal governments. Their legacy is cutting jobs, cutting training, not supporting our economy and not supporting the most vulnerable in our community in this great state. It is those opposite who failed to deliver and recognise their community service obligations when it came to training in Queensland and removing that funding and support for the most vulnerable. It is the Liberals who should hang their heads in shame.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Question time has finished.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Queensland Rail

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.32 am): It is time for this transport minister to get the sack. This is the time and this is the place. This is the test of a Premier who does not have the guts to take on the factions in her own party. We have seen nothing but craven cowardice on the part of a Premier who will not hold her own minister responsible.

The transport minister should be sacked for a whole variety of reasons. He should be sacked for wrecking the train system across South-East Queensland. He should be sacked for failing to ask simple questions of his advisers that could have revealed the looming crisis. He should be sacked for failing to keep Queenslanders advised of cuts to services. He should be sacked for causing confusion and frustration to commuters and passengers on the rail network in South-East Queensland. Above all, he should be sacked for letting three public servants take the fall when he is the one legally and morally responsible for this mess. This is Stirling Hinchliffe's mess and no-one else's.

Under Minister Hinchliffe's watch, Queensland commuters have been subjected to the biggest debacle in Queensland Rail's 151-year history. After coming to office in 2012, the LNP government took steps to fix the train running schedule—to get trains running on time because the schedule had slipped to as low as 84 per cent under former transport minister Annastacia Palaszczuk. Not only were commuters paying more—15 per cent more year on year on year—they were getting less for it. What has become clear is that the system needed to be fixed.

We know what the Labor answer to fixing a problem is. Labor's answer to fixing any problem is to hire more public servants, to spend a poulitice of money and to not measure the outcome only the inputs. That is all they ever do. How much more can we put in, not how much more are we getting out of it. That was the history of Labor. It is still the history of Labor. It is the history now with 9,000 extra public servants, and what is happening is a rail crisis right on their lap. We have a rail crisis. We have a kids in care crisis. We have a housing affordability crisis with a minister who will not take responsibility for it. We have a hospital blow-out at the Cairns hospital and health service of \$80 million with a health minister who will not take responsibility for it—a health minister who has the hypocrisy to come into this place and say that we should say sorry. He was part of a government that presided over the next biggest debacle in public administration in Queensland, the Health payroll system, at \$1.2 billion. It was a huge mess, and he now comes in here and says that we should apologise. This is someone who said that he is never going to apologise.

It is the same script out of the same playbook by the Minister for Transport now. Remember back in those days Paul Lucas saying that it was not his fault, it was the bureaucrats' fault and Rob Swarten saying it was not his fault, it was the company's fault. What do we have this time? We have Stirling Hinchliffe saying it is not his fault; it is the board's fault, it is the CEO's fault, it is QR's fault—it is anyone's fault. There is no sense of responsibility whatsoever.

It is time for Stirling Hinchliffe as Minister for Transport to go. He is a minister who is happy to face Queenslanders when there is good news to share. He is happy to cut the ribbon on the Redcliffe peninsula line. He issued three press releases in three days in February about the New Generation Rollingstock. He did not mention that the former government had ordered them—and we did order them. We delivered more trains more effectively and in a faster time than Labor was able to do. We got on and did it. It was a project, I might say, supervised by the current Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet when he was working as the chief executive of Projects Queensland. But as soon as it goes pear-shaped under his watch he runs for the hills. He becomes, as the member for

Glass House has said, the shadow minister for transport—the ‘Sergeant Schultz’ of the Queensland parliament. We have ‘Captain Risky’ and ‘Sergeant Schultz’. The only person who has really been happy this week is the Treasurer, because it has taken the heat off his failures all the way through.

**Mr Bleijie:** Jackie is happy.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I think the Deputy Premier is a little happy about it too—threw him under the bus.

Let us look at when the Minister for Transport really does want to do something, something really close to his heart, something really important and for the benefit of Queenslanders. He can change the entire voting system on 18 minutes notice. He can change and rig the voting system for his own political benefit in 18 minutes, but he cannot get a train to run on time when it is supposed to, and he cannot get an organisation that has billions of dollars with a whole department sitting behind him to provide the services that we need. The gold standard for action for this minister is an 18-minute change to the voting system for Queensland, but he still fails to deliver trains for passengers. Over the past four weeks we have seen rolling cancellations of train services, confused commuters, crammed trains and a travelling public left in the lurch because the transport minister cannot communicate.

It seems the only people who are not listening to the commuters of Queensland, who are fed up with this service, are the Premier and the transport minister. We have been out talking to those commuters. We have been going to the railway stations. We were down at Cleveland last week. We talked to people at Toombul, Woolloowin and other stations throughout South-East Queensland, and the commuters of South-East Queensland are fed up with this system. What do we hear from the minister time and again? Nothing at all. He says he is not to blame. He says trust him; he will fix it. He is all promises and no action and the travelling public do not believe him.

What we have heard today from the minister in his 20-minute statement does nothing to provide the consumer, the travelling public of Queensland, with any confidence that he knows what he is doing. He spent most of the time trying to pass the blame on to someone else. Not once did he stand up and say, ‘I asked the question have we got enough drivers to run the trains.’ He said, ‘I got the reports. I received the information,’ but did he ever do what he is paid to do—ask the hard questions: ‘Will there be enough drivers on the trains not only for the opening day and the ribbon cutting ceremony, but for every other day when the commuters expect it?’ That is what he is paid to do, not to just be a recipient of advice, not just to sit there and have the briefing notes pass across his desk like some fleeting piece of paper that he does not have to consider. He is meant to ask the questions, to challenge the CEOs, to challenge his department and he has failed to do that.

We have heard blame passed around. This is what the Premier said on 5 June 2012 in relation to past actions. She stated—

The loudest message that is coming through to us is that Queenslanders are already sick and tired of this government playing the blame game. They want the government to get on and govern, to deliver what they said they would deliver.

On 8 August what did she say? She said—

This government wants to live in the past and continue to blame the former Labor government.

There was plenty to blame them about. She went on—

It is about time that this health minister stood up and took responsibility for his actions ...

When is the transport minister going to stand up? It was the now Treasurer who in 2014 said—

Queenslanders are sick and tired of this government trying to con them. They are sick of the broken promises— and they want the government to act.

The sauce that is good for the goose is sauce for the gander as well. This minister should live up to the standards that this Premier has espoused in this House. If he will not do the honourable thing, if he will not abide by the Westminster convention and do what the chief executive and the chairman of Queensland Rail did, then the Premier should sack him.

Let us just deal with the story in relation to trainer drivers. Page 19 of the Indec report says that the pool of 31 tutor drivers is more than twice the pool of 12 trainee drivers. There are more than twice the number of tutor drivers than there are trainee drivers in the system. There is no shortage of trainers; there is a shortage of people getting in the system to work because of the EBA rules.

As a result of this, the loss of confidence and everything that is going on, I seek leave to move a motion of no confidence in the Minister for Transport.

**Ms TRAD:** I rise to a point of order. This issue has been ventilated all morning. This is clearly an abuse of parliamentary process—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Quiet. I will listen to the point of order.

**Ms TRAD:** This is quite clearly an abuse of parliamentary process. There is an opportunity for those opposite to have informed the parliament—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, can you please repeat the wording of the motion you seek to move?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I seek leave to move a motion of no confidence in the Minister for Transport.

**Ms TRAD:** I rise to a point of order. The honourable member has to seek leave before moving a motion of no confidence. It is a two-step process. He erred.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister for Education. I am trying to respond. The question is that leave be granted. Those of that opinion say 'aye'. Those against 'no'. I think the noes have it.

**Mr Seeney:** Divide!

**Ms Trad:** Divide!

**Mr SPEAKER:** A division can only be called by those who were not the loudest voice. I rule that the government has the loudest voice, so a division has been called by the member for Callide. Ring the bell for four minutes.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted to move a motion without notice.

**AYES, 43:**

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

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Pyne.

**NOES, 43:**

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

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

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

Resolved in the negative.

### **Tropical North Queensland, Tourism**

 **Mr CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (11.50 am): I rise to update the House this morning on the booming Tropical North Queensland tourism economy being experienced in and around Cairns, because we all know that when it comes to Tourism, Queensland is where Australia shines. In the 2014 calendar year the tourism economy for the Tropical North was worth \$2.9 billion. In the 2015 calendar year it rose by \$700 million to be worth \$3.6 billion. In the 2016 year it is estimated to rise by another \$100 million to be worth \$3.7 billion. It is well on track to be a \$4.2 billion a year industry by 2020, which amounts to a \$1.6 billion a year increase in five years.

In the past year we have seen an increase of over 500,000 domestic visitors to the Tropical North. The Cairns airport recently reported that 2,670 extra flights to and from Cairns have been added in the past year, and larger aircraft now operating on some existing flights have added 95,800 seats over the year. As reported by Herron Todd White yesterday, that is equivalent to an additional 550 Boeing 737s coming to Cairns every year. I am informed that Cairns airport has reported that from September 2015 to September 2016 there has been a 3.9 per cent increase in domestic visitors and an 8.8 per cent rise in international passengers, with an overall combined increase of 4.5 per cent.

Despite high unemployment levels which are still above the rest of Queensland, local reports and articles indicate that Cairns in the Tropical North has begun to see a rise in job ads, with a 2.2 per cent increase in job ads since the same time last year. I was delighted to see an article published yesterday in Cairns by *TropicNow* editor Gaven King regarding overdue good news for local employment. He reported—

For the first time in a long time during this current tourism boom, we're finally starting to see new jobs being created.

The latest Herron Todd White Cairns Watch report, which was published yesterday, claims that in the past year an additional 2,500 people have gained employment in the Tropical North.

The Palaszczuk government is focused on increasing Queensland's share of the global tourism market, especially from Asia. We want to tap into the potential rising Asian middle class that seeks premium Queensland tourism experiences. I am pleased to be part of a government that is serious about growing the No. 1 economic driver for Cairns and the No. 1 opportunity for job growth in Cairns, with \$49.9 million to extend the Tourism Guarantee to give greater certainty to Tourism and Events Queensland to promote and seek events. We know that in Cairns events attract dollars to our region. Whether a small event of a few hundred or a large event of many thousand, they all contribute significantly to the Cairns economy. The \$33.5 million for Connecting to Asia for destination marketing to Asian cities is most welcome. In Cairns we live in a remote area—

**Ms Jones:** Thanks to your support for that.

**Mr CRAWFORD:** I thank your support for that, Minister.

**Ms Jones:** Any time!

**Mr CRAWFORD:** You are welcome. The importance of having air routes in Cairns cannot be overstated, as over five million passengers per year use the Cairns airport as a gateway. I support our government and the Minister for Tourism in her continued push for new air routes to Queensland and Cairns in particular. I welcome the continued work that is being done to secure direct Asian flights to Cairns and Queensland. We do not want Queensland to simply be a stopover or a tick on a list with Uluru and the Sydney Opera House. We want tourists to not just spend time here but to also spend money in our local shops and eateries, our hotels and local attractions.

Recently the P&O *Pacific Eden* began using Cairns as its home port. This 1,500-person passenger ship will regularly exchange up to 3,000 passengers at the Cairns Cruise Liner Terminal during the current cruise season. In a recent conversation with P&O I was informed that their data indicates that passengers spend almost double the amount in Cairns than any other cruise destination in their network. I want to congratulate Ports North for their continued work in attracting cruise ships to Trinity Inlet, because in Cairns we all know that being able to dock at the Cruise Liner Terminal generates greater opportunities for Cairns cafes, restaurants, shops and reef boat operators, to name a few.

It is jobs that we want in Cairns. We know that tourism generates these jobs. Whether by direct tourism employment or construction employment, Cairns is well positioned, the outlook is exciting and confidence is up.

### **Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.56 am): The transport minister might be the 'Sergeant Schultz' of this government, but commuters are far from impressed with his claim that he knew nothing. Today we have learned that Queensland Rail has been working on the driver shortage for most of this year. In February a report was compiled which revealed the lack of drivers and the chaos this would cause on the new Redcliffe line, but apparently the minister knew nothing. The minister responsible knew nothing!

Nearly two weeks ago we saw rail chaos when 100 train services were cancelled without notice. Commuters were left at stations while the transport minister went into hiding and refused to face the media and angry commuters. The Queensland Rail board held an emergency meeting over the weekend, but still there was radio silence from the minister. If anyone was wondering where he was, you only had to look in the VIP tent at the Gold Coast 600. Champagne and canapes are no use to Queensland Rail commuters who are worried about getting home at night or to work on Monday morning. The minister subsequently released an interim timetable, if you can call it that. What the interim timetable means for South-East Queensland commuters is cuts, cuts and cuts. Across the week 200 services were cut, and the transport minister had the nerve to pat himself on the back. You should not be congratulated for running fewer services on time. The minister introduced a reduced service

timetable, he let three Queensland Rail officials fall on their swords, and he again refused to front commuters as Queensland Rail prepared for more chaos last Friday. The interim timetable did not even last a week. How does the minister still have his job?

The minister's solution to the train driver shortage was to hire 100 more drivers, but he could not even recruit the first 100 and admitted that only 79 have been hired. We then learned there are enough drivers but they have not been trained yet. Last week the minister said we would have the required number of drivers trained by December, but instead we learned that this rail crisis could continue until 2018 while drivers are trained. Minister Hinchliffe has duded commuters, and unfortunately service cuts and train delays are becoming the norm across South-East Queensland.

In case those opposite are confused as to what good government and a good transport minister look like, I will jog their memory. Those opposite can throw as much mud as they like, but our LNP government's record speaks for itself. Under the LNP Queensland had the most efficient trains in the entire country. We turned around the mess we inherited from the Bligh government, of which this transport minister was a member.

The last time we saw our rail network being run this badly, the Premier was the minister responsible for transport. She oversaw a three-year low in rail reliability. Under Labor, 86 per cent of trains ran on time. This was occurring as the now Premier hiked fares by 15 per cent, year after year after year. The LNP was able to turn that around, getting Queensland Rail's on-time performance to a record high of 96 per cent. We commissioned the Springfield line, we put on more services and more drivers and we got construction of the Moreton Bay Rail Link started. This transport minister is taking us back to the bad old Labor days.

So far, Queensland Rail's CEO and chair have taken responsibility and resigned, but the buck stops with the minister. The Premier said that heads would roll, but Minister Hinchliffe is still here. The Deputy Premier summed it up best last week when she threw the transport minister under the bus—or train, for that matter. 'The minister of the day is responsible,' the Deputy Premier said. We are now in our second week of timetable cuts and this minister still will not take responsibility. Commuters are sick and tired of this chaos.

*(Time expired)*

## Jobs

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.00 pm): We on this side of the House know what the dignity of work means to everyday Queenslanders. That is why job creation is the No. 1 priority of Labor in government. As a Labor candidate I knocked on many doors throughout my community in 2014 and 2015, and I heard stories of the journeys of so many in our community. People opened up with me to share their struggles and their triumphs. The struggles were all too common in our streets and our neighbourhoods, and the triumphs were few and far between. To my measure, it takes a lot of courage for someone to open up and share their struggles, for someone to share that vulnerability, particularly with someone like me who, in many instances, had just made their acquaintance. For so many, just below the surface was their sad story, their negative experience brought about by the decisions made by the previous government in this place—decisions that left lives torn apart, families plunged into uncertainty and communities without vital services.

We cannot speak about the current state of unemployment or jobs in Queensland without acknowledging the callous decisions of those opposite that cut public employment to the core—decisions that locked people out of the labour market and destroyed careers and potential prosperity. To put the current state of unemployment in context, we are currently sitting at 6.1 per cent unemployment. Labor in government has created 600 full-time jobs a month, compared with the 300 jobs lost every month when LNP leader Tim Nicholls was treasurer.

We recognise that there is much more work to do. We have set about restoring front-line services in health, education and emergency services, to name just a few. Our community appreciate the ramifications of cuts that went too deep, too far and too quick. Some ramifications you see immediately; others the public becomes aware of later, like when there is a tragedy in child safety or the rail system buckles under the pressure of having the guts cut out of driver training.

We also recognise that employment growth has been concentrated in South-East Queensland. This reflects gains in the service sector, particularly the public and private delivery of education and health services. Our brothers and sisters in the regions need more focus and more opportunity to continue to drive unemployment down. These challenging conditions can be best observed in the

resource sector, where we have seen elevated unemployment rates over recent months—in this area most notably in Townsville and outback Queensland, which have previously experienced strong outcomes.

Even with these unfortunate circumstances, unemployment on the whole remains lower under an ALP government than when the now opposition leader, Tim Nicholls, was treasurer of the failed Newman government. In fact, while the member for Clayfield was responsible for Queensland's financial management unemployment skyrocketed to 6.4 per cent. It is only under a Labor government that we will see the results of a downward-tracking trend in unemployment.

There is still more work to do. Opportunity comes in many different forms. Education unlocks employment potential. Education is the key to building the economy of the future. That is why the Palaszczuk government is investing in business and investing in the education needed to get people into jobs and into careers.

The payroll tax apprentice and trainee rebate is a government incentive to reduce the payroll tax costs for businesses that employ apprentices and trainees under the Further Education and Training Act 2014 since July 2015. As part of the government's drive to create jobs we have doubled this incentive in the 2016-17 year. Over 3,368 businesses have claimed the rebate since its introduction, with a total rebate value of \$15.409 million. Initiatives like this create jobs and support families—jobs that enable people to plan for the future, the kinds of jobs that build lives. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that Queenslanders have the continued opportunities of economic growth, the growth of employment opportunities and continued opportunities of prosperity right through Queensland.

### Moorooka, Bus Incident

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.05 pm): We are all shocked and saddened at the attack on Brisbane bus driver Manmeet Sharma which resulted in his death last week at Moorooka. For the tragic loss of this beloved member of the community I express my sincerest condolences to the Sharma family, his fiancée and friends. Grief at unexpected loss is always a weighty burden. I cannot even start to imagine how this burden is so much heavier when it comes from such an act of evil. This evil shocks us all, as all lives are precious and no-one deserves to die or be injured in such circumstances. Violence is never acceptable. Police have laid charges against the alleged offender. This constrains our comments for legal reasons, but I note the health minister's comments that the alleged killer had previously been known to Queensland Health as a mental health patient.

There seems to be no rhyme or reason behind the senseless act of violence which led to Mr Sharma's death. My thoughts and prayers are with all in the community whose lives have been touched by Manmeet Sharma, an extremely talented man. Manmeet Sharma was known locally as Manmeet Alisher in reference, I understand, to his beloved home town of Alisher in the Sangrur district of Punjab. He had quickly put down rich and vibrant roots into the soil of his new homeland of Australia. The outpouring of grief by our Punjab community and the broader Indian community is echoed by all of us here today.

We have heard in recent days about Manmeet's talents as a singer, poet and actor—a very talented man with a bright future. This tragic news comes as Brisbane's Indian community was celebrating Diwali, a festival honouring the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance and hope over despair. We stand together with the Indian community knowing that hope and light will ultimately triumph and we will get through this dark time. I think we saw that with the act of bravery and courage from bystanders to this horrific attack, particularly taxidriver Aguek Nyok. As one of the first on the scene of the smoking bus, Mr Nyok kicked in the back door so that passengers could escape. I echo the comments of police superintendent Jim Keogh, who remarked—

As terrible and as tragic as this matter has been, it's evidence that community spirit is still strong ...

Our Indian community here in Queensland is known for its diversity. It is known for how it enriches our lives. They are good citizens, good community members and hard workers who give back so much. To the Sharma family I express our condolences. To the broader Punjab community, the Indian community, all who knew this fine young man and his fiancée: we will not forget. We do stand against such acts of evil, such acts of violence. We also know that it is quite a pathway from here, for the family in particular, and that there will need to be ongoing support. We need to know how we as a community and how we as members of parliament can better support this family on this journey ahead. Our condolences, our thoughts and our prayers go out to the family and to the community.

### Queensland First Home Owners' Grant

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (12.09 pm): In the true tradition of Labor governments, we are seeing a transformation in Queensland. We are seeing the economy stimulated with initiatives such as the First Home Owners' Grant. I thank the Treasurer for this initiative that will see growth. As I travel around the electorate of Ferry Grove, and in particular Upper Kedron, new dwellings are going up left, right and centre. This will assist first home owners in terms of a deposit and to buy the things needed when moving into a first home. I reflect on the time I bought a newly constructed home and back in those days the grant was only \$1,000. However, the price of that home was around about \$29,500. In terms of economies of scale, this is a significant injection into the Queensland economy. This is a significant injection in terms of stimulating the economy and assisting those first home owners.

To give members some idea of what it provides, the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant is an initiative to help first home owners into their first home sooner and currently provides a one-off payment towards the purchase or construction of a brand-new home, townhouse or unit valued at less than \$750,000. That is a reasonable cap in terms of a home to that value. It is such an important initiative that will deliver on our Labor government's policy goals of improving housing affordability for first home owners and generating additional demand for new dwellings. As an important enhancement to the effectiveness of the grant and its policy goals, this government has committed to this temporary boost. It certainly will assist those new home owners entering the housing market as it is a temporary increase from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for contracts made between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017.

Since the boosted grant took effect from 1 July, we have received 1,563 applications worth \$31.26 million and of those a total of 804 grants worth \$16.8 million have been approved so far. As a result, we can see that this plan is working. We are seeing the economy in Queensland stimulated by the Labor Palaszczuk government—something those opposite could not perform. Those opposite were inept when in government and were not able to produce initiatives like this. They talk down the economy and we know that if you continue to talk down the economy it sends a clear message to the people in our communities that there is something wrong. The only thing wrong with you opposite is you spent three years in government—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member to speak through the chair. I also point out that there are a number of members who have received a warning this morning. I do not think they will want to be going to the next step.

**Mr FURNER**: I looked to media commentary with respect to how this is being reported. In the *Australian* recently I came across an article which said that Sam Williams, a Queensland, indicated that the Queensland government's \$5,000 boost to the First Home Owners' Grant is extra motivation to leap, and that is what we are seeing. We are seeing people leap to this initiative to ensure they do not miss out on the additional \$5,000. Sam indicated that he had been saving for a deposit for two years, living in his family home to save on rent and had cancelled luxuries such as his gym membership and subscriptions to services such as Netflix, and that is typical. I have two adult children still living at home because in some circumstances it is difficult for our children to save for a deposit, so this initiative by the Palaszczuk Labor government will ensure that people have that opportunity to get out there and purchase their first home. I commend the government and the Treasurer for providing this initiative. The article goes on to say that the property industry has also backed Labor's plan to increase this to \$20,000. This is further backed up by Damian Hackett, the chief executive of Brisbane based residential agency Place, who said that the first home owner boost would provide a stimulus to young house hunters. He said—

The hardest thing ... is to have enough for a deposit to go to the bank, so \$5000 at that level can make a big difference.

We all know how hard it is to make that investment in terms of ensuring that you have enough money to put forward as a deposit and purchase all the things that you need when you acquire a first home.

*(Time expired)*

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Rail Services

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.15 pm): Given that I am following the member for Ferry Grove who made a contribution about the First Home Owners' Grant, I want to put on record that that initiative was actually an LNP first budget initiative when in government and it just so happens that the Labor government has continued that program.

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Treasurer, the member for Nanango has the call.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. He is a bit touchy about this subject. I also want to acknowledge and thank all of my constituents who are out the front of the parliament on Speakers' Corner loudly requesting that this government listen to their pleas in relation to their jobs. In particular, it was fantastic to see Woody and George Tonscheck stand up there as local farmers talking about their local region and their jobs, both on their farms and in relation to where they work.

Today we are talking about another fail from this Palaszczuk Labor government, and of course we are talking about a rail fail. This should come as no surprise given that it has been widely reported in the past that Annastacia Palaszczuk was named Australia's worst transport minister when she served in the Bligh government for a litany of failures including 15 per cent transport fare increases year on year and an 86 per cent rail on time running—a three-year low—between January and March 2012. How can we forget that the now Premier when transport minister forget to order seats for the *Sunlander 14*? Now under her premiership we see the member for Sandgate reclaim and take over the title of Australia's worst transport minister.

However, there is one person in this chamber whom the Premier has saved from claiming that title, and that of course would be the member for South Brisbane. In that quiet ministerial reshuffle just before Christmas, we saw the member for South Brisbane lose that job in the Transport portfolio. Despite being the transport minister for just under 12 months, the member for South Brisbane has an impressive list of transport project fails. We have seen no credible plan to construct Cross River Rail—Labor's No. 1 infrastructure project—after 20 months in government, despite Annastacia Palaszczuk describing the project as shovel-ready in 2013. In fact, the project has actually gone backwards and now the Prime Minister has had to provide more money to this government for planning. Under her watch we also saw a grossly overstated benefit cost ratio because they did not account for the benefits of the European Train Control System. Imagine the shock when questioning from the media prompted Labor to have to redo the cost benefit analysis and the benefit cost ratio fell from 1.27 to 1.06. This, of course, is a massive reduction in benefits. We also saw the government hiding the cost of new trains and other project costs from the Cross River Rail affordability analysis—just a \$9 billion oversight! We have also seen a cost blowout from this Cross River Rail project from the touted \$5.4 billion to something around \$15 billion.

Today, we learn from the damning report into Queensland Rail's train service delivery that a train driver shortage was around under the watch of the member for South Brisbane. She has well and truly thrown the member for Sandgate under the train. The damning report shows, under her watch, 114 vacant positions for train crew. It is no wonder we are short of train drivers now. The member for South Brisbane was transport minister when they were not hiring.

There was money for wages. There were positions on paper, but empty seats in the train driver school and empty seats in the guard school. For the first time in history, Labor could not even hire public servants. This mess was all created originally by the member for South Brisbane. She has now transferred it to the most incompetent transport minister in Australia's living history.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements**

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.20 pm): What a difference 19 months makes in this great state of Queensland. It has been 19 months since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected. While members are talking about rail, I want to talk about the \$4.4 billion contract that was let overseas by the members opposite. Shame! That \$4.4 billion contract was let overseas to Bombardier. If we look at the *Courier-Mail* today, we see some of the problems coming from those trains, the contracts which—I will say it again—the Newman government let go overseas. That drove the wonderful, brilliant city of Maryborough to its knees. For those opposite who did not quite hear it, a \$4.4 billion contract went offshore by those opposite.

I refer to jobs now and jobs for the future. I refer to the infrastructure and the jobs that are being created from the tip of Cape York down through the regional areas. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program comes to mind very quickly. It was a great program under the Bligh Labor government and it was viciously cut. The LNP took to it with a chainsaw. A few weeks ago, I met with some of the young people and older people who came through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. It was great to see them getting upskilled and ready for the jobs that are coming through.

I look at my own area and the jobs that are being created. I notice today in the *Fraser Coast Chronicle* that 570 houses were built from July to September. That is a record number and shows the confidence that people have in this Palaszczuk Labor government throughout Queensland. Areas on the Fraser Coast that have been dormant for three or four years have come back to life because of the policies of this government in regional Queensland. As I said, the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is a great policy that is training people and getting them back into work.

I am very passionate about the Back to Work scheme. It is a regional employment package delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government with funding of \$100 million. It is giving businesses the confidence to employ people. I have been talking to business operators in my electorate and also around Queensland as I have been travelling. They are right behind this scheme. The scheme offers business operators \$10,000 to employ a person who has been unemployed for under 12 months and \$15,000 to employ a person who has been employed for more than 12 months. I have seen in my own electorate and also in neighbouring electorates in the Wide Bay area where businesspeople have been taking up this initiative. It reflects the confidence that this government is instilling in regional Queensland.

Those opposite talk about the great three years of the Newman era. In that time, all I saw in my area were cuts, cuts, cuts. You know when a government is going well when you get pulled up by a truck driver who complains to you about the roadworks in your electorate. He said, 'Saunders, can you cut it out? It's putting extra time on my trip. Give us a break.' As a government, you know you are doing well when you are putting in infrastructure. In the three years of the former government, in my electorate I never saw one bit of roadwork construction going on. You know the government is going well when subcontractors pull you up to tell you that they are getting contracts and that they are very happy with the way that this government is going. Compared to the three years of the previous government, this government is a breath of fresh air.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection from the Minister for Education. Another prime example of the jobs created and the infrastructure that has occurred is the record school maintenance in the Maryborough electorate over the past three school holidays. That maintenance creates jobs. For three years, all that mob over there talked about was austerity, austerity, austerity. All they did was cut. They cut jobs everywhere. I can say that, in regional Queensland, the feeling for the Palaszczuk Labor government is fantastic. This government is delivering jobs now and jobs for the future. I am so proud to be part of this government.

### Public Transport, Rail Services

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (12.25 pm): It was great to see the transport minister finally come out of hiding. This morning on Steve Austin's program, the transport minister would not appear, the Treasurer would not appear and the Premier would not appear. The ABC radio program kept ringing them over and over, pleading with them to appear to explain this Indec report, which was released last night. The minister says that he knew nothing about the report. He was in complete ignorance of it. Already, we have heard him branded Sergeant Schultz.

This report is extraordinary. It shows why the minister has been branded Sergeant Schultz. We see him sitting next to the Treasurer, who has already been branded Captain Risky. This report was commissioned by the Deputy Premier. From this report it is very clear that we have Sergeant Shultz, Captain Risky and, leading it all, we have the Premier, Major Blunder, who says that she knows nothing about what is happening. Whenever a minister does something wrong the Premier is ignorant. Major Blunder, Captain Risky and Sergeant Shultz: the whole team is here today.

I refer to the Indec report that the Deputy Premier commissioned. The executive summary states—

This review has been undertaken in the context of an excellent record of service delivery.

Who does the report say that excellent record of service delivery was under?

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! The members on my right will cease interjecting.

**Mr EMERSON:** I know they do not like to hear it. They do not like to know that our record was such a contrast to the incompetence of the then transport minister, Anastacia Palaszczuk, whose only strength was that she was not as bad as her predecessor, Rachel Nolan. Unfortunately, we now have the trifecta. The record of the now Minister for Transport is up there with that of former transport ministers Palaszczuk and Nolan.

I will return to the Indec report. I know that the members opposite do not want to hear about it. The executive summary states—

This review has been undertaken in the context of an excellent record of service delivery.

The report states further—

The current Operating model is delivering good performance results in terms of on time running and reliability ...

Page 11 of the report states that performance improved in the period 2011 to 2014—under our watch. That is the reality. In that time we saw an extraordinary improvement in reliability and on-time running. Let us not forget that, in the dark bad days under Labor and the watch of then transport minister Anastacia Palaszczuk, the reliability of the network was down to 86 per cent. At the same time, that former government put up fares by 15 per cent year, after year, after year.

Under the LNP—and Labor condemns us for how terrible we were for public transport—reliability rose to 96 per cent. That was not only the best record of reliability in Queensland Rail's history but also it was the best performing metro system in Australia. This report indicates that, under our watch, we improved public transport reliability. After the transport debacle under Labor, we made sure that the trains ran on time.

This Indec report, commissioned under the watch of the Deputy Premier and delivered in its draft form to the now transport minister, stated—

The above factors indicate that QR has close to the appropriate level of Tutor Drivers to manage the day to day needs of the organisation.

Let us get this fallacy out of the way. The report is here and it makes it very clear. We hear the unions and Labor say it is all about the trainees and the drivers. On page 19 the report says—

The above factors indicate that QR has close to the appropriate level of Tutor Drivers to manage the day to day needs of the organisation.

This report shows that under the LNP things were working; under Labor we have gone back to the bad old days. This minister, who prides himself on his knowledge of the Westminster system, has refused to take responsibility. He has refused to go. We know the Premier should sack him. We would expect the minister, knowing his knowledge of the Westminster system, to take responsibility for this situation and resign. We would have thought that the Minister for Transport would have done the right thing, from what he has stood for and backed in the past, and resigned.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (12.31 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak about the Queensland economy and the outlook into the future and the key role that profit-making assets, such as the Gladstone Port in my electorate, have played and will play long into the future. The Palaszczuk government has a clear economic plan for Queensland with three job creating goals: encouraging innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. Recent analysis of the state economy demonstrates that this plan is working. Successive NAB business surveys show that Queensland is at the top or equal top of the rankings for business confidence. The Deloitte Access Economics Business Outlook for the September quarter highlighted the underlying strength of our economy and forecast to record the strongest economic growth in the nation over the next decade.

These reports show that there is every reason to have confidence in Queensland's economy, but we cannot ignore that there are regional communities that are feeling the pinch from the downturn in the resource sector. To this end the Palaszczuk government will continue to drive jobs growth in regional Queensland and to attract industry development, committing \$40 million for the Industry Attraction Fund to aggressively promote our state interstate and internationally.

My electorate of Gladstone is perfectly positioned to benefit from this government's commitment to regional jobs growth, with state development land aligned with a priority port. We have seen the announcement of the biofuels pilot plant and Casper Energy's proposed plans to start construction within six months for its Gladstone oil refinery and diesel import terminal. These new industries would not be possible without a government committed to jobs growth and without the support and the

backbone of the Gladstone economy and the Gladstone Port. The Port of Gladstone is not only our single largest employer but also a highly profitable business that continues to generate wealth for the state of Queensland. Gladstone Port Corporation reported a net profit after tax for 2015-16 of \$83 million, which was well above budget of \$74.9 million and a 15 per cent increase on 2014-15. This was mainly driven by increasing export shipments for liquefied natural gas and a ramp up in coal volumes through the Wiggins Island terminal. GPC has provided for a dividend of \$405 million which represents 100 per cent of adjusted net profit of \$90.8 million and a special dividend of \$315 million in line with the government's Debt Action Plan.

Despite challenging markets for coal customers, total trade throughput for 2015-16 was a record 116.7 million tonnes, a 16.7 per cent increase on 2014-15. In addition, LNG export shipments from Curtis Island at the port of Gladstone grew rapidly, reaching 12.2 million in 2015-16, a significant increase compared to 1.6 million tonnes for the last six months of 2014-15.

## MOTION

### Order of Business



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.34 pm): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

Resumed from 13 September (see p. 3396).

### Second Reading



**Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (12.34 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I want to thank the Finance and Administration Committee for its report tabled on 25 October 2016 regarding Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016. I am pleased to note that the committee supports the bill and recommends that it be passed. The purpose of the bill is to provide for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2015-16 financial year. Unforeseen expenditure is the term used to describe payments from the Consolidated Fund to a department which is above the amount approved for that department as part of its annual appropriation at budget time.

We have taken the whole-of-balance-sheet approach in both the 2015-16 budget and the 2016-17 budget. As I have said on numerous occasions, the first two budgets that we handed down in the Palaszczuk government have been companion pieces. The 2015-16 budget started the work and the 2016-17 budget continued it. This has been a very carefully thought out approach to allow us to make best use of available capital to meet our objectives of delivering surpluses, delivering services, creating jobs, continuing to stimulate growth and paying down debt. Let me be clear, the former LNP broke a number of promises, none more so than when it came to budgets. We very famously know that in its first 2015-16 budget, after in opposition the former premier Campbell Newman said public servants had nothing to fear, clearly they had a lot to fear. I talked earlier today about the impact those 14,000 full-time equivalents leaving the public sector had, not only on delivery of services—the same front-line services they said they would revitalise—but also on regional communities where we saw local economies go through some very tough times. Add to that the transition that we are seeing in the economy at the moment, where we are going to a post mining boom economy, clearly we have had to ensure that our policies reflected the current circumstances. That is why our government has had such a strong focus on regional Queensland.

The former LNP government spoke about economic management, but they never delivered. They left the Queensland economy with growth of under one per cent. The final year result for the 2014-15 year was growth at .8 per cent. Our diversified economy means that we are forecast to have the strongest economic growth of any state or territory in 2015-16 at 3.5 per cent, rising to a forecast four per cent in 2016-17. It is clear that the Queensland economy has turned a corner in the last 18

months. The 2015-16 budget laid the foundations for the Queensland economy to return to growth and creating jobs. We have also seen the return of confidence and optimism about the future of this great state.

The Queensland government's responsible financial management in 2015-16, followed up again in this year's budget, has resulted in Standard & Poor's Global Ratings reaffirming Queensland's AA-plus credit rating, citing the 'very strong economy, strong financial management and budgetary performance, and low contingent liabilities.' S&P noted that our recent budgets delivered surpluses by controlling spending in the face of revenue writedowns. As we have seen in this latest budget, we have surpluses forecast over the forward estimates of \$3.2 billion. Ratings agency Moody's also published an update to its discussion of key credit factors for Queensland, reflecting the Aa1 credit rating and identifying improved results following a period of high deficits as a credit strength.

With regard to Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016, although it is called unforeseen expenditure, the expenditure can also relate to the repayment of debt. Specifically, Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016 seeks parliamentary approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by eight departments in the 2015-16 financial year of \$390.126 million. In summary, 76 per cent of this was incurred by Queensland Treasury for the repayment of debt under the government's enhanced Debt Action Plan. The debt repayment was primarily facilitated by the early payment of dividends by government owned corporations—those government owned corporations that thankfully are still in the hands of Queensland taxpayers and still producing revenue. As we have seen in 2015-16, the return back to government, including tax equivalent payments and dividends, was more than \$2.2 billion.

Through our whole-of-balance-sheet approach we have made significant progress on general government sector debt, the debt that we said we needed to target because that is the debt that taxpayers actually have to pay interest on. We have reduced our general government sector debt by \$10.4 billion, lower than it was forecast to be in the 2014-15 budget under the former treasurer and now Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls. We told voters that we would reduce general government debt by \$12 billion over 10 years. We have taken off \$10 billion, or just a bit over, in less than two. This means in this 2016-17 year alone interest repayment savings of about \$800 million. That is money that can then go back to support the delivery of front-line services—the sort of front-line services that those opposite promised that they would revitalise. We are able to put those interest repayment savings back into providing services, such as more paramedics, more doctors and more police, that Queenslanders expect and deserve to see from their state government.

This means that our debt-to-revenue ratio demonstrates the real impact of what our action plan has been able to achieve. This is a key debt metric. Under the former government, in 2014-15, looking at the general government sector debt, the general government debt-to-revenue ratio was 91 per cent. It is now forecast to be 70.7 per cent for the next financial year, falling to just over 68 per cent by 2019-20. Despite the unforeseen expenditure, the amount of appropriation paid was \$1.963 billion less than originally budgeted.

The incurrence of unforeseen expenditure and the preparation of a supplementary appropriation bill is standard practice each year. The amount of unforeseen expenditure in the 2015-16 budget represents 0.74 per cent of the published budget and is consistent with the level of unforeseen expenditure incurred over the previous three years. The *Consolidated Fund financial report*, which was tabled at the same time as the introduction of the bill, contains explanations of all the unforeseen expenditure incurred by departments and this information supports parliament's understanding and debates of the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (12.41 pm): I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016. The LNP opposition will support this bill. As we have heard from the Treasurer, the primary purpose of these bills is for the approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred last financial year. Unforeseen expenditure occurs when a department exceeds its approved budget and the Treasurer needs to have approved additional payment from the Consolidated Fund. Under the Financial Accountability Act 2009, unforeseen expenditure may be authorised by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Treasurer. Under the Constitution of Queensland, amounts can be paid from the Consolidated Fund under an act of parliament. Therefore, the unforeseen expenditure must also be formally appropriated by parliament.

While this bill is probably one of the shortest we will debate this year, in terms of page count at least, it is incredibly important because the bill provides for parliamentary scrutiny of public money expended in the course of government. This is taxpayers' money. It is incumbent on every single person in this place to make sure that we spend this money in a careful and considered way, to achieve good

outcomes for the public. The very fact that we are standing here today and debating this bill is by virtue of changes introduced when the LNP was in government to enhance accountability. When Andrew Fraser was treasurer, he shifted the goalposts. He decided to combine supplementary appropriation with the annual appropriation bills introduced on budget day. That practice resulted in lengthy and unnecessary delay between when the expenditure was incurred and when it was approved by parliament. For example, the Appropriation Bill for the 2011-12 budget year included unforeseen expenditure for the 2009-10 budget year. There was a year's delay between the end of the financial year and parliamentary scrutiny of unforeseen expenditure for that particular year. That practice did nothing to enhance integrity and accountability. It is all about hiding the true state of Labor's financial ineptitude from the people of Queensland.

When looking at unforeseen expenditure under the previous Labor government, it is obvious why they sought to hide scrutiny of those figures. I will read out the numbers: unforeseen expenditure in 2005-06 was \$1.874 billion—that is unforeseen expenditure; in 2006-07 it was \$3.9 billion—that is almost \$4 billion of unforeseen expenditure and at that stage the budget would have been less than \$50 billion; in 2007-08 it was \$2.152 billion; in 2008-09 it was \$2.957 billion; in 2009-10 it was just over \$1 billion; in 2010-11 it was \$9.3 billion; and in 2011-12 it was \$2.826 billion. That equates to an average of \$3.4 billion per year over that time. I concede that for many years that related to natural disaster payments. There can be a range of reasons why this expenditure might be needed in any given year, but there was a clear pattern under Labor. That figure compares to an average of \$173.5 million in the three LNP budgets from the years 2012-13 to 2013-14.

As Queensland Treasury highlighted in its brief to the Finance and Administration Committee—

The amount of unforeseen expenditure in 2015-16 represents 0.74% of total budgeted appropriation (as per the published budget), which is consistent with the unforeseen expenditure incurred over the previous three financial years.

Of course, when the LNP came to government we put an end to the practice of delaying scrutiny of unforeseen expenditure. The now opposition leader, the member for Clayfield, made sure there was proper and timely scrutiny of unforeseen expenditure by introducing supplementary appropriation bills as soon as possible at the end of each financial year. Those changes were acknowledged by the officers of Queensland Treasury during consideration of the bill. During the public briefing into this bill, in the response to a question from the member for Gregory, a Treasury officer said—

I would add, given you noted that you are new to the committee, that we have changed the way we do these appropriations over probably the last three years, from memory. Prior to that, these supplementary appropriations used to come a further 12 months into the future. For example, if we were doing this on the basis of what had occurred prior to the previous three years, the supplementary appropriation for 2015-16 would have been sought next year. After some consideration a number of years ago, it was thought that transparency was enhanced—

I repeat: transparency was enhanced—

by making sure that we changed that process so that this was brought to parliament soon after the end of the financial year.

We are pleased that the Treasurer has continued this practice, which was implemented under the LNP, and at least done better than what was done by his Labor predecessor, Andrew Fraser, in this regard.

In terms of unforeseen expenditure, as indicated in the explanatory notes to this bill, the supplementary appropriation is based on the *Consolidated Fund financial report* Statement of Appropriations note on unforeseen expenditure. For 2015-16, the total unforeseen expenditure is \$390.1 million. I note in the Treasurer's second reading speech that he was quick to make the point that most of this unforeseen expenditure was in relation to the extra dividends received from the government owned corporations. I reflect on this point. Members will recall that the 2015-16 state budget included a move to increase the dividend take of the electricity network businesses to 100 per cent of net profit after tax. The government has since widened this policy to all state owned companies except for CS Energy. Why was the government forced to adopt this policy? Because they went to the last election with a fiscal plan that did not add up. If one looks at the heroic numbers in the *Our State. Our Assets* fiscal strategy document, the total returns to the government from state owned businesses were forecast to be \$2.3 billion annually. The report actually states that those forecasts were conservative, 'as it assumes no growth in revenue from income-earning government businesses beyond the forward estimates'. Of course, the Treasurer failed to account for future AER determinations into those forecasts.

What did the Treasurer do when he realised his numbers did not stack up? He jacked up the dividend take to 100 per cent, leaving the businesses starved of capital. Despite that policy, total dividends are forecast to climb every year over the forward estimates. The dividend policy is emblematic of the government's approach to managing Queensland's finances. They cannot add up and when they

realise that their plan is not working they look for a hollow log to raid, not caring about the long-term consequences. We have seen it time and again, with raids on public servants' super and leave entitlements and by shuffling debt from one credit card to the other.

As highlighted in the committee report, other unforeseen expenditure for 2015-16 relates to just over \$40.47 million for the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services, which primarily relates to finalisation of the cross-billing arrangements with the Australian government under the National Partnership Agreement on Transitioning Responsibilities for Aged Care and Disability Services; \$39.509 million for the Department of Energy and Water Supply, which primarily relates to the Ergon Energy community service obligation under the uniform tariff policy; \$8.895 million for the Public Safety Business Agency, which primarily relates to the work undertaken on behalf of the Queensland Public Service, the flood focused road safety campaign, enterprise bargaining agreement outcomes and the Queensland Government Air rotary wing aircraft maintenance; and \$4.12 million for the Electoral Commission of Queensland, which mainly relates to the 2016 referendum on four-year fixed parliamentary terms. The remaining balance of \$0.14 million was incurred by the following three departments: the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management and the Queensland Audit Office.

I do not wish to spend too much longer canvassing the various parts of the bill. Treasury officials have provided evidence to the Finance and Administration Committee and it has produced its report. I make the point that fiscal discipline is vital in Queensland. Queensland is Australia's most in debt state. This is a direct result of the financial mismanagement of the previous Labor government.

When the LNP was elected debt was forecast to continue increasing past \$85 billion. Through hard work and budget discipline we were able to reduce this total such that when we left office debt was just \$75 billion. We also left office forecasting fiscal surpluses totalling \$1.2 million out of 2017-18. We put a lid on expenses growth which had been growing at an average of 8.9 per cent per year over the decade to 2011-12.

This is in stark contrast to what is occurring under this Treasurer and this Labor government. The deficits are back. Debt is going up. Last year expenses grew at three times the rate of revenue. This is in spite of the raids on super, long service leave and government owned corporations.

In my earlier comments I reflected on the importance of properly spending hard-earned taxpayers' money. The LNP opposition takes its role in providing proper scrutiny of these funds incredibly seriously. We will continue to hold the Treasurer and the government to account in this regard. I would like to particularly thank the Finance and Administration Committee for its consideration of the bill and the departmental officers for their work.

Let me conclude by reflecting on what the Treasurer said earlier and what some other Labor members have said. It is extraordinary to see a situation where we see a Treasurer congratulating himself and congratulating his government on labour force figures that show last month 23,000 jobs in Queensland were lost. When the figures come out saying that 23,000 jobs were lost we see people cheer.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr EMERSON:** Get right to the back; that is where you are from. It is wonderful to see the member sitting so far away from his seat. He sits way down the back. They have recognised his qualities all the way. Get back there, if you want to interject.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member to direct his comments through the chair.

**Mr EMERSON:** It is interesting to see the quality of some of the representation opposite. He likes to be on the front bench. The only thing that is saving Stirling Hinchliffe at the moment—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Please refer to members by their correct titles.

**Mr EMERSON:** The only thing saving the Minister for Transport at the moment is the fact that the next cab off the rank from the AWU is—you guessed it; the guy right at the back. They do not want to risk putting him up. They do not want to bring him up at all. They do not want to risk that. That is the only thing saving the Minister for Transport at the moment. They do not want to put him up. That is how much they are scraping the barrel. They do not want to do that. He is going back to the back of the chamber. Keep going—there are only seven more seats to go. We know he does not want to go.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr EMERSON:** I am having too much fun. It is extraordinary to see a Labor government and a Treasurer who celebrates labour force figures that show we lost 23,000 jobs last month. It is extraordinary to see that situation. Youth unemployment is over 20 per cent in parts of this state and over 30 per cent in other parts of the state. What we see is this Treasurer celebrating. What else does he celebrate? He celebrates the fact that the gap between Queensland and the rest of Australia in terms of unemployment has tripled since Labor came to office. That is what we have seen.

We see him selectively quoting from various reports. We heard him mention Standard & Poor's earlier. What did Standard & Poor's say? It said that it may not get worse. That is what he is celebrating. It is not that it is going to get better. He says, 'It's great. Everything is awesome because it is not getting worse.' Those opposite should read the report—I suspect Labor does not read reports; we know the Minister for Transport does not read reports. What did S&P say, 'As long as it fulfils its heroic debt management ...'. Do members know what the debt management was last budget? It went up 7.4 per cent. This budget it will be 4.9 per cent. What is it forecast to be in the outyears according to this Treasurer? It is forecast at 2.2 per cent. That is below the wages increase. That is what he is forecasting in the outyears. No-one believes it. Standard & Poor's does not believe it. That is what they said in their report.

Then the Treasurer mentions the CommSec *State of the States* report. What did it show? Queensland is last on construction work. We are sixth worst in terms of economic performance. We are sixth worst in terms of business investment. We are third worst in this country in terms of unemployment. He celebrates that.

What does the census report say? Only one in 10 businesses believe this government is on track. What does the Property Council say? It says that this is the worst government in Australia. The CCIQ says that the economy is weak. This Treasurer keeps coming out and saying that the reports show that everything is wonderful, everything is awesome and we have never had it so good. Tell that to the people in the 23,000 jobs that went missing last month.

Those figures would be even worse except that for the last nine months the participation rate has fallen month after month after month. For nine months in a row it has fallen. If the participation rate were the same now as it was when Labor came to office the unemployment rate would be close to seven per cent. Across Queensland under this do-nothing government Labor is failing Queensland. People are giving up even looking for work.

To see a Treasurer celebrating those appalling figures and to see that we are competing with Tasmania rather than challenging New South Wales and Victoria to lead this nation says everything about a Labor government that is anti investment, anti business and anti jobs. They do not like to hear it, but that is the reality.

Why is New South Wales doing so much better than Queensland? Why is Victoria doing so much better than Queensland? Why are we falling behind the rest of Australia? As the labour force figures show—

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr EMERSON:** It is interesting that that is what we see from the member for Ashgrove. She wants to defend these figures. The member for Ashgrove wants to defend the Treasurer's appalling performance. Maybe they all want to move up. The reality is that we know that he is failing Queensland.

The extraordinary conclusion we have come to today is that this is a do-nothing government. Even the nothing they do they get wrong. We have seen the performance of Sergeant Schultz. We have seen Captain Risky. The happiest person over the last two weeks has been Captain Risky because at least for the moment he is not the worst minister in this government. Briefly he is not the worst minister in this government. He is the worst Treasurer but not the worst minister.

**Mr POWER:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. My understanding is that we use correct titles in this place for ministers and members of parliament. I ask that the member use correct titles.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I was actually just about to point that out. Thank you, member for Logan.

**Mr EMERSON:** I could not hear the point of order from way down the back.

**Mr POWER:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The honourable member said he could not hear my point of order so I thought I would repeat it. He constantly flouts the rule that we address members of this place with correct titles.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, I have already pointed that out. The member for Indooroopilly has the call.

**Mr EMERSON:** It is wonderful to see the member for Logan trying his best. They do not want to scrape the barrel and bring him up and replace the Minister for Transport. The AWU has such a shallow pool. That is the only thing saving the Minister for Transport.

In conclusion, we are supporting this bill, but I point out that the incompetence of this Treasurer is known across all those reports and across the state. To see 23,000 jobs lost in this state last month is no reason to celebrate, despite what Labor thinks.

Sitting suspended from 12.59 pm to 2.30 pm.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe, adjourned.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Queensland Rail

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (2.30 pm): At 1.30 pm today the Acting CEO of Queensland Rail, Neil Scales, contacted my office to advise that Queensland Rail believes there may be changes to Citytrain services this afternoon. I have instructed Queensland Rail and TransLink to start immediate communication with customers. It is completely unacceptable that once again customers will be inconvenienced by Queensland Rail.

I will be meeting with Mr Scales and the acting chair of Queensland Rail today at 5 pm. I will be asking them to explain why these cancellations continue to occur without appropriate warning and what is being done to minimise customer impacts. The Premier has made clear her expectations of Queensland Rail this morning in regard to a permanent timetable for the remainder of the calendar year. I support her 100 per cent.

## APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

### Second Reading

Resumed on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.30 pm): I rise in this House this afternoon to support the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016 and recommend its passing. This bill seeks parliamentary approval of supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by the departments during the 2015-16 financial year.

The total amount of supplementary appropriation for 2015-16 is \$390.126 million. This amount is largely consistent with the unforeseen expenditure incurred over the previous three years. The level of unforeseen expenditure required each year can be influenced by a range of factors including in the past significant one-off factors like natural disasters. However, over time agencies are constantly improving their scrutiny and monitoring of their expenditure to improve value for money and to efficiently deliver those services to the people of Queensland.

Recent analysis of the state economy points to solid growth for Queensland. Two ratings agencies—Moody's and S&P Global—recently affirmed their ratings for Queensland. The Deloitte Access Economics Business Outlook for the September quarter highlighted the underlying strength of our economy and forecast Queensland to record the strongest economic growth in the nation over the next decade.

Successive National Australia Bank business surveys show Queensland at the top or equal top of the rankings for business confidence. Westpac-Melbourne Institute surveys show strong consumer confidence. The Deloitte Access Economics Investment Monitor for the June quarter 2016 shows \$183.5 billion worth of current and planned major projects in Queensland—ahead of both New South Wales and Victoria.

ABS data show employment in Queensland rose by 40,400 persons in the 20 months from January 2015 to September 2016, comprising a 3,300 person rise in full-time employment and a 37,100 person rise in part-time employment. The Queensland government has created about 160 full-time jobs a month, compared with 300 lost every month when the LNP leader, Tim Nicholls, was treasurer. Our

statewide trend unemployment rate dropped in September to 6.1 per cent from 6.2 per cent in August. Labor took office at a time when Tim Nicholls had left trend unemployment at 6.6 per cent after taking it to a high of 6.7 per cent—far from the four per cent rate that was promised.

I will now deal with some of the unforeseen expenditure, which is the term used to describe payments from the Consolidated Fund above the amount approved by the annual appropriation on an individual department basis. Although called expenditure, it can also relate to additional repayments of debt. The unforeseen expenditure incurred by the eight departments was primarily in relation to Queensland Treasury and the repayment of debt under the enhanced Queensland government's Debt Action Plan of \$296.985 million.

The \$296.985 million additional debt repayment was primarily facilitated by the early payment of dividends by government owned corporations—a timing issue that was not envisaged at the time of the 2015-16 budget. Given the cash was receipted into the Consolidated Fund, the additional appropriation to Queensland Treasury is merely the administrative mechanism for withdrawing from the Consolidated Fund to enable the repayment of borrowings.

I would also like to take the opportunity to speak about some of the unforeseen expenditure incurred by the departments which includes the following: \$40.476 million for the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services which primarily relates to finalisation of the cross-billing arrangements with the Australian government under the National Partnership Agreement on Transition Responsibilities for Aged Care and Disability Services and costs associated with enterprise bargaining agreement outcomes; \$39.509 million for the Department of Energy and Water Supply which primarily relates to the Ergon Energy community service obligation under the uniform tariff policy; \$8.895 million for the Public Safety Business Agency which primarily relates to the work undertaken on behalf of the Queensland Police Service, the flood focused road safety campaign, enterprise bargaining agreement outcomes and Queensland Government Air rotary wing aircraft maintenance; \$4.121 million for the Electoral Commission Queensland which mainly relates to the 2016 referendum on four-year fixed parliamentary terms; and the remaining balance of \$0.14 million was incurred by the following three departments: Office of the Governor, Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management and the Queensland Audit Office.

Queensland's economic plan is working: debt is lower, unemployment is lower and growth is higher. Most people judge the economy by whether they have a job or not and by whether their children will have secure jobs into the future. One of our election commitments was to work with the private sector to create these jobs, and that has been actively occurring in Queensland.

As we know, we are in a transitioning economy and the forecast growth from Deloitte Access Economics Investment Monitor for the September quarter is 3.7 per cent for 2016-17 and 3.9 per cent for 2017-18, which is broadly consistent with state budget forecasts of four per cent and 3.5 per cent and is in line with other private forecasts. Queensland should record nation-leading growth from 2016-17 through to the end of Deloitte Access Economics estimated forecast period in 2025-26.

Transitioning from the highs of the mining boom and periods of massive up-front investment in construction of resource projects, the resource sector is moving from construction to production while also boosting exports such as LNG. Some regions and sectors are not making the change as well as others. However, the post boom economy will include the services economy, tourism, human services—that is to do with the NDIS, health and aged care—new frontiers, the untapped potential of Northern Australia and the need to ensure all participants will benefit including Indigenous Queenslanders.

I would now like to talk about some of the diversity within Queensland's economic strengths. One of Queensland's economic strengths is that no sector has more than 11 per cent of the total GSP. One sector may be in a downturn but others then perform well, resulting in strong overall growth. Deloitte Access Economics says that is one of Queensland's sweet fundamentals. The state government's economic plan has three clear job-creating goals: encouraging innovation, attracting investment and building infrastructure. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.41 pm): I rise to speak in favour of Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016. At the outset I want to thank all members of the Finance and Administration Committee for their work on report No. 31. I want to thank the member for Sunnybank, the member for Bundamba, the member for Mermaid Beach, the member for Gregory and, last but not least, the member for Condamine. I also want to thank the committee secretariat—Ms Amanda Honeyman, Ms Lynda Pretty, Ms Liz Sbeghen, Ms Katie Shalders and Ms Nicola Ryan—for their hard work not only on this particular report but also for all the work that the committee has done in the past.

When we look at this bill, we have to look at the overall context of the Queensland economy. We had an update today from the Treasurer, and by anyone's reckoning it is a fantastic set of numbers. Before lunch we heard some criticisms from the member for Indooroopilly, but surely he has blinkers on. You would really have to have blinkers on to dispute this fantastic set of numbers from the Treasurer. It is great to see that the member for Indooroopilly has taken the blinkers off. He should listen to some of these statistics. For instance, in its latest Business Outlook publication, Deloitte Access Economics forecasts the Queensland economy to grow 3.7 per cent in 2016-17 and 3.9 per cent in 2017-18.

**Mr Ryan:** That is a fantastic set of numbers.

**Mr PEGG:** I take that interjection from the member for Morayfield. It is a fantastic set of numbers. The member for Morayfield does not have to take his blinkers off because he has never put them on. As I was saying, these forecasts are broadly in line with Treasury's 2016-17 budget forecasts as well as a range of other private sector forecasters such as the NAB, Westpac and the Commonwealth Bank. Importantly, all these forecasts show that Queensland is expected to record the strongest economic growth in the nation in 2016-17. Further, if the member for Indooroopilly had bothered to take the blinkers off, he would know that in October S&P Global reaffirmed Queensland's AA-plus credit rating, citing the 'very strong economy, strong financial management and budgetary performance, and low contingent liabilities'. Importantly, S&P Global noted that recent budgets delivered surpluses by controlling spending in the face of revenue writedowns.

In addition, if the member for Indooroopilly had taken the blinkers off, he would know that ratings agency Moody's has published an update to its discussion of key credit factors for Queensland reflecting the Aa1 credit rating and identifying improved results following a period of high deficits as a credit strength. Employment has risen by more than 40,000. The latest labour force data show the state's trend unemployment rate edged lower to 6.1 per cent in September 2016. That is a full half a percentage point below the 6.6 per cent rate in January 2015 when we were elected. Prospects for the state's vital resources sector continue to improve.

I also want to talk about Queensland's tax competitiveness and current tax rates. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring it provides an economic environment that supports businesses and jobs growth and does not place undue strain on households through policy and taxation settings. The government has met its commitment to Queenslanders with no new taxes, fees or charges that will directly affect them in this budget. Consistent with one of the government's fiscal principles, general government sector own-source revenue will remain at or below 8.5 per cent of nominal gross state product on average across the forward estimates, with this expected to be 7.8 per cent in 2016-17 and an average of 7.5 per cent across the period 2016-17 to 2019-20. Queensland is a low-tax state under Labor with taxation per capita in Queensland expected to be \$808 lower than the average for other jurisdictions. Alternative measures of tax competitiveness, such as tax effort and tax as a share of GSP, show that Queensland's tax rates remain amongst the most competitive in Australia.

We had a typical contribution from the member for Indooroopilly prior to the lunch break. Of course, since then the Melbourne Cup has been run and won. It was a great win by Almandin, ridden by Kerrin McEvoy, but we all know that the member for Indooroopilly has not backed a winner for a very long time. In his speech, the member for Indooroopilly made a very slow start out of the barrier. He kept looking at the clock waiting to time his run, and he then tried to gallop down the home straight with some gratuitous attacks on the Treasurer. We all know that the member for Indooroopilly likes to cherrypick statistics—it is his favourite game—but even the member for Indooroopilly was struggling to find some statistics he could cherrypick and take out of context in this particular race. After the performance from the member for Indooroopilly, surely it will not be long before he is scratched as shadow Treasurer by the member for Clayfield. When the member for Clayfield or the ginger group amongst those opposite up the back finally take some action to remove the shadow Treasurer from his position, it will surely be described as a late scratching.

I do not want to be unreasonable to the member for Indooroopilly. The fact of the matter is that he has a lot of lead in the saddlebags. He has plenty of lead in the saddlebags. For instance, the member for Indooroopilly was in the cabinet in 2013. He had a front row seat for the 2012-13 state budget when the LNP implemented the most ruthless budget Queensland had seen for decades. Over 14,000 public servants were sacked. There is plenty of lead there. Also, \$1.4 billion was wiped from the state's capital program, halting essential road and infrastructure upgrades.

There was also some lead in terms of tax where the supposedly low-tax LNP increased taxes by \$600 million. That lead in the saddlebags was not enough for the member for Indooroopilly. This was followed by a very uninspiring budget in 2013-14 which did nothing to stimulate growth or reduce gross

state debt. The member for Indooroopilly was in the cabinet and had a front row seat for that budget. In 2014-15 the centrepiece of that budget was a desperate attempt to reduce debt through a fire sale of the state's prime silverware by liquidating \$37 billion in highly profitable state assets. The cynicism of that budget was incredible. Up to \$8 billion from asset sales was earmarked for a range of pork-barrelling and wild election promises to prop up shaky LNP electorates.

I think we need to look at the end result of those budgets and see just how much lead is in the saddlebags of the member for Indooroopilly. State government debt increased from \$62.6 billion in 2011-12 to \$75.5 billion in 2014-15, a shockingly high increase in debt of over \$3 billion per year. There is more lead in the saddlebags of the member for Indooroopilly because unfortunately under the LNP unemployment in Queensland skyrocketed from 5.7 per cent in early 2012 to 7.1 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms by October 2014.

What happened then? The credit agencies then cracked the whip. During the LNP's time in power Queensland's credit rating was actually downgraded or put on watch by all three credit rating agencies: Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. The ratings agencies were clearly signalling to the government that the economic management of Queensland had worsened under their leadership but those in the LNP had the blinkers on.

A lot of the lead in the member for Indooroopilly's saddlebags is actually self-inflicted. I think it is important to look at the rise in public transport fares that occurred under his watch as the minister for transport. In January 2013—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** The member for Indooroopilly might have forgotten about this, but the people of Queensland certainly have not. In January 2013 the headline public transport fare increased 7.5 per cent. In January 2014 the member for Indooroopilly was at it again—headline increase, 7.5 per cent. Up to that point the member for Indooroopilly was at least waiting 12 months before he inflicted another shockingly high public transport fare increase on the commuters of Queensland but for some reason he could not wait another full year. He must have been waiting for the election to come because in November 2014 there was a headline increase of five per cent from the member for Indooroopilly. Of course, we all know that the current Minister for Transport has done some fantastic work to repair the damage inflicted by the member for Indooroopilly on the commuters of Queensland and public transport fares are scheduled to decrease between four per cent and 34 per cent per trip from January 2017.

Speaking of headlines, we have seen a lot of headlines recently from former premier Newman. He does not seem to think those opposite are doing a good enough job, so he is stepping into what he sees as a breach. He is writing columns. There are a lot of headlines. He is giving a lot of interviews. I can see the next headline from former premier Newman now. It will read, 'One of my greatest mistakes' and underneath it will be a picture of the member for Indooroopilly. Surely that headline is coming very, very soon.

I commend Appropriation Bill (No. 2). I once again thank the Treasurer for all his hard work as well as the Finance and Administration Committee. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.52 pm): I too rise to make a short contribution to the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016. For those members on the committee it was important that we were able to talk to the Under Treasurer about the Appropriation Bill, which was introduced by the Treasurer on 13 September. The bill proposes to provide for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure that occurred during the 2015-16 financial year and the bill will authorise the Treasurer to pay \$390.1 million. Unforeseen expenditure occurs when a department exceeds its approved budget and the Treasurer needs to have additional payments from the Consolidated Fund approved.

This also gives me an opportunity to talk about the budget and money that has been allocated in the budget for the 2015-16 financial year but has not been spent, something that is of great concern to me and great concern to Western Queensland. I am talking about the announcement on May Day this year by the Premier of a second tranche of funding worth \$5 million to build more check fencing for wild dogs. It is exactly six months ago, on 1 May, that the Premier flew out to Barcardine and announced this great new package, another \$5 million for cluster fencing, which we all welcomed. Cluster fencing was first established under the former minister for natural resources Andrew Cripps for the South West NRM. We saw some fantastic projects in the Tambo-Blackall area of cluster fencing as a result of that money that the former minister for natural resources Andrew Cripps provided which saw lambing rates increase from 20 per cent to nearly 100 per cent. I note that the member for Ipswich West is in the House. He came out to Longreach and saw cluster fencing and the fantastic opportunities that cluster fencing provides for Western Queensland.

While talking about the Appropriation Bill and looking at extra funding and unforeseen expenditure, I point out that we need to make sure that we have programs funded. I call on the Labor Party and I call on the Minister for Agriculture to fund the cluster fencing that they promised—the \$5 million that they promised six months ago. Not one dollar has hit the ground. Not one dollar has got out there. It was announced on May Day. They went out to Barcaldine to celebrate Labour Day to talk about the Shearers' Strike, to talk about the history of the Labor Party. They made an announcement of \$5 million for cluster fencing six months ago and not one dollar has hit the ground. Not one dollar has made its way to RAPAD; not one dollar has made its way to South West NRM. I think it is absolutely appalling that members opposite can go out there, make an announcement on May Day and say that they are going to spend \$5 million on cluster fencing and not even put one dollar on the ground. We have 11 clusters ready to go. We had 19 clusters funded from the last \$5 million that was announced and 19 clusters are up and going. Work is being undertaken on cluster fencing, yet of the \$5 million they announced six months ago, not one dollar has left their hands; not one dollar has hit the ground.

With the first round oversubscribed, I could not have been more delighted when that was announced. Since then many members would be aware that I have been constantly asking: where is the money? We have not seen one red cent and there is no clear explanation why. Then during the last sitting week, on 13 October, the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries delivered a ministerial statement announcing that she was siphoning half a million dollars from that funding—that \$5 million—to set up a panel to investigate a contingent loan scheme. We do not need any more studies. We do not need any more paperwork. We do not need any more bureaucrats going over and over this. The program we have in place there is working. A total of 19 clusters have been put up in the central west. It is working. The Premier went out to Sandy and Amelia Williams's place earlier this year and sat around their coffee table. They are now putting up a cluster fence themselves through this funding. It is working. Why is the minister not delivering the money? Please deliver the money.

Many of these producers have had little or no income over the years of drought and would struggle to put the capital together. I am perplexed; I am completely confused as to why we are looking at another loan scheme, another layer of bureaucracy. As both the minister and I well know, her agency QRAA is already providing low-interest loans for this purpose and the Longreach Regional Council in my electorate have done the ground work to set up a scheme for landholders in that district. They are waiting for this to go ahead from the government to get it up.

As the local member, this is a passionate interest for me and I am greatly offended that the minister then accuses me of petty politics over the funding when her own ministerial statement left key questions from my constituents completely unanswered. I speak of core issues such as how big is this panel? Who will be on it? Can she clearly and simply state the purpose of this panel? What are the terms of reference? How long will it take to report? Will the remainder of the funding be held back until it does report? Lastly, why should the process be so costly that it hoovers up half a million dollars worth of subsidies that the Premier intended to build fences? Remember the Premier came out six months ago, on May Day, and said, 'Cluster fencing is working. Let's continue to see it work. Here's another \$5 million of funding to put in more cluster fencing.' Where is it? It is not there. That was six months ago and not one red cent has left the Labor government's hands to be delivered for cluster fencing in the central west and the south-west. Of course the ministerial statements are a great way to make a vague announcement without pesky journalists asking questions about these core issues and by and large the minister has gotten away with it.

This is why I am asking these questions today. I am asking these questions on behalf of my constituents who wonder if the money even exists or if the minister is covering up the fact that it has been spent elsewhere. I ask because RAPAD has fencing ready to roll. It is spring, we have had some rain and there are dog tracks everywhere. In her letter to the *North Queensland Register* the minister implied that I was somehow irresponsible in the way I want these taxpayer funds expended.

**Dr Rowan:** The minister does not care!

**Mr MILLAR:** No, I do not think the minister does care. I take that interjection from the member for Moggill, who was out in the central west with me last week looking at prickly acacia. This is another issue, because prickly acacia funding is coming to an end in the next financial year and there has been no sign whatsoever that they will continue prickly acacia funding. It is working out there because we are using drones and it is actually making an impact. This is serious.

I ask the Treasurer to ask the Minister for Agriculture why it has taken six months for the \$5 million that was announced May Day to get out to Western Queensland producers. It has not been received. Only 10 minutes before I came into this House I was on the phone to ask the question again, 'Has the

money turned up?' I asked people out there and they said, 'No, it has not turned up.' What is also of concern is that the minister made a vague statement in the media that she is going to be calling for expressions of interest, but we do not need a separate process. RAPAD already has a program in place. They have 11 clusters ready to go; all they want is the barbed wire, the fencing and the posts. They have the employment to put these fences up. Let's get on with it!

The wild dog problem must be one of the most overdone examples of government red tape ever, and this is something that has continued to be an issue. First of all previous Labor governments flick passed the issue of feral animal control to local governments, so all of my councils have had to put on extra staff. The other grassroots experts are NRM groups like SWRED in the member for Warrego's electorate and RAPAD in my own. These people are doing a great job. With their share of the first round of funding RAPAD has generated cluster fencing for 95 properties. This is approximately 1,800 kilometres of fencing which will protect 1.2 million hectares, which represents half a million sheep. When we went up towards Muttaborra at the property Weewondilla, the member for Ipswich West saw the fantastic effort that Boyd Webb and his family have put into cluster fencing. The lambing rates have increased from 20 per cent to 100 per cent, and that means more sheep on the ground, more shearers in the central west and more income to spend in the towns.

Let us get out the \$5 million that the Premier announced on May Day, six months ago. Do not wait any further; get it out. Get on the phone today and release the money. Ring RAPAD and ring South West NRM and say, 'Here is the money. I am sorry it is delayed. I am sorry it took six months.' With their share of the first round of founding RAPAD has generated cluster fencing for 95 properties, as I said, so that is half a million sheep. The flock means that more than \$6 million in wages is injected into the district, which is a 234 per cent return on the government's investment. Furthermore, RAPAD has done this with very trim administrative costs that equate to only 7.5 per cent of the monies in administration costs, which is very low. They are making sure that they put more of the money out there in the paddock, which is hardly to be called reckless.

What is questionable are the layers of oversight that the minister has installed above this level: naturally there is a departmental group which the Premier referred to her in her May Day speech; above them we have two wild dog commissioners; and then over or alongside them—I am not really sure how it works—the minister also has an 11-person QDOG panel. They are all calling for this money to get out. We heard Vaughan Johnson, the former member for Gregory, who said, 'Get this money out now.' The Minister for Agriculture is creating another panel. We are now on the countdown to Christmas and we still have not seen the money for more fences. In my electorate Robbie Chandler, the mayor of Barcaldine and chair of RAPAD, and his team have 11 fences set to roll now. Those 11 fences would protect an extra 135,000 sheep, creating more than \$1.6 million in associated wages for the district.

The minister needs to do her job. At the moment it looks like the minister could not organise a choko vine over an outhouse. The agriculture minister tries to treat our graziers and those out in the central west as fools. Her claims about wild dogs and the handling of funds do not match the facts. Let us be honest: when the LNP came to government in 2012 there was no department of agriculture. Public servants dealing with primary industries were buried deep in the bowels of Labor's sprawling and directionless Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation. The height of this ideology was Labor's crazy requirement that bait meat for wild dogs be of 'human consumption' grade. I am not kidding, as any grazier who has had to deal with this madness knows. The LNP scrapped that and focused on supporting individuals, local grazing communities and shires to get back on track with baiting, shooting and trapping programs with commonsense changes to baits, including commercial baits and support for fencing programs. Most importantly, the minister for natural resources in the LNP, Andrew Cripps, started cluster fencing. It has made a significant change to the central west and there is optimism that we have not seen for a long time because this fencing is working. This fencing is creating buoyant optimism for the wool industry, which has been in a crisis since 1990. Now we have wool prices at around 1,400 cents a kilogram clean for 21 and 22 micron.

It is absolutely essential that we get this money out. I stand by the efforts made by the LNP government. I also stand by my call for Minister Donaldson to stop wasting time and money on any more studies. Get the state and federal fencing funds out the door to landholders who are waiting to go with these projects. Minister Donaldson would do well to listen to similar advice from my predecessor, and now wild dog commissioner, Vaughan Johnson. I call on the Treasurer, I call on cabinet and I call on the Labor Party to get this money out. There was \$5 million announced on May Day, six months ago. Not one red cent has hit the ground. Get the money out and get it out fast!

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.06 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016. As the Treasurer outlined in his first reading speech on 13 September 2016, this bill provides supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure in the 2015-16 financial year. Unforeseen expenditure is the term used to describe payments from the Consolidated Fund above amounts approved by the annual appropriation on an individual departmental basis. Although called expenditure, it can also relate to additional repayment of debt. With his first reading speech the Treasurer tabled the 2015-16 *Consolidated Fund financial report*—otherwise known as the CFFR—which outlines total appropriation from the Consolidated Fund by department for the financial year. The CFFR includes any unforeseen expenditure and provides explanations on a departmental basis for variations from the approved annual appropriation amount.

This bill seeks parliamentary approval for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure incurred by eight departments in the 2015-16 financial year in the amount of \$390.126 million. Of the total \$390.126 million, \$296.985 million is for Queensland Treasury which it used to pay down debt under the government's enhanced Debt Action Plan. The \$296.98 million came from extra dividends received from government owned corporations—the corporations those opposite were so eager to sell. The additional funds were then appropriated to Queensland Treasury which it used to pay down debt.

The additional unforeseen expenditure required in this bill is a good news story for Queensland's budget as it shows yet again that debt reduction does not need to rely on the easy option of asset sales. Under Labor debt is lower, unemployment is lower and economic growth is higher. The Palaszczuk government has undertaken budget repair that is fair for all Queenslanders. A series of reports and hard data have confirmed the underlying strengths of the Queensland economy and its strong growth. All of them show that our economic plans to transition our state from a post-mining-boom economy is working. Rating agencies Moody's and Standard & Poor's confirm Queensland's credit rating. Moody's maintained our AA credit rating, but the state remains in the negative outlook flagged in 2012 in the wake of Tim Nicholls' first state budget which slashed jobs and front-line services.

Standard & Poor's Global Ratings affirmed its AA-plus rating for our state. The report states—  
... very strong economy, strong financial management and budgetary performance, and low contingent liabilities ...

The two credit rating agencies have delivered good news by affirming their ratings for Queensland, showing that our economic plan is working. We have worked hard over the past 18 months to deliver state budgets implementing our economic plan, and the news from ratings agencies shows that our plan is working. Moody's cited our fiscal discipline and recognised the significant balance sheet reform initiatives of the Palaszczuk government in our two budgets.

The Deloitte Access Economics Business Outlook for the September quarter 2016 predicts that we should expect record nation-leading growth across the next decade. Standard & Poor's noted that Labor's two budgets had delivered surpluses by controlling spending in the face of revenue writedowns. Standard & Poor's maintained our AA-plus rating after assessing our Debt Action Plan, including the use of surplus funds in the defined benefit scheme and the suspension of employer contributions to the scheme. An encouraging sign is Standard & Poor's belief that a ratings upgrade could occur over the next two years based on successful implementation of our Debt Action Plan and containment of expenditure growth, as the government is doing in line with our new fiscal principle.

Other positive indicators include the National Australia Bank's business confidence index, which again ranks us equal first with New South Wales and South Australia, the Westpac-Melbourne Institute consumer sentiment index reflecting a positive outlook and the Australian Bureau of Statistics showing a rise in dwelling approvals. These positive indicators show that our state's domestic economy is returning to positive growth. They outline the value of our economic plan to boost confidence and attract investment and new businesses to our great state of Queensland, and it is creating jobs.

In addition to the debt repayment by Treasury, for other departments the appropriation in 2016 was \$1.963 billion less than originally expected. The introduction into parliament of the bill for supplementary appropriation on the same day as the tabling of the CFFR enables parliamentary scrutiny of unforeseen expenditure.

Under Labor, debt is lower, unemployment is lower and our economic growth is higher. So far we have created over 40,000 jobs through new programs like the payroll tax apprentice and trainee rebate. The payroll tax apprentice and trainee rebate is a government initiative to reduce payroll tax costs for businesses that employ apprentices and trainees under the Further Education and Training

Act 2014. This rebate benefits businesses that are liable for payroll tax—that is, businesses with an annual taxable wage over \$1.1 million. Apprentice and trainee wages are generally already exempt from payroll tax. In addition to the exemption of those wages, the available rebate can reduce the overall payroll tax liability for that business.

Employers of exempt apprentices and trainees have been able to claim a payroll rebate since 1 July 2015. Some 3,156 businesses claimed the rebate for the financial year 2015-16, with a total rebate value of \$11.745 million. For 2015-16 the rebate is calculated by multiplying 25 per cent of the total exempt wages paid to apprentices and trainees by 4.75 per cent for each period. As part of the government's drive to create jobs, the government has doubled the incentive for the 2016-17 financial year. From 1 July 2016 the rebate is calculated by multiplying 50 per cent of the total exempt wages by the payroll tax rate for each period. For the 2016-17 year, to date a total of 1,764 businesses have benefited by claiming the rebate, with a total rebate value of \$3.664 million. That means that a total of 3,368 businesses in Queensland have claimed the rebate since its introduction, with a total rebate value to the state of Queensland of \$15.409 million.

In closing, I thank the officers from Queensland Treasury who made submissions to the Finance and Administration Committee. I also thank the committee: the chair, Mr Peter Russo, the member for Sunnybank; the deputy chair, Mr Ray Stevens, the member for Mermaid Beach; Mr Lachlan Millar, the member for Gregory; Mrs Jo-Ann Miller, the member for Bundamba; Mr Duncan Pegg, the member for Stretton; and Mr Pat Weir, the member for Condamine. I also thank the committee staff: Ms Amanda Honeyman, the research director; Ms Lynda Pretty, the principal research officer; Ms Liz Sbeghen, the principal research officer; Ms Katie Shalders, committee support officer; and Ms Nicola Ryan, committee support officer.

**Mr Furner:** Don't forget Hansard!

**Mr MADDEN:** And I would like to thank Hansard. I commend the bill to the House.

Interruption.

## PRIVILEGE

### Comments by Member for Stretton

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (3.15 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. While I enjoyed the earlier contribution of the gelding from Stretton, I have to say that he appears to have deliberately misled the House. He claimed that the LNP had increased fares by five per cent in November 2014. In fact, we cut fares across the state by five per cent. I will be referring this matter to the Speaker for his consideration of whether to refer it to the Ethics Committee.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Member for Indooroopilly, I do not believe that is a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Standing order 269 would suggest that you should write to the Speaker, as you have indicated you will do.

Before I call the honourable member for Bulimba—it has been happening a little bit today—I remind members to refer to each other by their correct title and to not use colourful adjectives.

## APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)

### Second Reading

Resumed.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (3.16 pm): I rise to speak on Appropriation Bill (No. 2), which provides for supplementary appropriation for unforeseen expenditure that occurred in the 2015-16 financial year. On the recommendation of the Treasurer, the Governor in Council authorised unforeseen expenditure that occurred in that financial year. In accordance with section 35 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009, unforeseen expenditure represents expenditure from the Consolidated Fund in excess of the amount provided by the Appropriation Act 2015. Section 66 of the Constitution of Queensland 2001 requires payments from the Consolidated Fund, including unforeseen expenditure, to be formally authorised under an act of parliament. Timely consideration of unforeseen expenditure enhances transparency and accountability of government expenditure. As such, supplementary

appropriation is sought via a separate appropriation bill as soon as possible after the end of the financial year rather than through the following year's appropriation bills. I note that the opposition is supporting the bill.

It is really timely that we should again have the opportunity to talk about the Queensland economy, because it is just such good news. I know that the opposition always like to talk down the economy, because it would not make a good story for them to say that the economy is going well. They obviously do not think about the damage any negativity can do to our economy. You would think that Queensland doing so well would be a reason to celebrate, but I guess we cannot do anything about that. At the next election Queenslanders will make the choice to vote for a government that talks down the economy at every opportunity or for one that is working steadfastly every single day to make sure Queensland is on a trajectory to a healthy economy.

The good reports about the Queensland economy just keep flowing in. Last month the ABS reported that Queensland's unemployment rate is 6.1 per cent, which is down from 6.6 per cent at the 2015 election—the highest it had been in 11 years. There are over 40,000 more jobs in Queensland now than there were in 2015. Under the Newman government, 360 jobs were lost every month.

Queensland recorded the strongest growth of any state this financial year. Queensland's economic growth was 3½ per cent this financial year, rising to four per cent in 2016-17. Deloitte is forecasting Queensland's economic growth to lead the nation over the next decade, and of course the opposition is really unhappy about that. The National Australia Bank monthly business survey for October ranks Queensland's trend business confidence as equal highest. The Westpac-Melbourne Institute consumer sentiment index in October recorded Queensland with the highest consumer sentiment in the nation. Queensland recorded the strongest growth in retail trade in August with a turnover of more than \$5 billion. Recently, ratings agency Moody's confirmed its Aa1 credit rating for Queensland while maintaining the negative outlook applied in 2012 after the first state budget from the now opposition leader and then treasurer under Campbell Newman.

Although these are absolutely magnificent pieces of news in themselves, I have to say that one of the most promising statements that has been made in recent times is from the Standard & Poor's report which stated that we could possibly even see a return to a AAA credit rating within two years—and, again, the LNP was not very happy because it does not suit its story. Standard & Poor's report cites the state's 'very strong economy, strong financial management and budgetary performance and low contingent liabilities'. We went to the election campaign making it clear that there was a better way than the way that was being suggested by the Newman government and a reading of the Standard & Poor's report in full shows that our economic plan is working. Our economic plan and two state budgets have seen our economy return from the depths of the LNP days when the member for Clayfield was the treasurer, and we will continue with that disciplined approach that targets growth, investment, innovation, debt reduction and job creation.

What contribution did the LNP make to the economy? It sacked people and it sold stuff. That is the sum total. As the Treasurer said in his introductory speech to this bill, the member for Clayfield as the treasurer of the time acted like the grim reaper. During that time Queenslanders, particularly regional Queenslanders, as the current Treasurer said, closed their wallets and stopped spending so that by 2014-15 economic growth in Queensland had slowed to 0.8 per cent.

As awful as those things are, the travesty is that they did not even seem to be part of any plan. Even when the then treasurer under the Newman government announced the asset sales, he actually admitted that he did not even know whether they would help us to restore the AAA credit rating. Then there was outrage when the Standard & Poor's report came out a couple of weeks ago and there was a very small and oblique reference to the sacking of 14,000 public servants. Campbell Newman tried to take credit for that as being responsible for restoring Queensland's economy. He insulted the 14,000 public servants and their families who have gone to hell and back by trying to take credit out of their misfortune that he had wrecked upon them. He tried to say that public servants were in fact happy about the fact that he had sacked them. I can tell members that for the week after that front page of the *Courier-Mail* I was besieged by former public servants and their friends and families coming up to talk to me about what they thought about that and how insulted they were—all over Facebook and every single community I went to. Jennifer said—

Who would be grateful for losing their job? I was one of them and have struggled to find another job.

Sandra said—

Nobody I knew was grateful. I had a friend who came over from India to a job at Toowoomba TAFE and was sacked two weeks in. Destroyed her life ...

Chris said—

A lot of us went through a lot of pain and hurt during those cuts ...

Chris tells me that he still does not spend anything extra in case he gets sacked again. Louise said—

It was a real struggle for quite sometime however I discovered the real community—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! Member for Bulimba, do you think we could stray back to the essence of the bill, please?

**Ms FARMER:** Yes, certainly, Mr Deputy Speaker. Public servants still have a lot to fear and in fact the opposition leader says that he wants to right-size the Public Service. I would like to know: if there are too many public servants now, where is he going to cut them? While this government cannot restore the lives of those people and their families who lost their jobs under Campbell Newman, we are restoring front-line services. In 2015-16 we have 940 more teachers and teacher aides, 651 doctors and 1,940 nurses, 266 more police, 54 more paramedics and 44 more firefighters. We have replaced the LNP's lazy approach with a permanent disciplined economic plan that includes a new fiscal principle to limit public sector growth. This approach has seen two budget surpluses with more to come and a Debt Action Plan that generates interest savings.

The Standard & Poor's report notes that Labor's two budgets so far have delivered surpluses by controlling spending in the face of revenue writedowns from mining royalties. Standard & Poor's reaffirmed our ratings after assessing our Debt Action Plan, including the use of surplus funds in the defined benefit scheme and the suspension of employer contributions to the scheme. There is a range of other things that we could quote from the Standard & Poor's report, but it was very good news and we should all be very happy about that. I want to congratulate the Finance and Administration Committee. I want to congratulate the Treasurer on his disciplined, conservative and forward-thinking approach to ensure that all Queenslanders are looked after for the future.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.26 pm): Do members ever think that this parliament is stuck in some form of weird parallel universe when we hear the Labor members in some form of incredible debt denial—those dodoes of economic management—failing to acknowledge that they were the ones who lost the AAA rating of Queensland's financial system? It is just incredible! They have learned nothing. They were the ones who were responsible for destroying Queensland's proud AAA credit rating. Today I have heard this next generation of Labor MPs who learnt nothing spruiking their self-professed financial credentials and denying that they lost the AAA rating due to their appalling financial management and their incredible administrative incompetence. I will never forget that this Labor government cost Queenslanders that AAA rating and also saw a ripping up of Queensland's low tax status where this government misled people deliberately with regard to taxes which it said it was not going to increase—taxes such as the excise where in fact it took away that fuel tax exemption and put Queenslanders back into a higher rate of tax on their petrol. We have a situation where this Labor government under this Treasurer has now raided the superannuation funds of public servants in a highly risky manoeuvre. Those opposite are breathtaking in their arrogance. They are breathtaking in the risks that they take with public money and in this case with public servants' money.

Never forget that it was Labor that had dams without pipelines, pipelines without dams and now it has trains without drivers and tracks without trains. This Palaszczuk Labor government is not just asleep at the wheel; it is not even at the wheel! Like the trains, this is a driverless government—and we are not talking smart car driverless here, if members are wondering. It is definitely not smart technology. It is an absence of leadership and ministerial responsibility and it hurts jobs, particularly in the regions, and the business opportunities for those who build the jobs. Labor has not learnt that jobs that create the opportunity in Queensland are actually not public servant jobs—and we need good public servants—but it is actually jobs in the private sector that generate the wealth and that generate the sustainable jobs that are able to keep the regions throughout Queensland economically sustainable and the people in those regions employed.

A few minutes ago we heard from the transport minister. In a ministerial statement, he advised the parliament that, after the debacle of last week, there are yet more changes to the train timetables. This morning, the minister was asked whether there would be more changes to the timetables. He would not answer. He did not give a guarantee. Then after lunch he snuck in here and advised that, shock, horror, there are going to be more changes and that he wants them to be bedded down. How incompetent! It is about time this minister resigned. The government cannot manage a chook raffle, let alone a train system.

**Ms FARMER:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek your ruling on relevance, please.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Order! I will ask the member for Maroochydore to come back to the subject matter of Appropriation Bill (No. 2).

**Ms SIMPSON:** It is entirely relevant. This mob, the Labor Party, cannot manage to run a chook raffle, let alone the finances of Queensland. It is a bit rich to hear the member rise on a point of order. This bill goes to the bone of this government. This government is rotten to the core. It has learned nothing. The transport minister, in the true incompetent managerial style of Labor, denies that he is responsible. We have 200 fewer services but, they are going to run on time. It is a bit like that episode of *Yes Minister* about a hospital that was efficient, but it did not have any patients.

**Mr POWER:** I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Speaker, the member for Bulimba, rose on a point of order on relevance. This is not relevant to the bill. I ask that the member be brought back to the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Once again, member for Maroochydore, I will have you refer to Appropriation Bill (No. 2).

**Ms SIMPSON:** This bill relates to unforeseen expenditure. Under the review system of this parliament, that unforeseen expenditure is brought before the parliament. That gives us an opportunity not only to look at the amount of money that has been spent but also to look at how well it has been spent. That Labor mob could not run a chook raffle. The members opposite squawk and squirm and take points of order, but this bill goes to the heart of the issue: they cannot run the finances of Queensland. They cannot even run the train system. They think the way for the trains to be efficient and run on time is to have fewer trains. They are incompetent. They need to be thrown out. Labor cannot manage money. It cannot manage the services. Certainly, Labor is not just asleep at the wheel, it is driverless. This is a government without leadership.

This review system of supplementary or unforeseen expenditure by the parliament was put in place by the former LNP government. We believe that good economic management is about ensuring that parliament scrutinises the expenditure of taxpayers' money in a timely way. I acknowledge the work of the Leader of the Opposition as treasurer in the former government, who ensured that supplementary, or unforeseen, expenditure is scrutinised by the parliament in a timely way. As far as I am aware, previously, that had never happened.

In the bad old days of former treasurer Andrew Fraser and premier Anna Bligh, on average, Queenslanders saw an overspend of \$3.4 billion a year. We all remember the wasteful spending and the debt spiralling out of control—except those debt deniers and dodos of economic managers on the government benches. Queenslanders deserve better than this mob who cannot manage the finances. It does not matter how much money they chuck at something, they always seem to muck it up. This government needs to learn the lesson that good financial management is good for Queensland. They do not know how to manage the books.

Unfortunately, we see the lack of confidence in so many regional areas where the unemployment figures have not recovered. People in the business sector who want to put on more people or create more jobs say to me, 'Look at the other states.' Even—shock, horror!—some Labor states are out there doing a better job than this Labor government. The business sector sees that this leaderless government has resulted in a lack of confidence. They see a sovereign risk in their investment in this state. I do not want to see that. I want to see a state where people are confident in knowing that they can do business with a government that is not only managing taxpayers' money well but also recognising that private investment matters. Private investment is where we will grow the jobs for Queenslanders.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (3.34 pm): The member for Maroochydore started her contribution by saying that she thought that she was in an alternative universe. From that contribution, I can say that she definitely is in an alternative universe. Not only is there a massive disconnect between the reality of how our economy is going in Queensland and the member for Maroochydore's perception but also I do not think she was even speaking to the bill. We heard a lot about hospitals without patients and trains with no drivers. If anyone needs a dose of reality, it is the member for Maroochydore and her colleagues opposite.

I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016. In particular, I would like to speak to report No. 31 of the Finance and Administration Committee. I note that, after considering the provisions of the Appropriation Bill, the committee unanimously recommended that the bill be passed.

This Appropriation Bill reflects the good news that is happening in our economy. It gives me a good opportunity to talk about that good news, the state of the Queensland economy, and the good work of the Queensland government and our Treasurer, the member for Mulgrave, Curtis Pitt. Our Debt Action Plan is delivering results. In the Appropriation Bill, there is an early payment of dividends from our government owned corporations, which further reduce general government debt by \$296.985 million. As some members have discussed already in their contributions to this debate, the Queensland Labor government is delivering on its election commitment to deliver a better way for Queenslanders and ensure that we continue to create economic opportunities for Queenslanders and, in turn, create job opportunities for Queenslanders.

Before going into more detail about the state of the Queensland economy and how it relates to this Appropriation Bill, I want to also highlight some of the unforeseen expenditure incurred by departments that are covered by this Appropriation Bill. I note in particular the \$39.5 million for the community service obligation under the uniform tariff policy. This is a very important policy for people who live in regional Queensland. It not only ensures that electricity prices are affordable for those who live in regional Queensland but also provides some parity and equity across Queensland, which, as we know, is a very diverse and geographically large state. I am very pleased that our government is committed to the community service obligation under the uniform tariff policy, because it ensures that those people living in regional Queensland can access affordable energy. That is a very important thing for all Queenslanders.

I also note that there was unforeseen expenditure incurred by the Public Safety Business Agency of \$8.895 million. One aspect of that unforeseen expenditure is ensuring that the flood focused road safety campaign is properly funded. We heard last year that the former Newman LNP government may have made some decisions that led to that particular campaign not having any dedicated funding. As we head towards storm season, cyclone season and flood season, it is very important—

**Mr Emerson** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** I see the former transport minister. I wonder if he can stand up and say whether there was any money allocated to that campaign to ensure that Queenslanders were properly informed and reminded about safety around flooded roads. In May last year in the Caboolture region there was a massive tragedy. Many people lost their lives as a result of driving into flooded waters. Many people in the Caboolture region know the importance of ensuring awareness around flooded roads. I am very pleased to see that, in this bill, money is allocated for flood focused road safety campaigns. We must ensure that awareness of safety around flooded roads is always front and centre in Queenslanders' minds.

I note that the member for Toowoomba North is on the speaking list. I am looking forward to hearing the contribution of the member for Toowoomba North because there is a future appropriation that I think the member for Toowoomba North will be very pleased about. I am very pleased to see that Toowoomba State High School Wilsonton campus will be getting a \$5 million hall.

**Mr Watts:** So am I!

**Mr RYAN:** Yes, I know. The reason I am looking forward to the contribution of the member for Toowoomba North is that it is a Labor government that will be delivering that hall project, a Labor government that found the money to deliver that project, something that the member for Toowoomba North and his colleagues could not do when they were last in government. I am looking forward to the member for Toowoomba North speaking very favourably about how this government is allocating future appropriations to the Toowoomba State High School community.

This is an important opportunity to talk about the Queensland economy and how the economy is going under this Queensland Labor government. We are seeing some great data coming out which reflects great opportunity and great activity in our economy. A number of previous speakers have already mentioned the recent comments of the rating agencies. I think it is important to go over those comments once again. We see both Moody's and Standard & Poor's confirming their credit ratings for Queensland. There is some good commentary from Standard & Poor's Global Ratings where, after an analysis of the state's economic performance, they note that the economy is a very strong economy, there is strong financial management and budgetary performance, and there are low contingent liabilities. That is a direct result of the great management of our economy by our Treasurer, but also a direct result of our economic plan which is delivering positive outcomes for our community.

I also note that Deloitte Access Economics, in its Business Outlook for the September quarter 2016, says that Queensland should record the nation's leading growth across the next decade. The National Australia Bank's business confidence index again ranked Queensland as equal first with New

South Wales and South Australia. The Westpac-Melbourne Institute Survey of Consumer Sentiment reflects a positive outlook for the Queensland economy. ABS figures indicate not only that unemployment continues to fall under our government but also that there is a rise in dwelling approvals, which is very important for the construction sector and very important for jobs.

As many speakers before me have said, the Queensland Labor government has been locked firm in its commitment to creating job opportunities for Queenslanders. We have already seen more than 40,000 jobs created since the last election. Queensland continues to report very strong economic growth which in turn creates a stronger investment environment for businesses to continue to invest in Queensland and, of course, deliver those additional job opportunities for Queenslanders.

We always have to remind ourselves about what our government stands for and, of course, what those opposite stand for. I am very concerned that the hard work of our government is being undermined by the negative commentary of those opposite, but I am also very concerned about the lack of plans that those opposite have for Queensland. We have made some very tough decisions to ensure that we create jobs, that we stimulate economic activity in our community and that we invest in an innovation economy so that we can create jobs not only now but also in the future. We have been able to do that by reducing debt through our Debt Action Plan, all the while by holding onto our most profitable income-producing assets, just like we said we would at the election. We have achieved some great economic results, just like we said we would at the last election. We have not heard what those opposite propose to do, with the exception, of course, of the Leader of the Opposition mentioning in a speech just recently that he looks to 'right-size' the Public Service. We all know what happens when those opposite look at changing the size of the Public Service. That means more sackings, more front-line cuts.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (3.44 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). I think it is very important when we talk about an appropriations bill that we understand exactly what it is we are talking about. This is money that has come from the taxpayers of Queensland to the Queensland government to deliver services to them. It would be great if we could have all the money that was delivered spent on services, but unfortunately a very large proportion of our budget each year has to be spent on servicing debt—debt that was run up by the Labor government. It reached heights, on a per head basis, that no-one else in Australia has had to deal with. Unfortunately what it means is that when we borrow more money what we are really doing is saying that future generations will have to pay for what we are getting right now. Just so we are very clear and people understand what is happening, when we have to borrow money to run the government, that means that a future generation will have to pay that money back, plus the interest. Whilst the Labor Party can go around patting themselves on the back about how wonderfully they have juggled the money and shuffled debt from one part of government to another part of government—it even shuffled money from an area where it was receiving low interest to an area where now we have to pay higher interest because it has gone over to a GOC and they do not get the same rate—I am very concerned that people do not understand that this is our children's money that we are talking about.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** I hear the member for Morayfield barking on about Toowoomba. I know that he has some family in Toowoomba. I invite him to Toowoomba for the sod turning. I ask him to encourage his minister to hold the sod turning on 1 July because the kids in Toowoomba have been waiting far too long for this centre. There is no reason why it could not have been done last year.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** I take all of those interjections and I will give the reason. The reason was that year 7 was in transition and we needed to build the year 7 classrooms. When we built the year 7 classrooms, the number on campus rose to a number that made it very, very viable for the indoor centre to be built. That is why I went to the election promising that I would get this hall built. Labor went to the election promising it would not build it. If anybody has backed down and anybody has delivered for the people of Toowoomba, we can be absolutely assured that it was the minister who backed down and I have delivered for the people of Wilsonton because this centre is being built.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** I take the congratulations. There are a couple of things that worry me greatly, though. The member said, 'Isn't it fantastic we found \$5 million?' I ask the member to go back and have a look at the budget papers because \$5 million was taken out of the allocation for the Highfields State School. I have raised this before and it concerns me going forward. The allocation in the previous budget was \$14.5 million. In this budget it went down to \$9.5 million, which is mysteriously exactly the same figure

that has been allocated to Wilsonton. I want the member for Morayfield to guarantee that his minister does not short-change the kids at Highfields in their stage 3 because they have been short-changed in stage 2. In stage 3 I expect to see that \$5 million come back into the budget.

While we are talking about the people of Toowoomba missing out on money, and I do appreciate the member for Morayfield bringing it up for me, we were going to put some passing loops in the rail tunnels going down the hill for the businesses to our west and we were going to make the tunnels larger so that we could get agricultural containers through. The minister was very happy to announce that they are going to spend \$20 million on that job. Unfortunately, in the year before that announcement the allocation was closer to \$60 million. They actually took money out. That is another case of being short-changed.

As we are talking about being short-changed or an underspend, I mention that the budget before the current budget contained an allocation for Nexus to get building underway. In Toowoomba, people were desperately chasing jobs on that site, as they still are. While it is great to see the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing fully underway, it was disappointing that in that financial year there was a \$100 million underspend. Therefore, when the government says that it found \$5 million, at some point in the future it needs to go back and look at the \$30-something million that was taken out of the rail tunnels, the \$5 million that was taken out of the Highfields State Secondary College and the \$100 million that was underspent on the Second Range Crossing. If I had all of those millions of dollars, I might have been able to find the money to build an assembly hall for the poor kids at Wilsonton.

I digress briefly to the Wilsonton campus, which is a subject brought up by the member for Morayfield. That campus has now separated from the Mount Lofty campus. Now it will be known as the Wilsonton State High School. I congratulate them on that. We have two principals. I recently visited the Wilsonton campus and spoke to the principal, who is doing a fantastic job. Their logo looks great and their uniforms look great. Last night I was at their awards ceremony. The principal told me something that is really very disappointing, which is that as the school ventures out to become its own school with some 800 children onsite, he has not yet been able to address the full assembly of students, because they have nowhere to do that. Therefore, any further delay will be an absolute tragedy for those people.

Money has been allocated in the budget now. I call on the minister to make sure that the plans are in place and that everything is done, so that on 1 July we can get the building underway and then, at the start of 2018, the new facility can be used for classrooms, assemblies, sport, music performances and all the things that the kids of Wilsonton State High School desperately want to show their community they can do. I very much appreciate the member for Morayfield bringing up the subject of the Wilsonton State High School and the money that has been allocated to it. I appreciate the minister allocating that money. It is a great outcome for the people of Wilsonton. For a long time many people, including people such as Bronwyn Cairns and Dave van Tricht, have been lobbying for the school to receive the funding for this facility. They are both members of the P&C. Next year one will run the P&C of the Toowoomba State High School at Mount Lofty and one will run the Wilsonton P&C. They are to be congratulated for all the hard work that they have done to get this good outcome. Many people have lobbied to ensure that when we do come into this place and talk about taking taxpayers' money, how we are going to allocate it and how we are going to spend it, every once in a while the kids at Wilsonton are considered. They will receive the funding allocation in the next budget to build their hall. I call on the member for Morayfield to make sure that that happens on 1 July, the day the budget comes live. Let us get the building underway and let us get it operational so that it can be used as an educational facility in 2018.

When we come into this place and talk about having to grab some extra dollars because we did not get the budget right, I remind members that that is taxpayers' money. It is Queenslanders' money. We are appropriating the money of hardworking people. It needs to be spent carefully and cautiously, and it needs to be spent in their best interests. The member for Morayfield and I do not agree on many things, but I think we would agree that the Wilsonton campus spend of \$5 million is great. I really hope that they make sure that the facility has the extra six metres needed to build two basketball courts. They are looking for only two basketball courts on a campus for 800 students. It will mean that for the first time they will be able to have a full school assembly. I want to make sure that that full school assembly happens at the very start of 2018, which means that the building needs to be started and finished on that timeline.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (3.55 pm): I also rise to speak in favour of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2). When first reading the bill, I was reminded that people often ask me about the differences between council and parliament. Often I say that it is the same process, just different issues. The issues I deal with now include SPERs and schools, instead of barking dogs and footpaths. However, one very

similar process that occurs is adjusting the financial statements, which is what we are doing today. We are moving money to cover emergent spending. Often councils move hundreds of thousands dollars; in this place, it can be hundreds of millions of dollars.

The bill features expenditure within the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services with \$400 million being reallocated, which is great to see. It is great to see how we are prioritising services that protect the most vulnerable Queenslanders. The number of investigations that we have commenced is up, with 1,772 more, totalling 20,442. The number of finalised investigations is also up, with 848 more, totalling 19,799. Our front-line staff have achieved that even while undertaking 683 more investigations over the past 12 months. We are turning the corner and getting through more investigations. The additional 129 staff—a much lauded initiative from the Palaszczuk government—will have an impact in future quarters when they are fully rolled out. There are ads in the papers and online right now calling for that staff. The growth in foster care certainly continues as well. The number of foster-care families continues to rise, with an extra 175 carer families in Queensland compared to the same period last year. It is great to see that we can support the wonderful work of the department of child safety and the Palaszczuk government through this Appropriation Bill.

It is good to see the Department of Energy and Water Supply featured in the bill, with nearly \$400 million being allocated. It is great to see all the government initiatives coming through this department. I will outline a few. We have \$51 million from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency for six large-scale commercial solar projects in Queensland. Over 50 per cent of the Arena funding went to Queensland. Those six projects are worth over \$600 million and they will generate 300 megawatts of solar power. The projects include the Whitsunday Solar Farm, the Kidston Solar Project, the Oakey Solar Farm, the Longreach Solar Farm, the Darling Downs Solar Farm—with 100 megawatts, that is the largest in the nation—and the Collinsville Solar Farm. They will create more than 500 construction jobs and hundreds of jobs indirectly. Once again, the good work of the department and the Palaszczuk government is being supported through this Appropriation Bill.

We are in a position to better manage the funds in this budget because of the sturdy stewardship of the Treasurer and the Palaszczuk Labor government. The growing strength of our budget approach is being recognised by independent external agencies. Let us look at what the Treasurer said earlier. Deloitte Access Economics Investment Monitor for the September quarter 2016 has forecast growth of 3.7 per cent for 2016-17 and 3.9 per cent for 2017-18. That is broadly consistent with the state budget forecast of four per cent and 3.5 per cent, and is in line with other private forecasts. As members have heard us say today, Queensland should record nation-leading growth—I repeat: nation-leading growth—from 2016-17 through to the end of DAE's forecast period in 2025-26. During October, S&P Global Ratings reaffirmed Queensland's AA-plus credit rating, citing the very strong economy, strong financial management and budgetary performance, and low contingent liabilities. S&P noted that our recent budgets delivered surpluses by controlling spending in the face of revenue writedowns. On a number of occasions today, we heard that the rating agency Moody's has published an update to its discussion of key credit factors for Queensland. That update reflects the AA1 credit rating and identifies improved results following a period of high deficits as a credit strength.

We have heard today that the member for Indooroopilly does not want to hear all this. He would rather cast aspersions on how debt is going under Labor. We heard that he would like to label our Debt Action Plan as heroic. Let me stress this truth. Debt management is going much better under Labor than it would have under those opposite. That is a fact that we see here in Queensland and see across the nation.

I have said in previous speeches that increasing debt is in the DNA of the LNP. Let us look at the record of debt under the LNP Campbell Newman government. Under the LNP Newman government debt increased by \$14 billion in three years, with a peak of \$43 billion in 2014-15. General government sector debt in 2016-17 is expected to be \$37.775 billion. That is \$10 billion less than projected in Tim Nicholl's 2014-15 budget.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** Yes, I do understand what \$10 billion less means. It is quite a good figure. Those opposite cannot argue the fact that interest costs will actually be \$800 million lower in 2016-17 than had been previously projected by the former government in 2014-15. They will be \$800 million lower.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** As we can hear, they do not like it. They like to boast of their fiscal rectitude, but under the LNP, whether state or federal, debt goes up. I give members the Abbott government as a case in point. We heard the member for Maroochydore churning out lines about spiralling debt under Labor. One thing history shows us is that when we have an LNP government debt goes up. That is a fact.

They like to talk of economic doom and gloom—and previously they have labelled Queensland as the Spain of Australia—but they just cannot hide the fact that there is increasingly good news and growing economic confidence coming from Queensland. I also found it fascinating that the member for Indooroopilly criticised us for getting extra dividends from government owned corporations. We know that we would not get any dividends from the GOCs if they had sold them off. Those opposite would say goodbye to all those dividends if they ever got their hands on these GOCs.

Let me stress that these Queensland businesses are working hard for Queenslanders. They are working hard and making money which goes back into creating and supporting crucial services for Queenslanders—services that protect vulnerable children or make sure that they get the education they need to keep on building this great state. As the member for Indooroopilly noted, these Queensland businesses, owned by the people of Queensland, will have to keep on working hard and producing more dividends for the Queensland budget. We do not shy away from that.

There is another memorable phrase that the member for Indooroopilly uttered. Let me run this by members. He said we should ‘put a lid on expenses growth’. That is a phrase that will send a collective shiver up and down the spines of all Queenslanders, especially those working for the government. ‘Put a lid on expenses growth’ I would suggest, is code or a euphemism for cuts—cuts to jobs, conditions and wages. When we hear it again it shows that they have not moved on from the Campbell Newman days. Whenever they see a budget, they just want to cut it. Whenever they see a balance sheet, they just cannot wait to run a red pen through it. They just cannot help it. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (4.03 pm), in reply: I thank all those members who have made a contribution to this debate. As we have heard, there have been a number of things put forward by those opposite. Certainly there were some summations about how this process had come to be. Over the years we have seen some changes in the way the budget and any supplementary expenditure—in this case, unforeseen expenditure—have been put into the House. We have a process that we are diligently undertaking. We are very happy to be doing that. As members can see and as I have said on numerous occasions, this year the predominant amount of money contained in this bill as part of unforeseen expenditure is related to dividends that we have received from our government owned corporations and we have used to retire further debt.

I am very pleased from all the contributions I have heard—and I particularly thank colleagues on this side of House—that we have been able to have a very sensible conversation about exactly what our economic plan has been over the last two budgets and why we decided to take the course of action we did. It is very important that we have a plan that has actually started to show dividends. When we see the commentary that we have over the last few weeks it is something that even some of the deniers on the other side have problems with. It is hard to find holes in the continued momentum that we are seeing in the Queensland economy.

I have to say to the member for Indooroopilly, as the shadow Treasurer, that I have undertaken that role. I know that he is always going to be out there trying to push the case for his side of politics. He is always going to be trying to find the negatives. I have mentioned before that he manages to find the cloud in the silver lining. It is important that both sides of politics speak about the Queensland economy the way it needs to be spoken about—that is, that our responsibility is to talk our state up, not unnecessarily so and not in an irresponsible way but in a way that indicates that this economy is one that we should all be very proud of.

On the multiple occasions and at the many events that I get to speak about Queensland I talk about the diversity of our economy. Yes, we are trying to further diversify our economy through the Advance Queensland strategy—a great strategy that is looking at creating jobs for the future and changing the make-up of our economy so that we are ready for all the changes we know are just over the horizon. We cannot lose sight of what we have now.

That diversification is what is keeping us in good stead. It is what is ensuring that we have parts of the economy firing when other parts are not. What we are thankfully seeing is that there is a sweet spot at the moment. We are seeing a bounce and return in terms of commodity prices. We are seeing

the spot price for hard coking coal get up to US\$257 a tonne. We are getting contracts locked in at that \$200 mark. We are even seeing spot prices for thermal coal hitting \$100. These are all above the expectations of the budget. We hope that these conditions continue because all of those things mean that we have a greater opportunity to continue the strict fiscal discipline that we have been showing since we came to office and also ensure that we continue this economic plan which is driving growth in our economy.

I want to pick up on a few points. We know that we have had the shadow Treasurer looking for negatives wherever he can find them. He has been very fond of saying that full-time employment numbers fell by 23,000 in the last month. Once again, he has been caught out picking and choosing statistics to fuel this campaign of negativity. The figure he quotes is on a seasonally adjusted basis. On the full, more reliable trend basis the figure is a gain of 200 full-time jobs. The best and brightest cherry-picker in Australia is at it again. That is what we are seeing every time he selectively quotes the figures.

I think he really does need to ask his leader what his preferred measure is. I tried for three years as the shadow Treasurer to get the former treasurer to tell us what his preferred measure was. Whichever figures looked best, he would use. He would go between seasonally adjusted and trend. We have consistently stuck with the trend figure. It is the more reliable measure. That is what we are doing. It might seem that there is sometimes an opportunity to go for a figure if it looks better seasonally adjusted, but we know that if we stay with those trend figures we will see that our economic plan is making a difference.

The ABS advises that trend estimates are considered the best in terms of the underlying behaviour in the labour market. The seasonally adjusted figures are the more volatile and least reliable. It is interesting that the shadow Treasurer was not shouting from the rooftops when employment rose by 22,000 in June 2016. That is the volatility, as we have talked about, with the seasonally adjusted figures. That is why we always refer back to the trend figures.

I note the contribution of the member for Stretton. Thank you very much, member for Stretton, for what I can only describe as a very animated contribution. We were talking with the whips and we believe that you should come on after every lunch break to ensure that the House is woken up with all the pep and vigour that we need. If we have to continue to provide you with any additional material please let us know. It was certainly a contribution that got everyone, on our side at least, very excited. He did note the gratuitous attacks that we have seen from the member for Indooroopilly over very recent time and the latter's contribution to the bill.

The trend figures are bad news for the LNP's five-year continuous campaign of negativity on the Queensland economy because they show that this government's economic plan is working. I said this morning and I will say it again: we have on a trend basis unemployment down from 6.6 per cent to 6.1 per cent. We have more work to do. That is our pledge to the people of Queensland. We said we would come in and work very hard on job creation. We have seen more than 40,400 net new jobs since we have come to office in January 2015. It took a full term for 26,800 net jobs to be created under the former Newman-Nicholls government. Labor has created more jobs in half the time.

The shadow Treasurer also trotted out that tired old line that this state was not doing as well as New South Wales and Victoria. We are expected to chalk up the strongest growth in the nation for 2015-16, which was forecast in the budget at 3½ per cent. This would be a great outcome in light of global conditions. In the budget that we handed down this year, Queensland Treasury forecast our growth in 2016-17 to be leading Australia at four per cent. That is a percentage point higher than the forecast for New South Wales and Victoria and a full three per cent higher than what was forecast in Western Australia.

The latest Deloitte Access Economics September quarter report talks about us having the strongest economic growth in the nation right through the next decade. The return to growth has also seen a return to business and consumer confidence. The NAB Monthly Business Survey has consistently shown that we are either leading or equal first for business confidence. That has been a position we have held since we handed down the first budget in 2015.

The recent Westpac-Melbourne Institute index showed rising consumer confidence in Queensland. The shadow Treasurer was also quoting the S&P rating report in his contribution to this debate. Apparently it only said things are not getting any worse, according to the shadow Treasurer. Well, I think we can all be a little bit more optimistic than that. S&P Global recently affirmed the state's AA-plus credit rating, citing Queensland's 'very strong economy, strong financial management and budgetary performance'. S&P noted Labor's two budgets delivered surpluses by controlling spending in the face of revenue writedowns. We know that Moody's has also reaffirmed our AA rating.

Another contribution to the debate was the high-on-volume and low-on-facts contribution by the member for Maroochydore. The member termed this side of the House as debt deniers and the dodoes of economic management, if I am faithfully quoting her. Once again we must return to the facts. It certainly was a contribution that was light on facts.

The government has delivered two surplus budgets during its time in office all the while reducing government debt through its Debt Action Plan. I am not sure what the member for Hinchinbrook is laughing at. I would love to know.

**Mr Cripps:** I'm laughing at your very liberal interpretation of how fiscally responsible you have been given that you have been taking money—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Order!

**Mr PITT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, it is fascinating that the member for Hinchinbrook—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No. Pause the clock. When we have order we will continue.

**Mr PITT:** It is fascinating to have that interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook. It is fascinating because for years in Queensland the default position has been—

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr PITT:** Does he want to know the answer to the—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Hinchinbrook, you are now warned under standing order 253A.

**Mr PITT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I ask that you take note of that ruling you have just made in particular, because I know that the member for Hinchinbrook was also warned under standing order 253A this morning. He does not seem to have learned from that.

What we know is that for years Queensland has been consistent with other states and territories where we have used the operating balance as our preferred measure. It is the way we presented our budget. We know that the former treasurer, under the guidance of Peter Costello to whom he outsourced his first budget, had the advice that he needed to shift to a fiscal balance that was now the new norm. That is out of step with where all other states and territories are. That is not to say that we do not take account of the fiscal balance. We always want to see the fiscal balance reducing, but it is not the measure that faithfully reflects our current position.

The operating balance has seen a surplus in last year's budget, a surplus again for 2016-17 and across the forward estimates. Those surpluses are combined surpluses of around \$3.2 billion. That is exactly the sort of thing we have been talking about when it comes to our fiscal discipline and showing ratings agencies that we not only put ourselves out there with some of the toughest fiscal principles in the nation, which we tabled with the budget, but also are delivering on what we said we would.

Going back to the member for Hinchinbrook's contribution, for his information, general government debt is forecast to go down in 2016-17. It is \$10.4 billion lower than the estimate in the 2014-15 budget. The Palaszczuk government has taken off \$10 billion in less than two years after our commitment that we made to Queenslanders to reduce general government sector debt by \$12 billion over the decade. This is what those opposite continually fail to register. They fail to register the importance of the interest repayment savings that we are making when we put our plan into action in the last two budgets. We are saving in 2016-17 alone \$800 million. That is \$800 million that can go back into providing services for Queenslanders. There is no suggestion that this so-called debt shuffle they have carried on about has a real outcome. That real outcome is that we have more money freed up to do what we need to do to support services and jobs in Queensland.

Before I wrap up there is one matter about supplementary appropriation bills that I must raise, and that is unforeseen expenditure as a percentage of total appropriations. In recent years this has been quite low. It was not just a Newman government event. In 2015-16 the share was 0.74 per cent; however, in years where it has been higher it has been affected by natural disasters such as Cyclone Larry, Cyclone Monica and Cyclone Yasi. I thank the committee for its work on the bill and that of the staff of the committee as well. I thank everyone for their contributions. 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 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (4.16 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (4.17 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.

### MOTION

#### Order of Business

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (4.18 pm): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 3 to 9 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 13 October (see p. 3907), on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.18 pm), continuing: I thank the member for Indooroopilly for the free character assessment and special opinion on my seating position in the previous debate. I assure the House that I will not be returning the favour. It is clear to the House what character assessments can be made of the member for Indooroopilly from his contribution.

As I said when I rose in this place on 13 October, we recognise that the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is a bill put before the House for a variety of purposes. The one I had spoken about briefly on the 13th was the amendment to the Major Sports Facilities Act, which regulates the stadiums of Queensland. In the modern day, we recognise that major sports events are reliant on the considerable patronage of major sponsors. Often the eyes of the world are on those major sporting events, and the ability to advertise at those times has considerable value.

We also see clever marketeers who seek to subvert, undermine or hijack those events for their own advertising purposes. This puts at risk our ability to maintain and fund our major sports facilities and to put on the events that Queenslanders value so much. This bill streamlines the process, as I said on the 13th, of ensuring that sponsors can invest with confidence in Queensland, supporting our stadium based sporting and cultural events. Sponsors will know that Queensland has a streamlined system to declare an area limited to the sponsors of an event and can react quickly to any ambush marketing to ensure the value of existing contracted sponsors.

The bill also makes a change to the Land Act to give certainty to particular groups of landholders who are adjacent to a declared non-tidal watercourse. This is a small change. Traditionally, those adjacent to non-tidal watercourses have had some rights of access for stock and access over these watercourses when they are not covered with water. This extends that to allow the leasing of a functioning non-tidal watercourse or lake. The landholder or a user with the permission of the adjacent landholder can lease the area, as long as they do not make disruption to the natural flow of water within the watercourse which is quite limited. During the hearings the committee asked extensive questions about the purpose of this amendment to the act and its consequences. I thank the departmental officers who followed up the requests of the committee to give further information and to give examples for the benefit of the committee. For those who are interested, the committee website holds some of those responses.

The bill also makes amendments to the Gaming Machine Act to ensure there is an adjustment of the tax methodology so as not to make less attractive the ability of a larger or well-managed club to take control of a failing club so as to ensure they can continue to provide the community service for which they were started. I know in my own area that the Greenbank RSL, which may surprise members is not located in Greenbank, briefly took over the management of another club, the Greenbank all-sports club, and set it on its feet again. They did not wish to take complete ownership, but that situation might be different in the future and provide better facilities for the local area.

Members of the committee were shocked and disappointed that some 60 clubs have closed their doors. Thousands of volunteers in the past would have put in so much effort to start these clubs and many continue to have a strong community presence. This bill makes it more likely that clubs in this position would be more likely to survive and continue to be a community hub which the original volunteers who started it envisaged.

Many members would know a club in their area that has closed down. I know the member for Gladstone feels keenly the loss of the Gladstone rugby league club and its legendary Marley Brown Oval, which was an institution and continues to be an institution for the city. I know that the member for Gladstone played there as did CT, Chris Trevor, a former federal member. Once these clubs no longer have the structures they once had, they are difficult to bring back. This bill ensures that it is less likely a local community will face this problem.

Lastly, the bill amends the Transport Infrastructure Act with regard to the Logan Motorway Enhancement Project, which has been put forward as an option to the government by Transurban Queensland as a market-led proposal. This \$450 million suggested Logan Motorway Enhancement Project seeks to overcome safety and congestion problems between the Mount Lindesay Highway, the Wembley Road overpass and Compton Road on the Gateway Motorway. The proposal—and at this stage it is only a proposal—as put forward at the reference stage will see no increase in tolls for motorists while it is envisaged that truck traffic will fund the improvements for those, for instance, travelling between Mount Lindesay Highway and the Gateway Motorway.

Transurban put forward a reference design and has done community consultation. Through this process I am sure the public have had their voice in the process. As I have said, the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill has a variety of purposes for the betterment of Queensland, and I endorse it for the benefit of the House. Although the Transport and Utilities Committee did not receive extensive submissions or hold extensive hearings, we dutifully looked at the process of this bill and asked questions of ministers, and I thank the members of the committee for their participation.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.24 pm): I rise to speak to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. When I saw the title of this bill, it flashed through my mind that the Labor Party had started taking its cues from Ancient Rome. The government was trying to appease Queenslanders with sports facilities rather than address the serious issues that face this state. I was concerned that we were being given bread and circuses which is a term that was used satirically to describe a government which sought public approval by providing distractions and diversions instead of thoroughly exemplary public service and policy. While that is not what we have in this bill, the term very much reflects what we experience in Gympie. There are serious concerns this government is incapable of making decisions about a significant issue and resorts to distractions.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Gympie has already gone through a long preamble of things that the bill is not about and is now continuing about something the bill is not about. I ask you to rule on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): Order! I call the member for Gympie.

**Mr PERRETT:** The amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 will provide an additional alternative process for the declaration of events and event periods at major sports facilities. This will ensure that all events, despite late scheduling, can be protected from unauthorised advertising by rival businesses which have not contributed to the event. Currently the process can be impractical when late scheduling or rescheduling of events is unavoidable due to weather or other unforeseeable circumstances.

The 21st century is now heralded as the era of creativity and innovation. That is why we need to put in place mechanisms which ensure that event organisers and sponsors who financially support events are not ambushed by inventive but unauthorised marketing and advertising techniques. The department of sport advised that these techniques could be rival firms flying a blimp over an event and skywriting or sign-writing by an aircraft; a banner or other sign that is attached to an aircraft other than any scheduled flights; advertising suspended on a building or other structure including banners or signs that are not permanent business signage; flags other than a state or national flag; and laser or digital projections.

Stadiums Queensland is responsible for operating facilities declared to be major sports facilities and hired out by national sporting organisations such as the National Rugby League, Australian Football League, Cricket Australia, as responsible for the Queensland Bulls and Brisbane Heat and the Australian cricket team. As co-chair of the Parliamentary Friends of Cricket and a cricket tragic, I welcome efforts to make sure the game is available to as many Queenslanders as possible, especially in regional areas. Cricket is a universal sport as it can be played throughout all regions of Queensland. Scattered throughout 339 clubs which hold 1,554 matches each week are more than 230,000 Queenslanders who play cricket. Every weekend 24,560 junior players and 16,450 senior players are seen wearing their team colours. In the Wide Bay region, which includes the Gympie electorate, there are more than 11,000 participants with more than 8,300 playing in schools.

As well as the amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, this bill includes amendments to four other different acts. The amendments to the Gaming Machine Act 1991 are designed to adjust tax methodology to benefit clubs which operate more than one premise. The amendments to the Keno Act 1996 are to introduce a new Keno pooling arrangement to allow larger interstate pooled jackpots. The amendment to the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 is to enable a change to the tolling arrangements for the Logan Motorway and Gateway Motorway to fund the Logan Motorway Enhancement Project. The amendment to the Land Act 1994 will allow for the leasing of a functioning non-tidal boundary watercourse to the state.

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines provided a number of examples of circumstances in which proposed changes to the provisions in the Land Act might apply. One example was the establishment of a new training field by the Brisbane Broncos on government owned land where a small portion of the field will project above the boundary of Ithaca creek. It said—

A lease over the portion of the training field to be constructed ... will ensure the Broncos have legal tenure over the infrastructure it delivers and ... The Broncos have committed to a package of community benefits to be delivered in return for the use of the site.

The willingness of this government to lease something in return for a package of community benefits is not the practice we see in Gympie. For the last two years the University of the Sunshine Coast has tried to lease an empty and unused TAFE building at the Gympie education precinct. TAFE does not even want the building. The community benefits for Gympie would be enormous as the USC wants to offer more courses and increase enrolments in a region which is crying out for increased opportunities for tertiary education. However—

**Mr Rickuss:** Why do they hate Gympie?

**Mr PERRETT:** I do not know. However, the Attorney-General and Minister for Training is incapable of making a decision. Out of sheer bloody-mindedness, the minister obstinately lets the building sit empty across the car park from the USC.

In simple terms, the amendment to the Land Act is about providing for the issue of a lease. It is also about letting the state sublease that lease to a third party who seeks to occupy and/or use that for a particular development. If the level of community benefit is the criteria, as it is in the amendment to the Land Act, then the minister should make a decision about the USC now. It would be a significant benefit to the community. The blocking of the USC expansion has meant that Gympie students have missed out since last year, and 2017 looks like it will become another year of missed opportunity. The minister's actions are not just unthinking; they are actually hurting the hopes and aspirations of our youth and the Gympie community is not benefitting.

This bill is about the government amending rules to adjust tax methodology, to allow bigger Keno jackpots, to ensure the rights of sponsors and to provide for the issue of a lease. All of these have been justified with submissions focused on how the community benefits. It is a pity the same principle has not been applied in Gympie. I support the bill.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This is a bill that covers a number of different pieces of legislation. I would particularly like to address some of the gambling aspects. It does amend the way in which tax is calculated under the Gaming Machine Act 1992 for clubs with additional premises as well as amending the Keno Act 1996 to provide that the Keno licensee may enter into jackpot pooling arrangements with Keno licensees in other jurisdictions. I will come back to some of the detail of that in a moment.

On the day when the race that stops a nation, the Melbourne Cup, has been run we have all had a little bit of fun. I suspect that a few across the chamber have had a little bit of a flutter—some more of a flutter than others. It is a day when we celebrate this iconic Australian event. I do not mind my once-a-year flutter on the Melbourne Cup. I know some who are more regular racegoers do so more than me. I support responsible gambling where people have full control of their faculties and do not flog off the family home.

There is a matter, though, that gravely concerns me and that is the abuse of the advertising of sports betting where it is just shoved down people's throat. In the last few weeks we have seen the sports betting and the odds proliferating on our televisions through sporting events when young people in particular are watching and it is time that this was banned. I have received so many complaints from parents and, quite frankly, it is over the top. How can we expect people to take that token advice about responsible gambling when there is nothing responsible at all about the advertising that has been put down people's throats?

It has been acknowledged that there has been quite an increase in this particular type of sports betting advertising across Australia. I am advised that in 2012, 3,069 individual sports betting advertisements were relayed over all forms of media not including social media communications. These included 528 individual sports betting advertisements which were collectively played over 20,000 times on free-to-air TV and more frequently on pay TV. The value of sports betting advertising on television quadrupled between 2010 and 2012. According to a Parliamentary Library brief, an audit of eight AFL match broadcasts in 2012 identified a total of 50.5 marketing communications promoting seven wagering brands, totalling 4.8 minutes per match. Four live AFL matches held at two major stadiums in 2011 promoted nine wagering brands during an average of 59 marketing communications. An audit of two weeks of televised NRL and AFL programs in 2012 identified 72 gambling communications, mainly for corporate bookmakers, constituting 2.5 per cent of broadcast time.

I think it is timely to raise this because, as I said, I do not mind a flutter at Melbourne Cup time and I do not begrudge people enjoying access to their sports or responsible gaming. However, the advertisement of sports betting on our television has gotten out of hand. It is time it was banned during the time slots when young people in particular can watch it as it is ingraining habits in their way of life which are not responsible. We do know that those who do not have control in regard to responsible gaming find it destroys lives. It is about balance. The advertising is not balanced and we need to see a change in that regard.

This bill seeks to amend the Gaming Machine Act to adjust tax methodology for the benefit of clubs that operate more than one premise. It has been forecast that this is likely to see a reduction in return to the government. It is intended, though, to balance the existing controlled approach to club expansions. Obviously this has been through the parliamentary committee process. There have been submissions lodged in this regard. Previously I have sought advice from the Attorney-General with respect to the gross turnover of pokies in my electorate. The turnover in gaming machine revenue in the Maroochydore electorate for 2014-15 was \$572,348,697. While a large proportion of that does return to people, a substantial amount still does not return to the pockets of people.

I also acknowledge that there are some excellent clubs that are involved in providing beautiful facilities that service my electorate and many other areas that are largely financed through their gaming machines in conjunction with terrific hospitality facilities. I know a number of my local clubs do an outstanding job and they give back to the community over and above that which is legally required as part of the formula of their gaming machine licence and that which is sent back to communities through the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. There are many good corporate citizens in this space and I acknowledge that and I am very grateful for them.

However, with the upsurge in gaming in our areas we should never be frightened to ask how we ensure those who are most vulnerable are not made more vulnerable. That is why I raise that issue in particular with respect to advertising. It is time, particularly with regard to the advertising we see on our multimedia platforms, for consideration to be given to those who are vulnerable and also to the next generation of young people who are learning from those adults around them about how to manage their money. Responsibility in gaming is being able to say no when people have gone too far and know it is taking children's money to pay for their food and to pay their rent. Responsibility is about governments also ensuring that on behalf of our communities a watchful eye is always reflected in good legislation and also with appropriate monitoring with enforcement where breaches are made or where it is inappropriate.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (4.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and in particular to speak to report No. 24 of the Transportation and Utilities Committee. I commend the committee on their report. It is a very good report. I note that the members of the committee recommend that the House pass this bill.

I want to speak in particular about the proposed amendment to the Gaming Machine Act. This is a very important amendment and it will mean a big change to community clubs all over Queensland. Not only will it provide the financial incentive for clubs to expand and create additional economic activity and more jobs in our community; it will also provide that helping hand to those clubs in need. In a couple of moments I will speak about some of the great work that is being done by the Caboolture Sports Club, which is in the electorate of Morayfield.

In the report I note there are a number of positive comments about the proposed amendment to the Gaming Machine Act. The explanatory notes state—

The Bill amends the Gaming Machine Act to remove taxation disincentives to the controlled expansion of community clubs. These changes are intended to assist clubs in establishing new premises in greenfield areas that might otherwise go without sporting, social and other facilities. The changes are also intended to assist clubs in helping smaller struggling clubs that may otherwise fail, thus risking the loss of their facilities to the community.

It is also important to recognise, as the report does, that these proposed amendments do not in any way alter the harm minimisation requirements in the legislation or the total number of gaming machine authorities which are to exist in Queensland—that is capped, and that cap remains—and they do not in any way alter the geographic requirements around the number of gaming machine authorities in a particular community. This is only a change to those tax disincentives that currently apply to community clubs, and removing those tax disincentives will make a big difference. I note in particular that the consultation which was conducted in respect of this particular amendment showed there is good and overwhelming support for the proposed amendment. In particular I note that the report rightly quotes Clubs Queensland's submission, which states—

... it is anticipated the tax change will stimulate the provision of community club services across the State as exemplified by the recently proposed North Lakes Sports Club development, which will deliver 100 new construction jobs, another 100+ jobs ongoing and \$25 million of investment in a growing region.

Clubs Queensland's submission further states—

The main outcome of changing the current taxation treatment is twofold:

1. Remove the financial burden caused by grouping amalgamated entities, which would allow any additional operational surpluses to be invested back into the local community, and
2. Enabling community clubs to assist smaller struggling clubs from closing their doors, whilst also promoting the future growth and development of community clubs, particularly in Greenfield sites.

I mentioned the Caboolture Sports Club earlier. It is a magnificent club in the Morayfield state electorate which returns benefits to the community every single day. The Caboolture Sports Club has been reinvesting in local sports organisations and other community activities for over 20 years. I must acknowledge the hard work of the management committee—CEO Kelvin Patch and chairman of the board Kevin Kaeser—and their vision for the Caboolture Sports Club and the good work that it does in the Caboolture region. The Caboolture Sports Club has stepped up in the past and assisted struggling clubs. Many years ago the Caboolture Sports Club purchased the Caboolture Lakes Bowls Club and saved that club from closing down. Relatively recently they purchased the Caboolture RSL club and saved the RSL club from closing down. The Caboolture Sports Club has also invested \$25 million to establish the new North Lakes Sports Club, which is due for completion next year.

By stepping up and investing in those other community clubs and providing those other venues for our community to come together, the Caboolture Sports Club is not only making that investment in our community but also providing job opportunities for many people who live in the Caboolture region.

Many of them are young people who have part-time or casual jobs at those community clubs. For that reason the Caboolture region is very fortunate to have a community minded club like the Caboolture Sports Club which, as I said, invests a lot back into the community. Just this year I was speaking with the CEO Kelvin Patch about how we could do more to address the issue of domestic violence in the Caboolture region. Kelvin said, 'Mark, whatever you need, the Caboolture Sports Club will support.' Kelvin was able to donate a venue for a community expo to provide information about support services for domestic violence, and he actually provided the food and advertising for that particular event to make sure that we got the message out. Kelvin is very committed to taking action on domestic violence, and the entire Caboolture Sports Club is also behind him. I know that there is more we can do in that space, and I know that the Caboolture Sports Club is prepared to step up and make further investments.

The Caboolture Sports Club also invests significantly in other support programs. One matter that they take very seriously is their support for problem gamblers. Through their club they provide additional support programs to support problem gamblers, and I know they are there to look after their members and the broader community. Last year the Caboolture Sports Club provided over \$1.8 million to sporting clubs and community initiatives in the Caboolture region. That is a significant amount of money for an organisation to return back to the community, and I know that the community is very grateful. I have a very close working relationship with the Caboolture Sports Club. They do good work for our community, and I am very pleased to support them in that work and to be associated with them.

The Caboolture Sports Club, through its CEO Kelvin Patch, was one of the leading advocates in respect of this proposed amendment. Not only did they speak up on behalf of other community clubs all across Queensland; they played a very important educational role in making sure that legislators and other community members were aware of what this proposed amendment means and how it will benefit Queenslanders. I would like to put on the record my thanks to Kelvin and the Caboolture Sports Club for what they do in the region and for what they have done for community clubs all across Queensland by championing this particular amendment.

The bill before the House is a very good bill. It will make a big difference to community clubs. It will support their financial viability. It will create incentives for community clubs to reinvest in the community, and that is a good thing for jobs, a good thing for economic activity and overall a great thing for Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Ryan, adjourned.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Queensland Rail

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (4.48 pm): I can provide an update on my ministerial statement concerning train services made at 2.30 this afternoon.

The acting CEO has informed me that services have been cancelled this evening due to unforeseen driver shortages. In a statement the acting CEO has said that approximately 20 service alterations would be required this afternoon due to a train crew shortage. The acting CEO advised that Queensland Rail has fallen short of four driver positions and three guards. I again thank the hardworking train crews of Queensland Rail for their commitment to making the best of our current challenges.

This morning I requested Queensland Rail to provide me with the piece of advice received in March 2016 concerning the risks of train crew shortages. This is the March advice I referred to in my ministerial statement this morning. These documents are referred to as the 'GIRO reports'. This afternoon I was provided with the March report and a further report dated 21 October of this year. This was the first time I had been provided with these reports and the first time I had been made aware of the existence of the October report.

In both letters from GIRO it is again painfully clear that Queensland Rail personnel were aware of the risks of train crew shortages associated with the new timetable. The March and October reports state, 'QR's current driver and guard resource levels are not sufficient.' Further, I have asked the acting CEO of Queensland Rail to rapidly provide all documents associated with this issue to me so that I can provide them to the House.

Overnight and this morning I requested all relevant internal and external documents held by Queensland Rail relating to this matter. Until this time I had been entirely focused on overseeing Queensland Rail delivering a workable timetable for commuters while the Premier's investigation

examined the issue. In light of the discovery of a January report beyond the March GIRO report I determined it was required to seek all QR documents, separate to the work of the investigation. This need to now proactively and painstakingly extract information from an agency is a highly unusual position for a minister to be in and speaks to the failure of management that I have already expressed frustration in this morning. Whilst these matters will be covered by the investigation announced by the Premier, I am committed to providing maximum transparency on this issue and, as such, am making all relevant documents available to the parliament. I again call upon the Leader of the Opposition and shadow Treasurer to do the same. I will be meeting with the acting CEO and acting chair of Queensland Rail at 5 pm today to discuss these matters and other matters that I have already foreshadowed in the House. I table the documents.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 17 March 2016, from the Project Director, GIRO, Mr Francois Fortin, to the Project Manager, Queensland Rail, Mr Paul Mitchell and the Senior Manager TSD Queensland Rail, Mr Mick Skinner, regarding a statement of work for the final iteration for MBRL job cars optimisation for Queensland Rail [1953].

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 21 October 2016, from the Project Director, GIRO, Mr Francois Fortin, to the Project Manager, Queensland Rail, Mr Marcus Sanker and Senior Manager TSD, Queensland Rail, Mr Mick Skinner, regarding a statement of work for MBRL job cards optimisation for Queensland Rail [1952].

Further, I can advise the House that this afternoon I was advised by Queensland Rail that former chief executive officer Helen Gluer provided three months notice when she resigned to the board, as required by the terms of her employment contract. Queensland Rail then made a payment in lieu of that three months notice totalling \$158,214. Queensland Rail advises me that the three-month-notice requirement is consistent with the policy for government owned corporation chief and senior executive employment arrangements. Ms Gluer was also paid her accrued leave entitlements as I am advised is required by law. This decision was made by Queensland Rail alone and not referred to the shareholding ministers for input or notice. Mr Klug's resignation was effective immediately. In line with formal governance arrangements for members of the Queensland Rail board, Mr Klug received no payout upon his resignation.

**Mr CRIPPS:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In view of the immediate nature of the interruption to services this afternoon, I wonder if the minister would oblige the House by tabling the notes he has used to make his ministerial statement.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I have no objection to tabling the documents.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Min Statement Number Three' [1954].

## MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3986, on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, in particular the amendments to the Gaming Machine Act 1991 relating to the way tax is calculated. The bill seeks to amend the Gaming Machine Act to adjust tax methodology to the benefit of clubs that operate more than one premises. This is intended to balance the controlled approach to club expansions and so on.

Hervey Bay has a lot of small clubs that are asset rich and income poor. Those small clubs find it very difficult to get people to take positions because of all of the red tape. It makes it very difficult when clubs cannot get appropriate people to run them, especially when they are serving alcohol and so on. Hervey Bay has two major clubs. The Hervey Bay Boat Club and the RSL club have expanded over the years as Hervey Bay has grown. They are now taking over other facilities to ensure those facilities stay in Hervey Bay. For example, the boat club has taken over the sports club and a bowls club and it has helped out a lot of other smaller clubs. Money from gaming machines goes to help the naval cadets whom they sponsor along with a lot of sporting clubs and fishing clubs. You name it, they support it.

The RSL also supports a lot of community efforts. It supports We Care 2, an organisation that supports families affected by gambling. I think it is important to look at the effects of gambling, especially in low socio-economic areas, where the rates of gambling are higher than in some of the more wealthy areas. I think that is something we should always keep in mind. The RSL also helps out a lot of young

sports women and men. It is great to see it supporting those people to represent Hervey Bay at Queensland championships, national titles and so on. It is very important to make sure that these clubs stay viable at the end of the day.

It is estimated that the changes will cost the government \$2.52 million in 2016-17, increasing to \$2.72 million by 2019. I think we could give clubs a little more to put back into their communities, especially when we consider that gambling does affect families. A lot of the problems of domestic violence are caused by gambling. I have seen the situation of a family ending up broke because of gambling. They have nowhere to go; they have lost just about everything. For some people gambling is an addiction. At the end of the day, I think we have to give back more to those communities that have high rates of gambling because those people really do suffer. It is great to see that We Care 2 and other organisations in Hervey Bay do support these people. The RSL has always had a policy of making sure they give to these organisations to help out those people.

The amount of money that goes through poker machines is astronomical, especially at Christmas time. Millions of dollars go through those two clubs in Hervey Bay. It would be good to allow those clubs to put some of that money back into Hervey Bay without having to go to the government. The organisations lose it all and then have to go through all of the processes to get that money back.

As stated in the explanatory notes, revenue from gaming machines is subject to a monthly gaming machine tax. For clubs, the rate of taxation is progressive. There is a tax-free threshold of \$9,500. In the next bracket, from \$9,501 to \$75,000, the taxation rate is 17.9 per cent and it increases to 35 per cent for a win over \$1.4 million. I think we should go further and allow some of these clubs to distribute some of the money that the government taxes these clubs, because it does help. Communities know the areas that need help. It is so important.



**Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (4.57 pm): Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Mr Butcher:** A tough act to follow, Hinchinbrook!

**Mr CRIPPS:**—I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I am sure to the significant dissatisfaction of the members for Gladstone and Logan, I will be focusing my remarks on the proposed amendments to the Land Act 1994.

I acknowledge that the explanatory notes accompanying the bill outline the relatively uncontroversial stated intention of these amendments and their purpose. The bill proposes to amend the Land Act to provide for the leasing of land within a functioning non-tidal watercourse or lake to the state. Currently the Land Act provides for the allocation of land within a non-tidal watercourse or lake only if the allocation applies to part of a no-longer-functioning watercourse or lake that has been declared by gazette as former watercourse land.

The state would apply for such a lease where occupation and use of the watercourse or lake cannot be authorised under the Water Act 2000. A lease would be sought where it is proposed to build infrastructure over or under the beds and banks of the watercourse or lake for the benefit of the public and may be subleased to another party to give effect to the purpose of the lease. The Land Act already provides for the leasing of land subject to tidal water provided the lease will not unduly affect safe navigation and sound development of the state's waterways and ports. However and somewhat incongruously, the Land Act currently does not provide for the leasing of land within a functioning non-tidal watercourse or lake, hence this proposed amendment.

Since 1911 the bed and banks of a non-tidal watercourse or lake have been the property of the state. The Water Act provides for dealings with water, including to occupy a non-tidal watercourse or lake for operational works that take or interfere with water. However, the Water Act makes no provision for the creation of an estate or interest in the watercourse or lake. The amendments in this bill relate to amendments made to various acts by the provisions contained in the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2010. Although the stated objectives of the bill before the House with respect to the Land Act seem relatively straightforward, the omnibus bill the House considered in 2010 was more complex. That bill separated the right to access and use water from the rights of adjoining owners to occupy and use, for access and grazing purposes, land within a non-tidal watercourse or lake. These riparian rights were made subject to the rights of the state to deal with a watercourse or lake under the Water Act. However, the 2010 bill also facilitated the movement of a watercourse.

The amendments in the 2010 bill introduced a feature based methodology in an attempt to resolve the uncertainty surrounding the location of ambulatory boundaries adjoining tidal and non-tidal waters. The identification and definition of ambulatory property boundaries adjoining tidal and non-tidal

waters have been and continue to be notoriously complicated. Coastal areas can erode and accrete over time. These are natural coastal processes. Similarly, the banks of watercourses can shift over time. In both cases, these processes can be gradual or they can be dramatic.

As I said during the debate on the 2010 bill, Mother Nature has little regard for lines drawn by human beings on maps to indicate property boundaries, yet the importance of these property boundaries cannot be overstated. It is a system that we have developed over hundreds of years. Public confidence in this system is dependent on it being stable and widely accepted. Its stability underpins the economy, and for that reason it is desirable to resolve issues of uncertainty to ensure the integrity of the land tenure system. The need for that confidence, stability and certainty extends to the leases that may be issued in non-tidal watercourses as proposed in this bill and, for that matter, leases that can already be issued in tidal watercourses under the Land Act. This is the key issue that I want to pursue today as we consider allowing leases to be granted in non-tidal watercourses.

To be clear, I am quite satisfied that the state ought to have the capacity to grant a Land Act lease within non-tidal and tidal watercourses. I am also quite satisfied that it is the Land Act that is the correct instrument through which such a lease should be granted given it proposes to create an interest in land within a watercourse for the purpose of constructing infrastructure. No-one will be surprised to learn that the potential impact on the property rights of adjacent landholders in relation to proposed changes to the law regarding ambulatory boundaries was pursued very diligently by the then shadow minister, the member for Callide, during the 2010 debate because the member for Callide has a strong philosophical commitment and track record in this regard. However, having reviewed the debate, the status of these leases granted under the Land Act—if in the event that the relevant minister or chief executive exercises their rights under the legislation to determine an ambulatory boundary from time to time and finds itself partly or wholly located outside of the boundary of a watercourse in which it was previously located—was not canvassed in 2010.

It is not clear to me what the legal status of a lease issued under the Land Act over land within a non-tidal or tidal watercourse would be if that land, following the movement of the ambulatory boundary of a watercourse under the Water Act, was no longer located in that watercourse. Such a lease of course would have been issued over state land within the boundaries of a watercourse in the first instance and it is not clear to me if that lease continues to provide the holder of the lease with any tenure given it now overlays land formally adjacent to a watercourse that may not be state owned land. Who would own any infrastructure built on that land while it was subject to such a lease while still located within a watercourse but no longer does so due to the movement of the ambulatory boundary of that watercourse?

The explanatory notes accompanying the bill state that a new section proposed to be inserted in this bill confirms that non-tidal watercourse land and non-tidal lake land is not unallocated state land for the purposes of the Land Act but may be leased under the Land Act as if it was. This raises some interesting questions about the status of the land within the watercourse. The explanatory notes accompanying the bill also state that a new section proposed to be inserted by this bill provides the terms for leasing non-tidal watercourse land or non-tidal lake land to the state under the Land Act and so this raises some interesting questions about the nature of these Land Act leases and if they are equivalent to other leases issued under the Land Act. As I said earlier, I support the intent of the proposed amendments to the Land Act but I feel that there are some potential unintended consequences and some unforeseen circumstances that may arise as a result of the provisions of the Water Act and the Land Act operating independently and without reference to one another and I will be pursuing those issues in the consideration in detail stage.

In the time remaining to me I want to make some quick observations and foreshadow my support for the amendment that was foreshadowed by the member for Beaudesert when the House last met in relation to amending the regulation to refer to what is known as Suncorp Stadium as Lang Park for the purposes of the Major Sports Facilities Regulation. There has been some suggestion that that might not be possible, but I would put it to honourable members that from time to time naming rights sponsors of major sports facilities change. For example, in my part of the world where the mighty North Queensland Cowboys call home we have known that stadium from time to time as Dairy Farmers Stadium and now we call it 1300SMILES Stadium. For the purposes of the Major Sports Facilities Regulation it is actually known as Townsville Stadium, but no-one would know what you were talking about if you called 1300SMILES Stadium as Townsville Stadium or if you previously referred to Dairy Farmers Stadium as Townsville Stadium. I see absolutely no reason why the member for Beaudesert's foreshadowed amendment should not be accepted and that Lang Park should be known as Lang Park for the purposes of the Major Sports Facilities Regulation. It will not impinge in any way, shape or form

on the ability of the naming rights sponsor to use its name with respect to that facility on a day-to-day basis, but for the purposes of the legislation for Queensland statutes Lang Park should be known as Lang Park. I support the member for Beaudesert's foreshadowed amendment.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (5.08 pm): I rise to speak to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I firstly want to thank the Hon. Curtis Pitt for introducing this bill to the parliament and the Transportation and Utilities Committee for considering this bill. The bill proposes to amend the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Keno Act 1996, the Land Act 1994, the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and the acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. The bill seeks amendments to the Gaming Machine Act to remove a taxation disincentive for clubs with multiple premises. Removing this disincentive is expected to slow the decline in club venues as it will make the adoption of smaller clubs and the creation of new facilities more appealing to larger clubs. It will also assist clubs in establishing new premises in greenfield areas that might otherwise go without these facilities and helping smaller struggling clubs that may otherwise fail.

These clubs do a lot to support community groups in our local areas. Unlike most electorates in South-East Queensland, I do not have a club within the boundaries of my electorate. However, three clubs nearby support many community organisations in my local area. I want to mention particularly Algester Sports, which is a big supporter of the mighty Calamvale Leopards junior AFL club; Greenbank RSL, which has a wonderful traineeship program for students at Calamvale Community College; and the Sunnybank Community and Sports Club, which supports many organisations in my local area through its community grants program.

The bill also proposes an amendment to the Keno Act to provide that a Keno licensee may enter into an agreement with a Keno licensee of another jurisdiction for the purpose of pooling Keno jackpot growth contributions. This will enable Keno to participate in a pooled jackpot arrangement that is currently operating in New South Wales and Victoria. Under a jackpot pooling arrangement, a small percentage of ticket sales that would usually be set aside for each jurisdiction's individual jackpot growth will instead be added to a shared jackpot growth pool that will be available to be won by players from any of the participating jurisdictions.

The amendments to the Land Act enable the state to grant tenure over non-tidal watercourses and lakes. Under the proposed amendment, non-tidal watercourse land and non-tidal lake land may be leased provided that the chief executive under the Water Act 2000 and the landowners adjoining the watercourse or lake consent to the proposal. The chief executive administering the Water Act may give consent if they are satisfied that the rights of the state to protect and deal with the watercourse are not diminished and that the lease will not interfere with the right to take or use water under the Water Act. An adjoining landowner may give consent if they are satisfied that the lease will not interfere with their right to access the watercourse.

Part 4B of the Major Sports Facilities provides a process for the declaration of events and event periods for the purpose of regulating advertising near venues during declared event periods. The amendments to the act will provide an additional alternative process for the declaration of events and event periods at major sports facilities to ensure that events can be protected from unauthorised advertising despite the risk of late scheduling. Part 4B will enable categories of events to be prescribed in the Major Sports Facilities Regulation 2014 as prescribed events for the purposes of regulating unauthorised advertising. These categories will include ticketed sporting events that are organised, scheduled or endorsed by specified national or international sporting bodies and held at specified major sports facilities.

It is proposed that unauthorised advertising within the vicinity of the event venue will be restricted from 6 am to midnight on event days. This is very important, as it will protect event sponsors from unauthorised advertising by rival businesses that have not contributed to the event. It is considered that the declaration of event categories by regulation is reasonable and appropriate as it retains the Governor in Council as the authority for declaring events whilst allowing for the flexibility of rescheduling events.

In addition to streamlining the regulation of advertising to ensure flexibility and practicability, the bill will also progress minor amendments to the Major Sports Facilities Act. Those amendments include the provision of an explicit power for the chief executive of the administering department to seek criminal history checks on Stadiums Queensland board members and candidates being considered for appointment to the board and to remove redundant provisions.

The bill also makes minor amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 and the Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016. This bill makes important and necessary changes to sporting facilities, gaming facilities, infrastructure and waterways. I support these amendments to ensure their continued effective operation and administration. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.13 pm): In speaking to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, I want to speak to two elements of the bill—that is, the amendments to the Gaming Machine Act 1992 and the Keno Act 1994—as they relate to the portfolio responsibilities that I have with respect to liquor licensing and casinos in Queensland. When in government, the LNP very much supported community club land throughout Queensland. We set up the red-tape-reduction panel in the liquor licensing industry. We had responsible gambling representatives, the Queensland Hotels Association, Clubs Queensland, other licensees and other people experienced in the field of running licensed organisations.

Our community clubs contribute amazingly to our wonderful communities throughout Queensland. In government, the LNP wanted to ensure that we supported our community clubs every step of the way. That is why we introduced a lot of the reforms, if not most of the reforms, that were asked for by Clubs Queensland and the Queensland Hotels Association after extensive consultation with the community of Queensland. Those amendments were backed by the industry and they were common sense.

I remember particularly dealing with amendments to the Liquor Act with respect to community liquor permits. We made sure that about 15,000 to 20,000 community groups across Queensland did not have to apply for community liquor permits anymore, saving them \$55 and nine pages of regulation and red tape. I remember that amendments were made to legislation relating to school fetes and show societies so that events could be held without nine pages of regulation having to be filled out if the schools or the show societies wanted to sell alcohol at those particular events. The LNP has always been a strong supporter of club land—our community clubs—and those in the hotel industry who employ many thousands of Queenslanders.

The amendments to the Gaming Machine Act adjust the tax methodology to the benefit of community clubs that operate more than one premise in order to balance the existing control approach to club expansions. When the LNP was in government it looked at this issue when it was formulating its three to four red-tape-reduction bills. At that stage, these amendments did not end up in legislation, but they were certainly matters that the LNP was considering. As I travelled around the state as the minister responsible for the liquor industry, I went to many community clubs that wanted to expand, but could not. I also met with a lot of small community clubs that were on the verge of closing down if they were not given the opportunity from larger clubs to amalgamate. I remember the Caloundra RSL took over the Caloundra Power Boat Club.

At that time, we allowed some amendments to the Gaming Machine Act to fix one of the issues that clubs had with respect to taking over smaller clubs or creating additional clubs without increasing the maximum number of gaming machines that we had in Queensland. That figure stayed the same. We achieved that for club land.

As I said, the LNP in government achieved many other reforms. I remember travelling to areas of Queensland where I heard from smaller clubs that they really needed the support of the larger clubs. The larger clubs, through Clubs Queensland, had put to us this change in the tax methodology. That is why the LNP will be supporting that particular amendment today.

As I said, Clubs Queensland is a membership based, not-for-profit organisation. From 2009 it was reported that community club land gave \$223 million in cash contributions to the Queensland community, provided 4.83 million volunteer hours across Queensland and employed 27,000 people. We will always do what we can to support this industry in the state.

We all have community clubs in our electorates. In my electorate there is the Kawana Waters Surf Life Saving Club, which also houses the Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch. There is also the Kawana bowls club and just down the road in the electorate of the member for Caloundra there is the Caloundra RSL. I pay tribute to the management team and the volunteers of the Kawana Waters Surf Life Saving Club, the Kawana Waters RSL Sub Branch, the Kawana bowls club and the Caloundra RSL. They contribute an enormous number of volunteer hours to our communities to make sure that the beaches are kept safe, that our veterans are looked after, that there are social outlets for people, such as playing bowls at the Kawana bowls club, and that they raise money for communities and charities. I thank all the volunteers of all of those clubs for the amazing work they do and the enormous number of hours they put into volunteering on the Sunshine Coast.

I also want to talk about the Caboolture Sports Club, which is a great club. It is expanding to the North Lakes Sports Club—

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** They had a good MP who, unfortunately, lost his seat at the election in 2015. He will be back and one day that area will have another good MP. I think the current member also lost an election and had a little vacation for a period. He went wandering for a little while and he is back.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection. He went on a bit of a sabbatical. The North Lakes Sports Club is coming out of the ground. I watch the progress of construction in videos that Matt Rafton has taken around the site and puts up on his Facebook page. It has been great to see the North Lakes Sports Club come out of the ground. This amendment will benefit clubs such as the Caboolture Sports Club and the North Lakes Sports Club with those greenfield sites. There are other opportunities around Queensland as well. Although I support the Caboolture Sports Club very much, recently they wheeled out Darryl Braithwaite to sing his big hit *Horses*.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Everyone is entertained differently. If it had been an Elvis impersonator, member for Morayfield, I would have been there in a heartbeat. Unfortunately, I missed that one. Congratulations to those community clubs not only in my electorate but right around Queensland. As I said when I was the minister responsible for liquor licensing travelling around Queensland, there was amazing work happening.

The amendments to the Keno Act introduce the Keno pooling arrangement, which I do not have a problem with. Tabcorp is the current owner of Keno in Queensland. Tabcorp has announced through the media that it is trying to merge with Tatts Group which is based in Queensland. Tatts Group has the exclusive wagering licence in Queensland, which funds the racing industry, and the exclusive lotteries licence following the Beattie government's sale of Golden Casket in 2007. Whilst in government from 2012 to 2015 the LNP ensured that Tatts Group moved its head office to Queensland. We are calling on the government to do what it can to ensure that 2,000 jobs at Tatts Group remain in Queensland, as well as support the 1,100 lottery agents, many of them small business owners and newsagents, by keeping their corporate headquarters in Brisbane. If the Tabcorp merger with Tatts goes ahead the opposition will be very concerned if Tabcorp decide to move its head office out of Queensland. We are unsure of the jobs that will potentially be lost from that merger.

I note that the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, has recently written to Mr David Attenborough, chief executive officer of Tabcorp, on 20 October. We understand the government is now in discussions with the organisations to talk about jobs. It is good to see it is following the LNP's lead. Ten days later we hear the government is thinking about jobs and thinking what the merger will do. We do not want to involve ourselves with the private sector. The private sector will do what it needs to for its shareholders, we completely appreciate and understand that, but we do express our concern that if the merger happens with Tabcorp and Tatts that Tatts will no longer have a head office in Queensland, it will be moved out of the state and so too will many thousands of jobs. We do not want that to happen. It is incumbent on the current government, if the merger is approved and goes ahead, to ensure there are conditions specific to that approval that retains those jobs in Queensland.

The LNP has been leading the charge on this. I table a copy of a letter that the Leader of the Opposition has written to Mr David Attenborough dated 20 October 2016 which expresses our concerns with respect to the merger. As I said, we do not want to involve ourselves. The private sector will do what it needs to do for its shareholders, but we do express those concerns. It is incumbent on the government to ensure that jobs remain in Queensland. I thank our community club land for the many man hours they put in and the hundreds of thousands of dollars they raise for our communities right around Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 20 October 2016, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, to the Chief Executive Officer, Tabcorp, Mr David Attenborough, regarding proposed merger of Tatts Group and Tabcorp [1955].

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise to make a short but significant contribution to this omnibus bill before the House. Firstly, I would like to add further to the member for Kawana's wise words in relation to the Gaming Machine Act and the protection in the longer term of smaller clubs throughout Queensland. Most of us here representing different areas have these small clubs that suffer under duress of capacity, particularly bowling clubs with small membership and small

visitation, and surf clubs as the member mentioned previously. It gives larger operators in Clubs Queensland, and we have some particularly spectacular operations on the Gold Coast, such as the Kurrawa Surf Club and the Northcliffe Surf Club, financial capacity to look after smaller clubs within the area.

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Mr STEVENS:** Surfers Paradise is a growing club as well. I acknowledge the member for his interjection on that basis. We are very proud of Surfers Paradise. All of those clubs will benefit from the opportunity to expand their operations. I understand there is a small financial cost to the government, but I think the government has taken a wise move in this particular direction.

I would also like to comment on the changes to the Keno Act in terms of providing larger pools. We all know that when we look at a lotto prize pool of \$2 million it is not really worth buying an entry form until it jackpots to \$20 million or \$30 million. 'You are only going to win it once', is the mentality of the lotto player. I can assure members that the larger pool syndrome is a pathway to further success.

The member for Kawana mentioned the merger of the two great racing entities in Australia, Tabcorp and Tatts. I hope that goes ahead because racing in itself is under threat. Those betting organisations are the financial lifeblood of the racing industry. Sometimes I look at the boards and see the pools and I am just amazed at how little they are and I think it is absolute rubbish. As a punter I would not bother investing in that small pool because I know my return will be fairly minor. We also see on the nightly news the competition coming from overseas jackpots. You can go online to enter the American or Canadian \$365 million or Cash4Life jackpot pool. It is a wise move to compete with those overseas operators that are threatening the lifeblood of our gambling industry. We have to allow for these changes and movements. Whilst I do not see it as completely acceding to the gamblers' wishes, it is what is in the best interests of the usage of the gambling dollar which we all know is a fact of life within our society.

In relation to changes to the Major Sports Facilities Act, on the Gold Coast we have the fabulous Cbus Super Stadium and also Carrara Stadium with the AFL taking over that operation completely. The investment that they have made, I am told, is about \$100 million in the AFL's case at Carrara, and the longer term benefit to the Gold Coast of that AFL team has to be protected at every opportunity. These amendments give weight to the protection of those operations for the longer term. They are reasonable and fair and we will be supporting them to make sure that the advertising rights of these major investors in community life on the Gold Coast are protected. We support the changes allowing for protection of advertising in those major football areas.

There is one other matter that I will comment on in relation to the lifting of the tolls on the Logan Motorway. The tolls are to be raised with commencement of works to improve and enhance the Logan Motorway. We all know what a success the Logan Motorway is in terms of east-west traffic. We could not do without it. I take the opportunity, whilst not exactly relevant to this bill, to highlight how the use of that toll road has seen a major amelioration of the traffic problems in that particular area. I draw the attention of the government to the IRTC, the Inter-Regional Transport Corridor, which would, if it utilised this tolling system that we are dealing with here today, allow an opportunity for that second highway between the Gold Coast and Brisbane to at least get into the planning stages as a tollway. Again on Monday we had more holdups on the M1. If we do not start planning today we will wake up one day and there will be a parking lot from Brisbane to the Gold Coast. The IRTC was put there for a specific purpose. A tollway as effective as the Logan tollway, and the changes we are making here to that particular act to enable enhancement of that tollway, would be very well utilised with the same methodology for the IRTC. I support the bill.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (5.29 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and, in particular, those amendments that relate to the Gaming Machine Act 1991 and the Keno Act 1996. The government is taking this action because we recognise the value of community clubs. Over time, as population and demographics change, some clubs have struggled to manage the change and, unfortunately, some have gone out of business. Very few new clubs are taking their place. There are some notable exceptions, as the members for Murrumba and Morayfield know well, as the Caboolture Sports Club has committed to a greenfield site for a new club in North Lakes. It will be the first such new club in about 20 years.

According to Clubs Queensland, history has shown that an average of 13 community clubs close each year. My department's statistics indicate that the number of club venues licensed under the Gaming Machine Act has declined from 557 in June 2009 to 457 in June 2016. Clubs are not run for

profit. They are run for the benefit of their members and are community focused. If a club closes, the consequences extend beyond the club to the local community and may include a loss of employment for local residents, a loss of community facilities for local families and a loss of cash and other in-kind donations for local schools and other interest groups. Within our communities, we have all seen our local bowls clubs and other clubs closing. Those facilities will never be rebuilt and we should do what we can to support their retention in our communities.

Due to clubs' not-for-profit nature and inability to distribute any income, profits or assets to members, there are often limited avenues for assistance for a struggling club. However, larger more experienced clubs have the means and expertise to assist struggling clubs by adopting them as additional premises. The experienced clubs also have the means and expertise to create new clubs in greenfield areas that might otherwise go without sporting and social infrastructure. However, the feedback that we have received from the industry indicates that larger clubs may be reluctant to create or adopt additional premises because of the way that gaming machine tax is currently calculated for clubs with additional premises. Section 312 of the Gaming Machine Act requires that, where a club has additional premises, the amount of gaming machine tax payable by the club is calculated on the basis of the sum of the gaming revenue from all of the club's premises. Because clubs are subject to a sliding scale tax rate, operating additional premises may actually increase the tax liability for a club. Therefore, the bill contains a measure that will assist the club industry and preserve club, sporting and social facilities across the state. Specifically, it proposes to introduce a change that will see the gaming machine tax rate applied on a per venue basis for clubs with additional premises. It is hoped that the change will help the club industry to help itself.

Clubs Queensland has been seeking a change to the gaming machine tax calculation on behalf of its members for a while. It has long held the view that the ability to operate additional premises is integral to the survival of clubs. Earlier this year, Clubs Queensland surveyed its members about the club tax proposal. Of 80 respondents, 69 or 86 per cent believe the proposed tax change will be a positive outcome for the community club sector; and 43 respondents, representing 53 per cent, stated that the tax change will influence their decision to either amalgamate or expand in the future. I take this opportunity to thank Clubs Queensland and its members for their advocacy on this matter. We all recognise the benefits that clubs provide to the community. This amendment reflects our commitment to consultation and getting the balance right.

I emphasise that the proposal will not alter any aspect of the current gambling harm minimisation framework, including the existing controls on the expansion of club gaming facilities. I further reiterate that the proposed amendment will not result in any more gaming machines being available to clubs within the statewide cap that has existed in legislation since 2009.

The Responsible Gambling Advisory Committee was consulted on the club tax proposal and did not raise any significant issues. The committee is tasked with providing to me as the minister responsible for gambling advice on gambling related issues and emerging social concerns. Its members include representatives from the hospitality and gaming industry, community groups and government agencies. I believe the amendment proposed by the bill is necessary to sustain and support club operations in Queensland. I encourage all members to support the amendment and the bill, and to support the clubs in our communities right across this great state.

The bill seeks to amend the Keno Act to allow the Queensland Keno licensee to enter into agreements with Keno licensees in other Australian jurisdictions to pool jackpot contributions for certain Keno games. This amendment relates to Tabcorp Holdings Ltd, which operates Keno in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory through various licenced subsidiaries. Since early 2015, its licenced subsidiaries in New South Wales and Victoria have participated in a Keno jackpot pooling arrangement. Both of those jurisdictions have experienced an increase in Keno sales following the introduction of Keno jackpot pooling. The amendment to the Keno Act will enable the Queensland Keno licensee to reinvigorate its product offering and offer Queenslanders the same opportunity afforded to New South Wales and Victorian residents to participate in and potentially win higher jackpot prizes.

Currently, the Keno Act prohibits the Keno licensee from conducting Keno during certain prohibited times on Good Friday, Anzac Day and Christmas Day. In order for the Queensland Keno licensee to facilitate synchronised jackpot draws with other participating jurisdictions that do not prohibit the conduct of Keno during those periods, the bill amends the Keno Act to provide that a Keno draw may be conducted during the prohibited periods for the purposes of the Keno pooling agreement. However, it is very important to stress that, although there will be Keno draws conducted during the prohibited periods, it is not approval for Keno to be played, that is, tickets sold, or a draw displayed in

Queensland venues during the prohibited periods. That is consistent with the longstanding prohibition on gambling on important traditional and/or culturally significant days and this government continues that commitment.

As the Productivity Commission noted in its 2010 report into gambling, it should be noted that Keno presents a relatively lower risk of harm compared to other gambling products such as gaming machines. Furthermore, all harm minimisation and player protection safeguards that currently apply to the conduct of Keno in Queensland will remain in place. In particular, the Queensland responsible gaming code of practice and its associated Keno resource manual will continue to provide guidance to venues where Keno is sold.

Our government will continue to work with the industry and the community to ensure that our gaming regulations remain contemporary and fit for purpose. I have sought to limit my comments to the Gaming Machine Act 1991 and the Keno Act 1996 amendments, but I add my support to the other amendments that are outlined in the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 put forward by the Treasurer. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (5.38 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and report No. 24 of the Transportation and Utilities Committee. This bill has five objectives, which are to amend: firstly, the Gaming Machine Act 1991 to adjust tax methodology to the benefit of clubs that operate more than one premises, in order to balance the existing controlled approach to club expansions; secondly, the Keno Act 1996 to introduce a new Keno pooling agreement to allow larger interstate pooled jackpots; thirdly, the Land Act 1994 to provide for the leasing of a functioning non-tidal boundary watercourse to the state under the Land Act, as currently the Land Act provides for the allocation of land within a non-tidal boundary watercourse or lake only if the allocation applies to part of a no-longer-functioning watercourse or lake that has been declared as former watercourse land, and I note that the member for Hinchinbrook has raised some pertinent questions in relation to that; fourthly, the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 to provide an additional alternative process for the declaration of events and event periods at major sports facilities; and fifthly, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 to facilitate a change in the tolling arrangements for the Logan Motorway and the Gateway Motorway.

Consultation was undertaken on the proposed amendments relating to the Gaming Machine Act and Keno Act with those from the Responsible Gambling Advisory Committee, whose members include peak representative bodies from the gambling industry, community groups and government departments. It also includes Clubs Queensland and Tabcorp Holdings Ltd.

At the end of July 2016 there were 456 clubs in Queensland and 771 hotels licensed for gaming machine activities. Clubs Queensland advised that its 2015 community club census highlights 'the importance of clubs in supporting the economic and social fabric right across Queensland' by employing 22,100 people—almost 9,000 regionally—contributing \$853 million in social contributions and paying \$513 million in taxes. Under the Gaming Machine Act Queensland clubs, unlike hotels, are limited to holding a single gaming machine licence. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General advised the committee that this is because the clubs have constitutionally based community objectives that generally relate to a defined local area. There is also a statewide cap on club operated gaming machines in Queensland introduced into legislation in 2009 which has and will remain at 24,705.

Currently only a very small number of clubs operate from more than one premises. The Gaming Machine Act only allows clubs a limited ability to expand within or beyond their original locality, by adopting or establishing additional gaming machine premises to which their single licence also relates. This is providing they are able to demonstrate, amongst other things, that their consultation allows the expansion and that the community benefit will be appropriately distributed to the relevant communities at each location.

Section 312 of the act currently requires that where clubs operate additional premises monthly gaming machine revenue from all the club's premises is aggregated before a progressive gaming machine tax is applied. The aggregation of the monthly gaming machine revenue therefore results in clubs with additional premises paying more tax than they would if the sliding scale tax rate was applied to the non-aggregated gaming machine revenue of each individual premises.

As the number of club venues licensed under the Gaming Machine Act has declined from 557 in June 2009 to 457 in June 2016, removing the disincentive for clubs with multiple premises is expected to slow the decline in club venues as it will make the adoption of smaller clubs and the creation of new facilities more appealing to larger clubs. The department advised that research commissioned by Clubs Queensland indicates that 69 club venues have closed their doors since 2011, with few, if any, new

clubs emerging to take their place. Clubs Queensland advised that since 1997 there has not been a new community club built in Queensland and that an average of 13 community clubs close each year, with the number of clubs closing recently rising to 17 per annum.

**Mr Costigan:** Not at a pretty picture.

**Mr McEACHAN:** No, it is not. The bill proposes that section 312 of the Gaming Machine Act be amended to adjust tax methodology to the benefit of clubs that operate more than one premises in order to address the decline in the number of licensed club venues in Queensland. The amendments would remove the aggregation of gaming machine revenue, thus requiring clubs to be taxed on a per premises rather than a per licence basis. This is intended to remove current taxation disincentives to the controlled expansion of clubs.

The proposed amendments would not result, importantly, in any increase to the existing statewide cap on club operated gaming machines in Queensland nor would they allow clubs to hold more than one gaming machine licence or change any aspect of the gaming harm minimisation framework. The amendment would simply allow clubs a limited ability to expand within or beyond their original locality by adopting or establishing gaming machine premises to which their single licence also relates.

For the benefit of the House, I would like to acknowledge some of the clubs that do magnificent work in my electorate of Redlands. I will name a few but probably not all and acknowledge some of their work. The Victoria Point Sharks Sporting Club, with some 10,000 members, ably led by Mal Cochrane and his team, do fabulous work especially with bringing youngsters up in AFL. I also acknowledge the Redlands Junior Rugby League Football Club, the mighty Parrots in Thornlands, which is, incidentally, having its AGM this Saturday. I would encourage any members of the club, of which there are 2,000 in total—that is, parents and juniors—to get down to the club and show their support at the AGM.

**Mr Costigan:** Prospective members too?

**Mr McEACHAN:** And prospective members if they can handle the crowd. These clubs only operate with the help of volunteers. The Redlands Sporting Club, which covers the whole city, has a membership base in the order of 30,000 people. The Russell Island RSL ought to get special mention. Anthony Gleeson ably leads that organisation on the island. The Russell Island RSL joined with me in helping pay for travel for the prep to year 3 Russell Island State School kids to go on their very first excursion off island.

**Mr Costigan:** To Australia.

**Mr McEACHAN:** They went to Australia. Visas were not required. They came into Brisbane CBD and went to the Sciencentre at the Queensland Museum. I met them there. The smiles on their faces were incredible. It is an indication of some of the fabulous community work that these clubs do.

I also acknowledge the Victoria Point Bowls and Recreation Club, the Redland Bay Golf Club, the Macleay Island Bowls Club and the Bay Islands Golf Club. We have a lot of clubs that do a lot of fabulous work in the electorate of Redlands.

Getting back to the bill specifically, the committee was advised that the proposed changes to the tax methodology are not expected to have a large impact on tax revenue as there are only 21 clubs or 4.8 per cent of clubs licensed under the act currently operating additional premises and that between them these clubs operate a total of 47 venues. The department advised that the quantum of taxation that is collected from gaming machines was \$680 million in 2015-16 and is expected to be \$711 million for 2016-17. Treasury modelling has estimated that the change will impact on taxation by \$2.5 million in the first year, increasing to \$2.9 million in later years.

The other point I mention in relation to the Major Sports Facilities Act 2001 relates to the amendment foreshadowed by the member for Beaudesert around Suncorp Stadium being known as Lang Park. I think it is an important amendment. To name it Brisbane Stadium I think—

**Mr Costigan:** How bland is that?

**Mr McEACHAN:** It is bland and it is boring. What it does not do is recognise the importance that Lang Park has in the psyche of Queenslanders across the state. I remember as a young bloke coming down from Maryborough with my mates to watch the State of Origin. We congregated on the hill and were perfectly behaved for the entire game. The excitement of making that journey to Lang Park will stick with me forever. I think it is befitting this parliament that we acknowledge the name Lang Park in this legislation.

I refer back to the gaming legislation. The committee received one submission from Clubs Queensland on the proposed amendments to the Gaming Machine Act. This submission was made on behalf of 1,100 community clubs. They pointed out that 'at present, the taxation requirements specific to community clubs in Queensland stymie the commercial viability for community clubs to either diversify via amalgamation and/or develop new greenfield club opportunities'. Clubs Queensland submitted—

... it is anticipated the tax change will stimulate the provision of community club services across the State as exemplified by the recently proposed North Lakes Sports Club development, which will deliver 100 new construction jobs, another 100+ jobs ongoing and \$25 million of investment in a growing region.

One would hope that that optimism can be expanded across the state. The submission summarised Clubs Queensland's support for the proposed amendments as providing the following benefits: removing the financial burden caused by grouping amalgamated entities, which would allow any additional operational surpluses to be invested back into the local community; and enabling community clubs to assist smaller struggling clubs from closing their doors whilst also promoting the future growth and development of community clubs, particularly in greenfield sites.

In closing, after examination of the bill, including the policy objectives it seeks to achieve and consideration of the information provided by government agencies and stakeholders, the committee has agreed to recommend the bill be passed. Lastly, I want to acknowledge the work of the committee secretariat, ably led by Kate McGuckin; our chair, the member for Kallangur; our deputy chair, the member for Southport; and other members. Notwithstanding the amendment put forward by the member for Beaudesert and the questions raised by the member for Hinchinbrook, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.51 pm): I am pleased also as a member of the committee to rise to speak in support of the Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will start by thanking the committee and the secretariat for the work that they have done. Some of the issues covered in this bill are actually quite personal issues for me in that I have had firsthand experience with some of the challenges of running a licensed club.

For my sins or otherwise, I was duly elected as the Juniors representative at the Runaway Bay Junior Leagues Club back in the late nineties at a time when the club was in financial administration. It was only with the support of a number of benefactors—and I want to particularly honour Robin Bycroft and I should also honour Paul Dostal, two of the principal benefactors who provided no-interest loans to that club for a period of three years.

**Mr Costigan:** What a helping hand that was.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** It was. I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. It was certainly a very generous gesture on their part and it made a real difference. I was co-opted on to the board by a very good friend of mine and a fellow father of a few juniors at the club Kevin Nichol, who was a local accountant and now runs a very successful accounting business here in Queensland. Along with Carol Diamond, who is one of the hardest working Rugby League volunteers in Queensland, and Des Guy, who joined us on the board and who is now one of the conditioning coaches with the Gold Coast Titans, for three years we toiled to run that club to get it back into profit, to run it lean and mean to ensure that we were able to pay that money back. I can tell you that there was no happier day in my life after three years of board meetings, struggling through that difficult financial situation, to be able to write that final cheque for about \$2.2 million and pay back all of the benefactors and lenders to the club.

I might also point out that about two weeks after that I resigned from the board because I never really wanted to be running a licensed gambling club. I was there because at the time I did not have the capacity to be out there as a Juniors coach or helping out with my sons' teams. I had four boys who played Rugby League there. One thing I could do was provide some support to the board and use my business acumen at the time to help out of an evening after work had concluded for the day back in the day when I was running Sea FM and Gold FM on the Gold Coast.

Had these provisions that are proposed in this legislation been available to us back then—and this is the point I am getting to—we could have entered into an arrangement with one of the other larger clubs within our catchment. They could have taken over some of the running of and the responsibility for the machines. They would have continued to support the lighting and some of the other costs that the club was providing to the Juniors. It would have been a fantastic outcome for the club. It would have meant that for three years we would not have gone through that great period of difficulty. It would have meant that for one of the larger clubs—I will not name them, but there was another club in the area at

the time that was very keen to come in and work with us but there were too many impediments in the way such that they were not able to provide that assistance. I can speak from firsthand experience and with real passion about the importance of this amendment.

I note, as my colleague from Redlands did also, that we did consult on this issue. We had some excellent submissions. We got some great advice from the department. In the submission from Clubs Queensland they pointed out that there are some 1,100 community clubs across Queensland. What is important to note—and there are challenges running these clubs, and that is why we need to help them with this amendment—is that since 1997 there has not been a new community club built anywhere in Queensland and that an average of 13 clubs close each year. That number has risen more recently to 17. This is an important amendment. Hopefully, by clubs being able to work together, by larger clubs being able to step in and bail out some of the smaller clubs, I think the changes proposed in this legislation will be a great incentive.

I also want to speak about the importance of the proposed changes in respect of the Major Sports Facilities Act, particularly the importance of protecting both sporting teams and major events and the owners of venues from what we used to call in the radio industry ‘ambush marketing’. I want to take the parliament back to 1999 when the Gold Coast had just lost the Gold Coast Chargers. We had no decent stadium on the Gold Coast. The facility we had at Carrara was a lemon or a white elephant, so to speak. Around that time there was a group of us that created the Gold Coast stadium feasibility task force.

It was pointed out to us many times that one of the biggest challenges with stadiums is getting them to pay. Even the Queensland government has significant investment in the naming rights of stadiums all across the state. Back then there was no Metricon Stadium for the Gold Coast Suns. There was no Cbus Super Stadium for the Gold Coast Titans. What is important is making sure that we have a legislative head of power to protect those sponsorship rights and of course all of the other sponsors that put so much money and effort behind our local sporting teams and behind major events because without that support those events will not pay.

I started by saying that these are personal issues for me. As part of the original Gold Coast Titan bid team, I can tell you how hard it is to raise sponsorship. I have had personal experience of that. I can tell you how important it is to look after those sponsors. Through the early years before we got the NRL licence, raising sponsorship for those trial games and working with council in the old facility and having the support of council around naming rights and shared catering rights and some of the other sponsorship that was put in place, it was really important that we could assure our sponsors that there would be no ambush marketing of their events. I am happy to support the legislation.

Debate, on motion of Mr Molhoek, adjourned.

## PRIVILEGE

### Comments by Member for Stretton

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (5.59 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. During my contribution on the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) 2016 earlier today I referred to public transport fares increasing by five per cent in November 2014. In doing so, I relied on a table contained on page 2 of a research brief from the Parliamentary Library. I now understand that this figure was incorrect and I want to apologise and bring this matter to the attention of the House at the earliest opportunity to correct the record. I table the research brief containing the erroneous information.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Parliamentary Library Research Brief, dated 22 September 2016, regarding TransLink public transport fare increases 2012 to 2016 [[1956](#)].

## MOTION

### Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.00 pm): I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing or sessional orders, debate of the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill take precedence over all other government business until the bill is passed or disposed of.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is certainly no friend of rural and regional Queensland. This Palaszczuk Labor government is hell-bent on destroying jobs in the Darling Downs and in Central and North Queensland. Today's rally outside of this parliament by farmers, employees and supporters of the New Hope revised stage 3 project on the Darling Downs shows how desperate this community—how desperate those approximately 700 attendees—is to convince this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government how much they need certainty. They need certainty around their jobs. They had the tag line 'save our jobs'. They went down there to the Speakers' Corner and they asked for these ministers, the Minister for Environment and the Minister for Mines, to go down and answer their questions. I note that the Minister for Environment did say that he was going to talk to the workers later this week. I asked many people at that rally how many had received an invitation to that meeting. It appears that unless people are a member of the CFMEU they are not considered to be a worker by this minister. I will be interested to see how many of those 700 workers actually get to meet this minister.

This is the same Labor government that promised to listen to Queenslanders, but it is different when it comes to this issue. We know that this government is totally incompetent. They cannot even manage to get Queenslanders home from Melbourne Cup day without messing it up. Both New Hope and Adani are dead in the water if this Palaszczuk Labor government gets its way. The Premier pays lip-service across Queensland about jobs, but at the end of the day it is just cheap talk. There is no follow-up in relation to jobs—no follow-up at all.

The Premier has a long history of saying one thing to Queensland faces and then doing the complete opposite in Brisbane, and there is a word in the dictionary for that. Anastacia Palaszczuk has form on the board when it comes to frustrating major job-creating projects in this state, and Adani and New Hope are no exception. Her government has continually imposed road blocks at every turn for these two projects—this time changing the goalposts surrounding groundwater laws—and these projects need certainty. This Labor government has made it much easier for 'lawfare' activists to frustrate these mining projects in court—something that has the prints of those opposite all over it. These groups, often secretly foreign funded, are placing thousands and thousands of Queenslanders' jobs in jeopardy, not to mention the millions of dollars that flow into my local community. They say actions speak louder than words. To date, the Palaszczuk Labor government's actions in trying to kill off coalmining in this state have been louder than its cheap words to Queenslanders.

Rural and regional Queensland are crying out for jobs. They are crying out for business opportunities and, as we have seen today from the over 700 farmers, landholders and miners who congregated down there on Speakers' Corner, they are screaming out for this government to listen to them. However, the government's ears were completely closed to those 700 people who were out there. Like we said, if they are relying on the Palaszczuk Labor government to listen to rural and regional Queensland, they are sadly disappointed.

Projects like these two have gone through rigorous environmental assessments over a number of years. New Hope started that approval process in 2007. Adani started the approval process in 2010. They have strict conditions on their approvals in relation to groundwater. They must undertake regular monitoring and reporting, but both these projects need certainty.

Labor say they care about the economic development of rural and regional Queensland and jobs in regional Queensland, but this government wants to bring in a bill that will risk thousands upon thousands of Queenslanders' livelihoods, particularly on the Darling Downs and up in Central and North Queensland. Make no mistake about it: the real activists in all of this are Anastacia Palaszczuk and her green mates.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (6.05 pm): I move—

That all words after 'Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill' be deleted and the following words inserted:

'be passed or disposed of during the sitting week of 8 to 10 November 2016.'

I said this morning and I will say again: this motion is a ridiculous stunt by the member for Nanango. It is ridiculous because the parliament only received the committee report on the bill she refers to on Tuesday of last week. The government is working through that report—it is a good report—and carefully considering its recommendations, as we should. Now the LNP wants to deny the government and indeed the parliament the chance to reflect on that report. It is also ridiculous because we fully intend to debate this bill next week, and we have demonstrated that intent by the amendment I have just moved.

What is worse is what this procedural trickery means for our farmers and the environment. Tonight the LNP are falling over themselves to desert their supposed support base, falling over themselves to put farmers last when it comes to groundwater. So many times in this House the member for Nanango has yelled at me across the chamber, 'What about the farmers?' Tonight it is us saying to them, 'What about the farmers?' They brought in legislation that guaranteed an unlimited right to take groundwater for large-scale mining projects with no approval. They do not care about the farmers who will be impacted by the groundwater take of these projects. Farming families were not at the forefront of their minds when they decided to tear up Queensland's longstanding water legislation and jeopardise farmers' access to groundwater.

By demanding this bill be debated tonight members opposite are desperately trying to entrench their unfair, guaranteed unlimited right to take for mining companies. They say industry needs more consultation and, as I outlined this morning, I am in that very process. All this motion does is stop that consultation. Those opposite are not really worried about consultation. They never have been. For the sake of a cheap stunt, they will happily leave farmers and the environment worse off. When the LNP were in government they ran roughshod over parliamentary process, ramming through unpopular laws with little or no consultation and the member for Nanango has learnt nothing. The public told the LNP in no uncertain terms that they deserve better and yet here they are again up to their same old tricks.

Along with trickery, this stunt smacks of the LNP's other key trait: hypocrisy. The member for Nanango could not care less about the farmers whose groundwater might be affected by the New Acland mine. She demands that mine have a guaranteed unlimited right to take their groundwater, but when it comes to Moreton Resources, she has a completely different view. It is like there are two classes of citizens when it comes to the member for Nanango. About that project the member for Nanango said that there must be baseline monitoring and data on groundwater before the project proceeds. Apparently that was the result of her biggest ever survey. I have good news for the people who responded to her survey: that is exactly what Labor is delivering with the laws that we have proposed. Let us be clear: mines in Queensland have always required a water licence until the LNP brought in laws that would become effective in December that took away that requirement. Labor opposed those laws in opposition and we went to the election with a position that the groundwater impact of mines should be assessed and that the public should be consulted on that assessment.

We are delivering on that commitment. In fact, we are streamlining the process for mining companies so that they only have one lot of environmental assessments and possible objections. For companies that have already been through that process, we are making sure they have a proper assessment of their impact on groundwater just as they always have had to previously. What this proves is that only Labor can deliver resource projects with proper environmental protections for our state and for our farmers.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.10 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Nanango that the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill take precedence over all other government business. The damage that the delays and endless appeals have caused to both the Adani Carmichael project and the New Hope Acland stage 3 project cannot be overstated. We have seen objection after objection against Adani ranging from large, well-funded conservation groups to smaller green groups and even lone objectors with almost no connection to the area. These objections have cost Adani in the vicinity of \$1 million over the six years this process has been dragging on. The process New Hope has had to endure is nothing short of a national embarrassment. The Acland stage 3 proposal has just been the subject of the longest Land Court hearing in history. When New Hope received the Coordinator-General's report and approval in December 2014, followed in August 2015 by the approval of an environmental authority, they would have thought that what had already been a long and drawn-out process was all but over. How wrong they were!

When Minister Lynham expanded the objection criteria from those directly affected to absolutely anyone who had the time to object, New Hope found themselves in the Land Court. This Land Court hearing began in October 2015 and continued until October 2016. The findings of this hearing have still not been handed down. The government were clearly still not satisfied and thought it had not been an onerous enough process, so they then introduced the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This will mean that yet another underground water impact study will need to be completed despite the fact that this was done during the EIS process and an entire two weeks were devoted exclusively to underground impacts and make-good conditions during the Land Court process. This process is expected to take between 12 and 18 months.

The next stage of Acland will mean an extra 260 jobs in the local community, taking that workforce to 435. There are 507 contractor jobs that are reliant upon Acland and an estimated 2,300 indirect jobs that are now all at risk. New Hope have approximately six to 10 months of coal left in their current tenure. They will run out of coal. This ticking time bomb has caused a great deal of distress amongst the workforce as they watch this government throw hurdle after hurdle in front of the approval process. The workers of Acland have watched in amazement—and now in anger—as the government panders to the Greens and leaves the workforce hung out to dry. The vast majority of the workforce at Acland are locals; there are no fly-in fly-out workers. The town of Oakey is very reliant on the workers at New Hope for its survival. Many of them live in the town of Oakey or the surrounding community. Most of the contractors that service the mine are locally owned family businesses. These businesses and workers now have no idea what the future holds for them and are living with the uncertainty this government has created.

This morning we saw the level of concern that these workers are experiencing when approximately 700 of them protested outside Parliament House. Did any members of the government go out to speak to them to alleviate their concerns? No, they did not. The town of Oakey is going through some tough times. The residents of the town are dealing with a water contamination issue that is affecting the housing market and local businesses. Added to this is the stress and the associated health concerns that come from not having their questions adequately answered. This government has given these residents no support or certainty on either of the issues that are threatening their very livelihoods.

This bill needs to be brought before the House and debated at the earliest opportunity to provide the people of Oakey and the communities that rely on the Acland mine with some certainty and some peace of mind. One only need cast their mind back to the way this government treated Stradbroke Island and the fallout that happened there to know why the community is so concerned. Coming from a landholder background I know the importance of underground water. It has been investigated. It is time for those findings to be presented and this issue to be debated and put to bed. Give the people of Oakey some certainty!

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (6.15 pm): I rise as the chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee to oppose the motion by the member for Nanango. It is interesting to hear those opposite talk about the importance of rushing this bill through parliament to get it done this week. As the new member for Gladstone, I have sat here many times and heard about the importance of not rushing these things through so that we get it right. That is what we want to do here. The committee handed down a report which was given to the minister to review. Our committee worked hard. We had a short time frame, which has already been mentioned, but we did make two recommendations in the report. I appreciate that the minister has moved a proposed amendment to the motion, and I table it.

*Tabled paper:* Proposed amendment moved by the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, to the private member's motion moved by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, on 1 November 2016 [[1957](#)].

We have given ourselves a week. We always said we were going to do this next week, so we have given ourselves an extra week. We do not want to rush it through this week. We received nearly 2,000 submissions from those involved, 141 of which were written. The remaining 1,896 were from three different groups with different submissions but which were very similar. We held public hearings which were attended by New Hope, the mining company that we heard outside here today—I note that the member for Nanango walked in with one of the nice orange shirts they were handing out—the Environmental Defenders Office of Queensland, the Queensland Resources Council, the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association, the Lock the Gate Alliance, the Adani Group, the Mackay Conservation Council and Landholder Services.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. If that was your interjection in the back corner, member for Gregory, I think you are ready for a warning. If you persist you will certainly receive one.

**Mr BUTCHER:** We made two recommendations as a result of the groups that provided information on this bill. The recommendation that those opposite are carrying on about was given to the minister to review, and I will read it. It states—

The committee recommends that the Minister examine the impact on relevant mining licence holders' short-term prospects, and the resulting impacts on affected communities, and present his findings in the Bill's second reading speech.

This is what ministers do after committees report to them. As I said, we heard from all different types of groups and, as funny as it may seem, we debated these issues.

As you on that side of the House all know, groundwater is a complex issue. The science is complex and the politics and the tension between agriculture and industry requirements are even more complex. We delivered a detailed report with two recommendations. The minister advises me that the government is considering those recommendations, and his proposed amendment to the motion will be read during next week's sittings. That is how the process should work, yet the LNP makes a mockery of it by undermining the committee process and the functioning of our parliament.

The committee report was tabled on 25 October—less than two weeks ago. I think it is reasonable that we as parliamentarians should have time to consider this report, hear the minister's second reading speech and view any amendments foreshadowed by the minister, especially as the government has been very clear that it intends to debate the bill next week.

I represent a resource community. Nobody understands better than we do the impact of the mining downturn and the desire to get projects going. That is precisely what the Palaszczuk government is delivering. You can do what you like while also allowing the parliament to properly consider bills that have potentially wide implications for farmers, mining and the environment.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Hinchinbrook, member for Whitsunday, you have had a pretty good go. I think you should be a bit more careful.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.20 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Nanango and to oppose the amendment moved by the Minister for Environment. The purpose of this motion this evening is to flush out people like the environment minister and the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. If there is something we know about those ministers it is that they do not like very much public scrutiny and they do not like very much sharing with the public their plans for their legislation and the way it is going to impact on people in regional and rural Queensland in particular. As the member for Nanango observed earlier in her contribution to the debate, they are certainly no friends of rural and regional Queensland.

If the motion tonight achieves nothing else, it has resulted in some certainty for those projects threatened by the environmental legislation before the House, introduced by the environment minister in the September sittings of parliament. For the first time we have a commitment to debate that legislation during the next sittings of parliament, next week. That is the first time we have had on the public record a commitment to a time frame to end the uncertainty for these projects, most publicly and most significantly the projects in the Galilee Basin: Adani's Carmichael mine project and New Acland stage 3 from New Hope. We now have a commitment from the environment minister that next week this legislation will either pass the House or be disposed of by the House. If nothing else, we have achieved some certainty in that regard.

It has taken the LNP to show the leadership to get that commitment tonight in the form of this motion. We have had to drag the government kicking and screaming to make this disclosure and commit to some time frames to give some certainty to those workers whose jobs are at risk or will be affected by this legislation and those communities that need the support of the economic development these projects will create. We have had to drag the government kicking and screaming to put their foot on the sticky paper and commit to engaging in some legislative debate.

Those members opposite have form when it comes to interfering in the approvals processes for these two projects. Last year the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines came into this parliament and moved an urgency motion in relation to his bill amending the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act. Do honourable members remember the Broccoli Broccoli debacle? Do members remember when the minister came in and relied on the strength of a petition taken from the Darling Downs, which included the signature of one Broccoli Broccoli, to support the urgency of that legislation? We also had the Palaszczuk government come to office and interfere with the approval and application process for the expansion of the port at Abbot Point, which is a necessary project associated with the Adani Carmichael mine project. They delayed that process very significantly indeed.

This government is giving a figurative backhander to all of those civic, business and industry leaders in Central and North Queensland who last week called on the government to end the uncertainty—not muck around with it, not put it under a bushel, not have secret meetings about it but end the uncertainty. They are also ignoring and giving a figurative backhander to the several hundred workers who rallied outside the parliament today and said, 'Please end the uncertainty. Please don't put our jobs at risk.'

Unlike the members opposite, I have been out to the Oakey Chamber of Commerce to talk to them about the importance of this project, and I have been to Bowen to talk to the people of Bowen about the importance of this project to the unemployment level in their community. They are desperate for the government to understand that you cannot impose double jeopardy environmental assessment and approvals processes on these projects and expect industry confidence in the resources sector in Queensland to stay afloat.

I draw to the attention of the House the QRC State of the Sector report released in the September quarter. It outlines the plunging confidence of resource sector participants in regulatory certainty and sovereign risk in this state. It is a serious issue for the budget bottom line. It is a serious issue for jobs. It is a serious issue for the economy in regional Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (6.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the motion. This amendment will ensure that, as intended, by the rising of the House next week this bill will have been considered by the elected representatives, with opportunities for further discussion, engagement and consideration. We are debating this motion today due to pure political opportunism by those opposite. This bill is to be debated next week.

The New Acland mine was not materially progressed in the three years the member for Hinchinbrook was the minister—not at all. It is entirely hypocritical for those opposite to want to accelerate the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 in a week when over three years the member for Hinchinbrook had every opportunity to materially progress this mine. It is the same for the Carmichael mine. The member keeps urging speed, but when he was minister all we had was stupor. I have heard nothing from him during question time for eight months. It took a rally today to awaken him.

This motion is not about timing. It is not about a change in the goalposts, as they allege. A water licence has been required for 20 years and is now still required. I have outlined this in letters to Central Queensland and Northern Queensland councils. There is no inconsistency, as alleged by the member for Hinchinbrook. As I said, this motion is not about timing; it is all about political opportunism.

As distinct from the member for Hinchinbrook, I would rather take notice of the member for Nanango. Her words are powerful. I heard them outside. She wants jobs, jobs, jobs—350 jobs. That is what she wants. What about the other LNP initiatives? She wants to stop objection rights. She wants to remove water licences. What a parliamentary representative! When is the member for Nanango going to break the news to the Kingaroy Concerned Citizens Group, who were protesting about a mine right next door to Kingaroy? When is she announcing her obvious support for the Kingaroy coalmine? I hear that the member does not want to kill any coalmines. When is she going to announce that to her community? Here we have a great supporter of coalmining in the Kingaroy community: 'Dragline Deb', who wants to remove any proper process and have no objection rights. If I were a New Acland coalminer I would not get too excited about the fickle and fragile support of the member for Nanango. It turns out that apparently now she does not like coalmines. Here we have it: the knitting nanna from Nanango. I table the document.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from the *South Burnett Times*, dated 21 October 2016 [[1958](#)].

It is not 'Dragline Deb'; it is the knitting nanna from Nanango! If it is all about timing, why do we have to wait three years? Those opposite have ranted, cried and screamed during the debate tonight, but what they have not been able to do is demonstrate why the debate has to occur next week. Those opposite have made no case at all regarding the timing—no case at all. They have been blatantly unhelpful. They have kicked down the barn door, stormed through and are creating nothing but chaos around them. Earlier my colleague the Minister for Environment referenced further meetings later this week. All the member for Nanango is doing is undermining any benefit that may be reached from these discussions. The member for Hinchinbrook called on me outside to go and address the rally. The member for Hinchinbrook should know that it would have been inappropriate for me to publicly comment on these matters as I await the findings of the Land Court. What we have here is an irresponsible opposition prepared to prejudice court proceedings and legislation. The amendment will ensure that proper process can be followed, further engagement can be had and additional consideration can be applied. This is a stunt. This is political opportunism. The only thing that has come out of this debate tonight is to demonstrate the juggling act of hypocrisy of the member for Nanango.

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

**AYES, 44:**

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

**INDEPENDENT, 2**—Gordon, Pyne.

**NOES, 44:**

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

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

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

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Motion, as amended, agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing or sessional orders, debate of the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be passed or disposed of during the sitting week of 8 to 10 November 2016.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.36 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Sunshine Coast, Road Infrastructure

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (6.37 pm): Tonight I rise to discuss the issue of Caloundra Road yet again. Members will be aware that today I tabled in the House a petition that sought the Minister for Main Roads to consider three things. The first was to work with Stockland to fast-track the construction of the Bells Creek Arterial Road from the Bruce Highway to the Caloundra Road-Kawana Link interchange and also to install exit slip lanes and traffic signals at the Nicklin Way-Caloundra Road roundabout. The issue here is that the Sunshine Coast is growing rapidly both economically and by population, and equally so in Caloundra. Caloundra Road is the major road that joins the Bruce Highway into Caloundra itself and that road is getting more and more congested as time goes by. Aura, which is south of Caloundra, has a population of 50,000 people, adding to the road congestion on Caloundra Road. If the draft regional plan comes into play, Beerwah East will mean an additional 30,000 people coming on to Caloundra Road and into Caloundra itself. In 10, 15 or 20 years, there will be an additional 80,000 people from two areas using Caloundra Road. If we add to that Palmview and other areas north of Caloundra exiting and entering on to Caloundra Road and into Caloundra itself and also to the beaches, the time to address these issues is now and not when they become a crisis point in five or 10 years time.

The proposal contained in the petition is simply for the government to consider what steps we can do now to alleviate the congestion that already exists and will grow as time goes by. As I said, Caloundra itself is growing in population and also economically. We are a thriving economy and more and more people are coming to live and work there as time goes by. The road situation at this point in time can only get worse, but more importantly we need other issues to be dealt with on a 30-year time line—issues such as the upgrade to the Bruce Highway to six lanes and the light rail between Caloundra, Maroochydore, Beerwah, Mooloolah, Beerburum and the like to be put in place as soon as possible. We need to address these issues as a matter of extreme urgency. The other point is this: if we do not deal with these matters now, in five or 10 years time we will find ourselves gridlocked. Caloundra Road is now the longest car park on the Sunshine Coast. It can only get worse unless we take steps immediately to address these concerns. The population of Caloundra is demanding action now and demanding the government take steps to alleviate the concerns it has and more importantly

put in place long-term plans for these issues. We need to understand that Caloundra Road being the only major thoroughfare in and out of Caloundra needs to be addressed as a matter of extreme urgency. Unless we do so, we will find ourselves in greater gridlock and, more importantly, economically suffering because of that lack of infrastructure being put in place.

### **Mackay Electorate, Tourism**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.40 pm): Mackay and its surrounding region abounds with natural beauty—pristine rainforest to the north-west and its coastline long and golden. The area boasts the only blue water river in Queensland. It has national parks and fishing opportunities from the beaches and creeks. Cape Hillsborough has iconic kangaroos on the beach at sunrise and sunset. The list goes on. The Mackay area also has an opportunity to provide adventure tourism. The area has an Olympic-standard mountain bike track, with plans to develop more tracks, windsurfing, flying fox rides in the rainforest, hang-gliding off Eungella, parachuting, tiger moth flights, diving with platypus and barramundi fishing in dams. Recently, Mackay hosted the first Sheffield Shield cricket match to be held outside Brisbane. The Mackay region ticks all the boxes for being able to offer genuine and unique experiences to attract local and international tourists.

When it comes to emerging tourism opportunities, Mackay is the jewel in the crown of Queensland. Recently, Mackay hosted DestinationQ, where over 300 top tourism operators gathered to share ideas and workshop tourism opportunities across Queensland and to see for themselves the opportunities for tourism in the Mackay region. The Mackay region is developing its tourism industry and will be adding to the already 31,000 employment opportunities in tourism across the Tropical North, Mackay, Whitsunday, Townsville and Great Barrier Reef areas. The Mackay region needs to diversify from its traditional industries. The area has nature tourism resources waiting to be tapped.

My region is working towards being part of Queensland's growth in the Asian tourism market. Globally, the tourism sector is witnessing unprecedented growth in Asian outbound travel. Within four years, the number is expected to reach 286 million travellers—100 million more than there were in 2014. Asian travellers now represent nearly half of all international visitor nights in our state. With this level of growth expected to continue, Queensland could be hosting 1.5 million Asian tourists by 2025.

One of Mackay's leading restaurateurs, Adrian Connors, is a fine example of the tourism opportunities that exist for people in the Mackay area. His team at the Dispensary and Burp, Eat and Drink restaurants hosted a VIP dinner for key industry leaders, the Premier and ministers. On the menu was vodka pickled Hay Point prawns served with tartare and spicy semidried tomato aioli, Queensland line-caught coral trout topped with a mix of warm bruschetta and citrus and Clairview chilli lime crabs with soft leaf salad. This is what tourism in Mackay is all about. Adrian's dad, Graeme Connors, provided the background music for the dinner.

### **State Penalties Enforcement Registry, Restitution to Victims of Crime**

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.43 pm): Is it fair that victims of crime should have to wait six years for court ordered compensation to be paid to them? Absolutely not! This rot needs to stop and I call on the Treasurer to fix it.

The State Penalties Enforcement Registry, otherwise known as SPER, is a joke. The system needs to be overhauled so that it is fair dinkum, rather than punishing those who do the right thing and leaving those who do not thumbing their nose at them. How can it be that courts make orders for debtors to pay up, but those who are owed money cannot get any information from SPER about when they are going to see a single dollar?

My constituents, Mr and Mrs Andy and Laurel Leach of Maroochydore, have gone through the court process to recover funds. The court has ordered that the offender pay restitution but, six years later, the Leaches still have not received any money. To make matters worse, they are unable to get any information from the State Penalties Enforcement Registry about what action is being taken to recover the moneys that are owed to them. For victims such as the Leaches and many others, to wait for such a considerable length of time for compensation can cause them distress. They need to receive the payment that the court has deemed is due to them so that they can move on and put the matter behind them.

In this situation, the privacy laws protect the offender. The victim is unable to find out any information from SPER about what enforcement action is being taken to recover the debt. The victim waits, unable to get an update on what progress is being made. That is completely unacceptable.

I believe that the collection process for court ordered restitution payments needs to be fairer so that victims of crime can receive timely payment of money owing to them. On their behalf, I have advocated for changes to the State Penalties Enforcement Act to ensure that there is a fair collection of restitution and for people to be made aware of progress. Unfortunately, the Treasurer has failed to adequately respond to my request for a reform of this system and, in particular, to the process of the collection of court ordered restitution.

This is not a just system. Those who have already been punished as victims of crime are being punished again by a system that is failing to deliver justice. I call on the Treasurer to fix the system, to deliver justice and to ensure that my constituents, and many like them, finally see fair restitution from this court ordered process.

### Capalaba Electorate, Community Support

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.46 pm): I rise to talk about my new neighbours. A couple of weeks ago I met Alex, a single mum of seven children. She was making a better life for herself, moving out of community housing where she rented with her seven children, into her new home, a former disability house run by our social housing minister, Minister De Brenni. Alex bought this house but, between that time and the settlement of her new house, her community house at Wellington Point burnt to the ground. Unfortunately, Alex had no insurance and she lost everything.

On the night I met Alex, the first night in her new home, she had two boxes. She saved the hoist for her eldest daughter, 15-year-old Taleighla, and a burnt wheelchair. That was about it. Fortunately, that night I was able to buy Alex groceries so that she could feed her children, cutlery and a few other things. The next day, I organised a GoFundMe request for Alex and her family to get them back on their feet. In that time, many other groups donated to Alex furniture, clothing and other items.

I would like to thank the Redlands District Special School P&C, the Wellington Point State School P&C and the Wellington Point State High School, which donated uniforms to ensure that Alex's seven children did not miss a day of school. I can report that, in under a week, I was able to deposit over \$1,700 into Alex's account.

It was really heartwarming to see the Redlands community come together so quickly to help someone in so much need. It was fantastic. I would also like to thank St Vincent de Paul and many church groups. Redlands Councillor Tracey Hughes, who I know, has been over to see Alex just about every second day, making sure that the family is okay. I again would like to thank those school P&Cs that really came to the aid of Alex and her family. Alex and her family had looters go through their home. I was also concerned about their mental wellbeing. It is fantastic that St Vincent de Paul was able to provide counsellors to help Alex and her family.

I take my hat off to the Redlands community for really helping a family who was trying to make a better way in their life—and I have no doubt they will, without missing a beat in spite of this disaster that occurred to them.

### Western Queensland Regulated Airports

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (6.50 pm): I wish to draw the attention of the House to the way the Queensland government is allowing airlines to exploit the government's monopoly contracts in Western Queensland's regulated airports. These monopoly contracts shelter the airline from competition and are meant to ensure that people living in Queensland's more remote areas can afford to travel to Brisbane when they need to. They may be called regulated airports, but a quick scan or a look at the fare structures suggests there is something very irregular happening.

The electorate of Gregory contains three regulated airports in what is called central zone 2. These airports are Blackall, Longreach and Barcaldine. Under the terms of the contract the airline is supposed to provide a so-called resident's fare. Obviously this is intended for local residents rather than tourists. The Longreach-Brisbane resident's fare is \$170 one way. The problem is that the carrier seems to limit the number of seats available at that price. Actually getting a seat for the resident's fare is a very rare experience. In addition to the resident's fare, the airline also puts on periodic specials. If you score one of these you can fly from Longreach to Brisbane for \$119. Again, these are as rare as hen's teeth and

can be hedged around with conditions. The normal experience is that people pay just under \$500 for a one-way trip from Longreach to Brisbane. That puts air travel out of the question for many residents, family groups, seniors and wage earners.

When one starts comparing actual prices on available seats for Longreach-Brisbane with the cost to other destinations the story gets even more irregular. Today I could have flown from Longreach to Brisbane for \$480 one way. At the cheaper fare of \$413 the same carrier was happy to take me from Longreach to Melbourne! This Thursday, 3 November, it will still cost me \$480 one way from Longreach to Brisbane, but they will take me from Longreach to Melbourne even cheaper at \$363.99. What is going on here? Is the contract now sponsored by Tourism Victoria? What about those cunning Kiwis? If I wait until 7 November I will be able to fly Longreach-Auckland for \$469—still cheaper than flying from Longreach to my own state capital.

I call on the Minister for Transport to investigate this because residents of the Central West are fed up. While the contracts require the carrier that benefits from its monopoly at these airports to undertake consultations, these are apparently by invitation only. There is never a genuine attempt to hold a public meeting. Some of the questions the minister could ask on their behalf include: how many seats per annum are available for the resident's fare price and what is the basis for the size of the allocation as a percentage of total flights and as a reflection of population; what proof of residency is required for someone to purchase a seat on a resident's fare; how far ahead must a resident book to get these fares; why is it cheaper to fly to Auckland or Melbourne than it is to fly from Longreach to Brisbane; and what is the pricing strategy that creates this disparity? The minister needs to look into this strange situation in these regulated, monopoly airports which is causing hardship for Western Queenslanders. The lack of transparency and accountability guarantees it will continue.

### Wilson, Ms MC

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.52 pm): I rise to speak about a wonderful woman and friend who sadly died in Ipswich on 11 October 2016. Margaret Constance Wilson, known as Peggy, was born in Ipswich on 20 February 1938 to parents David and Constance. Peggy was one of four—the much loved sister of Janice, Yvonne and Pamela. Peggy married Peter Frankish on 3 November 1956 and they had three children: Greg, John and Karen.

I first got to know Peggy in 2001 when she contacted me to offer her services as a volunteer for the Labor Party. I was working in the Ipswich electorate office at the time. From the moment Peggy walked in the door I could see she was a woman of substance and action. Throughout the years of knowing Peggy I came to love and admire her enormously. Her ability to organise, assess and process was extraordinary. Once she knew what was needed, in a very short space of time Peggy would figure out the most efficient and direct way of achieving that goal. She never made any fuss. She continued to volunteer for at least one day a week in the Ipswich office and I know that she gave her time to our local federal MP's electorate office as well.

Peggy believed in the Labor Party, and when Peggy believed in something she did not sit around talking about it or complaining about things; she threw her weight and her considerable ability behind it and in so doing brought about real change in the Ipswich community. Peggy lost her daughter, Karen, when she died of viral myocarditis at the age of 31. I have a daughter around that age and I simply do not know how I would survive if anything were to happen to her. I did not know Peggy during that period in her life, but I can only imagine what she went through. Three years after Karen's death, Peggy's husband, Peter, had a stroke, leaving him quite disabled. Peggy cared for him tirelessly and lovingly. She became very involved in the Ipswich Stroke Support Group and, not surprisingly, soon became the spokesperson and turned the organisation around, improving the lives of many carers and stroke survivors as a result.

Upon her death, Peggy had seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Peggy often spoke of them and they should all know how well loved they were and how proud of them she was. Peggy was loving but not overly sentimental. She showed her love through her cooking and her beautiful crocheting and knitting and by always being there when she was needed. I should add that, in addition to everything else, Peggy knitted trauma teddies for the Red Cross. Three minutes is not enough time to extol the virtues of Peggy's character. Peggy touched so many lives. Her funeral was held in Ipswich's beautiful St Paul's Anglican Church on Tuesday, 25 October and the church was full. Hundreds of people showed up to say goodbye to this very special person. It is hard to imagine an election campaign in Ipswich without Peggy and almost impossible to imagine a world without her. Alongside many others, I will miss her terribly.

### Sunshine Butterflies

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (6.55 pm): I rise tonight to share a remarkable story of how the will and determination of one person has changed the lives of hundreds living with a disability in my electorate of Noosa. I speak of Sunshine Butterflies, a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation, established in 2005 by Leanne Walsh whose son has cerebral palsy. Sunshine Butterflies supports people of all ages living with a disability and their families through a number of programs, including arts and crafts, swimming, social clubs, support groups as well as case management and NDIS advice. Following an extensive fundraising effort two years ago the charity purchased a five-acre property at Cooroibah that would become a hobby farm and central location of services. I table the master plan for Our BackYard which shows the scale and intent of this truly remarkable community facility.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Landscape concept plan: Our Back Yard—468 Mckinnon Drv Cooroibah' [[1959](#)].

Previously a wholesale nursery, this facility has been extensively renovated and fully fenced; stables, animal enclosures and garden beds have been erected; \$15,000 has been spent on a new sewerage system and \$10,000 has been spent on earthworks. The property is accessed from McKinnon Drive, a road carrying approximately 2,000 vehicles a day. The site shows a dedicated entrance and exit to the property that ensures safety.

Despite all this hard work Sunshine Butterflies is facing one of its biggest hurdles. As part of council's Material Change of Use application, Sunshine Butterflies has been told to pay for the construction of turning lanes into and exiting the property. Courtesy of a free bus service, which operates outside the morning and evening peaks, Sunshine Butterflies is responsible for just 1.7 per cent of traffic volume. Slogging this valuable community group with the bill to install infrastructure on a state owned road simply does not pass the fairness test. I would argue that as McKinnon Drive is currently zoned 100 kilometres an hour, a reduction in the speed limit to 80 kilometres an hour would be more appropriate, less costly and benefit a number of other private dwellings, including a family day care along the same road.

Arguably the disability services and care provided by Sunshine Butterflies has, and will continue to, save all three tiers of government considerable funds. I have met with a representative of the Minister for Main Roads and asked that a reduction of the speed limit be the solution rather than expensive roadworks. It is ridiculous to expect this charity to redirect funds, much of it donated in good faith, away from their cause. I await Minister Bailey's response and hope that he will, as I do, see that a helping hand is well and truly justified and required.

### Thuringowa Rapid Action and Patrol Hub

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.58 pm): I rise tonight to speak about my recent work with the QPS Thuringowa Rapid Action and Patrol Hub run by Inspector Joe Kitching, a police veteran with some 30 years experience. Inspector Kitching runs three teams of 10 officers out of this hub. Recently this two-year-old QPS RAP hub had its review and demonstrated its good performance, which at its very core provides a mobile workforce proactively patrolling the community with officers using resources such as iPads to ensure they can swiftly access information therefore reducing the need for writing out paperwork, the need to return to the RAP hub and also ensuring their high visibility in the community.

Having formed the Upper Ross Community Consultation Group in February this year, it was always my intent to have local police play an integral role informing the community on crime prevention and to hopefully start a neighbourhood watch program in the area. I regularly meet with the officer in charge of Kirwan station and the QPS RAP, Indigenous elders, community groups such a TCAD and members of the community to address issues of crime that have affected our area for a number of years. On Friday 21 October, I had the opportunity to run on road with RAP Sergeant Tony Jacobs, another veteran with many years service, and his partner, Senior Constable Robert Booth. This followed the successful Operation Oscar Merchant, where 30 extra police were stationed in Townsville, yielding nearly 800 arrests and nearly 1,000 charges. I particularly commend those officers for their professionalism and conduct, which is displayed to members of the community in sometimes trying and challenging circumstances. At the beginning of that shift, I witnessed numerous curfew checks of youth on court ordered curfews. The RAP officers told me that they conduct approximately 50 such checks per week.

I also had the opportunity to speak with local constituents who had contacted my office regarding concerns about a particular residence in the Kelso area. Earlier that night, the RAP team had arrested and charged an individual at that particular residence. I agree with the strong sentiment that we should all feel safe in our communities. I remain committed to working hard with all in our community to address the issues of crime in the Thuringowa electorate.

I have full confidence in the Stronger Communities Action Group to be co-located at the QPS RAP in Thuringowa. That whole-of-government response will bring core agencies together to ensure not only that individuals in the youth justice system are identified but also that targeted intensive case management is applied to those individuals and their families, so that they can become good citizens through training, education and employment opportunities, such as the inaugural Training for Success program, which I recently attended. The program is aimed at getting youth back on track and helping make our community safe once again.

To this end, I will continually make representations to the police minister for more police for the RAP. It would put the icing on the cake to have funding in the next budget for another team of 10 to help make Thuringowa a safe electorate and reduce crime rates in our area.

### **Kawana Electorate**

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.01 pm): Recently, I was pleased to join my Sunshine Coast colleagues, both state and federal, for the visit of the federal minister, Mr Chester, to announce \$800 million in federal spending on the Bruce Highway. That funding will upgrade the highway opposite Aussie World, cater for the Caloundra Road interchange upgrade and the Mooloolah River interchange, and fix the Wilson Road exit, which is a deadly intersection. I am very pleased that Sunshine Coast state and federal members of parliament continue to work together to achieve great things for the Sunshine Coast. Had it not been for the LNP government between 2012 and 2015, that road project certainly would not be starting next year. I thank Minister Chester. I thank our federal colleagues Andrew Wallace and Ted O'Brien for assisting us in getting the federal minister to the Sunshine Coast, to talk about not only that project but also other priorities that we are continuing to fight for on the Sunshine Coast.

The Caloundra Road Traffic Forum was held recently, which I attended with my colleague Mark McArdle. I thank the 100 or so residents of Caloundra and Kawana who attended the forum. We discussed issues of congestion on Caloundra Road and the Labor government's inability to address and fix those particular issues. It has only offered bandaid solutions. It was great to get community feedback in terms of what we are doing. After the petition was tabled today, we shall see the government's response. We will continue to ensure that roads are delivered on the Sunshine Coast, particularly to reduce congestion.

Congratulations to Chancellor State College, which recently held its Celebration of Excellence. There are some amazing children at Chancellor State College. Tonight, the Kawana Waters State College will hold its showcase function. Obviously I cannot attend, but my wife, Sally, is attending on my behalf. She always enjoys attending those things. Congratulations to all the kids. Congratulations to Buddina State School for a wonderful art show. It was a very professional art show. I would say it is one of the best art shows on the Sunshine Coast. A few weeks ago, I attended the school's constitutional convention at which the school kids debated a republic versus a monarchy. I was happy to represent the constitutional monarchy side. No doubt common sense prevailed and the students voted to retain the constitutional monarchy after my presentation.

I want to raise a more serious issue, which is the Labor Party's health payroll bungle that we saw occur years ago. Recently I was contacted by a few nurses in my electorate, one of whom recently became a mum. Queensland Health is chasing them for money, but cannot guarantee that the money is exactly what is owed. In the past few weeks, a nurse contacted me to say that she is being chased for a \$300 overpayment from some five to six years ago. Not only that, the Minister for Health's department has sent out debt collectors to collect the \$300 overpayment from that nurse. I call on the health minister to say enough is enough. They have probably spent \$5,000 chasing what they perceive is a \$300 overpayment, which my constituent objects to and has a different view on anyway. I call on the health minister to stop chasing those poor women who are doing a tremendous job in our health department and to end the mess.

### **Fairer Fares**

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (7.04 pm): I rise to report to the House on the results of a survey that has been conducted in the electorate of Springwood on improvements to bus fares across the electorate and across South-East Queensland more broadly. This government's commitment to tackling the cost-of-living issues in our community is second to none. I reflect on the Fairer Fares package and the trial of demand responsive transport that is coming soon to Logan.

Over several weeks I have been assisted by several locals to collate a community survey. In particular, I mention Lisa, Rianna, Peter and John who assisted me. I am pleased to inform the House that the survey found that 26 per cent of residents use the bus for getting to work or other activities. The survey has shown us that we are delivering savings on public transport for thousands of residents across Springwood. People such as Vanessa in Columbia Court, Springwood will enjoy a saving of \$4.20 each day, getting to university. Fairer Fares was resoundingly supported, with feedback such as 'cutting prices is the right way'. When we conducted the survey together, Jessica of Springwood was pleased to use the fare calculator to identify that she would save \$3.60 per day getting to her job at the Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Our survey found that the overwhelming majority of commuters wanted to see less cars on the road, which is what Fairer Fares is doing. These measures have the power to transform bus transport in Logan, making travelling cheaper and quicker. This Labor government is enabling Springwood residents to access buses to get to jobs that currently are accessible only by car. The Fairer Fares package means that 93 per cent of public transport users in this community will pay less. A local resident of Springwood who travels on the bus to the CBD for work can save around \$889 per year. I know that locals, supported by community organisations such as Access Community Services, will be supportive of our move to bring Queensland into line with other states and territories by ensuring that asylum seekers will have access to concession public transport fares from early 2017.

Our community survey has confirmed how important it is that we continue to focus on making getting to work or to school more affordable. Labor governments understand the critical importance of education in creating opportunities for every Queenslanders. We understand the dignity of work. It is this Labor government that has taken real action to deliver real savings for households in our community. The action the LNP took when it was in government was to slash bus services, making it harder for people to get to work and school, and making it harder for people in our community to connect with one another. That is why this community fought those cuts. Residents wanted better and they deserve better. With this government, they have received better.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 7.07 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, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams