



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## TUESDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2016

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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: 22 November 2016

“A Bill for an Act to amend the River Improvement Trust Act 1940, the Water Act 2000 and the Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014 for particular purposes”

“A Bill for an Act to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, the Water Act 2000 and the Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014 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

22 November 2016

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 22 November 2016, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 22 November 2016 [[2084](#)].

### PRIVILEGE

#### Correction to *Record of Proceedings*



**Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.31 am): I want to make a correction to my speech on 9 November to the Environmental Protection (Underground Water Management) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Water Legislation Amendment Bill. In my speech I mentioned Property Rights Australia when talking about the price of water when I meant to say The Australia Institute, and I apologise.

### REPORT

#### Auditor-General



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 4 of 2016-17 titled *Criminal justice system—prison sentences*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 4: 2016-17—Criminal justice system—prison sentences [[2085](#)].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Answers to Questions on Notice and Responses to Petitions

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 114 requires answers to questions on notice to be supplied to the Table Office within 30 calendar days. Similarly, standing order 125 requires ministerial responses to petitions to be forwarded to the Clerk within 30 days. Where the 30th day is not a working day, the longstanding practice that has been adopted is that the answer or response should be provided by the next working day. I wish to advise honourable members that, due to the intervening Christmas-New Year closure period, answers to questions on notice asked this sitting week and ministerial responses to any petitions tabled this sitting week are required to be supplied to the Table Office by 5 pm on Tuesday, 3 January 2017.

### International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that 25 November was the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and was the first of 16 days of action by Zonta clubs around the world. This campaign aims to raise awareness and take action against violence against women and girls. As part of this campaign, orange figures are on display in the Parliamentary Annexe foyer this week to express the parliament's support for the fight against domestic violence.

### National Asbestos Awareness Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that Asbestos Awareness Week was held from 20 to 25 November this year and activities extend to the end of the month. The Asbestos Related Disease Support Society has invited members to wear a pin on their lapels this week to commemorate those who have died and remember those who still suffer from an asbestos related disease. The Asbestos Related Disease Support Society endeavours to raise awareness about asbestos related diseases and to encourage Australians to protect themselves against exposure to asbestos-containing materials, particularly when doing home renovations.

### Queensland Parliamentary Service, Annual Questionnaire

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, circulated in the chamber is the annual questionnaire on the performance of the Parliamentary Service. The feedback the questionnaire is designed to elicit is very important. Can members please take a few moments to complete the questionnaire and place it in the ballot box on the table of the House or forward it to the Clerk's office.

### Lighting of the Parliamentary Christmas Tree

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I acknowledge that we will be debating some contentious legislation this week. While our Speakers panel does the best we can, I understand that some members may on occasion be aggrieved by some of our rulings. We, the Speakers panel, have decided we would like to attempt to instil some Christmas spirit by serenading the lighting of the parliament's Christmas tree tonight in front of Parliament House at 6.40. Our repertoire consists of two songs, with a special surprise rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. This absolute treasure of prose and poetry has been composed by our Clerk, and practice sessions to date point to an interesting and entertaining performance.

Our singers are the member for Nudgee, the member for Gregory, the member for Ferny Grove, the member for Broadwater, the member for Barron River, the member for Noosa, the Deputy Speaker and me. Our Clerk will lead the choir. Unfortunately, our Deputy Clerk will be absent due to his daughter's graduation. We will be supported by my research and legislation officer Danielle Cooper, who was trained at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music on the keyboard, and my Speaker's office staff, Roylene Mills and Gail Easton. Everyone is welcome to what promises to be a most auspicious occasion.

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Miller, Mr CJ

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late Colin John Miller, a former member of the parliament of Queensland and minister of the state.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the parliament of Queensland, in the loss they have sustained.

Colin John Miller was born in Brisbane on 28 April 1924 and was educated at Rainworth State School and Central Technical College, Brisbane. From 1942 to 1946, during World War II, Mr Miller served in the Second Australian Imperial Force of the Australian Army. I note that Mr Miller would have been around 18 years of age when he first joined the AIF and that we acknowledge in the parliament today the passing of another person who served their country.

In 1966, Mr Miller successfully contested the inner-city seat of Ithaca for the Liberal Party. He served in this place for 20 years, deciding to retire at the state election of November 1986. During his time in the parliament Mr Miller served in many parliamentary, party and executive government roles. He was a Temporary Chairman of Committees—or Temporary Speaker as we call the position today—from 1975 to 1980 and served as Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Committees from March 1981 to August 1983. He also served on a number of parliamentary committees over many years including the Parliamentary Select Committee on Education in 1978 and 1979.

He was a member of a parliamentary delegation to Papua New Guinea and South-East Asia in 1974. He was also a delegate to Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conferences in New Zealand, Sri Lanka and the Isle of Man. In August 1983, Mr Miller was elevated to cabinet as minister for environment, valuation and administrative services. However, his time in the ministry was to last only 14 days when the Liberal Party ministers of the then coalition government resigned from the cabinet on 18 August 1983.

Following the 1983 state election, Mr Miller had the support of Liberal and Labor members for the election of Speaker. Then deputy Labor leader, Ed Casey, said in support of Mr Miller for the position of Speaker—

We want a Speaker who will create a contemporary Parliament. We want a Parliament in which the views put forward by Members represent the views of all people throughout the State.

Mr Miller was defeated by the Nationals candidate John Warner, 42-39. He served the term of parliament but decided to not recontest the 1986 election. I understand that during his time in the parliament Mr Miller was a long-time member of the Queensland Parliamentary Bowls Club. He was a member of the Queensland team led by Bill Kaus and Nev Warburton that first won the annual Interstate Parliamentary Bowling Carnival for Queensland in Sydney in 1979.

Mr Miller was widely regarded for his interest in the environment and conservation. I also understand that there is a building at the Bardon Community Kindy named after him in recognition of his time on the board of trustees of the kindy and as the local member.

Col John Miller passed away on 4 November 2016 aged 92 years. A service to commemorate his life was held at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Bokarina on 11 November 2016. I place on record the government's thanks for his years of service. He gave a long and distinguished service to the Queensland community and to this parliament. On behalf of the government, I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mr Miller's family and friends.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.40 am): I rise to add my personal support and that of the entire opposition for the condolence motion moved by the Premier in respect of the late Col Miller, the former long-serving member for Ithaca. Born in Brisbane in April 1924, Col was a student of the Rainworth State School and later the Central Technical College in George Street—that institution just down the road from us now known as QUT.

At age 19 he became a corporal in the Australian Imperial Force, where he served for three years. The passing of a generation is occurring around us: those who served in World War II and learned many values—values that they brought to public life in this place. I think that is something that we should reflect on as a generation moves on.

After the war he worked as a painter and at the age of 25 Col married his wife, Grace, and they went on to have three sons. It would be almost 20 years before Col made his entry into politics, but his dedication and service would not be short-lived. On 28 May 1966 he was elected as the Liberal member for the then seat of Ithaca in Brisbane's north-west, now mostly taken up by the seat of Mount Coot-tha. During this time he held a number of positions including as a member of the parliamentary delegation to Papua New Guinea and South-East Asia, the parliamentary select committee on education and as a delegate of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to New Zealand and also Sri Lanka, to name a few.

Col never stopped learning, undertaking a study of the Canadian provincial legislature and their committee system at the age of 58. The next year he was appointed minister for environment, valuation and administrative services. As the Premier has noted, that role was short-lived, with Col resigning just 14 days into the job along with six other Liberal members. Two years later Col lost his wife, Grace, and after 20 years of public service Col retired from parliament in 1986.

Col was a charitable man with long affiliations with the Lions Club and Freemasons. He had also served as chair of the Rainworth-Rosalie branch of the Returned and Services League of Australia for six years. Col also considered himself an environmentalist and a conservationist.

In 1991 he found happiness again and married Janice Bartlett. After retiring to Shelly Beach at Caloundra—a place I am sure many in this place are familiar with—he was happiest spending time with his family. Retirement did not diminish his energy for life. He famously took up Pilates later in life and kept up with his weekly sessions well into his eighties.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** That might be something for some of us to consider as well. On 4 November Col passed away in Caloundra surrounded by his loved ones. On behalf of the opposition, I support the motion moved by the Premier and extend our condolences to the family of Col Miller.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (9.43 am): I do not want to speak long to this motion but I want to speak to it, given that I knew Col during his time as the member for Ithaca. It was at a time in my life when I was president of the Young Liberals and active in the organisational side of my party. Col was always there to support the growth of young people in political life in his area. I remember well going to his home many times where party meetings would be held and other meetings in his area where he was strongly supportive.

It has been pointed out by both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition that Col was a returned serviceman and I would say in many ways an archetypal returned man: straight as an arrow, big-hearted guy with a big laugh—we always heard Col coming before we saw him—and a very inclusive man who I am sure represented well his electorate and their interests. It has been pointed out that he was a member of Lions, chairman of his local RSL from 1959 to 1966 and a member of the Freemasons. He was actively involved in many community organisations.

I particularly want to note that Col's son Matthew Miller was a senior public servant within the Queensland Public Service and then moved to Canberra, where he had a role with the Australian Institute of Sport. My wife and I are friendly with Matthew and Jan and particularly want to pass on our personal condolences to him as well as to his broader family. He was a great champion for the Liberal cause back in the days when relationships were pretty stormy between coalition parties. He lived through that, survived it and went on to represent his electorate well. I would like to support the motion and I support the sentiments of both the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

## APPOINTMENTS

### Changes in Ministry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.46 am): I lay upon the table of the House the *Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette* of 4 and 11 November 2016, which outline recent changes to the ministry.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government Extraordinary Gazette No. 53, dated 4 November 2016, regarding the resignation of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Queensland Government Extraordinary Gazette No. 57, dated 11 November 2016, regarding the appointment of ministers and Administrative Arrangements Order (No. 2) 2016 [2086].

These changes include the appointment of the member for Rockhampton as Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development and the appointment of the member for Morayfield as Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. Furthermore, the member for Ipswich takes on a new appointment as Assistant Minister of State Assisting the Premier and the member for Gladstone as Assistant Minister for Local Government and Infrastructure. I congratulate these members on their appointments.

## PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, lodged by the honourable member indicated—

### **Rangewood Drive-Hervey Range Road Intersection, Upgrade**

**Mr Harper**, from 52 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the dangerous intersection of Rangewood Drive and Hervey Range Road [2087].

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

### **Kilcoy-Beerwah Road-Old Gympie Road Intersection, Upgrade**

**Mr Powell**, from 185 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately commission planning, funding and construction of safety upgrades for the intersection of Kilcoy-Beerwah Road and Old Gympie Road, Beerwah [2088, 2089].

### Mount Mee, Gantry Building Repairs

**Mr Powell**, from 1,920 petitioners, requesting the House to carry out whatever repairs are necessary to the Gantry building at Mt Mee so it can once again be opened to the public and to also establish an on-site display recording the history of the Mt Mee Sawmill [2090, 2091].

### M1 Motorway, Varsity Lakes to Tugun, Upgrade

**Mrs Stuckey**, from 10,353 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that the M1 from Varsity Lakes to Tugun is included in current funding discussions to upgrade this major road infrastructure and to provide a business case to obtain firm costings for this section [2092, 2093].

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

### Category D Weapons

**Mr Springborg**, from 4,857 petitioners, requesting the House to make Category D weapons available to sporting shooters to be owned, stored and operated by approved individuals to compete in club organised competitions [2094].

### Wanimo Street, Reopening

**Mr Furner**, from 1,762 requesting the House to call on the Federal Government to re-open the Wanimo Street gate and stop adding needless traffic to our roads. Let people spend more time with their families and less time sitting in traffic on Samford Road [2095].

### Cleveland District State High School, Hall Construction

**Dr Robinson**, from 2,383 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the construction of a multi-purpose hall for the Cleveland District State High School [2096].

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

### Fitzgibbon Urban Development Area Development Scheme

373 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a genuine consultation process with residents directly affected by the development plans for the Fitzgibbon Urban Development Area Development Scheme [2097].

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

11 November 2016—

- [2058](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Hon. Jones) to an ePetition (2641-16) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4) from 1,157 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding for the construction of a new indoor sports and hall facility that services the increasing needs of Mansfield State High School, Mansfield State Primary School and the wider community
- [2059](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 27, 55th Parliament—Annual Report 2015-16
- [2060](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 28, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled 17 August-13 September 2016
- [2061](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Information Paper No. 3, 55th Parliament—Inquiry into the impacts of invasive plants (weeds) and their control in Queensland
- [2062](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 25, 55th Parliament—Subordinate Legislation tabled from 17 August to 13 September 2016
- [2063](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 44, 55th Parliament—Annual Report 2015-16
- [2064](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2647-16) presented by Mr Perrett, from 143 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately excise Corella SF700 from the Curra State Forest, or issue a lease to the local council for a sporting shooters range complex
- [2065](#) Wet Tropics Management Authority—Annual Report 2015-16
- [2066](#) Wet Tropics Management Authority—State of Wet Tropics Report 2015-2016
- [2067](#) The Board of Trustees of Newstead House—Annual Report 2015-16
- [2068](#) The Board of Trustees of Newstead House—Financial Statements 2015-16
- [2069](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report for Authorities for Assumed Identities 2015-16
- [2070](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon Bailey) to a paper petition (2648-16) presented by Dr Robinson, from 145 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade as a matter of urgency the pedestrian crossing at Birkdale Road and Main Road, Wellington Point
- [2071](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2649-16) presented by Mr Knuth, from 459 petitioners, requesting the House to stop the expansion of future mining at Ravenswood

14 November 2016—

[2072](#) Legal Services Commission—Annual Report 2015-16

17 November 2016—

[2073](#) Transmax Pty Ltd: General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016

[2074](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2658-16) and an ePetition (2624-16) sponsored by Mr Bennett, from 66 and 44 petitioners respectively, 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

23 November 2016—

[2075](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade and Investment Mission to China by the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham), 23 October-26 October 2016

[2076](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Trade Mission to the USA and China by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. C R Dick), 15-23 October 2016

24 November 2016—

[2077](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 37, 55th Parliament—Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016

[2078](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 38, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 31 August 2016 and 13 September 2016

25 November 2016—

[2079](#) Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 31, 55th Parliament—Subordinate Legislation tabled between 31 August 2016 and 13 September 2016

[2080](#) Redcliffe Hospital Foundation—Final Annual Report 2015-16

[2081](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on Queensland Treasury Corporation and Queensland Treasury Financial Relations and Investment Opportunities visit to the United States of America by the Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport (Hon. Curtis Pitt), 3-7 October 2016

28 November 2016—

[2082](#) Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board—Annual Report 2015-16

[2083](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 34, 55th Parliament—Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill 2016 and Rural and Regional Adjustment (Development Assistance) Amendment Bill 2016

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

##### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004—

[2098](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 196

[2099](#) Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 196, explanatory notes

Liquor Act 1992—

[2100](#) Liquor Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 197

[2101](#) Liquor Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 197, explanatory notes

Criminal Code Act 1899—

[2102](#) Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 198

[2103](#) Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 198, explanatory notes

Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, Statutory Instruments Act 1992, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994—

[2104](#) Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016, No. 199

[2105](#) Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2016, No. 199, explanatory notes

Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001—

[2106](#) Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 200

[2107](#) Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 200, explanatory notes

Education and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

[2108](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 201

[2109](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 201, explanatory notes

## Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[2110](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Pullen Pullen Reserve Nature Refuge) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 202

[2111](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) (Pullen Pullen Reserve Nature Refuge) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 202, explanatory notes

## Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984—

[2112](#) Liquid Fuel Supply Regulation 2016, No. 203

[2113](#) Liquid Fuel Supply Regulation 2016, No. 203, explanatory notes

## Economic Development Act 2012—

[2114](#) Economic Development (Herston Quarter PDA) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 204

[2115](#) Economic Development (Herston Quarter PDA) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 204, explanatory notes

[2116](#) Herston Quarter Priority Development Area Interim Land Use Plan

[2117](#) Map No: PDA 11—Herston Quarter Priority Development Area

## Health Act 1937—

[2118](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 205

[2119](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 205, explanatory notes

## Adoption Act 2009—

[2120](#) Adoption (Extension of Eligibility Criteria) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 206

[2121](#) Adoption (Extension of Eligibility Criteria) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 206, explanatory notes

## Water Act 2000—

[2122](#) Water Resource (Logan Basin) Plan (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2016, No. 207

[2123](#) Water Resource (Logan Basin) Plan (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2016, No. 207, explanatory notes

## Water Act 2000—

[2124](#) Water Resource (Moreton) Plan (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2016, No. 208

[2125](#) Water Resource (Moreton) Plan (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2016, No. 208, explanatory notes

## Water Act 2000—

[2126](#) Water Resource (Gold Coast) Plan (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2016, No. 209

[2127](#) Water Resource (Gold Coast) Plan (Postponement of Expiry) Notice 2016, No. 209, explanatory notes

## Sustainable Planning Act 2009—

[2128](#) Sustainable Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2016, No. 210

[2129](#) Sustainable Planning Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2016, No. 210, explanatory notes

## Duties Act 2001—

[2130](#) Duties (Declared Public Unit Trusts) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 211

[2131](#) Duties (Declared Public Unit Trusts) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 211, explanatory notes

## Hospitals and Health Boards Act 2011—

[2132](#) Hospitals and Health Boards Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 212

[2133](#) Hospitals and Health Boards Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2016, No. 212, explanatory notes

## Education (General Provisions) Act 2006—

[2134](#) Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 213

[2135](#) Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 213, explanatory notes

## Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014—

[2136](#) Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Transitional Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 214

[2137](#) Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Transitional Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 214, explanatory notes

## Evidence Act 1977—

[2138](#) Evidence (Corresponding Witness Identity Protection Certificates) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 215

[2139](#) Evidence (Corresponding Witness Identity Protection Certificates) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 215, explanatory notes

## MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Glass House (Mr Powell)—

[2140](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the Gantry Day Use Area of Mt. Mee National Park

Member for Gympie (Mr Perrett)—

[2141](#) Nonconforming petition regarding an inquiry into Gympie Regional Council

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[2142](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any Bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

**Limitation of Actions (Child Sexual Abuse) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016**

Amendments made to Bill \*

Clause 10 (Insertion of new pt 13A)—

At page 23, lines 3 to 33—

*Correction of formatting to remove duplication of subsection numbering in section '103T When notice must be given'—*

*Omit—*

'(1)', '(a)', '(b)', '(c)', '(2)', '(3)', '(4)', '(5)' and '(6)'.

At page 25, lines 2 to 30, and page 26, lines 1 to 7—

*Correction of formatting to remove duplication of subsection numbering in section '103V Judgment'—*

*Omit—*

'(1)', '(a)', '(b)', '(c)', '(d)', '(e)', '(f)', '(g)', '(2)', '(3)', '(4)', '(a)', and '(b)'.

**Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2015**

Amendments made to Bill

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

*Omit—*

'Water Legislation Amendment Act 2015'

*Insert—*

'Water Legislation Amendment Act 2016'.

\* The following page and line number references relate to the Bill, as introduced.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Justice Kiefel, Appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.50 am): On behalf of the parliament I welcome the announcement of the appointment of Justice Susan Kiefel as first female Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. Another Queensland woman has been appointed to high office. Dame Quentin Bryce was our nation's first female governor-general.

Justice Kiefel has had a distinguished and inspiring career. Prior to Justice Kiefel's appointment to the High Court in 2007 she served on the Federal Court and as a judge of the Supreme Court of Queensland. She was admitted to the Queensland bar in 1975 and was the first woman in Queensland to be appointed Queen's Counsel in 1987.

Born in Cairns, Susan Kiefel attended Geebung State Primary School and Sandgate District High School to year 10. After leaving school she took a series of secretarial positions. She worked for a group of prominent Brisbane barristers including Tony Fitzgerald and Martin Moynihan. While working full time she completed her secondary education, and she completed the examinations of the Barristers' Board for admission to the bar with honours. I congratulate Justice Kiefel on her appointment.

### Queensland Australian of the Year Awards



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.52 am): Queensland is an extraordinary state made up of extraordinary people, and every year we stop and take the time to acknowledge Queenslanders who have given back to their community and who have achieved extraordinary things. Last week I hosted the Queensland Australian of the Year Awards. If you ever needed a reminder of how talented Queenslanders are, this was it. I would like to congratulate the four major award winners.

Queensland's Local Hero Award winner is Yasmin Khan, who has devoted her life to breaking down barriers when it comes to ethnic diversity and championing the fight against domestic violence in Queensland communities. The Queensland Young Australian of the Year, Taj Pabari, is a very

impressive 17-year-old who came back from schoolies, by the way, to accept his award. He is an inventor and social entrepreneur who has created a build-it-yourself tablet and coding kit which is being used in schools around the world. The Queensland Senior Australian of the Year, Professor Perry Bartlett, is one of our leading neurological researchers. He is making incredible breakthroughs in the area of cell regeneration in the brain which could dramatically improve the lives of dementia sufferers. The Queensland Australian of the Year is Emeritus Professor Alan Mackay-Sim. Professor Mackay-Sim is leading the way when it comes to stem cell research that could benefit those who suffer from spinal cord injuries.

There were over 500 nominations for these awards, and I can only imagine how difficult it would have been for our selection panel to pick four winners. Now they will go on to represent Queensland at the national awards and, as I said on the night, it is about time we had another Queenslander named Australian of the Year. Good luck to them all!

### Tourism Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.53 am): I have good news for Queensland. We already know that 22.5 million people visited Queensland last year and tourism expenditure in our state was around \$20 billion. We already know that the tourism industry supports 200,000 jobs across Queensland and we will need another 20,000 jobs by 2020. We know that tourism operators reported a booming Easter season and are expecting a strong Christmas season, but we are not going to rest there. We want our tourism industry to be even stronger because that means more job opportunities for Queenslanders.

That is why on Sunday the tourism minister and I launched the latest campaign to lure international and domestic visitors to Queensland. The I Know Just the Place campaign is part of our plan to make Queensland Australia's No. 1 tourist destination. We want to look long term. This is not just about attracting visitors to Queensland next week or a few weeks over Christmas; it is part of a long-term strategy to establish Queensland as Australia's No. 1 tourist destination. It is also Queensland's first major tourism rebranding since 2009 after nothing happened for almost three years under those opposite. I congratulate the minister—who I think is the best Queensland tourism minister we have ever seen—and Tourism and Events Queensland for such a breathtaking campaign which uses Queenslanders to sell Queensland to the world.

The I Know Just the Place campaign will help Queensland's tourism industry go from strength to strength. It features the people who know Queensland, such as Bram Collins from the Undara Experience; Sonya Jeffrey from Ingan Tours; Peter Gash from Lady Elliot Island; Mark and Judy Evans from Paronella Park; and John Henderson from Whitsunday Paradise Explorer. These are the people who will help sell Queensland in markets like China and Japan, where there is a growing middle class who are looking for those off-the-track adventures to boast about. Anyone who has seen the campaign would agree that it shows Queensland's best hidden attractions. The I Know Just the Place campaign is part of our plan to take that growth to the next level and support even more jobs into the future. Queensland is obviously just the place.

### Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.56 am): The Queensland Reconstruction Authority has been managing a reconstruction program worth more than \$13 billion to repair damage from multiple natural disasters endured by Queensland in recent years. This work has been done through the cooperation of local councils and a range of Queensland government agencies and through the joint state and Commonwealth funded Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. The NDRRA provides disaster relief and recovery payments and infrastructure restoration to help communities recover from the effects of natural disasters.

The claim for NDRRA works across impacted communities was submitted to the Turnbull government on 24 March 2016 for reconstruction work undertaken in communities devastated by a series of events. It also went towards rebuilding our iconic ferry terminals and the public transport infrastructure that was destroyed during the 2011 Brisbane floods. Our claim was accompanied by an unqualified audit issued by the Queensland Audit Office, and Queensland was expected to be paid more than \$1 billion due on the 2014-15 claim by 30 June this year. In the past, the Commonwealth has paid these claims in the same financial year they were lodged.

As honourable members know, without warning or consultation the Turnbull government decided that it would withhold the funds owed to Queensland. Indeed, the Deputy Premier and I only became aware of this after a detailed scan of the federal budget papers in May. Honourable members must

understand that funds for Queensland were withheld not because Queensland has done anything wrong, but because the processes of the Turnbull government had been called into question. I am advised that our 2014-15 claim has now been assessed and that the Turnbull government concedes it owes Queensland \$1 billion in disaster relief funding. I want to place on record my thanks to the Deputy Premier for putting forward our case for these funds to be reimbursed by the Turnbull government.

### Child Protection

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.58 am): It is the saddest of realities that a very small number of people in society make a conscious choice to prey on our most vulnerable children. It absolutely sickens me to the core when I see reports of children who have been abused. It is even more abhorrent when the perpetrator is someone close to the children—someone who the child should be able to look to for protection and wellbeing.

Later today the police minister will introduce legislation into the parliament to help police protect our kids. The new legislation will give police enhanced powers to intervene in situations before sexual or other serious offences have been committed against a child. It is specifically aimed at disrupting and preventing recidivist offending. For example, it will allow police to demand passwords and access codes from reportable offenders for their electronic devices if there is a reasonable suspicion that an offence has occurred such as accessing child pornography. If someone does not comply with police, they could face five years in jail. Importantly, we will look to protect our kids in the court system.

The new legislation will prohibit self-represented respondents or reportable offenders from being able to cross-examine children who are witnesses. Kids who have been abused should not have to be scared or intimidated by their alleged abuser in court. The police minister will provide further details when he introduces the bill later today, but rest assured that this government—this parliament—has zero tolerance for child abusers. We will do everything that we can to protect our kids.

### China and Hong Kong, Trade Mission

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.59 am): I would like to inform the House of some of the highlights of my recent trade mission to China and Hong Kong. Our government's mission is focused on creating jobs in Queensland through innovation, infrastructure and investment. This trade mission supported these aims by strengthening our relationships and promoting Queensland's exports, investment opportunities and our world-class international education and training sector.

The mission both strengthened our longstanding partnerships and built new relationships to extend Queensland's reach into emerging fast-growing markets and sources of investment. One of the key outcomes of the trip was the opening of Trade & Investment Queensland's new office in Chengdu, the capital of the Sichuan province. Opening the Chengdu office increases the existing TIQ presence from three to four offices on mainland China and will significantly increase Queensland businesses' access to the growing western China region. There are many opportunities. Chengdu is a centre for business, biotechnology and IT as well as cultural and creative industries.

Chengdu is often called China's Silicon Valley and will be a natural partner for our Advance Queensland policies. It is where 22 per cent of the world's computers are produced and it is the third largest destination in China for big global companies after Beijing and Shanghai. Chengdu is a leader in biotechnology, too. When there I visited Olymvax, a Chengdu company which has partnered with Griffith University's Institute for Glycomics to develop and commercialise a vaccine for group A streptococcus. Half a million people worldwide die from this disease, so these collaborations have the potential to have a huge impact on human health.

Western China and especially Sichuan will also be key growth areas for our agricultural exports, especially beef. As I was told by many people in Chengdu, beef is an essential part of Sichuan cuisine. I think we have a great opportunity to promote Queensland beef as the perfect partner for Sichuan hotpot—a favourite amongst members, I see.

While establishing new relationships in Chengdu, it was also a pleasure to reconfirm our commitment to the Shanghai-Queensland relationship. I joined with the vice-mayor of Shanghai, Chen Yin, to sign the 11th iteration of the Queensland-Shanghai Memorandum of Agreed Cooperation for the period 2017-2019. The MOU is a far-reaching agreement for cooperation on areas from economic development, science and innovation, education and tourism to culture and support. As we approach the 30-year mark of this relationship with China's largest city, its importance continues to grow.

It was also a pleasure to meet alumni of Queensland education in Shanghai, as well as 10 University of Queensland students who are starting internships in Shanghai technology start-ups. These interns will return to Queensland with greater links and knowledge of the large Chinese high-tech market, which will undoubtedly contribute to the future growth of our thriving Queensland IT sector.

Investment is also a key to growing jobs in Queensland, so it was significant that I witnessed the signing of an MOU between TIQ and the China Development Bank, the world's largest development bank. Increased cooperation will drive investment in Queensland infrastructure, industry and businesses, fuelling their expansion. In Hong Kong I met with investors to promote Queensland and to be briefed by executives and tour the Cathay Pacific freight-handling facility, where the first of weekly flights from Brisbane's West Wellcamp Airport arrived with meat and mangoes from Queensland.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** Those opposite also like mangoes. Maybe they are mangoes!

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Hinchinbrook.

**Ms TRAD:** We have a strong and mature relationship with our largest trading partner, China, but we have much scope for growth and building new trading—

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Hinchinbrook, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** All I had to do was mention China!

**Mr SPEAKER:** All right, I withdraw, member for Hinchinbrook—in the spirit of goodwill.

**Ms TRAD:** I think the member for Hinchinbrook's Christmases have all come at once! In conclusion, we have a strong and mature relationship with our largest trading partner, China, but we have much scope for growth and building new trading links to advance Queensland and create jobs.

### Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (10.04 am): I am pleased to inform the House, as we meet for the last sitting of 2016, that since coming to office the Palaszczuk government has returned the Queensland economy to higher economic growth and lower unemployment after three years of the former government.

The 2015-16 budget restored front-line services. It got jobs and growth going again. It delivered a surplus and kept Queensland's public assets in public hands. The 2016-17 budget builds on this success and is delivering more infrastructure and innovation and is attracting more investment. It is also forecasting nation-leading growth and surpluses across the forward estimates.

Both budgets and our overall economic plan have seen confidence make a comeback in Queensland, which means more investment and more jobs. These outcomes have been achieved due to the continued implementation of the government's plan, including our debt action plan and whole-of-balance-sheet initiatives, where we have improved the use of cash surpluses to more strategically manage the state's financial position.

Our clear economic plan has been recognised by the key ratings agencies. Moody's and S&P Global have both confirmed the state's AA-plus rating, with S&P citing the 'very strong economy, strong financial management and budgetary performance, and low contingent liabilities'.

This government is about economic growth, improving services to Queenslanders and delivering jobs. We have increased the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant to \$20,000 to help Queenslanders achieve their dream of owning their own home while supporting existing and new jobs in the building industry and supply sector. We have begun the rollout of our \$100 million Back to Work Regional Employment Package, and of course members will be aware that the Youth Boost, a \$20,000 incentive that commences this Thursday, is designed to target young people aged between 15 and 24 into employment in regional Queensland. We continue to support businesses employing apprentices and trainees, increasing the payroll tax rebate for eligible apprentices from 25 per cent to 50 per cent. Members would already be aware of the strong response to the government's market-led proposals initiative. To date, four projects have been announced valued at more than \$700 million, with the potential to support more than 1,600 jobs during construction and generate more than \$2 billion in wider economic benefits.

All of these projects create jobs. I am pleased to see that Queensland's trend unemployment rate fell to six per cent in October 2016. That is 0.6 percentage points lower than when the Palaszczuk government was elected in January 2015. We know that there is more to do, especially in regional Queensland. That is why our regions are a focus of our economic plan.

Progress continues on the impressive \$1.1 billion health, aged-care, residential and retail destination on the former children's hospital site at Herston. A \$512 million Logan Motorway enhancement project has proceeded to the final binding contract. We continue to work closely with the NRL, the Australian government and the Townsville City Council to secure good-value arrangements for the new North Queensland stadium. We have created the \$24 billion Energy Queensland, the largest power company in Australia, which will achieve savings of around \$680 million by 30 June 2020. The Queensland Productivity Commission has delivered its first two major inquiries into the Queensland electricity sector and has developed its work program for 2016-17, including an inquiry into Queensland manufacturing.

The Palaszczuk government came to office promising a better way for Queensland. Thanks to this government's responsible economic management, I am pleased to say that unemployment is lower, debt is lower and economic growth is higher compared to when the government was elected to office. Under the Palaszczuk government the Queensland economy has improved, confidence is back and optimism has returned for a more prosperous future for Queenslanders.

### Health Infrastructure

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.08 am): Earlier this month I had the pleasure of officially opening the new \$17.5 million Alpha multipurpose health service in central west Queensland. What a great day it was.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take that interjection. I welcomed the member for Gregory to the opening and we had a great morning. I am delighted to say that more than half the town turned out to celebrate the opening of Queensland's first co-located health and emergency services facility. In every community I visit it is clear that Queensland Health is very much a part of the fabric of local life. As our communities grow and evolve, it is of vital importance that our health infrastructure and services keep pace with their needs. I thank the members of the opposition for their support of this important Labor government project.

That is what the health department's current capital investment budget of nearly \$1.4 billion is doing. This money is funding more than 200 projects and supporting an estimated 1,500 jobs throughout our great state. It is why since forming government we have committed to new projects valued at more than \$500 million. It is why we are delivering in partnership with Australian Unity the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment project, which will include a new 132-bed public specialist rehabilitation and ambulatory care centre. Excellent progress has also been made towards finalising Australia's first new tertiary hospital for 20 years—the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, a hospital that was a vision of Labor and will be delivered by Labor, with the all-important tasks associated with commissioning the facility about to commence. You can already see the transformational potential that facility will have on the local Sunshine Coast economy with a private hospital, the Sunshine Coast Health Institute, new hotel accommodation and retail and cafe facilities in the immediate vicinity.

You can see the impact of health infrastructure investment in Roma, where we are investing in a brand-new \$70 million hospital with demolition works to pave the way for the new hospital to start in December. In Gladstone, we are fast-tracking the planning for a new \$42 million emergency department, work on which should start in late 2017. We are on track to go to market early next year for an upgrade to the Caloundra Hospital and the Hervey Bay Hospital emergency department, both part of our \$180 million Enhancing Regional Hospitals program. In the Far North of our state we are investing in health infrastructure projects in remote communities such as the \$6.3 million refurbishment of the Aurukun Primary Health Care Centre, the \$36 million redevelopment of the Thursday Island Hospital and the refurbishment of other health clinics on islands and communities throughout the Torres Strait.

In every corner of our state we are improving health infrastructure and delivering jobs through our capital program. By 2026 we want Queenslanders to be the healthiest people in the world, and with that goal in mind the Palaszczuk government is committed to maintaining and improving health services for Queenslanders no matter where they live.

### Unsworth, Mr T

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.11 am): Every child deserves to feel safe, accepted and valued at home, at school and in the community. I am sure I speak on behalf of all members of the Queensland parliament in offering our deepest sympathies to Tyrone Unsworth's family, friends and school community. Only those who have lost a child can truly understand the loss and pain his family are experiencing. Tyrone's story is heartbreaking. As a community, we have failed Tyrone and he deserved so much better. The reality is that we know that 80 per cent of homophobic bullying occurs in schools and young people who identify as LGBTI are three times more likely to experience depression. We must do more to support all young people to feel safe and supported.

That is why as a government we made Safe Schools Coalition Australia resources available in Queensland schools and why we have made our Respectful Relationships curriculum available to all schools—a recommendation of the Quentin Bryce *Not now, not ever* report. This program helps students from prep to year 12 build and maintain respectful relationships and self-respect and understand gender equality and diversity. We have to work towards an end to bullying and discrimination of the LGBTI community—from the schoolyard to the workplace. Real changes start with us. Today I will meet with P&Cs Queensland, principals associations and the Queensland Teachers' Union. We want to learn from Tyrone's story to see what more can be done to end tragedies like this and stop them from happening again.

Finally, I also want to acknowledge the Aspley State High School principal, leadership team, staff and community. We know the principal and teachers have wrapped their arms around the school community, ensuring counselling and guidance officers are available to staff and students. I also want to acknowledge the member for Aspley for her deep and genuine concern for her local school community. I am sure the thoughts of all members are with the school community during this very difficult time.

### Child Protection

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.13 am): Building a stronger child protection system is my highest priority. Today I can announce that I will be requiring parents who consent to an intervention parental agreement with the department of child safety to undergo mandatory and random drug testing if there is any suspicion of drug use. There are currently 19,037 children subject to an IPA in Queensland where parents have agreed to work with Child Safety to ensure their kids are properly cared for at home. Today I have announced a zero tolerance measure that puts the safety of children first and foremost.

Right across the state Child Safety workers are telling me that drugs, in particular ice, are an increasing challenge to their work, undermining their efforts to work successfully with families. They tell me that more and more parents are using ice and it is impacting on the family's ability to keep kids safe. We know that ice is a problem right across Queensland. It presents a real challenge not just to police and our health workers but also to our Child Safety officers when it comes to making an assessment about whether or not parents are up to the job of looking after their children safely. In fact, over the past eight years the number of families staff work with who have a problem with drugs or alcohol has increased from 47 per cent to 65 per cent. This is why we are now requiring parents to agree to mandatory random drug testing as a precondition for entering into an intervention with parental agreement with my department. This is about keeping kids safe. If mum and dad are not up to the job because they are using drugs, then we must take action. This will give our hardworking Child Safety officers another tool to use when making the assessment and will help them make the right decisions to keep kids safe. The safety of children has to be our highest priority.

I am rebuilding the child protection system in Queensland. I am recruiting an additional 129 front-line staff this financial year, with nearly all of them to be in place by January.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! The minister is making a ministerial statement. She is not being provocative. I urge the member for Kawana.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** There are an additional 129 full-time staff, of whom most will be in place by January. Every day I am demanding more from my department, as we all should, on investigation and assessment time frames, and the early signs are promising. We have not backed away from implementing all of the recommendations from the commission of inquiry—in fact, all of them are underway—and we have a record investment in early intervention and prevention to keep families safely

together before small problems become big problems. In fact, 15,000 Queensland families have accessed our Family and Child Connect services, more than 20,000 Queenslanders have signed up to the free Triple P parenting course and, of course, we are calling on each and every one of us in the community to play their part with a \$2 million campaign to make child safety everyone's business, because raising a child takes a village and all Queensland kids deserve a safe and happy childhood where they can reach their full potential.

### **Fitzroy Basin, Water Resources**

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (10.17 am): I am pleased to announce a major boost for Central Queensland's agriculture industry with tenders to be called this Friday for more than 50,000 megalitres of unallocated water reserves in the Fitzroy Basin. Up to 50,250 megalitres of water is being made available for the local community to drive job-creating development. This water will be drawn from the general reserves of unallocated surface water and groundwater covered by the Fitzroy Basin water resource plan. Surface water is being made available from unallocated general reserves in the Isaac-Connors, Lower Mackenzie, Upper Dawson and Fitzroy subcatchments and in the Don and Dee rivers and the Alma Creek water management area. Groundwater will be available from the Isaac-Connors, Callide, Highlands, Carnarvon and Fitzroy groundwater management areas.

There is a significant amount of demand for water in the Fitzroy Basin from a diverse range of industries. At least 75 per cent of the available water will be distributed for agricultural purposes, with up to 25 per cent of the available water to be provided for other industries such as intensive livestock feedlots and small scale mining. A variety of water licences will be made available to accommodate the differing needs of water users. Importantly, water licences will include conditions to protect the environment and existing water users' access rights to water. My Department of Natural Resources and Mines will be running public information sessions in the coming weeks in Central Queensland about the tender process. Applications will be open until 23 February 2017.

This is the third release of water to Queensland's rural landholders in the past 13 months. My department called tenders in October last year for unallocated water from the Great Artesian Basin. A total for 1,780 megalitres of water entitlements was allocated to a range of agricultural projects, including feedlots and piggeries, across Central and South-West Queensland. Formal letters of offer were sent earlier this month to successful tenderers in Cloncurry, Richmond, Hughenden and other northern gulf areas for water from the Flinders, Gregory, Leichhardt, Norman and Nicholson rivers catchments. These releases of water are a further demonstration of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to supporting the growth of Queensland's agricultural industry and our regional economies.

### **Queensland Rail, Train Crew**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games) (10.20 am): I wish to provide the House with of an update on the Citytrain crewing issues. As I have previously advised the House, the Palaszczuk government recently doubled Queensland Rail's train crewing recruitment target, announcing an additional 100 drivers and 100 guard positions to ensure that we have enough train crew to deliver the services that the travelling public deserves into the future. Let us not forget that the last major recruitment of drivers before December last year under the Palaszczuk government was in 2011 under another Labor government undertaken by the now Premier. We have heard details before in this place about the job losses suffered by Queensland Rail during the intervening period and, frankly, we are now playing catch-up.

Targeting recruitment is a critical first step in delivering on the government's five-point plan, because we need a pool of recruits to enter into the training programs as soon as possible so that we have the train crew numbers that we need going forward. That is why I was pleased to confirm yesterday that a number of candidates have progressed through the first stage of testing to become a trainee driver or guard as part of Queensland Rail's fast-tracked recruitment.

As I have informed the House previously, Queensland Rail received 394 applications for a trainee driver position and 505 applications to be a trainee guard in the latest round of recruitment. Now, all applicants have undergone the first stage of testing and we can report that 231 driver candidates and 227 guard candidates have progressed to the second stage.

Panel interviews began last week—on 21 November—and psychomotor testing is now underway to test candidates' situational awareness, reaction time, visual coordination, stress recovery and speed and trajectory judgement. It is critical that candidates undergo rigorous testing to ensure that they are the right people for the job. These are safety-critical roles.

Drivers need to learn thousands of signals, whistle boards and stopping points. Before the driver even gets to the classroom, there is extensive testing for competency, attention span and concentration levels, because safety is Queensland Rail's No. 1 priority. A train can travel up to 140 kilometres an hour and there can be up to 700 passengers on a fully loaded train. We need to maintain rigorous standards to find the right candidate and ensure that high safety standards are always maintained.

Queensland Rail is now quickly moving to fill these safety-critical roles through a process that involves short-listing, interviews, psychomotor assessments and medical assessments in line with national standards. Training for drivers and guards is competency based and involves a range of learning modules, including theoretical and practical components. Queensland Rail is currently investigating opportunities to accelerate current training time frames, as I am currently advised that it can take around 12 months to become a qualified train driver and about three months to become a qualified train guard.

As part of the government's five-point plan, I have tasked Queensland Rail with doing everything that we can to speed up the training process, but safety must always be the key. To that end, I have been advised that discussions have been held with Melbourne Metro about working together to boost training capacity in Queensland. That offer was made at the start of the month to the acting CEO and is being considered. I should note that I am advised that Melbourne trains utilise significantly different train systems and, therefore, that we need to proceed carefully in assessing whether this offer would assist in the speeding up of training. That work is currently underway in line with the five-point plan and nothing has been ruled out at this stage.

On our recruitment drive, Queensland Rail has finalised the internal recruitment process. It will assess the capacity and ability of all applicants and, where further vacancies exist, look at external recruitment. I will continue to work closely with Queensland Rail to successfully deliver the five-point plan and look at options to ensure that we can fast-track plans to bring on the more drivers and guards that we need.

### **Justice Kiefel, Appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia; Queensland Law Reform Commission, Report**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.24 am): I start by joining the Premier in congratulating Justice Susan Kiefel on her appointment to the highest office in the highest court of this country as the first female Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia. I look forward to the day that we do not need to acknowledge the fact it is females taking up these appointments in our highest courts, in our parliaments, in our governments, in our boardrooms and in our executive positions and that it becomes the norm. Of course, Justice Kiefel is there because of her distinguished career on the bench and in the legal profession. Her journey to that position is inspirational. I hope that she will inspire many female law students and women in the legal profession to aim high. I congratulate Justice Kiefel on her appointment.

Today, I am pleased to table the Queensland Law Reform Commission's report, titled *Expunging criminal convictions for historical gay sex offences*.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Law Reform Commission: Report No. 74—Expunging criminal convictions for historical gay sex offences, August 2016 [\[2143\]](#).

In Queensland, consensual adult male homosexual activity was decriminalised in Queensland in 1991 in recognition that this type of private, consensual activity is not a matter of concern for our criminal justice system. This was unquestionably a significant reform. There has since been a call in Queensland and elsewhere for complementary law reform to ensure that members of our community are not burdened by the stigma caused by such criminal convictions and charges.

This reform is an expungement scheme. The legal position in Queensland is complicated. In the past, the scope of the repealed Criminal Code offences may have been applied to both the consensual and non-consensual acts. I thank the commission for its report and for considering the challenges and practicalities of a scheme. I acknowledge the extensive public consultation process undertaken to obtain the views of stakeholders. Likewise, I want to formally thank all respondents who have contributed to the development of the report.

The report recommends the creation of a legislative expungement framework to enable eligible persons to apply under an administrative scheme for expungement on a case-by-case basis. We are committed to progressing the necessary legislation to establish an expungement scheme, which is why I am pleased to inform the House that, in addition to tabling the QLRC report, today, I am releasing a draft bill for consultation representing the government's genuine commitment to provide justice to those

people who have waited so long. I am writing to the opposition and the crossbench members as part of that consultation and hope that we can have support across this chamber in our efforts to address this historic wrong.

The proposed scheme enables expungement applications for certain eligible offences to be made to and decided by the director-general of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. Applications for expungement will be considered against available official records and appropriate criteria. The draft bill reflects to the greatest extent the commission's recommendations. However, there are some aspects that depart from the report. Rather than the expungement scheme applying only to historical repealed offences under the Criminal Code, which were concerned with sexual activity that were described as acts of gross indecency, the government's proposed scheme will allow persons convicted or charged with certain historical public morality offences to also apply for expungement. These cover scenarios where the alleged immorality, namely the behaviour that the charge was grounded on, was based on consensual homosexual actions. As recommended by the commission, the proposed expungement scheme is concerned with historical consensual homosexual activity and will not apply to contemporary offending.

I look forward to receiving feedback on the proposed expungement scheme, with the legislation to be introduced in the first part of 2017. This is a chance for some closure for Queenslanders who continue to be hurt by the legacy of decades-old discrimination—wrongs inflicted by a past regime in a Queensland that is very different from the modern state that we enjoy today. As a parliament, we should apologise to those Queenslanders for these historic wrongs and for the hurt that followed them in the decades since. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is delivering this important reform.

## COMMITTEES

### Membership

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.28 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the member for Gladstone, Mr Butcher, be discharged from the Agriculture and Environment Committee and the member for Stretton, Mr Pegg, be appointed to the committee as chair;

That the member for Stretton, Mr Pegg, be discharged from the Finance and Administration Committee and the member for Logan, Mr Power, be appointed to the committee;

That the member for Greenslopes, Mr Kelly, be discharged from the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee and the member for Bundaberg, Ms Donaldson, be appointed to the committee;

That the member for Lytton, Ms Pease, be discharged from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the member for Pine Rivers, Ms Boyd, be appointed to the committee;

That the member for Logan, Mr Power, be discharged from the Transportation and Utilities Committee and the member for Lytton, Ms Pease, be appointed to the committee;

That the member for Logan, Mr Power, be discharged from the Ethics Committee and the member for Stretton, Mr Pegg, be appointed to the committee; and

That the member for Stretton, Mr Pegg, be discharged from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and the member for Greenslopes, Mr Kelly, be appointed to the committee as deputy chair.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.30 am), by leave without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the sessional orders, for this Thursday's sitting, after the introduction of any private members' bills, government business take precedence over all other business until the special adjournment is moved, except for the lunch and dinner breaks.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Reports

 **Hon. L SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.31 am): I table the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report titled *Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*.

*Tabled paper:* Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, November 2016 [\[2144\]](#).

I also table report No. 99 of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee titled *Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall*. I commend the committee's report and recommendations to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 99—Report on a complaint by Mr Darren Hall [\[2145\]](#).

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.32 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House:

1. supports the LNP's policy agenda to develop Northern Australia and in particular North Queensland;
2. supports the establishment of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) to encourage investment in infrastructure that benefits Northern Australia, including, port, road, rail and water infrastructure; and
3. calls on the Palaszczuk government to support investment decisions by the NAIF to progress projects in North Queensland.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Justice Kiefel, Appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (10.32 am): The opposition congratulates Justice Kiefel on her appointment as Chief Justice. She is an outstanding Queensland lawyer and a welcome appointment. She is a fellow alumnus from my old firm, Cannan and Peterson. I am very glad to see her appointed to that role.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr WALKER:** Yes, that is right. I would like to say I taught her all I know; I do not think that is correct. I welcome the Attorney-General's tabling today of moves towards expunging historical gay sex convictions and also issues in relation to the gay panic defence. These are issues that the member for Southern Downs and I raised a year or so ago. In principle we are certainly in favour of those issues. We understand there is detail to be looked at and we look forward to perusing what the Attorney-General has tabled.

The weeks since parliament last sat have not been a happy time for justice in Queensland. The more we see of the Attorney-General's dithering and issues bubbling to the surface, the more we know that the justice system is in trouble. We have seen the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, something that was meant to be very high on the agenda of this government, take two years to get in place. The government passed legislation in May this year, but forgot to appoint anyone to the council for six months until a story appeared in the *Courier-Mail*. When it did it was all lights, camera, action and suddenly resumes were flying around in a desperate attempt to appoint 12 people to that council. What was missed in the mad panic is that one of the appointees had some question marks over his merit. One of the people appointed promotes on his blog the Hells Angels so-called poker run. We know the government is soft on bikies, but this takes it to another level. This is someone who has said that the Hells Angels poker run was harmless fun and that the Hells Angels were misunderstood by the media. This is not, in broad terms, a person who is an acceptable appointee to this committee. Any Sentencing Advisory Council report is now tainted by that. This was on the same day that Taskforce Maxima picked up 16 Hells Angels bikies on 232 offences. What sort of message is that sending to the people of Queensland?

In relation to youth detention, we have seen issues with the government's management at two centres, particularly the centre in Townsville. There were riots in both August and recently, leaving one member of staff with severe injuries and perhaps the loss of sight in one eye. Not only are youth running riot in the suburbs of Townsville, they are running riot in the detention centres as well. Now we have 49 17-year-olds about to go there with no plan and no budget. We saw the terms of reference for the investigation into youth detention centres altered after three months because they were not wide enough to cover all of the complaints. Keeping our state safe from crime is a prime responsibility of this government. It is a responsibility neither the government nor the Attorney-General is fulfilling.

### LNP Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (10.35 am): Talk about saying it with feeling! All we need to do is look at the member for Kawana to see what a crisis in the justice system looks like. We have one of the best Attorneys-General Queensland has ever had serving as the Attorney-General right now. We remember the crisis in the legal fraternity under the LNP when it was in government. Those opposite want to forget, but the people of Queensland remember. What the people of Queensland also know is that our good friend, Senator Brandis, has let the two worst kept secrets in Queensland out of the bag. The first is that the LNP is still deeply divided and is looking to split. We all know that the Leader of the Opposition was elected by only two votes. By pandering to his mates in the right he finally got elected with a difference of two votes. We know half of them did not want him as the leader. George Brandis has put it out there. Now there is the opportunity for those opposite to split and do what we know they want to do here in Queensland.

That is not all the senator shone a light on. He said what every single Queenslanders knows—although I thought he was quite generous—and that is that the LNP is very, very mediocre. When asked about how the Leader of the Opposition is doing in his new job, what did Senator Brandis have to say about his good friend? 'Oh well, not very good,' said the senator. Not a truer word has been spoken.

**Mr Dick:** Bring back John-Paul!

**Ms JONES:** Bring back John-Paul! Bring back 'the Borg'!

**Mr Mander:** Old news!

**Ms JONES:** It is not old news. I take the interjection. Tim, you might have your chance back, mate. The member for Everton might get his chance to be leader after all.

**Ms Trad:** I think the member for Buderim. Give him a go.

**Ms JONES:** Yes, the member for Buderim. What is very telling is what other LNP members had to say about their good friend. Did they leap to his defence? Did his former ex-BFF Campbell Newman come out supporting him? No. On Andrew Bolt's show he said, 'I agree with Senator Brandis.' A lady who I have a lot of respect for, the honourable member for Ryan, Jane Prentice, who is a very decent woman, served with the Leader of the Opposition on the council for over a decade. What did she have to say?

**Mr Dick:** Knows him well!

**Ms JONES:** She knows him very well. 'It was a bit harsh,' said Jane Prentice. 'A shame that a private comment has been made public.' That is what we know about the LNP: they want everything that is public to be private. That is what those opposite stand for. We saw it when Tim was the treasurer in Queensland. We have seen it with him as the Leader of the Opposition. He will not come clean on where he stands when it comes to assets. His own LNP members have demonstrated they have no faith in his ability to lead the opposition here in Queensland. They described his efforts as being mediocre at best. Isn't that true! When we travel up and down this state people tell us that they have no faith in the LNP. They know that they will not stand up for them and will sell their assets.

### Minister for Child Safety

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (10.39 am): Yet again I rise in this House to highlight the grave failures of the embattled Minister for Child Safety. Yet again we have more damning evidence that the child safety system throughout the state is in crisis. Yet again we see a minister so desperate to cling on to her portfolio that she fails to even acknowledge critical issues in her own department. Yet again we see Queensland children suffering as a result. For too long we have seen the Minister for Child Safety spinning the figures any which way in her attempt to hide the damage done under her leadership of this critical department. This time the leaked October performance data shows a system falling deeper and deeper into crisis as it continues to buckle under this minister. Worst of all, until recently

this minister claimed this data did not even exist or that it was not readily available. After looking at this data we can see why. The data shows call centres assessing calls of suspected abuse are being swamped because the cases are not even graded. Thousands of cases are not being assessed each month, with October's data showing about 3,000 reports of abuse into child safety call centres around the state being left open awaiting assessment. Hundreds of cases were left open. Fifteen per cent of urgent cases requiring a 24-hour response were missed. Only one per cent of 10-day responses in the south-east was actioned in time. In the Far North, 34 per cent of urgent cases were not dealt with in time.

Each one of those numbers is a child at risk in Queensland right now, waiting for Child Safety to come knocking. Under this minister's watch, how many children are being abused as we speak, waiting for cases to make their way to a child safety officer? Of course, we have the tragic case of Mason Jet Lee. Queenslanders deserve to know the truth and time has run out for the minister, who continually hides behind reviews. It should not take opposition RTIs to force this secretive Labor government to reveal critical information into the goings-on in Child Safety. Today we have the thought bubble from the minister regarding changes to a child safety procedure that already exists. Mandatory drug testing would not have saved Mason Jet Lee, given that he was never sighted by a child safety officer before an intervention with parental agreement was taken out. The minister cannot guarantee—

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. I have a concern about a matter that is being raised in the House that is before the criminal court in this state. Mr Speaker, I ask that you provide some guidance to the member.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, can you assure me that your comments are not sub judice?

**Ms BATES:** I can. I am talking about the department's processes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, while you might be talking about the department process, my advice is that those are matters currently before the court. I urge you to refrain from making those comments.

**Ms BATES:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will go on. The minister cannot guarantee children will not be left with drug addict parents even after the parents test positive, as it will be left to individual case officers to decide. When is this minister going to take responsibility? When will this minister put the child safety system before her career? Meanwhile, we see horrifying reports that, under this minister's watch, in remote communities girls as young as 12 are being fitted with contraceptive implants. That is a dangerous practice. What has this minister done? Absolutely nothing! The big questions remain: how many of those young girls are known to Child Safety, how many more children will be harmed under this minister and how many more failures will be—

*(Time expired)*

### LNP Opposition, Performance

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.43 am): What an extraordinary couple of weeks it has been for the LNP since the parliament last met. Last week we had the uncharacteristically insightful comment by Senator George Brandis that, under the leadership of the member for Clayfield, the opposition was not just mediocre; it was not very mediocre but was very, very mediocre. If there is one subject that Senator Brandis is qualified to speak about, it is mediocrity. It is fair to say that some men are born mediocre, other men achieve mediocrity and others have mediocrity thrust upon them. In the case of the Leader of the Opposition, it is all three. The member for Southern Downs and the members of the LNP must be completely bewildered about the point of the coup for leadership that was conducted by the LNP last May.

However, I am pleased to say that there is hope, because not only did Senator Brandis, an LNP senator from Queensland, identify the problem but he also identified the solution. He was quick to say that they should bring the miserable, ramshackle, loveless sham of a marriage to an end. The LNP should face the truth and knock it over. Of course, out of the rubble will come opportunity and not just for the member for Southern Downs but also the member for Everton, because the member for Everton will be able to pursue his quixotic obsession for failed leadership bids. He will be able to continue his quixotic but so far failed bid for the leadership of the LNP.

In the week before that, we had Campbell Newman skulking around like a shady character, having shady meetings with One Nation. It was real cloak and dagger stuff, although when it comes to Campbell Newman it is always less cloak and more dagger, which he put straight into the heart of the

LNP and his close friend and confidant, the member for Clayfield. He belted the cat on his failed leadership. Campbell Newman, the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP need to come clean. How long have they been pining for Pauline? They want to do the deal. We know they want to do the deal. No longer does he have to say it is hypothetical, as he said on radio yesterday. The Leader of the Opposition can rule out a deal with One Nation and there are 30 seconds left before he can get up to say that.

**A government member:** Talk about your portfolio.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection. I would be happy to talk about my portfolio if one of those opposite had the guts to ask me a question. The dictionary defines mediocre as ordinary. It is clear that the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP are willing to sell Queensland out to the One Nation party—

*(Time expired)*

### **McConnell, Mr D; Justice Kiefel, Appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia; LNP Opposition, Achievements**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.46 am): Today in this place, I start by acknowledging someone from my own electorate: the undies hero, Daniel McConnell, who did a terrific job chasing down someone who had been charged in the electorate. Daniel has four kids at Hendra State School, which I attended on Thursday morning to chat with the P&C. Daniel is a great local guy. He is always quick to offer to flip sausages on the barbecue. He is a terrific example of a local hero. I also join the shadow Attorney-General in congratulating Justice Susan Kiefel on her appointment as Chief Justice of the High Court. That is a terrific appointment.

While the inexperienced Palaszczuk government stumbles from one crisis to the next, the LNP is out listening to Queenslanders about the issues that are important to them. Queenslanders are telling us that nothing is happening. Their communities have been forgotten by Labor. They are falling behind under an incompetent government that is afraid of making decisions and ministers who simply are not up to the job of managing their portfolios. Alarming, we lead the nation in job losses with over 16,900 jobs lost last month. Our domestic economy is going backwards, wages growth is amongst the lowest in the country and all we have is political gains by those opposite. What does this mean? It means that Queenslanders are missing out on the opportunity to get ahead. Things are getting tougher for them because Labor is not working. Queenslanders are telling us that they want to see their political leaders step up and outline positive ideas for the state, which is what the LNP opposition has been delivering while the Palaszczuk government has been sitting on its hands. All the government has done is to appoint more commissions and more reviews. We have had review upon review—130 of them.

It has been the LNP that has forced this government into action in so many areas. It was the LNP that first introduced new planning laws to simplify the system and improve our communities. It was the LNP that acted to provide certainty through moving towards four-year fixed parliamentary terms. It was the LNP that introduced changes to provide better health coverage for our dedicated firefighters who contract cancer. It was the LNP that paved the way to improve fire detection in houses following the Slacks Creek fire. It was the LNP that led the charge to reduce the rate of smoking amongst Queenslanders. It was the LNP that introduced changes to improve the state's mental health system and it was the LNP that forced this government to have an inquiry into black lung disease. We put Mason's Law through the parliament to ensure children suspected of being abused and who came to the attention of childcare workers were reported to Child Safety. It is the LNP that has a plan to get Queensland moving again.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will commence question time, which will finish at 11.48 am.

## **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

### **Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.48 am): My first question is to the Minister for Child Safety. I table working documents detailing internal Child Safety performance data for October, which is information that the minister previously claimed, in response to question on notice No. 1804, was not standard reporting and refused to disclose.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Child Safety Month I&A Report' [[2146](#)].

My question is this: did the minister refuse to disclose this data because it was a damning indictment of her department's failing performance?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** As the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Mudgeeraba well know, these are working documents where data has not been properly entered by staff and has not been checked by any supervisors or managers. We are still in the reporting period. As the LNP well knows, Child Safety performance data is released quarterly and it takes at least three months for data to be washed and checked to present an accurate picture and so that all the data is entered.

Let us have a look at the data that was presented by the LNP. If they want to get into a debate about accountability and transparency then I welcome that debate. The LNP released data on a quarterly basis just like we do. Sometimes it took three to four months for the LNP to release their performance data. Data that is collected at a snapshot in time does not give you a correct picture.

What I have said consistently is that the LNP needs to stop playing politics with the child safety system. It is not just me saying that. Today we have an unprecedented example of the Queensland Child Protection Week committee releasing a media statement calling on the LNP to stop playing politics with child safety and to stop walking away from the bipartisan support for the recommendations of the Child Protection Commission of Inquiry.

The media release, which I table, talks about how all of us need to take responsibility for child protection. The members of the Child Protection Week committee are long-time advocates and supporters of child protection in this state. They are calling on the LNP to offer bipartisan support for the work that we are doing.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, undated, from the Chairperson, Queensland Child Protection Week Committee, Ms Elisabeth Kobierski, titled 'Child Protection—It's Up to Us' [2147].

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! I apologise, Minister. Leader of the Opposition, you have a chance for a further question. I would urge you not to push it too far. I urge the Deputy Premier not to respond to provocation.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I have taken responsibility for overhauling the child protection system and for putting in place 129 new staff after those opposite sacked 225 full-time staff. As the Child Protection Week committee says in their media release, which is unprecedented in this state, accountability and responsibility are not the same as blame. They call on those opposite to stop playing the blame game and to stop playing politics. What have we heard from the opposition about what they will do to drive a better system, because that is what I do each and every day?

*(Time expired)*

### Minister for Child Safety

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My second question is to the Premier. I refer to the failure to take any action to address the 3,889 intakes revealed in the tabled document which could be Queensland kids reported for suspected abuse that have fallen through the cracks in the department of child safety in the month of October alone. I ask: how does the Premier justify keeping her Minister for Child Safety in this job?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. As we have said time and time again in this House, child safety is everyone's business. It is the responsibility of families and it is also the responsibility of those people who are charged with administering child safety in terms of reporting and looking after our most vulnerable children.

What I will not have in this House is the Leader of the Opposition coming in here and criticising the administration of Child Safety when under his government, when he was treasurer, 225 people—let me say that again because it is highly relevant; 225 people—lost their jobs. What my government is doing and what the Minister for Child Safety is doing is very clear—that is, we are restoring the cuts of those opposite.

We also know that child safety matters are very complex issues that governments right across the nation are dealing with on a daily basis. We understand that the protection of our children is so important and so significant that we are moving rapidly to put on more staff to cope with the growing demand of young people who are being placed in care.

I know from my visits in regional Queensland that what we are dealing with these days are very complex issues and very complex family matters that often involve domestic violence and parents taking drugs. What we have seen today is the minister acting swiftly to look at addressing that by making it mandatory for the drug testing of parents who are consenting to a parental order.

Child safety is everyone's business. We have wonderful organisations that are working night and day to protect our young children. There are a lot of child safety staff who are dealing with complex issues and doing the best they possibly can. Where child safety officers are found not to be performing they have been made redundant.

*(Time expired)*

### **Jobs; Federal Government, Infrastructure Funding**

**Mr MADDEN:** My question without notice is of the Premier. I refer to the state government's commitment to infrastructure and job generation across Queensland. Will the Premier update the House on the role of the federal government in delivering infrastructure in Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Ipswich West for that question. Last week I had the opportunity to take a visit out to Ipswich West. First of all we went to the Rosewood State School. The prep students were able to read a book to me, which was wonderful. We also met with the year 6 students who were graduating. The member for Ipswich West had certificates that we both presented to the students.

What is very clear is that through the work of the Treasurer and the Minister for Education we have a program that is delivering benefits by employing tradies over the Christmas period to work on infrastructure projects. We are making sure that our capital program is being rolled out across our schools. I remember when visiting Roma that the people out there said very clearly that they would not have had a job over the Christmas break if it were not for this program. We are going to see some \$60,000 spent out there. The special education unit will be renovated over the holidays.

We also had the opportunity to go to Tivoli. What a great experience that was. What we are seeing there is the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program delivering jobs and delivering much needed infrastructure for the Tivoli Drive-in. We met with the pastor and the church organisation. We are very much focused on making sure that we are delivering infrastructure that is needed across the electorates of this state.

However, now I turn my attention to Malcolm Turnbull. It is about time we started seeing those opposite urge Malcolm Turnbull to deliver for Queensland when it comes to infrastructure in our state. He can start with the M1 because, frankly, I am sick and tired of him not stepping up to the plate with the fifty-fifty funding. It is about time the Gold Coast members opposite started delivering as well.

It is unacceptable in this day and age that the federal government does not honour its commitments when it comes to funding infrastructure across this state. When we talk about infrastructure in the north, it is about time we got the money out the door for NAIF as well. We will come to that tonight when we have the debate. My message clearly to those opposite is that we want to make sure we get the funds that Queensland needs to continue to build our infrastructure. Why is that important? Because that means jobs for Queenslanders. That is what we will do: we will fight for jobs and they will not.

### **Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services**

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question without notice is to the Premier. In the space of 24 hours we had the Minister for Child Safety refusing to release the 300-page internal systems and practice review into the department's handling of a child known to the department. Then the Premier said she would release the report, only to backtrack hours later and say no. Why was the Premier blindsided on this report by her own minister and will the Premier now commit to releasing it in full in the interests of openness and accountability?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. I will update the House that yesterday I had the opportunity to have a detailed briefing with Cheryl Vardon, the Family and Child Commissioner, about the ongoing report into the investigations surrounding young Mason Lee. Mr Speaker, I am very conscious of the sub judice rule and I will not go into further matters there. What I will update the House on is that I have been advised by Ms Vardon that the systems practice review undertaken by the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services has been robust and thorough. I have also been advised that the decision made by the director-general to stand down staff has not been made lightly. I also support the need for a full review by the Ethical Standards Unit before any final decisions are made to make sure that all staff are accorded natural justice.

I want to come to the issue of the report, the report that has been commissioned and is governed by the Child Protection Act. I have sought legal advice in relation to whether or not, firstly, I can read that report and, secondly, whether I can make it public. I have legal advice that advises me very clearly that there is nothing in the Child Protection Act 1999 that entitles me, as Premier, access to that report. The legal advice also advises me—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Just wait—that the report not be released publicly, noting its inclusion of confidential information and that that matter is before the courts.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, the minister's answer is relevant. If you continue with your interjections, I will make rulings in relation to you and your interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That report has also been forwarded to the Child Death Case Review Panel. The Child Death Case Review Panel report will be released. There is an ongoing criminal investigation into this matter. I have clearly undertaken my responsibilities to the people of Queensland and sought legal advice. I stand by that advice that has been provided to me.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Will the Premier table the legal advice that she is referring to?

**Mr SPEAKER:** No. You do not get a chance for a supplementary question. Someone else may want to ask a different question.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect, Mr Speaker, the Premier has referred to this document within the content of her answer. I would like to see that document tabled, please.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. Premier, do you have anything further you wish to add?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker, can I just reiterate that everyone in this House wants to get to the bottom of what happened to Mason Lee. I want to get to the bottom of it. This is an absolute heartbreaking tragedy. Honestly, no stone will be left unturned here, but we have to let the authorities undertake their job and we have to let the Family and Child Commissioner undertake her job. That is why I sought a briefing with her yesterday to give me an update on the progress of her work and her investigation.

### **Back to Work Program**

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the success of the Palaszczuk government's Back to Work program and any alternative job policies the Premier is aware of?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question about Back to Work and creating jobs in Queensland—something that I am more than happy to keep talking about in this House. Last week I also had the opportunity to visit the member for Maryborough's electorate. Can I say that the member for Maryborough is very well loved in Maryborough! He is very well loved.

**Ms Trad:** Did he have to stalk you like the member for Whitsunday?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No. He was not stalking me. We had the opportunity to go to Wade Sawmill at Maryborough. This is a Queensland business that is growing from strength to strength. Not only is this sawmill protecting its existing workforce; it is actually growing jobs. They have employed not one, not two, not three but four people through the Back to Work program. When I met Cody and Mark, they said very clearly to me that they were happy to have a job. On this side of the House, we know how important it is to have dignity in work. We know how important it is to have a job.

In Wide Bay alone, over 140 people have got a job through our Back to Work program—140. I want to see more people employed through our Back to Work program. This is a signature policy of my government. Why are we doing it? Because we acknowledge that in regional Queensland people are doing it tough. People can talk about there being a two-speed economy in this state. In South-East Queensland there is a lot of construction and infrastructure happening, but we know from travelling around and listening and talking to people, unlike those opposite, that we are prepared to create policies that respond directly to their needs.

It is so important that we continue to make sure that we are growing jobs. That is what everyone on this side of the House is focused on. I want to thank the member for Maryborough. I want to thank the Minister for Employment for all of her hard work in driving this program, because it will mean more jobs for Queenslanders.

As an update, almost \$3.5 million has been paid out for the Back to Work program and more and more people are getting work. Our latest count is 784 people across Queensland now have a job under this program, and the program has only been operating for a short period of time. On 1 December our Youth Boost comes into play where employers can get \$20,000 for putting a young person on.

### **Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services**

**Ms BATES:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the comments of Alex Scott about the child safety department saying, 'While we will do everything we can to make sure children are the priority in the system, we will not allow our members to become the scapegoats for a failing system.' Premier, when will the government stop scapegoating workers and remove the minister responsible for her failings?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member very much for her question. As we have said very clearly in this House, child safety is everyone's business. I made it very clear that on this side of the House we are absolutely determined to restore the cuts that were made to Child Safety. Honestly, when you are crafting a budget—and this is the mind of the man opposite, the Leader of the Opposition—who actually sits down and says, 'I'm going to make 225 cuts to Child Safety'? That is one of the portfolios—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I cannot understand the mind of a person who actually says, 'Out of a department that is charged with protecting our most vulnerable people'—our most vulnerable children in this state—I'm going to cut 225 staff.' I cannot for the life of me understand how that person could do that.

We understand the pressures on front-line workers. That is why my government is restoring front-line services right across this state in every portfolio. In Health, we only have to look at the 4½ thousand-plus people cut from that portfolio. We are restoring those cuts and making sure that we have the doctors and nurses who are needed across the state. In Education, we are making sure that we have the teachers and teacher aides for our growing state as we have new schools coming online. We have a lot of questions to ask those opposite. It is about time the Leader of the Opposition started to take some responsibility and stand up and be accountable for the cuts that he made.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I asked a question about the scapegoating of workers under this government and whether the Premier will make the minister responsible for her own failings.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am aware of the question. Premier, do you have anything further you wish to add to answer the question?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do, Mr Speaker. I notice that the member opposite selectively quoted Alex Scott, but I recall that Alex Scott also said that staff who have done the wrong thing need to be held to account, and that is what has happened. The Family and Child Commission, which I met with yesterday, confirmed that the right action was taken in relation to that matter. Before I finish, let me quote this to the House about Child Safety—

It is an area that has challenged governments around Australia regardless of their political persuasion. Indeed, it is an area that is highly considered beyond politics. We all want to do the right thing but knowing what the right thing is can be tough.

Who said that?

**Ms Trad:** Who said it?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Who said those words? The Leader of the Opposition is the person who said those words. It should be beyond politics.

### **Disaster Recovery Funding**

**Ms DONALDSON:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Earlier this year the Turnbull government refused to pay around \$1 billion in disaster recovery funding to Queensland. Given the Deputy Premier's role in administering the Queensland Reconstruction Authority, will the Deputy Premier update the House on this important issue?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the honourable member for the question, because I know that the member for Bundaberg is deeply passionate about her community. As the Premier has outlined this morning, yes, it is the case that the Commonwealth government—the Turnbull government—withheld \$1 billion worth of reimbursement for construction works following natural disasters from the state of Queensland. This was money that had been promised in the midyear budget by the Turnbull government—withdrawn without notice and without consultation.

**Mr Springborg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Southern Downs, I am being tolerant this morning. Do not push it too hard.

**Ms TRAD:** This is a key issue for the Bundaberg community because a big part of the outstanding claim of the \$1 billion owed to Queensland is for works undertaken after Tropical Cyclone Oswald left that community devastated. We rebuilt that community in partnership with local government. What was the reason for withholding that \$1 billion? The Turnbull government said that local governments had been making false claims. They blamed local governments. They blamed councils. Now we know it is the Turnbull government that has been making false claims.

As we know, the 2014-15 NDRRA claim was submitted to the Commonwealth ahead of time and with an unqualified audit from the Queensland Audit Office, but instead of councils making false claims, as I said, it was the Turnbull government. They now owe Queensland \$1 billion and an apology. Following the unprecedented assurance process by PWC that was requested by the Commonwealth government, we now know that Queensland's claim stacks up. PWC found that Queensland had implemented a strong framework to administer the NDRRA; that the QAO's audit of our claims was sound; and that there were no material discrepancies identified between the conclusion of QRA and PWC through its sampling of our claims.

We know that throughout this whole process we have stood shoulder to shoulder with local councils, but those opposite have remained silent and refused to lobby their federal counterparts around this very important issue. Maybe their very, very mediocre effort is because sitting at the apex of the natural disaster funding arrangements is none other than Senator Brandis. I call on those opposite to stand up for Queensland and stand up to Brandis.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Before I call the member for Glass House, member for Albert, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action. Member for Toowoomba North, if you persist you will get a similar warning.

### Queensland Rail

**Mr POWELL:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport. As part of the minister's further efforts to duckshove and to avoid responsibility, is the minister considering—

**Mr PITT:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The use of the word 'duckshove' is clearly an inference and I ask that you counsel the member on his behaviour.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, will you repeat your question, deleting that word?

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. As part of the minister's further efforts to avoid responsibility, is the minister considering dismissing the entire Queensland Rail board, including former Labor transport minister John Mickel, for their unwillingness to work with the Strachan review and the acting CEO?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow the question.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for Glass House for the question, because it gives me a chance to reiterate comments that I have made outside this place which I am happy to repeat inside this place. I am, in the first instance, working very closely with Queensland Rail, with the acting CEO and with the board to make sure that we address the issues around the delivery of reliable services for commuters in South-East Queensland now. That is my highest and most important priority.

Equally, it is vitally important that we get to the bottom of the issues and problems that have led to the train crew shortage that is being experienced by the Citytrain network right now. That is why the independent investigation and now inquiry established by the Premier and led by Mr Strachan is so very important. That is why it is very important that Mr Strachan has access to all of the information that can inform him about the decisions and experiences that have led to this situation with the shortage of train crew on our Citytrain network.

I am very pleased that Mr Strachan will be getting access not only to all the documents that are held as I provided them from my office and as I tabled them in this parliament in the last sitting week but also to documents from the Department of Transport and Main Roads. He will also be able to access all the documents that he requires from Queensland Rail including those which stretch back over time. I appreciate that he now has the ability to approach the opposition, as I have approached the opposition, about documents which are relevant to decisions previous governments have made.

**Mr POWELL:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question asked the minister if he is considering sacking the entire Queensland Rail board. The minister has not answered the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, do you have anything further you wish to add?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** Yes, because I was making a number of points to give colour and background in answering the question. As I was saying, the Strachan inquiry will be vitally important in informing the broader community and particularly informing myself as minister, my fellow shareholding minister the Treasurer and, indeed, the whole of the government about what actions we should be taking going forward in relation to making sure that we have the best arrangements for delivery of quality, efficient and reliable rail services here in South-East Queensland and beyond. That is why it is vitally important that we are informed by the Strachan inquiry, and that will inform the decisions we will make going forward.

### Logan Enhancement Project

**Mr POWER:** My question is to the Treasurer. I refer the Treasurer to the recent announcement of the Logan Motorway enhancement project proceeding to the final binding contract stage. Will the Treasurer inform the House of the benefits of the Logan Motorway enhancement project, especially to the Logan community?

**Mr PITT:** I thank the member for Logan for his question. Last Wednesday I joined with the member for Logan as well as my cabinet colleague the Minister for Main Roads, Mark Bailey, and also the health minister in his capacity as the member for Woodridge. It was a very great day. We had furious agreement between the government of the day, the proponent Transurban and also the RACQ and the Queensland Trucking Association. This \$512 million Logan Motorway enhancement project is the first market-led proposal to go through to binding offers stage. This is very important. It is going to be dealing with key congestion spots, which is going to help a lot of people in the Logan area and will make our roads safer. That is a point that has not been lost on me or the Minister for Road Safety.

Around 1,300 jobs are going to be created during the delivery of this particular project. That is vitally important to ensuring that we have people in construction work in Queensland at the right time over the 2½-year construction period. There will be around a billion dollars in benefits over the next 30 years but, importantly, we think there is going to be about \$2 billion worth of additional expansion to the freight and logistics industry in that area. This will allow that expansion. That is one of the key benefits to the local Logan area because it is going to mean jobs. It is going to mean great things for the Logan area.

One of the best things is that it is 100 per cent financed by Transurban and not by the Queensland taxpayer. I did hear from the member for Indooroopilly that that is a problem. Apparently, it is important that this is funded by the government and we are apparently taking credit for something that the private sector is funding. If that is the way he wants to run the finances when he is treasurer one day—and goodness knows when that could be—we all have to be very worried indeed. Let us have a look at how this is being funded. It is being funded by a modest increase in heavy vehicle tolls. This is going to be heavy vehicle tolling, not a toll on motorists. That is something on which we have had great agreement from the Queensland Trucking Association and the RACQ.

Market-led proposals are going to be doing great things in this state. We have another \$215 million worth that are in the detailed assessment phase: the Mount Cotton driver training centre, the Brisbane international cruise terminal and the Queensland Maritime Museum. I do find it pretty galling though that the member for Indooroopilly as the shadow Treasurer had the audacity to criticise those market-led proposals that are still being assessed. I say to the member for Indooroopilly that he is essentially throwing his leader and the former treasurer under a bus. We have received 100 proposals. The opposition leader was too lazy when he was the treasurer to develop a framework to deal with unsolicited proposals. We have heard about George Brandis saying that the member for Indooroopilly was very, very mediocre. We know that he was also labelled very, very lazy. He is so mediocre and he is so lazy that he deserves two 'very', not one.

### Queensland Rail

**Mr EMERSON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport. I refer the minister to the appointment of spin doctor Kym Charlton to manage the minister's reputation, and I ask: how much money is QR diverting away from services to protect the minister rather than manage the railways?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I want to thank the member for Indooroopilly for his question. I think he has misunderstood some fundamentals in relation to the issue to which he is referring. The person, who was temporarily an employee of Queensland Rail, to whom he is referring was appointed by Queensland Rail to deal with Queensland Rail media matters. It was not anything to do with my activities and media roles. Equally, I note, as the acting CEO noted yesterday, that that individual's work that was being done in what was described as the recovery process was completed on Friday.

When we see the shadow Treasurer taking such a keen interest in these matters around Queensland Rail, it gives us an opportunity to reiterate the message to the opposition that they fully cooperate and provide the information they have available to them to Mr Strachan as that informs this very important inquiry process. I want to make sure that they are very cognisant of this and that the shadow Treasurer contemplates, understands and gives advice potentially to his leader about whether that information that might relate to materials and work that the Macquarie Bank or KPMG did for the previous government in order to support plans around the franchising of Queensland Rail—the effective privatisation of Queensland Rail—should be provided to Mr Strachan and he should be given the ability to consider those matters.

I would encourage the member for Indooroopilly to support all of the information becoming available to Mr Strachan and that he continues to do the work that I think will be very informative to all of Queensland about how we can ensure that we deliver the best quality Citytrain services to the commuters in South-East Queensland into the future.

### Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Medical School

**Mr WILLIAMS:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on the proposed establishment of a medical school at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Pumicestone for his strong support for health services in his particular part of Queensland, the Moreton Bay Regional Council area, and in particular his strong support for the great work that the staff of the Caboolture Hospital do.

I regret to inform the House that the federal Minister for Education and Training, Senator Simon Birmingham, continues to stubbornly refuse our request to allocate an additional 15 places needed for the establishment of a medical school at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. This Sunshine Coast University Hospital is the first new tertiary hospital built in Australia for 20 years—not a rebuild, not a relocation, but the first new hospital of its kind built in Australia for 20 years and it will be the only hospital of its kind to operate without a medical school unless the federal government fulfils its responsibilities. If that medical school does not open, I will hold the federal government to account and I will hold it to account every day that it does not open.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjections from the members opposite. They have whinged and moaned about this hospital since it was announced. The whinger and moaner in chief has been the member for Kawana. He has not had one good word to say for the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. He knocked it when it was announced, he knocked it when it was constructed and he knocks it now before it opens. That is because the LNP takes the Sunshine Coast for granted. They have said nothing about it. The member for Maroochydore, the member for Buderim, the member for Noosa, the member for Caloundra, the member for Glass House and the member for Kawana have said nothing to support this hospital. I will tell honourable members who has supported this medical school.

**Ms Trad:** The member for Buderim and Pauline Hanson.

**Mr DICK:** It was the member for Buderim, but he is too busy talking to Pauline Hanson. I take the interjection. There are some LNP members who are willing to stand up for the Sunshine Coast. Of course, that is the federal LNP member for Fairfax, Ted O'Brien, and the federal LNP member for Fisher, Andrew Wallace. They have called on the federal Turnbull government to allocate the 15 additional places. The member for Fairfax, Ted O'Brien, was the most forceful in his criticism of his federal colleagues. He said—

The Federal Government is the only one that can reallocate places and what you're not hearing from the likes of Andrew Wallace and me is that everything's hunky dory, we'll be right. Like hell. We don't have this and we need to keep fighting for it.

I will tell honourable members what I will do as the health minister: I will keep fighting for Queensland. Andrew Wallace will keep fighting for Queensland. Ted O'Brien will keep fighting for Queensland. Where are the LNP members on the Sunshine Coast?

**Ms Jones:** Lazy!

**Mr DICK:** They are completely lazy, mute and silent on this—absolutely silent. We need those 15 places. We need a world-class medical school for the Sunshine Coast if we are to transform the Sunshine Coast community. We do not want more listening tours from the member for Clayfield, who travelled around the countryside listening but did not go to the Sunshine Coast. We want action; we want support; and we want to build a world-class hospital on the Sunshine Coast with a world-class medical school

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Rail

**Mr MANDER:** My question is of the Minister for Transport. Last month Queensland Rail revealed that since the opening of the Redcliffe peninsula rail line the overtime bill for Citytrain drivers and guards approached \$1 million per fortnight, suggesting that to date QR has spent nearly \$4 million on overtime for Citytrain drivers and guards. Will the minister come clean on just how much taxpayers' money has been wasted on this rail mess?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I wish to thank the member for Everton for his question and highlight how important it is that we manage and deal with the issues that are important for Queensland Rail in relation to the driver crew shortage we are experiencing. In relation to the overtime bill, it is certainly true that the driver and crew shortage we have been experiencing has meant that a lot of the load has been carried through overtime by the current cohort of drivers and guards. Drivers earn an average of approximately 30 per cent on top of their base pay in overtime, and that has been the case for a number of years. From 4-18 October this rose to some 38 per cent above their base pay for that period as a result of these pressures and issues that were being experienced in the context of the delivery of what the former CEO described as the 'ambitious' timetable that was implemented on 4 October.

Overtime is a very important component of many workplaces right across our economy where shifts and flexibility are required. From time to time we hear from people in private industry who want to see greater levels of flexibility in the way that overtime can be used, and that is one key management technique. Providing incentives to workers for working unusual or extended hours allows companies to appropriately staff services, and that is one of the measures that Queensland Rail uses. Just as a shop factors in penalty rates for opening on weekends or a hospital pays overtime to ensure that emergency rooms operate and are staffed at all hours, overtime plays a role in ensuring that Queensland Rail can deliver its services.

Queensland Rail will work to return the overtime numbers to within an acceptable range, but we will not compromise on our fatigue standards. That is why the use and the development of overtime which we have seen has been very important, and that is why we will make sure that we have extra training to increase the number of drivers and guards in our train crewing system to be able to respond to and manage the situation. I note and accept—

**Mr MANDER:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on the question of relevance. We do not want a lecture about overtime and the reasons for it. We want to know the amount of money that has been wasted because of this railway mess.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the minister. Can you make your answer relevant to the question, please?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I acknowledge the fact that an average overtime expenditure of 38 per cent rather than 30 per cent is very challenging, and that is not where we want to be going forward. We want to have this in a manageable space and make sure that we deal with these things going forward, and that is why I am happy to make sure that all of the reporting information available through Queensland Rail is made available to the House in the normal way.

### Education, Infrastructure

**Mr BROWN:** My question is of the Minister for Education. Will the minister advise how the former LNP government's public-private partnership is impacting our ability to deliver new school infrastructure today?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for his question and standing up for students so that, no matter where they live in Queensland, they will get access to good quality state schools. Our government is committed to ensuring that not only are we delivering improved schools but we are also building to cater for growth. We are seeing more and more students return to the state school system, which means more and more money has to go into building new classrooms to cater for that growth.

Unfortunately, the then treasurer made a very, very mediocre decision against the advice of the education department. The education department wrote to the then treasurer and said that, if they went down the path of the PPP program over the next five to 10 years, this would impact on the government's ability to build the infrastructure that many local members in this parliament want to deliver locally. That is the advice they received, but in a very, very mediocre decision by the then treasurer—a captain's call by the now Leader of the Opposition—he has hampered our ability to deliver this infrastructure beyond catering for growth.

It is ironic that, in a very, very mediocre act, the member for Cleveland has gone to his local community lobbying for a hall for the Cleveland District State High School and he has done a petition, but when he was in government do you think those opposite did anything to deliver a hall for the Cleveland District State High School? Absolutely nothing. Further to that, in 2014—

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Cleveland, if you want to put a question I invite you to get on the list. I call the minister.

**Ms JONES:** In what I could only describe as a very, very mediocre act when he went to his electorate in 2015—

**Dr ROBINSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the member's comments before about Cleveland high school and our role in that offensive and I ask her to withdraw. We built a year 7 construction building and a school hall at Bayview—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cleveland, it is not personal. I will check *Hansard*. My understanding is that it was not a personal reflection on you. I call the minister.

**Ms JONES:** I was highlighting that in 2014, when he went to the last election, even after doing nothing for three years, not delivering a hall in that time frame, the honourable member—

**Dr ROBINSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn. They are inaccurate.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cleveland, you have raised a point of order in relation to a personal reflection that you ask to be withdrawn. Minister, will you withdraw?

**Ms JONES:** Absolutely, Mr Speaker.

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

**Ms JONES:** I would like to table a list of the top 10 Cleveland projects that the member for Cleveland wanted when we went to the last election.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Redland City Bulletin* online, dated 8 October 2014, titled 'Mark Robinson wants to know what projects Cleveland state electorate needs' [[2148](#)].

Do you think the hall for the Cleveland district school is even on the list? No! It did not even make the top 10.

**Dr ROBINSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the parliament with that list. I take offence and I ask the minister to withdraw.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. My understanding is the member for Cleveland finds those comments personally offensive and he asks for them to be withdrawn.

**Ms JONES:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Move on, please.

**Ms JONES:** The member for Cleveland listed 10 Cleveland projects: Redlands Hospital, Cleveland railway, Rickertt Road, Eastern Busway, Mount Cotton, Cleveland University Campus, family and community centre, environmental research, Dunwich harbour and Thornlands State High School—but no Cleveland District State High School!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister—

**Ms JONES:** The 'mediocre, mediocre' just keeps on giving, Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, resume your seat or you will be warned.

**Dr ROBINSON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again find the minister's—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Do you find the comments personally offensive and ask they be withdrawn? What is your point of order?

**Dr ROBINSON:** The minister continues to ignore your instructions and I—

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, member for Cleveland. It is not an opportunity for debate. Do you find the comments personally offensive and ask they be withdrawn?

**Dr ROBINSON:** I again, for the fourth time, find the minister's comments offensive and I ask her to withdraw. She is misleading the House. Go and build the school hall!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, will you withdraw whatever the member finds offensive, please?

**Ms JONES:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. Do you have anything further to add?

**Ms JONES:** Yes, I do. What we have seen here is a very mediocre performance. What we know is that when the LNP was in government it cut funding for education. It made decisions—a captain's call by the Leader of the Opposition—against the advice of the education department.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I take the interjection from the member for Kawana—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Minister for Education has said that we cut funding for education. There has been an Ethics Committee report that said that those sorts of comments by the now Premier were comments that were deliberately misleading and that members need to be careful about what they say about things that are not true.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Surfers Paradise, will you write to me about that matter, please?

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I will, Mr Speaker.

### Queensland Rail, Train Crew

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport.

**A government member:** Take your glasses off next time you get a suntan.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** This is your mature Queensland government.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, thank you. We have two more days to go.

**Mr Pitt** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, Treasurer, please. I want to hear the question.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport. Metro Trains in Victoria has trains that run on time—

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Education, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action. Member for Kawana, will you restart your question, please?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, that is unparliamentary.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport. Metro Trains in Victoria has trains that run on time and trains with drivers and has offered to second experienced and licensed driver trainers to QR to ease the pressure on the current driver crisis. If the minister is committed to fixing the rail mess, as he says he is, why has the minister not already accepted this offer from Victoria, or is it the case that the RTBU is telling the minister who he can and cannot employ?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for Kawana for his question. As I mentioned in my ministerial statement this morning, I am certainly aware of the offers that have been made by Melbourne Metro Trains. Indeed, I have instructed Queensland Rail to investigate all opportunities to accelerate our current training time frames and implement the Palaszczuk government's five-point plan to restore services for the travelling public. Queensland Rail as an organisation has met with a number of groups, including Metro Trains, and is currently working on a range of bodies of work to examine options to boost train crew numbers and fast-track driver training.

Specifically in relation to Melbourne Metro Trains, I note the great praise and detailed understanding the member for Kawana has about the Melbourne Metro Trains network. I think we need to make sure that his deep knowledge of this is shared with everyone else. Perhaps the rat on his shoulder might provide some information as well.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, please do not provoke the member for Kawana with those sorts of comments. Minister, can you make your answer relevant to the question, please.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I regret my immature overstatement. To perhaps make sure that everyone else in the parliament understands and appreciates the differences and distinctions between the nature of Metro Trains in Melbourne and our Citytrain network in Brisbane, Metro Trains is a driver-only network and system. It runs on a very different format. It runs on an AC power format rather than a DC power format. The differences for train crew training are very significant. That is one of the issues being considered and analysed and will inform any decisions that are made around how we accommodate the offers of assistance that are coming from Metro Trains and, indeed, from a range of other potential providers of services.

I am 100 per cent focused on making sure we address this driver shortage. That is why I am so proud that we are already reaping the benefits of the recruitment process, with 231 drivers and 227 guards going beyond that first step in terms of the training process. I look forward to them being delivered further.

### Mining Industry

**Mr PEARCE:** My question is of the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. With coal prices rising, will the minister update the House on the status of the resource sector in Queensland?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Mirani for his question. The subject is very dear to his heart and it is central to his very electorate. It has been a tough year, no doubt, for the Queensland resources sector. As I told the Queensland Resources Council State of the Sector event recently, while challenges remain, things are improving, especially for coal.

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Hinchinbrook, you are warned under standing order 253A. Those interjections are designed to be disruptive in relation to the minister's answer. This is your first warning.

**Dr LYNHAM:** It is good to see the member for Hinchinbrook striving towards mediocrity. The coking coal price has doubled since last November and the spot price for thermal coal has almost doubled since July. This is great news for Queensland jobs, great news for our regions and great news for the state's economic bottom line. The majority of Queensland's metallurgical coal is not, however, sold on the spot market. It is under contract, and these prices are also increasing. For example, some Asian buyers and Queensland producers have settled fourth quarter contract prices of \$260 per tonne—more than double those of the previous quarter's contracts.

The Palaszczuk government is taking action to help drive the resources sector recovery—on top of our existing royalty freeze, the lowest payroll tax rate in the country and heavy investment in innovation. This year I granted the three mining leases for the Carmichael project and cleared the project critical infrastructure, something the previous LNP government never did. Early next year my department will open a tender process for coal exploration over 273 square kilometres in the Bowen Basin as part of Queensland's first annual exploration program. This year we established the North West Minerals Province Taskforce with industry to help tackle the challenges this industry faces. Half a million dollars will be flagged for collaborative exploration and drilling in the north-west in 2017.

The Palaszczuk government knows that the resource sector is a power behind our economy right across this state. The QRC estimates that in the electorate of Nanango alone resources generate \$99 million in gross regional product. How would the knitting nannas of Nanango replace this? In the

electorate of Hinchinbrook it is \$290 million. Why did the member for Hinchinbrook not stand up for the Carmichael coal project? This is a pro-jobs government that is supporting a strong resource sector for jobs and business opportunities now and into the future.

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

**Mr SEENEY:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Earlier in question time today the Premier, in answer to a question from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, cited some legal advice that was critical to the answer she gave. Standing order No. 30 allows for documents read or cited by a member to be ordered by the House to be tabled.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** I didn't read from the legal advice.

**Mr SEENEY:** I therefore move—

That the documents cited by the Premier in her answer—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** I didn't cite it.

**Mr SEENEY:**—

to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition be tabled in the House.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** No.

**Mr SEENEY:** It says 'read or cited'.

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

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have heard your point of order, member for Callide. I am happy to take advice before I make a ruling. Leader of the House, what is your point of order?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** The Premier's reference to legal advice was referring to legal advice which she had received. She did not cite or make particular reference to the document that contained that legal advice. She made reference more broadly to the fact that she had received legal advice. I think there is a world of difference between—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** I'm happy to table it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker, I am happy to table the document I cited. There it is.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Release of Mason Lee Report' [\[2149\]](#).

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Premier has tabled the document.

**Mr SEENEY:** No, she has not.

**Ms Palaszczuk** interjected.

**Mr SEENEY:** That is not. You cited the legal advice.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SEENEY:** You cited the legal advice. You referred to the legal advice. The standing order allows me to move that you table it.

**Ms Palaszczuk** interjected.

**Mr SEENEY:** I would not read it.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. The Premier has tabled the document she cited. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition did not move the motion to effect the result that the member for Callide is now seeking to move, so there is no point of order.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. In respect of your ruling, Mr Speaker, there is no requirement in the standing orders that obliges the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to have moved that motion at the time that it was being made. There is no time requirement set out in the standing orders and the Premier clearly cited and said she had received legal advice and quoted from that legal advice. That is citing the legal advice, not citing the typed notes that she brings in here. The legal advice is the document that the Premier refers to and uses as her defence mechanism in the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members. I will consider the matter and advise the House in due course.

## ABORTION LAW REFORM (WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE) AMENDMENT BILL

### HEALTH (ABORTION LAW REFORM) AMENDMENT BILL

#### Cognate Debate; Order of Business



**Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (11.51 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That—

1. notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, general business order of the day No. 1, Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill, be postponed until such time as the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee reports on the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill; and
2. once the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee reports on the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill, in accordance with standing order 172, the Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill and the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages, as follows:
  - (a) second reading debate, with separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
  - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
  - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.
3. notwithstanding sessional order 3, consideration of the cognate bills be brought on for debate on the next sitting Wednesday evening following the tabling of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill and every subsequent sitting Wednesday evening until the bills are finally dealt with by the House.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

#### AYES, 43:

**ALP, 41**—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, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**INDEPENDENT, 2**—Gordon, Pyne.

#### NOES, 43:

**LNP, 41**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

Pair: Russo, McArdle.

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

Resolved in the affirmative.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Liberal National Party



**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.59 am): What an extraordinary display we have seen by the Labor Party in this House today! Today we have seen the education minister's performance asking questions about a hardworking representative, the member for Cleveland. Well might we ask: what was the member for Ashgrove doing in 2014? She did not even know whether she wanted to run for this place or not. She did not know what her future held at that stage. Was she out there fighting for her community? Was she making representations about schools? Was she doing anything in her local area in order to support her local community in the way that the member for Cleveland was; or was she more worried about the former member for Greenslopes who then became the member for Woodridge, who was worried about his plans for the future as well?

We all remember the member for Woodridge turning up at the ALP state conference and having a blue over who was going to have a say on who the leader of the ALP in this place would be. We all remember the member for Woodridge and the member for Bundamba—the soon to be ex-member for Bundamba if the ETU has its way—arguing over the election of the leader of the ALP. The member for Woodridge was out there stalking the member for Inala, plotting his comeback. He and his AWU cronies

were out there. The member for Bundamba does not often get it right, but when she does she is spot-on. She said, 'Come on, Cam, we know what you're up to.' In 2014, the member for Woodridge was worried about getting the numbers, because he did not want to chance his arm in having to contest a seat. He wanted to waltz into a safe seat and take on the member for Inala. It was all planned. He was all set and ready to go.

What a performance we have seen today from the member for Sandgate. The member for Sandgate has done his solid best—and that is an uninspiring solid best. In his own words, he has been playing catch-up. They have been playing catch-up with Queensland Rail ever since he took on the role. The member for Sandgate talked about psychomotor skills and the need to test for competency, attention span and speed of reaction. That is what they should be doing up there at 1 William Street.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Leader of the House, the member for Clayfield is not taking your interjections. Please cease them.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The member for Sandgate should be tested for his speed of reaction. I like these psychomotor skills tests. They sound interesting. I would like to see them practised on the member for Sandgate to see how he goes—'Hang on a second, with the problem with the train network. Let me check. Where am I getting that information from? Twitter.'

We also heard the Minister for Child Safety politicising the response to an emerging crisis in the system that should be protecting our most vulnerable. What was the speed of reaction for the Minister for Child Safety? Her speed of reaction was to go to a rock concert—to go down to Splendour in the Grass in Byron Bay on the weekend—when she should have been fixing it up. Indeed, she was passing the blame on to someone else.

**Mr Powell:** The member for Sandgate was at the Indy.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I take that interjection from the member for Glass House. The member for Sandgate was at the Indy. While this government has been lurching from crisis to crisis, from excuse to excuse, from review to review and from report to report to not reporting, the LNP has been out the length and breadth of the state listening to Queenslanders.

Earlier today, I talked about some of our achievements in relation to private members' bills that we had brought before this House and to reviews and inquiries that have occurred as well. I did not have the time to complete our record. The LNP also extended the statute of limitations for child sexual abuse victims. We forced Labor, which voted against that legislation, to extend those reforms to all victims, not just those from institutions. In a nation first, we allowed deeds of settlement to be reopened if compensation was unfair and inadequate. That was not supported by the Labor Party in this place. We led the agenda in each of those important areas and reluctantly forced this do-nothing government to respond. In less than two years, the LNP opposition has introduced twice as many private members' bills than the Labor Party did during its entire last term in parliament. I place on the record my appreciation to all of the LNP members who contributed to these important achievements.

The LNP has also put out a range of policies. Just yesterday, the LNP announced its no body, no parole policy to ensure that the scales of justice are balanced in favour of the victims and not offenders. This policy will allow families who are devastated by this horrendous crime to seek closure by making it clear that the criminals are not driving the system, that it is a system that works in favour of the victims and their families. No longer will families be held hostage to the whims of people who have been convicted, after a full trial, of the crime of murder. Families will be able to seek redress. If those people who have been convicted do not provide assistance in locating the body, they will stay in jail.

The LNP is a party for all Queenslanders. That is why we have been developing positive plans for the future of this great state. That is why, since this House last convened, my team and I have been on the ground in Far North and Central Queensland listening to locals, hearing about their lives, their hopes and their concerns. Chief among those concerns, and particularly so in regional Queensland, is a hunger for jobs. The people of Far North Queensland are desperate to get the state moving again.

There is also a palpable rage over the crime rates, especially the spiralling proportion of offences that are committed by young people. Recently, in Cairns, over a six-week period, 140 offenders, many of them young people, were charged with a total of 576 offences. It is deplorable that the crime epidemic in Townsville, which is fast approaching that level in Cairns, is unable to be stopped by this Labor government. It seems powerless to take action to remedy the problem.

Let me be frank: the Labor government cannot stop it while it is enabling it. By smooching with the Greens and other assorted bleeding hearts, this Labor government has put its political survival ahead of the protection of its citizens. We are seeing that this week with the Labor government's nonsensical attempts to dismantle the most effective criminal gang laws in the country—laws that, if trashed, will send bikies and their attendant violence and racketeering streaming back into town, laws that have been so successful they have been copied in other jurisdictions, including the Labor jurisdiction of South Australia. Alarming, in Far North Queensland, we are seeing the watering down of youth justice laws to the extent that we now have a revolving door: offenders are hauled before the courts and released, only to embark on further crime sprees just days later. The situation has become so bizarre that the worst juvenile offenders are in court up to 20 times a year.

Just two years ago under our government, in Cairns, assaults were down by 7.4 per cent, robberies were down by 18.8 per cent, unlawful entry was down by 3.9 per cent and car theft was down by 25.2 per cent. Under this soft-on-crime Labor government, the floodgates have opened and the residents of Cairns are double-locking their doors. They are desperate to see the return of strong, fair laws and policies that both prevent and deal swiftly with the scourge of crime. Their experience is that only an LNP government has the will and the wit to be able to do what is needed to protect them, their families, their homes and their businesses.

From Cairns to Gordonvale, Innisfail, Port Douglas, Mareeba, Atherton and places in between, we were enthusiastically received, along with our terrific candidates at the next state election: Michael Trout from Barron River, Sam Marino from Cairns and Robyn Quick from Mulgrave. All three candidates are Far North Queensland locals who are ready to go. They will fight for and do much to progress their communities in this parliament.

Over our five days in the Far North, we met families, business owners, farmers, students, civic leaders and tourist operators. We held a highly successful community forum and shadow cabinet meeting. We listened, we learned and, of course, we delivered, with three major policy commitments over that period: our wi-fi hot spots in key tourism destinations, our decision to ban plastic bags and, of course, our signing up to protect the Great Barrier Reef. It is only the LNP that has—

*(Time expired)*

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! The member's time has expired. I call the member for Maryborough.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Sorry, I saw that member first.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. You ruled previously in this House that the member who was first on their feet had the call. In my view, the member for Nanango was first on her feet and so, according to your previous ruling, should have the call.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. You will actually notice from the standing orders that it is the judgement of the Speaker on who rose first. I saw the member for Maryborough and I called the member for Maryborough.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. Under standing order 247(3) I move—

That the member for Nanango be now heard.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I have made my ruling. I call the member for Maryborough.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. You need to read the standing orders. You need to put that motion. Ask the Clerk.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will seek advice. You may resume your seat. The question is that the motion be agreed to. Those of that opinion say aye?

**Opposition members:** Aye!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Those against say no?

**Government members:** No!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think the ayes have it—

**Mr SEENEY:** You think the ayes have it?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think the noes have it.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker—

**Mr WALKER:** Divide.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Madam Deputy Speaker, it is clear—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Divide. A division has been called.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The member will resume her seat. This matter is still being resolved and I am seeking advice.

Division: Question put—That the member for Nanango be heard.

**AYES, 42:**

**LNP, 41**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijje, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeneey, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

**NOES, 42:**

**ALP, 41**—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, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Pyne.

Pair: Russo, McArdle.

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

Resolved in the negative.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I understand the member for Maryborough has the call and I understand that the member for Nanango has the call immediately after that if she chooses to rise.

### Rural and Regional Queensland

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.18 pm): Let me outline to the House the difference 22 months makes in rural and regional Queensland. Let me talk about last Thursday when the Premier of this great state visited Maryborough. What a warm reception. Besides being the hottest November day in Maryborough in history the people came out in their droves to talk to the Premier. This is the difference between the Palaszczuk Labor government and the prior LNP government: the last time the LNP Premier was in town he drove in from the airport, went to an hotel, poured a beer and disappeared in 45 minutes. Our Premier walked the street for hours talking to people, listening to people.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Our Premier, the Labor Premier, the Premier of Queensland spoke. We are hearing from the peanut gallery and the lightweights in the opposition because they are embarrassed and I will tell members why. The last time the Leader of the Opposition came to Maryborough with the Deputy Leader, they snuck in early in the morning, went to A Spoon Full of Sugar, had a cup of coffee, never spoke to anyone, went over to MSF—

**Mrs Frecklington:** What are you talking about?

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Yes, you did.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I rise to a point of order. The member for Maryborough is clearly misleading the House and I ask that he withdraw.

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

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I rise to a point of order. I find the comments from the member for Maryborough offensive and I ask that he withdraw.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Did the member refer to you in any way personally?

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Yes, he did. He referred to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. That is my position so that is me personally.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I withdraw, with my humblest apologies. The Premier came to Maryborough—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Nanango, please cease your interjections.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** The Premier came to Maryborough and she listened to people, which contrasts with what we saw when the former LNP premier, Campbell Newman, came to town. Our programs are working. More jobs are being created in rural Queensland. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a great program that is getting people back into work, but was cut by the previous LNP government.

**Ms Pease:** Shame!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Shame on them! I take that interjection from the member for Lytton. The decision by the previous government to cut the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program was a terrible decision. When we look at this mediocre opposition—

**Ms Pease:** Very, very mediocre.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection. Those are not my words; those are the words of one of their own. If that is what one of their own thinks of them, what must the general public think of them?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! There are so many interjections that I cannot even tell who is making them. More to the point, I cannot hear the member for Maryborough. Members, please keep your interjections to a minimum.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Today in the House the Premier spoke about visiting the sawmill and talking to two young gentlemen who have been given a chance in life there. It was great to watch the interaction between the people's Premier and those young men, as they talked about their futures and what they plan to do. Those two young men have the same aspirations as a lot of people in this great state: they want a house, a car and a job. The Palaszczuk Labor government has put them on the road to success. We have given them jobs. They are on the highway to success, thanks to the Labor government and Skilling Queenslanders for Work, which is one of the best programs I have seen. Throughout my electorate I have been to graduation ceremonies for Skilling Queenslanders for Work courses run by very reputable RTOs. The beaming smiles on the faces of people who have completed courses is wonderful to see. Those people are now working. We are getting people back into work. The jobs program is getting the people of regional Queensland back into jobs.

Only a Labor government does that. A Labor government provides services. We hear from the mediocre opposition. I am still trying to work out what is going on on the other side of the House. We have the Libs, we have the Nats, we have the One Nation Nats and we have members who are talking about jumping ship from the other side to One Nation. I am confused. Do we have the bluebloods and the Libs? Where are we with the opposition?

**Mr Mander:** We're coming after you, Bruce.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I will take that interjection from the member for Everton and I shall tell the House why. If that is the standard coming after me, I have nothing to worry about. I will be re-elected with a 10 per cent majority. If that is the best that they can produce, by God they are in trouble! It is no wonder that they are being called mediocre, because if that is the best that they can produce then I am safe. I will not have to book any advertising for my election campaign, thanks to the member for Everton. The people of Maryborough thank the Premier for coming. She is a people's premier.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.24 pm): Coming from the member for Maryborough, who I think received around 25 per cent of the primary vote at the last election—

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I rise to a point of order. It was 25.9 per cent.

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

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I ask members to settle a bit. We are getting very excited.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Some days in this House the gifts just keep on coming. I know it is the season of Christmas, but the gifts just keep coming. I apologise to the member for Maryborough. At the last state election, the member who is sitting in this great House—

**Government members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Nanango, I ask you to resume your seat. Members to my right, there are interjections flying everywhere and I can barely hear the member for Nanango. Please cease your interjections and allow the member for Nanango to speak.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** A member who received 25.9 per cent of the primary vote has the audacity to stand in this House and say that he is representing his electorate by toting the Premier around town. Meanwhile, what the member for Maryborough may—

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Minister for Education, please cease your interjections.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The member for Maryborough said that the Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls, and I went into town. We did. We had a fantastic visit. My husband did get a cup of coffee from A Spoon Full of Sugar Cafe and it was a great coffee. I went to the bakery and bought a pie or a sausage roll. It was pretty good for Maryborough. They had no idea who their member was, as they had never seen him. Obviously they are a part of the 74 per cent of people who did not vote for him. It is important that we visit areas such as Maryborough and speak to businesses such as MSF Sugar and visit cane farms to talk with farmers about irrigation, because people on this side of the chamber do care about rural and regional Queensland. It is the people on this side of the chamber who are out there listening to the rural and regional people of Queensland about their aspirations for the future of agriculture, unfortunately, unlike those opposite.

The current Labor government is completely clueless about many issues. Today in the House we heard about the trains and child safety. We did not hear about housing, although it should have been brought up. All they do is blame everyone else. After nearly two years of this incompetent Labor government, Queenslanders are giving up hope. Tragically, these are record numbers: one in three Queenslanders are giving up looking for work and the situation is only worsened when we look to the regions and the youth of Queensland. More young Queenslanders than any other demographic are giving up looking for work. Since the ABS started publishing statistics, in Queensland the youth participation rate has never been so low. That is sad news for a generation of young Queenslanders who want a job. Many young Queenslanders have just left school, such as my daughter who is out there looking for a job, are being denied the dignity of work.

The Premier has said that her cabinet needs to work and that they need to redouble their efforts, but the fact is that after nearly two years Labor is not working and Queenslanders are the ones who are suffering because of it. It is not just the young. Since the start of this year nearly 90,000 Queenslanders have given up looking for work. Additionally, 68,000 Queenslanders have just simply lost their jobs. The participation rate for the general Queensland labour force has not been this low since 1993. These figures are disgraceful.

Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier, is not leading her government. She is simply reviewing—130 reviews. The Premier needs to stop hiding. The Premier needs to stop blaming everyone. The Premier needs to stop blaming the LNP. The Premier needs to stop blaming local governments. The Premier needs to stop blaming Malcolm Turnbull. The Premier needs to stop blaming her own public servants and start taking responsibility for the situation not only in rural and regional Queensland but also over the whole of Queensland. This Labor government is failing all of Queensland.

### **Queensland Police Union of Employees, Enterprise Bargaining Agreement**



**Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (12.30 pm): I rise today to make a contribution about enterprise bargaining agreements. As you would know Madam Deputy Speaker, enterprise bargaining agreements have been around for some time. In fact, they were first introduced in Australia by the Hawke Labor government under the Prices and Income Accord Mark VII in 1991. Employers and their employees have, since that time, been able to create and provide for better flexibility and efficiency and wages growth. They have benefited from this Labor initiative.

The particular enterprise agreement I wish to reflect upon today is the agreement struck between the Queensland Police Union of Employees and the Palaszczuk government. I am informed that the overwhelming majority of members of the QPUE approved of the agreement and that almost 100 per cent of members who voted endorsed the agreement. I know the new police minister, the Hon. Mark Ryan, would be pleased with that sort of result. I am sure the previous police minister, the Hon. Bill Byrne, would also be satisfied with the outcomes that have been achieved through this negotiation. As an example, one of the local police at Ferny Grove Sergeant Rob Colthrope certainly identified that there was overwhelming acceptance of the agreement amongst members at the Ferny Grove Police Station.

I turn to the September edition of the *Queensland Police Union Journal* which also indicates the success and acceptance of this agreement. Firstly, the president, Ian Leavers, said that he spoke with Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk and she made an enterprise bargaining offer to the QPU. The executive unanimously endorsed it immediately having seen the agreement that was put on the table. He stated—

This offer demonstrates that this Government is doing the right thing by police and their families and that they care about our wages, conditions, and trying to find a work/life balance ...

That is always a challenge in the Police Service. I speak from experience of my time as an industrial officer of the union where I represented the good men and women of the Queensland Police Service. Peter Thomas, an executive member of the union, stated—

The timeliness of reaching agreement was due to the Palaszczuk Government approaching the negotiation table prepared, and with a respect for what we do as police on a daily basis.

We should always remind ourselves of the work the good men and women of the Queensland Police Service do. They do a difficult job. They are out there 24/7 looking after our communities and looking after our constituents and making sure that we are safe in our homes and on our roads. Bill Feldman, another executive, indicated—

THE QPU MAY HAVE JUST HAD ITS FIRST CHRISTMAS IN JULY.

WE NEED TO ASK—IS THERE REALLY A SANTA CLAUS?

It appears that Santa Annastacia has come to town and her two helpers, elves Jackie and Bill, have checked their lists twice, found out that all the boys and girls in blue have been good this year ...

He went on further to say—

The Campbell Newman and Tim Nicholls Grinches had stolen Christmas in July in 2013, but Santa Annastacia was making it up this year.

...

What a sight that must have been for Santa Annastacia and her little helpers; never before had Labor seen the QPS and QPU so happy with Christmas in July from their side of Government.

He went on to also indicate—

I am quite humbled by the fact that this Government has listened and heard what many of us have been crying out for, some of us for many years.

...

This is one of the only articles I have written in eight years where I have been able to give the Government praise for their acknowledgement of the hardworking officers in blue.

He continued—

I thank the Premier and her Ministers for their resolve to not only be good financial stewards for this state but to put some of those financial incentives where they were sorely needed.

The Palaszczuk government is restoring front-line services for Queensland communities. We are employing more police. We are employing more firefighters, ambulance officers and child safety officers in our communities.

Conversely, we contrast this with the very mediocre opposition. They are lazy. They have no plans for the people of Queensland. The LNP believe they have employed too many public servants. The LNP needs to nominate what schools, teachers, hospitals, how many doctors and nurses, police, firefighters, ambulance officers and child safety officers they will cut if they ever get into government again. Do not forget that Tim Nicholls cut 14,000 government workers in his first budget.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member to refer to members by their proper title.

**Mr FURNER:** The member for Clayfield cut 14,000 government workers in his first budget and now believes the Public Service—

*(Time expired)*

### Minister for Health

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.35 pm): I rise to speak about the health minister's comments in parliament on 10 November and his histrionic display today as well as his statements in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* on 11 November 2016 regarding 15 training places at the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital. I table the article for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, dated 11 November 2016, titled 'University hospital needs uni' [\[2150\]](#).

During the last sitting, in a ministerial statement on 10 November 2016 Minister Dick said—

In May 2016, Minister Birmingham acknowledged that commitment—

being the request for 15 additional Commonwealth supported places from 2017—

but six months later is yet to commit to the medical places. Once again I wrote to the minister, three months ago, on 3 August. I even offered to travel to Canberra to meet the minister to discuss this important proposal for the Sunshine Coast. I have received no reply; just silence. I wrote again last week and what I did get? Still no reply; just silence.

It seems as though the minister has a case of selective memory. I table a letter from Minister Birmingham of 4 May which might help jog the minister's memory.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 4 May 2016, from the federal Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham, to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding Griffith University's proposal to establish a medical school on the Sunshine Coast in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast University Hospital [2151].

In Minister Birmingham's reply he sought an explicit commitment from the state government to provide additional specialist training places equal to the number of students in the new school. Once this commitment is met, Minister Birmingham said that he would give further consideration to Minister Dick's request. Minister Birmingham mentioned that the proposal needed to be 'considered carefully in light of the medical workforce data predicting an oversupply of doctors in the medium term, the current clinical training pressures for medical students and graduates and the difficult fiscal environment'. It is worth noting that the Turnbull government has already agreed to the transfer of 35 medical Commonwealth supported places for 2017 to the Sunshine Coast. Minister Birmingham's request not only means that there will be 15 new places for trainee doctors but also 15 new places to train doctors to become specialists. This is a win for the Sunshine Coast.

Minister Dick wrote again to Minister Birmingham on 3 August and 3 November but still failed to provide a commitment to the extra specialist training places. I table these letters for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence, various dates, between the federal Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon. Simon Birmingham, to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Cameron Dick, regarding Griffith University's proposal to establish a medical school on the Sunshine Coast in conjunction with the Sunshine Coast University Hospital [2152].

There is no doubt that Minister Dick is playing politics with this issue. He is not telling the full story to Sunshine Coast locals. The simple fact of the matter is that the Sunshine Coast is missing out because Minister Dick, the health minister, has not committed to providing 15 extra specialist training places.

Minister Dick is no champion for health in Queensland. He has been claiming that the federal government is to blame for his shortfalls. The minister's claims are just a diversionary tactic to shift the spotlight away from the fact that illegal union activity at the site has resulted in the hospital not being opened on time. Disappointingly, whilst Minister Dick, in true Labor fashion, has tried to point the finger at everyone else, medical students are missing out on important programs that will ultimately benefit Queensland patients in the long run. The people of the Sunshine Coast deserve better than to be taken for fools by this minister who only cares about covering for the unions. The minister has misled the House and I will be writing to the Speaker to have the matter adjudicated—and he did it again today. I will be seeking to have him referred to the Ethics Committee.

It is interesting too that, on a day when we see that nearly one in 19 Queenslanders is a public servant, yesterday I received an anonymous email from a frustrated Queensland hospital medical professional. The health professional is rightly concerned about increasing red tape and its impact on delivering optimal patient care in Queensland. In their email, the anonymous health professional—and I would not normally quote from an anonymous source, but in this case the person has mentioned that they are actually concerned about any potential backlash—says—

Many Queensland doctors, nurses and frontline staff remain fearful to voice their experience due to potential repercussions from their employer.

That is why in this email he or she has confirmed what many of us, especially on this side of the House, know to be true—a ballooning bureaucracy does not equal better patient outcomes. That is the point that we on this side of the House make. It is not just about whether 250,000 public servants are too many. It is about whether in the health portfolio they are causing an administrative burden—and that is what it says here in this email, which states—

... I write to you as a frustrated Queensland hospitalist medical professional dealing with the increasing administrative burden that draws resources from our core role—good patient care. Over the years, the administrative body and its processes in healthcare grew significantly.

As at 29 April 2016 there are three bureaucrats per hospital bed. In 2012 it was down to 1.2 per hospital bed in Queensland. He goes on to say—

Health bureaucracy is now again growing faster than the national employment rate. While the salary cost of administrative staff grows, some Queensland hospitals have entire wards and operating theatres that are closed due to a lack of allocated resources.

I table this email for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Email, undated, from an anonymous constituent, to the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, regarding the administrative burden in the healthcare sector [2153].

*(Time expired)*

### Tarragindi, Proposed Development

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (12.40 pm): There is considerable concern in my constituency in the suburb of Tarragindi about a five-storey development application which has now gone live on a very important community site—the Tarragindi Bowls Club at Tarragindi. It might be privately owned at this point, but it is zoned sport and recreation. This land is zoned 'community sport and recreation' and the application is from Retire Australia, although I think it is important to note that this is a not an aged-care facility and there are no health services facilities provided for it. It is a 95-unit complex which has the local community in considerable opposition to it given that it is a low-density residential area.

I acknowledge the work of the Tarragindi Resident's Alliance, who have been informing the community about this proposal which has bumped around now for 12 months because the Brisbane City Council have clearly entertained and allowed for something akin to this to go on the site. The Tarragindi residents absolutely oppose it. I oppose it. I know the federal member opposes it. Sadly, the local councillor appears to support it. She was certainly justifying the process and the proposal at a public meeting two weeks ago of about 120 people who made it very clear that they did not want it in their suburb.

I am certainly not opposed to diverse housing styles. We do have alternative forms of housing in nearby Annerley and Moorooka. There is certainly choice in the area. People live in Tarragindi because it is a low-density suburb. It is noted in the city plan as that. They want to see that preserved. I absolutely support the local residents' opposition to this application which has now gone from six storeys to five storeys. It is a minimal change when clearly the scope of the application should be akin to what the city plan outlines for the area.

In that regard, it is certainly in conflict with the city-wide desired environmental outcomes expressed in the Brisbane City Plan 2014. It is in conflict with the strategic framework's preferred dominant land use for the site under the same Brisbane City Plan 2014. It is in conflict with the sport and recreation zoning, which envisages the site being used only for sport and recreation purposes. It is the intent of the sport and recreation zone that built form should be no more than two storeys. It is very close to a range of community facilities as well—the Tarragindi kindergarten, the Scouts and the Girl Guides. It has a very narrow access point along a low-density residential street. It has some remnant bushland nearby.

This is a site used by many of our local residents. They do not want to see a high-density precedent set in Tarragindi, because we all know that once it is there other people who then take applications to court for similar sized buildings will have them approved. That is the precedent that operates under planning and development. We all know that. It is time the council rejected this application. I call on Councillor Quirk and the Brisbane City Council to reject this as being out of keeping with the Tarragindi area and out of keeping with the city plan, which they themselves passed only two years ago for this area. It is important that the nature of the Tarragindi suburb is preserved.

I call on Councillor Krista Adams, the new councillor for the area, to back her local residents and their concerns and make sure that this development application is rejected. I was the councillor for Tarragindi for nine years. I was a backbencher during that time. I was very effective in making sure that development outcomes were akin and consistent with the nature of the area, the nature of the city plan. Councillor Krista Adams is a cabinet member in the Brisbane City Council, an experienced councillor. She has more power in this administration than I ever had when I was the local councillor. I call on her to use that power and back her local residents which she has refused to do to this point.

It is crunch time. It is time she stood up for Tarragindi residents, rather than selling them out. I call on her to meet with the Tarragindi Resident's Alliance, accept their points of view and start backing them in the council and do her job as the local councillor for the area, just as I did for nine years, just as any decent councillor should do. This development application should be rejected by the council. I call on Councillor Adams to back her local residents as soon as possible.

### Murray-Darling Basin, Northern Basin Review

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (12.45 pm): I want to follow on from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines' ministerial statement this morning in relation to the release of 50,000 megalitres of water in the Fitzroy catchment. This is another welcome example of the Palaszczuk government handing in the homework of the former LNP government given that I was able to finalise the amendment of the Fitzroy resource operations plan in 2014. While the

water users in the Fitzroy basin will benefit from that release, the Palaszczuk government has certainly failed to stand up for farmers and local communities in the Queensland section of the Murray-Darling Basin by immediately agreeing to water recovery targets in the northern basin without scrutinising the science.

The Murray-Darling catchments within Queensland have been the scene of some of the most fierce battles between the water users of that area and the Beattie and Bligh governments under the Water Act between 2000 and 2012. The local landholders and agricultural industries certainly bear the scars of those confrontations. The Palaszczuk Labor government has blindly accepted the recommendations of the northern basin review without bothering to ask any questions about the robustness of the science or the ongoing impact on local communities in Queensland. Farmers and country towns in the Queensland section of the Murray-Darling Basin are entitled to know why the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has simply rolled over and agreed to the new targets without scrutinising the recommendations and fighting for local jobs.

The content of the northern basin review is undoubtedly lengthy and complex. The LNP believes it is incumbent on the Palaszczuk government to at least take some time to give the implications of this report serious consideration before signing Queensland up to wear the impacts of further water recovery. Clearly, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines is not very interested in this issue because he did not even bother to turn up to the recent Murray-Darling Basin ministerial council meeting to represent Queensland's interests. Not only is it a matter of asking the Queensland natural resources minister to please stand up; we have to ask: will Queensland's natural resources minister please turn up?

When I was natural resources minister in the former LNP government, I fought hard to secure the review into the proposed northern basin water recovery targets, access to the voluntary water recovery program for the Condamine Alluvium, \$22 million in irrigation efficiency funding and \$15 million for economic diversification projects in Queensland communities within the Murray-Darling Basin. In his rush to sign up to the new water recovery targets in the northern basin review, the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has failed to notice that the local recovery targets in the Queensland section of the Border Rivers catchment has actually been increased—we are actually going to be worse off in those areas.

The communities within the Border Rivers catchment are engaged in high-value horticulture and broadacre cropping agribusinesses which support hundreds of jobs. These industries will be extremely and severely impacted by additional proposed water recovery targets within this catchment. Yet the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines has dived head first into supporting the northern basin review without even a whimper for those Queenslanders who will be worse off.

On face value, it is positive that the recovery target for the northern basin has been reduced from 390 to 320 gigalitres, but surely questions have to be asked about the original process when a review can recommend that the shared reduction target be reduced from 143 to 41 gigalitres. That is an extraordinary reduction in the proposed shared water recovery targets in the northern basin of 102 gigalitres of water, but it also masks a proposed increase in local water recovery targets in the northern basin of 32 gigalitres. I am relieved that we fought so hard for the northern basin review in 2012 on behalf of the communities and industries in the Queensland section of the Murray-Darling Basin, because obviously there was something seriously wrong with the science and the data for there to be such dramatic changes now.

The Palaszczuk government has got to understand the serious ramifications for those local communities and industries within the Queensland section of the Murray-Darling Basin that water recovery within those catchments can cause. Instead of voluntarily surrendering the water entitlements of Queensland farmers within the Murray-Darling Basin, the Minister for Natural Resources should be asking the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to justify why any of the proposed shared reduction target for the northern basin should come from the Queensland section of the basin. The northern basin review may adjust downwards the overall water recovery targets, but is it so much to ask that the Minister for Natural Resources make sure that the science and the data shows that it should come from the Queensland section of the Murray-Darling Basin?

### **Anglo American, Labour Hire**



**Mr PEARCE** (Mirani—ALP) (12.51 pm): Last week I again stood in front of 60 mineworkers two days out from 100 days of standing shoulder to shoulder on a legal protest line—after four years of trying to get a settlement with the company in regard to their EBA. At the time it was looking like around

90 workers would be losing their jobs. Highly skilled, hardworking, loyal men and women facing redundancy while Anglo American guided labour hire employees through the front gate to take the jobs of those full-time employees.

The Palaszczuk government is so focused on job creation while mining companies are focused on devaluation of job security and workplace safety. There is no point in the government working to increase job opportunities for people in the region if mining companies simply turn around and almost on a daily basis get rid of permanent workers who live in the towns.

It is not an easy task to stand in front of decent human beings and talk about what is happening to them and their families. The flow-on consequences are fewer dollars being spent in the local economy. These are dollars that help create local jobs and that help keep small business viable in the local community. The impact on small business through closures is reduced cash flow which is pushing the viability of small business to the limit. We have already had bank closures. We have reduced numbers of students at schools and empty shops. It is not a very healthy situation in those communities.

It hurts me as the local member to have to stand and face men and women who have given their all to make their home town of Middlemount liveable and a safe place to live. It hurts to see the looks on their faces. For someone like myself who wears my heart on my sleeve, it does not take much to start having an impact on me. It is getting so hard to have to face up to these workers continuously, forced out of jobs simply because mining companies are looking for a cheaper way to do it and the cheaper way for them to do it is through labour hire companies—labour hire companies that are prepared to pay less wages, that are prepared to send men and women home as soon as a thunderstorm comes over the hill and that are prepared to not pay long service leave and sick leave while others just simply walk away.

What can be said to people who are about to lose their job? What can you say when their world is turned upside down by the boardrooms of mining companies and management teams who are benefiting from taking our resources? That is what we have to remember. The taking of our resources should go to maximise returns to the people of Queensland—the men and women who want to work in those mines and who want to live in those communities, and the people who want to fly in if they like so long as local people are given the first opportunity for a job in the region. It is about choice. It is about giving people a choice as to whether they work and live in a local community adjacent to the coalmine or they travel.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr PEARCE:** Would you stop buckling away there? I cannot understand you. What do you say to workers facing the reality of being made redundant? How do you do that? I can't because I am not that type of person. I am not hard.

**Ms Jones:** Heart of gold, Jimmy!

**Mr PEARCE:** Hard love? Getting a bit old for hard love. I have seen enough. As a state and a nation we have to start thinking about the impacts of what is happening out there. We have to think about those people who are losing their jobs, who are not spending their money locally and who have to move on. We have to make sure that mining companies start returning to local communities the value of having a job and working in the—

*(Time expired)*

### **Glass House Electorate, South East Queensland Regional Plan**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.56 pm): In an electorate like Glass House with some 20 individual communities, there are very few issues that impact the entire electorate. Most issues are specific to one or maybe two or three of those communities, but the South East Queensland Regional Plan impacts on each and every community and all of the rural and regional landscapes between those communities across the entire electorate. It is the single largest unifying issue across the entire electorate.

I, like many of my constituents, waited with interest for the release of the new draft. When it arrived, it is fair to say that whilst there is some good news there is also some bad news. Positives at a macro level for the region and for the electorate of Glass House include supporting the Sunshine Coast Regional Council in putting Beerwah East into the urban footprint as a future investigation area but also leaving Halls Creek there not for immediate consideration but for consideration beyond the life of the

plan. It also locks in the interurban break. I return to my maiden speech in this House where I spoke of the importance of ensuring that a break remains between the built-up areas and communities in the Moreton Bay Regional Council and the urban areas of the Sunshine Coast.

There are some positives at the micro level as well. There have been some great corrections in terms of Ross Horne's property on Railway Parade at Glass House Mountains and the Harrison family and others along Landershute Road at Palmwoods. If I use the Harrisons as an example of where a positive has come, it also demonstrates the importance of some of the negatives. There continues to be a use of roads rather than natural features or property boundaries as the dividing line as to who is in the urban footprint and who is not. I believe it should be the responsibility of the state to include both sides of the road, go to a natural feature where you can, or go to the property boundary where you can and leave it to council to determine what part of those properties should or should not be developed. I have a couple of examples here, and I table some of the adjusted maps that I have used in conjunction with my constituents.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of maps, undated, showing property boundaries in parts of the Glass House electorate [2154].

There are people like Gary and Mary Wood at Markwell Road, Moodlu and Robert and Margot Huxley at 76 Mansfield Road, Elimbah. There are people like Lindsey and Keven Grogan and Elizabeth Noble from Lindeman Road, Beerwah where, again, one side of the road is in the urban footprint and the other side is not. There is Tony and Kath Yorkston on Mountain View Road and McCarthy Shute Road in Maleny and Peter and Margaret Campbell on North Maleny Road in Maleny. Again, there has been development, but it is not included in either the urban footprint or the rural residential components and, therefore, they are unable to do what their neighbours have done. There is Wayne and Marie Stewart from Storrs Road in Peachester and there are the residents along Mount Mee Road at Delaneys Creek. I table those maps for the benefit of the House and for the Deputy Premier in considering future additions to the final plan when it comes out. I stress that that is not an exhaustive list, but it should give the Deputy Premier and her staff the idea.

I would also like to raise that the issue of family subdivision and the profitability of rural production landscape is also not addressed. We have great rural production in the electorate of Glass House. However, in order for generations to be able to pass on property to the next generation, they need their kids to be able to move onto the property with them. Those kids cannot unless they get title. They cannot get title unless the parents can hand over a parcel of their land. I understand that in the past some cowboys misused that provision and that is why it was thrown out, but it needs to be brought back. Then people like the Porfiris at Beerwah and the De Vries at Montville can once again provide an opportunity for their families to live alongside them and work their land.

I am also very concerned, as is Moreton Bay Regional Council, that all the rural residential properties at Wamuran have been excluded as well as the rural residential properties at Glass House Mountains. I also note with interest the *Courier-Mail's* article dated 16 November which stated that the Brisbane City Council is concerned that the transport infrastructure will not keep up with the growth required in their environs. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Articles from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 16 November 2016, titled 'We Won't Keep Up: Council' and 'A Crisis in the Making' [2155].

I say to the Deputy Premier that we are ready for growth in places like Elimbah—not in 25 years but now. We are ready for growth around Railway Parade in Glasshouse Mountains which is right on a duplicated rail line that gets people to the city in just over an hour. It is about balance, but there are sensible additions that the Deputy Premier can make in preparing the final plan.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! The House will break for lunch and resume at 2.30 pm and we will finalise the Matters of Public Interest debate at that time.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.30 pm.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! Honourable members, before calling the member for Bulimba I advise that there is a photographer from the *Courier-Mail* who will be in the chamber during the next half hour taking photographs.

### Newman, Mr C

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.30 pm): Members on the other side of the House must wake up wondering what special thing or what free advice Campbell Newman is going to give them on any one day. Did he wake up with an extra dose of relevance deprivation? Do they wonder who he has been talking to today? Are they going to get a free character assessment on *Sky News*, via the *Courier-Mail*

or maybe *Brisbane Times*? No matter how much they might avoid trying to say his name or even admit they had anything to do with him over the three years he was in government while they were working hand in glove with him, he just keeps on popping up and coming back with his advice or some authoritative statement.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. I am not sure whether the member has a different sessional order to me, but what is the relevance? Which bill are we debating and what is the relevance?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): Order! This is the last of the MPIs.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr SEENEY:** I thank the Leader of the House for clarifying that! It is a valid point. The time allowed in sessional orders for MPIs is one hour. Can you confirm what time we started the Matters of Public Interest? What was it? It was 12 o'clock?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am advised that the Speaker is the ultimate keeper of time and it has been authorised for this last MPI to take place.

**Mr SEENEY:** Can I repeat my question? What time did the Matters of Public Interest begin?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The best advice I have is at 12.02 pm.

**Mr SEENEY:** Then, on a point of order, I would suggest that the time for Matters of Public Interest statements has expired. Sessional orders allow one hour. The Speaker may well be the ultimate determiner of time, but the House is the determiner of the sessional orders and the sessional orders say an hour. I would suggest that that is bad advice.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The advice I have received is that the timing is a matter for the chair and there is time to finish MPIs and I so rule.

**Ms FARMER:** As I was saying, no matter how much the LNP tries to pretend they do not know Campbell Newman, he just keeps on popping up to give them advice or to make authoritative statements.

**Mr WATTS:** I rise to a point of order. Just for clarification, have the sessional orders for MPIs been stood aside?

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I do not need your assistance, member for Brisbane Central. I have ruled on the matter. I call the member for Bulimba.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. If you have ruled on the matter, as you say, can you clarify how long the House is going to consider Matters of Public Interest, because I might like to make one as well? A number of members in the House might like to make one. The sessional orders say it runs for an hour. The sessional orders have not been varied. The Speaker or whoever is in the chair does not have the ability to move and shift the sessional orders at will.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, there is only one MPI left. There are a certain number of MPIs that are allowed as part of the proceedings of the House. The member for Bulimba is delivering the last of those MPIs.

**Mr SEENEY:** Under standing order 247 I move—

That the member for Bulimba be not further heard.

Division: Question put—That the member for Bulimba be not further heard.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will the government whip advise what the government votes are for the ayes or noes?

**Mr WHITING:** Forty-one noes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will the opposition whip advise what the opposition votes are for the ayes or noes?

**Mr WATTS:** Forty-one ayes.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. I think we are missing someone. It is not quite 41.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Would the opposition whip check your count, please?

**Mr WATTS:** Forty ayes.

**AYES, 41:**

**LNP, 40**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seenev, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

**NOES, 42:**

**ALP, 41**—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, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Pyne.

Pair: Russo, McArdle.

Resolved in the negative.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. Given the decision of the House, do we now tear up the sessional orders? I will tear them out of the book and throw them in the bin.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, resume your seat. That is not appropriate behaviour. Member for Callide, that is a reflection on the chair. Will you withdraw those comments?

**Mr SEENEY:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Will you resume your seat, please.

**Mr SEENEY:** I have a point of order. I ask what the situation is with regard to the sessional orders of the House. Do we still have sessional orders, or can they be varied at will?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, you have been here as long as I have. You know that if you want to challenge the ruling of the chair there is a procedure to do that. Your comments are a reflection on the chair. Resume your seat.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. I am not challenging the ruling of the chair: I am asking for an explanation as to what the situation is with regard to the sessional orders of the House.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. The question of the Leader of Opposition Business is not a point of order. If he wishes to ask questions, there are other times and appropriate ways in which he can raise matters with you. The member is just trying to grandstand and waste the time of the House at this important stage.

**Mr SPEAKER:** We have standing orders and we have sessional orders. There is no point of order, member for Callide. I call the member for Bulimba.

**Ms FARMER:** I rise to a point of order. I seek your ruling on the disrespectful behaviour that the member for Callide showed to the previous chair.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I know that we are in the last sitting week of the year. I will review *Hansard* and I will consider the matter. If members would like to leave the chamber quietly I will then call the member for Bulimba for her contribution, and she will have five minutes.

**Ms FARMER:** I was talking about Campbell Newman and the gratuitous advice that he provides to all of us, particularly the LNP—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock, member for Bulimba. Member for Callide, you are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist I will take the appropriate action. If the Leader of Government Business wants to provoke or respond, he you will get a similar warning. Member for Bulimba, would you like to start again, please.

**Ms FARMER:** I was referring to the gratuitous advice that Campbell Newman provides to all of us, but particularly the LNP. No matter how much they pretend they do not know him, he just keeps bobbing up with advice or authoritative statements. Last week Campbell Newman had a helper, another friend of theirs and someone who forgot to turn his microphone off: George Brandis. Ordinarily there is not much—in fact, there is nothing—George Brandis and Campbell Newman say that I agree with, but this time I think both of them really hit the nail on the head. George Brandis said exactly what we have known ever since the beginning and what has been as plain as the noses on our faces, and I do not just mean what he said about being mediocre. He did not just say 'mediocre' and he did not even say 'a bit mediocre'. He said 'very, very mediocre'. How mediocre?

**Government members:** Very, very mediocre.

**Ms FARMER:** We all knew that, but it must be tough when you hear about it from your own side and it must be a bit insulting when someone like Campbell Newman says it. What has been so obvious is what Senator Brandis said about the partnership between the Liberals and the Nationals—the farce that is called the LNP—because they are clearly tearing themselves apart and the member for Clayfield cannot keep them together. A party that wants to look like an alternative government for all of Queensland needs to show that they are a party who cares about the city as well as the country, and it is very clear that this lot over here do not care about the city at all and in fact they sellout their city constituents.

I would like to know how city members like the member for Clayfield, the member for Indooroopilly, the member for Mansfield, the member for Mount Ommaney, the member for Moggill and the member for Chatsworth explain to their constituents about the smooching—I think the member for Clayfield talked about smooching about the Greens—that the LNP is doing with One Nation. How do the city members explain to their constituents that the LNP is going to do a deal with One Nation, or are they just going to hope that no-one notices? How do they explain the disdain that the LNP express to city people and the issues that so many city people think are important? When they voted against the nature conservation legislation to protect national parks, the member for Caloundra said not to worry about what those city people think because ‘they sit over in West End cafes and they theorise about these things’. When they voted against the legislation to stop dredge spoil in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area the member for Callide said those laws are ‘tailor-made for the philosophical zealots in West End who are blind to anything but their own fantasies’. When they voted against the legislation to prevent broadscale land clearing, of which a third is in the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area—and they did not vote for that either—the member for Caloundra said, ‘This is the most repugnant law I’ve ever seen.’

While the LNP is tearing itself apart, this Palaszczuk Labor government is getting on with the job. We are clear that we are here for all Queenslanders. While no Queenslanders understand what the LNP really stands for, it is very clear what we stand for. We stand for shoring up the economy, for investment in infrastructure, for creating jobs, for restoring front-line services and for keeping our promises.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): The time for matters of public interest has passed.

## LAND AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.48 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994 and the Planning (Consequential) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [\[2156\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[2157\]](#).

The Department of Natural Resources and Mines is committed to continually reviewing and improving the tools it uses to administer Queensland’s land portfolio. The Land Title Act underpins Queensland’s world-class titling system, also known as the Torrens system. This system is widely acknowledged for the certainty and security it provides on who owns what parcel of land and if there are any encumbrances on a parcel of land including mortgages, leases and covenants.

Queensland is participating, through a Council of Australian Governments intergovernmental agreement, in the delivery of a nationally consistent electronic conveyancing, e-conveyancing, system. E-conveyancing, which has already commenced in Queensland, will see all Australian states and the Northern Territory creating and lodging land dealings via an online hub. Implementation of e-conveyancing will foster efficiency, accuracy and certainty for users of the hub, including financial institutions and legal practitioners and their clients.

The amendments that I am introducing today support e-conveyancing and include the current settlement notice mechanism being replaced with a nationally consistent priority notice. A priority notice enables a person intending to purchase land or take a mortgage to prevent registration of other dealings occurring on the land until their contract is completed and titling documents registered. This priority

notice has been agreed by members of the Australian Registrars National Electronic Conveyancing Council, of which the Queensland Registrar of Titles is a member. The move to e-conveyancing will support the state's steps towards fostering a digital economy.

A further amendment to the land titling legislation is aimed at ensuring caveats are used appropriately when lodged by registered owners in dispute with a mortgagee. Another amendment clarifies that any compensation arising from the improper use of a caveat is to be paid by the person claiming an interest in the land, not a legal practitioner lodging the caveat on that person's behalf.

A number of streamlining amendments are also proposed in the bill, including enabling recognition of a beneficiary of a will in situations where the deceased person's estate has been granted probate elsewhere in Australia, the UK or New Zealand, so saving time and costs; and providing the registrar with the power to withdraw documents that have no legal meaning and cannot be given effect under Queensland law. This amendment aims to prevent situations which have come to the notice of courts in Australia, Canada and elsewhere in recent times where certain documents are being used as a pseudolegal technique to avoid meeting legal obligations.

The bill also proposes a number of minor amendments to the Land Act. Some amendments relate to the state land registers kept under the Land Act as well as mirror amendments to the Land Title Act in relation to trustees, beneficiaries under a will and pseudolegal documents. The bill also proposes to allow community purpose reserves to be created within a non-tidal watercourse for very specific purposes with the support of the chief executive under the Water Act 2000. This aims to enable activities such as camping and protection of cultural artefacts to be appropriately managed when they occur in areas such as riverbanks or boundaries of lakes.

Clarification is also provided that a lease or deed can be granted to the Commonwealth government through specifying that the Governor in Council can grant a deed and the minister can grant a lease to the Commonwealth of Australia. Trust land such as cemeteries and reserves is important to local communities and, to minimise disruption in the management of this land when a trustee resigns, it is proposed to regulate a transition process to enable a suitable replacement person to be appointed.

Amendments are also proposed to clarify provisions concerning rolling term leases. Specifically, the provisions clarify that a rolling term lease cannot be extended more than once in its current term and also confirms that the term of a rolling lease cannot be extended for longer than the original term of the lease. Provisions will also be expanded for a rolling term lease to include leases below the high watermark that are tied by a covenant to an adjoining major tourism venture on a regulated island.

The bill also seeks to remedy the situation where a public utility easement, say for power lines, is extinguished when a lease on a reserve expires. The bill also extends the ability to register a restricted use or preservation covenant over a range of state land tenures including unallocated state land, reserves and an occupation licence. At present these covenants can be registered over leases and road titles.

Approvals to sublease, place an easement or enter into a covenant include mandatory standard terms. These terms cover liability, indemnity and insurance requirements. Issues such as duty of care, environment protection, declared pests and subleasing are also covered by these mandatory terms. Mandatory standard documents are lodged in the Titles Registry and can be obtained on the payment of the regulated fee, whereas approvals for leases, licences or permits are accompanied by mandatory conditions which are in a regulation. It is proposed to enable mandatory standard terms to be specified in a regulation which will be easier to obtain and consistent with other Land Act dealings. These amendments are minor but will add value in the administration of land. I commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (2.54 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee**

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

## CHILD PROTECTION (OFFENDER REPORTING) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.55 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [\[2158\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[2159\]](#).

I am very pleased to be able to introduce the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill confirms the Palaszczuk government's commitment to protecting the most vulnerable people in our society—our children—and it reinforces my commitment as Minister for Police to keep Queenslanders safe. The bill will provide that protection by strengthening the existing legislative framework that manages the activities of reportable offenders and providing police with the powers they need to prevent recidivist sexual offending against children.

The impetus for the bill grew from a statutory review of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 undertaken by the Crime and Corruption Commission in 2013. The recommendations from the Crime and Corruption Commission's review have been supported by the Palaszczuk government, including amalgamating the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 with the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008. A combined regulatory regime will remove the areas of discord identified in the Crime and Corruption Commission's review and will ensure Queensland's legislation provides a cohesive and holistic response to the management of reportable offenders.

Early intervention, disruption and prevention are some of the key themes of this bill. The capacity for police to intervene prior to offending and act quickly when there is a suspicion an offence has been committed has the dual benefit of supporting offenders who are at risk of reoffending and protecting children in our community. The bill achieves this by giving police the authority to inspect electronic devices and to require access information to those devices. These new powers align with the recommendations made by the Crime and Corruption Commission and its narrative, which recognises that police have limited powers to manage the in-home behaviours of reportable offenders. The inspection provision provides police officers with the power to inspect electronic devices in the possession of those reportable offenders who have been released from government detention or sentenced to a supervision order in the preceding three months, or convicted of a prescribed offence using the internet, or assessed as posing an increased risk of reoffending.

The inspection process uses specialised software which provides police with vital information about the websites, the social media sites, the instant messaging or chat rooms a reportable offender is or has been accessing as well as the software and hardware on the device. The software used during the inspection process is also capable of identifying image files on the computer, including child exploitation material. The inspection power is in keeping with the purpose of the offender reporting legislation and is in line with contemporary policing strategies to prevent crime. This is a significant change and does require adequate protections. In this regard, only those police who are authorised by the Police Commissioner may exercise the inspection power. Other protective mechanisms include restricting the number of times police can inspect a device in the possession of a reportable offender who has been convicted of a prescribed internet offence to four times in each 12-month period. Any further inspections would require approval by a magistrate and must be based on increased risk. All inspections based on increased risk are required to be approved by a magistrate. Every inspection will be recorded in the enforcement acts register and a report detailing the number of inspections undertaken, the outcomes of those inspections and any action taken by police as a result of each inspection will need to be tabled in parliament each year.

The new power allowing police to require access information to electronic devices gives effect to recommendation 13 of the Crime and Corruption Commission review. The use of the new power is limited to circumstances where there is a reasonable suspicion that an offence has been committed under the offender reporting legislation. Again, the requirement for access information can only be made by those officers who are authorised by the Police Commissioner to manage reportable offenders in the community. An offender who fails to provide access information will commit an offence and will be

liable to a penalty of up to 300 penalty units or five years imprisonment. This is consistent with other penalties under the offender reporting legislation. While there is no provision for self-incrimination for failing to comply with a requirement to give access information, police must apply to a magistrate for a post approval order after a requirement has been made. A reportable offender will not commit an offence for failing to comply with a requirement for access information where a magistrate does not make a post approval order.

The bill also provides police with additional opportunities to take fingerprints and photographs. Fingerprints will be taken to allow reportable offenders to be enrolled in any future electronic automated reporting system and photographs will be taken of anything that is required to be reported in a location other than a police station. These amendments not only ensure that the legislation keeps pace with emerging technology; they allow police to structure the operational components of their compliance management functions more effectively. Another key feature of the bill extends the concept of 'reportable offender'. There are occasions where a person escapes this classification simply because of the manner in which an indictment is presented to the court or because the person pleads to a lesser offence. To this the Palaszczuk government says, 'No more.' Anyone who intends, attempts or commits a sexual or particular other serious offence against a child will be liable to an offender reporting order where the court is satisfied that the facts and circumstances of the indicted offence contain elements of a reportable offence.

The bill also strengthens the obligations placed on reportable offenders in relation to travel, contact with children and reporting information. In this regard, reportable offenders will be required to report any contact with children who reside outside of Queensland where that contact is beyond the incidental contact of daily life. This includes online contact, telephone contact, written contact and physical contact. Reportable offenders will also be required to report the details of any children they travel with or intend or expect to have contact with outside of Queensland. The time frames associated with reporting travel have been reduced from seven days to 48 hours, minimising the opportunity for reportable offenders to leave Queensland undetected for short periods of time. The bill will also require reportable offenders to report the cessation of any personal particulars which are required to be reported—for example, the sale of a car or a house. This will ensure that the information held on the National Child Offender System is accurate and relevant.

An alignment of all suspension provisions under the offender reporting legislation will require reportable offenders who are subject to an order under the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003 to make an initial report of their personal particulars prior to a suspension of their reporting obligations. Conversely, those reportable offenders who have a significant mental illness will have the opportunity to seek a suspension of their reporting obligations similar to offenders with significant cognitive disorders or physical impairments. Changes to reporting obligations will require reportable offenders who are also subject to an offender prohibition order to continue to report to police until all processes which make the person a reportable offender have ended. This may result in some reportable offenders reporting for a longer period. The length of time a reportable offender may be required to continue to report will vary depending on their offending behaviour.

The bill also addresses a number of legislative impediments hindering the effectiveness of the offender reporting legislation. For example, the term 'recent' as it applies to concerning conduct will no longer be a predeterminer of an offender prohibition order. Rather, the court will be required to consider the timing of the conduct when deciding whether an offender prohibition order should be made. The bill also clarifies the civil aspects of the offender prohibition order process, including the application of the Uniform Civil Procedure Rules 1999 and allowing civil applications to be heard concurrent with any associated criminal matter. Additional protections have been included in the bill for those respondents who consent to the making of an offender prohibition order. In this regard, a court will be required to conduct a hearing for an offender prohibition order where the court is satisfied that it is in the interests of justice to do so. Where a hearing is not required, the court will have the opportunity to consider additional information about a respondent—for example, whether the respondent has a mental illness or a drug or alcohol addiction. Evidentiary provisions applying to child witnesses have been extended in the bill to prohibit a self-represented respondent or a reportable offender personally cross-examining a child witness. The amendment recognises the additional trauma that may be caused when a child witness is cross-examined by a person who may be their perpetrator.

Information sharing has also been extended in the bill to allow the Police Commissioner to require information from, and give information to, government and non-government entities and members of the public. The bill recognises that offender information is confidential information and places limitations on the type of information the Police Commissioner can give. It also extends the penalty provisions

where a person releases information about a respondent in an offender prohibition order process or a child witness for the purposes of harassing or intimidating the respondent. However, a person will be protected from liability where information about a reportable offender is given honestly to the Police Commissioner. The bill also allows a person acting on behalf of a reportable offender to receive, review and appeal information held on the National Child Offender System.

Finally, the bill makes a number of minor amendments which reduce the administrative impost on the Queensland Police Service. These amendments include removing the requirement for the name and signature of a person taking a report from an offender and the length of the reporting period to be included on each receipt issued after a report has been made; allowing a notice advising a reportable offender of any change to the length of their reporting period to be given as soon as reasonably practicable after the change has occurred; and allowing the period of an assumed identity for an authorised civilian to mirror that of a police officer in the same circumstances.

These laws are tough new laws, but I make no apologies for the tough stance that the Palaszczuk government has taken and will continue to take to keep our kids safe and protect our children. Sexual abuse and trauma is estimated to cost the Australian community \$6.8 billion annually, but the cost to individual victims is far greater. The negative mental health impacts associated with child sexual abuse are immeasurable—post-traumatic symptoms, depression, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, eating disorders as well as psychotic and personality disorders. This bill recognises that it is the right of all children to feel safe and to be safe from sexual offending. This bill establishes a tough, strong and robust framework that will help keep Queensland children safe. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.09 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

## SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 10 November (see p. 4535), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.10 pm): After about 18 months in government, this Labor Party has been true to its fluff-around-with-crime approach by finally bringing in legislation in respect to organised crime that waters down the tough legislation that the LNP put in place. Labor's main policy direction has been anything that is contrary to that of the previous government. Labor just wants to rip it up. That sent a very clear message to organised crime in this state that the welcome mat was out. After this government was elected, we saw criminal bikie gangs out in droves in contravention of the existing law, testing the waters to see if the government would crack down, to see if there would be a response. This government's message was, no, they were watering down the legislation. After 18 months, this soft-on-crime government has put before the parliament legislation that waters down the law that the LNP brought in to tackle a very serious issue.

In Queensland, Labor was in denial over what was happening with outlaw bikie gangs. Thanks to the Labor Party's attitude, on the Gold Coast there was terror on the streets in a way that we had never seen before in this country. The Labor Party had allowed organised crime, particularly criminal bikie gangs, to believe that they owned not only the Gold Coast but also the system and that they could do what they liked. Over many years of a Labor government, we saw people being shot at. We saw people being intimidated from coming forward with examples of extortion that had been brought against them by these criminal gangs.

**A government member:** Rubbish!

**Ms SIMPSON:** It is not rubbish. People were shot. The member should be ashamed of himself. What occurred in Queensland was an outrageous example of a soft-on-crime Labor Party that, over many years in government, allowed these thugs to get away. We in the LNP said, 'That's not good enough.' Queenslanders deserve to be safe on their streets. Queenslanders should not live like they are in some Middle Eastern horror story—a war unfolding in their local community—in this, our Australia, in this, our Queensland but, thanks to this inept, seriously soft-on-crime Labor Party, they were.

After 18 months, the Labor government has brought forward legislation that rips up the LNP's approach, which, clearly, had been successful. The figures show clearly that there has been a reduction in crime. They prove that the 2013 VLAD laws were working. We have already seen a significant decrease in crime throughout Queensland, particularly on the Gold Coast. The statistics speak for themselves. In 2014, across Queensland, we saw a reduction in the number of assaults by 3.7 per cent. Robberies were down by 24.8 per cent. Unlawful entries were reduced by 17.4 per cent. Car theft was down by 19.4 per cent.

**Mr Walker:** These are very stark figures.

**Ms SIMPSON:** They are stark figures. I highlight the fact that, thanks to the VLAD laws, more drugs were off our streets. We want to see children protected. Putting drugs on the streets through organised crime is one of the most insidious ways to rip those kids' lives apart. That was occurring through not only outlaw bikie gangs but also the organised crime links in this state that had been allowed to proliferate unchallenged with some help from those lefty lawyers who seem to like the Labor Party.

In relation to drug offences, as at June 2015, QPS intelligence revealed that 76 per cent of identified Queensland organised crime networks were involved in the illicit drug market. That is a significant connection. In his submission to the parliamentary committee, the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, outlined his concerns—and, as we know, organised crime is a statewide issue but it is a critical issue for the Gold Coast. He stated that—

... City of Gold Coast will again be plunged into the climate of fear that accompanied the crime wave unleashed by outlaw motorbike gangs over the past decade.

Mayor Tom Tate stated further—

The trail of devastation caused to thousands of families by the drugs peddled by these gang members is horrendous. How many more young lives are to be wasted by addiction peddled by motorbike gang members? Make no mistake, drug running is a core activity associated with most of these clubs. The evidence is irrefutable.

Tough sentencing was crucial to enable the police to rein in the activities of these organised criminal gangs. The watering down of these laws will see these outlaw bikie clubhouses reopen. The previous police minister even admitted that these new clubhouses could spring up. That will mean more drugs on our streets, more violence, more assaults, more robberies, more unlawful entries and more car theft.

Who owns Labor in this state? We know that some of the thugs in the CFMEU certainly own a good chunk of this government. We know that certainly some of the left-leaning lawyers own a huge chunk. I think that the outlaw bikie gangs who campaigned for this Labor government also own a huge chunk. It is well and truly on the record that some of those people, with rap sheets as long as your arm and drug offences, were out there campaigning in support of a change of government to see Labor come to government in Queensland. They own this government as well. It is no surprise that, finally, after fluffing around for 18 months while these gangs were getting back into business and reorganising their clubhouses, we see this watered down legislation before the House.

Instead of properly reviewing the previous laws there was a sham review, where the terms of reference mandated that the VLAD laws had to be ripped up and watered down. Instead of having a proper review, this soft-on-crime Labor government came up with a review that had a predetermined outcome that did not independently or seriously look at the issues. The terms of reference for the review mandated that the VLAD laws had to be repealed, had to be overturned. That was not a fair review of the laws.

Under Labor, for more than a decade criminal gangs owned the streets and built up their network of drugs culminating in the shooting up of tattoo parlours and many other instances of fires and extortion—the list goes on. The LNP changed the laws. What does this mob do? It does not conduct a fair review of the VLAD laws. In its review, rather than looking at the effectiveness of the VLAD laws, it mandated that they be repealed. Were there any public hearings? No. Was the Crime and Corruption

Commission, which had already reviewed the 2013 laws, represented on the task force? No. It was a closed-shop review with a predetermined outcome. What a debacle! Once again, who owns this government? The thugs in the CFMEU, the thugs in the crime gangs who were out there campaigning for a number of Labor government members and those who put them in power.

I note the comments from the non-government members of the committee that suggest that there are two provisions in the bill that do have merit, namely, amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 and the Criminal Code relating to child exploitation over the internet. Unfortunately, they have been attached to a piece of legislation that fundamentally builds up crime gang network opportunities by ripping up the LNP legislation. The overall intention of this government is to rip up the previous government's legislation and to go soft by weakening the existing laws. I cannot support this bill which weakens those laws that were about putting those crime gangs out of business. It will put our community at risk again from the illegal activities of organised crime gangs that are out there to rip off children with the drugs that they peddle in our community.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Ms FARMER:** Mr Deputy Speaker? My light is on.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Elmes): I call the honourable member for Bulimba. Can I just say that getting to your feet 20 seconds before the previous speaker has finished is not part of the rules of the game.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (3.20 pm): I rise to support the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill. Prior to the last election, the government made a commitment to review this legislation to ensure that Queensland's framework for organised crime was capable of targeting new and emerging threats. The government also made a commitment to consultation and evidence based policy. This bill delivers on all of these election commitments.

This bill will deliver a safer Queensland. It will deliver a new regime to tackle organised crime in all its forms. It removes the elements of the former government's regime that were excessive and poorly targeted while introducing a suite of new and improved tools to tackle organised crime. It incorporates the considered outcomes of three reviews and an extensive and multistage consultation process and feedback from agencies that are called upon to enforce these laws for the safety and security of the Queensland community. This comprehensive process has been in sharp contrast to the lack of consultation and consideration adopted by the previous government. In fact, there are so many things about their VLAD laws which reek of some of the most abhorrent aspects of the Newman government—though certainly not all of their abhorrent characteristics because there are too many of them to mention.

The VLAD laws that were rushed through parliament with no notice and without a committee inquiry, with no consultation whatsoever, that were introduced and passed on the same night, that had significant implications for operational policing, criminal prosecutions and the rights of Queenslanders, show that that LNP government really cared nothing about the effect that bikies were having on our community. If they had done so they would have actually put laws in place which resulted in convictions. No-one in the LNP government bothered thinking about that because they were just a plain lazy and sloppy government. Now they are a sloppy and lazy opposition. They are really just about a good story. A couple of the many things that one can say about the LNP is that they never let the facts get in the way of a good story and they are always happy to be part of a race to the bottom on law and order. Just like the dodgy boot camps that were put in place by the member for Kawana when he was attorney-general, which involved a lack of process and a race to the bottom to look the toughest on crime. It is fascinating the way that they are completely dishonest in trying to paint their VLAD laws as somehow coming in to save Queenslanders from bikies when, in fact, those laws resulted in no convictions at all. That fact is plain for all to see but they do not bat an eyelid when they speak so dishonestly about their laws compared to this bill.

Our new laws will not only be tough on bikies; unlike the LNP's VLAD laws, they will actually be enforceable. Our review was aimed at genuinely investigating organised crime in Queensland. It was not just about looking tough, it was about being tough. This bill will look at other extremely serious organised crime that really threatens Queenslanders, crime that you cannot necessarily see so it is not politically sexy. In stark contrast to the LNP, we set about our business on this bill to do it thoroughly and to make sure that we did it properly. We put up with the sensationalising, the innuendo, the plain untruths from the opposition that we were soft on crime.

Despite the fact that it might not have been politically palatable, we took our time to make sure that when this bill was passed it was going to hit the mark with what we were doing, that we were going to make a difference, just as we did with the bill to remove 17-year-olds from the adult justice system.

It was not easy or straightforward, just a long-term commitment to changing the lives of young people who enter and/or who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system. The LNP's response to that bill was, 'Too hard. Too complex. Cannot do it. Labor's soft on crime.' The LNP clearly does not care about solutions. They do not care about good news because it does not fit their story. This bill is premised on a comprehensive evidence base, including those three reviews I have already mentioned. It creates a comprehensive new regime for Queensland that is operationally strong and legally robust and it provides law enforcement officers with the tools and powers to tackle organised crime in all its forms while also ensuring proper oversight by the courts.

In its investigation of organised crime in Queensland, the commission identified, in addition to outlaw motorcycle gangs, online child sex offending, including the child exploitation material market, and sophisticated financial crime such as cold call or boiler room investment frauds as key organised crime threats in Queensland. All of these crimes are despicable. No-one wants to see the sort of behaviour of bikies who have been mentioned by speakers on both sides of this House. No-one wants to see financial fraud. No-one can sit through a meeting with a pensioner who has been the victim of one of these frauds and not care deeply about something happening to actually stop that damage ever being done again.

For me, one of the most disturbing manifestations of organised crime is the production and distribution of child exploitation material. Anyone in this House who has sat through a conversation with Task Force Argos and looked at the sort of work it does cannot help but want to do everything that they possibly can to work against those vile people who are actually involved in this child exploitation. These vile acts are perpetuated against the most vulnerable members of our community and other communities. They are an affront to our values and to the values of our state and our society. The figures that we have heard during the process of these investigations about the numbers of people who are involved in this sort of activity scared me. It would scare most people if they actually heard what sort of numbers are involved. Our government recognises that it is imperative to tackle this and other forms of organised crime. If the opposition does not support this bill then those opposite are saying they do not want to convict bikies, they do not want to stop people from child exploitation and they do not want to stop boiler room fraud.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Queensland Police Service, the CCC and all other agencies tasked with tracking and targeting these insidious crimes. I would like to thank the members of Task Force Argos who came out to the Bulimba electorate in my last term to talk to parents about what sort of environment their children may be facing. This bill will give Task Force Argos the power to charge those sorts of criminals involved in child exploitation; powers that they do not currently have. Thank you to all of the people who do this work. We hope that we are giving you the power under this bill to do your job in the best way possible. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (3.28 pm): I rise to speak against the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The opposition opposes this bill as it represents a significant weakening in the response to organised crime and the ability of our law enforcement agencies here in Queensland to keep Queensland safer. One of the issues that has been discussed and debated here today is the time taken by the government to bring this bill to the House and to have it debated. When one realises that the Wilson task force review was not set up as a proper review, but rather was given terms of reference that required a mandated outcome to be reached, one wonders why it took so long for that process to be undertaken and completed. The result, in that the laws would be amended significantly or repealed, was a foregone conclusion. Any of the amendments that may be passed through this bill today need to be viewed in the context that the review undertaken by the Wilson task force was not a fulsome, open review of the laws.

In that context, it should also be noted that the original suite of laws that were passed by this parliament in 2013 were due for review in 2016. The laws contain a provision for a three-year review, which would have been a full and open review of their effectiveness. Had the LNP government been re-elected in January 2015, no doubt that review would have involved public consultation and called for public submissions. It would have been an open review of the laws, so that we could have a full, honest, open and transparent inquiry into their effectiveness. However, we did not see that from the government.

We need to remember the context of the 2013 suite of laws and the urgent need for reform in this space. Dozens of criminal motorcycle gang members started a brawl in a public place at Broadbeach, in front of families enjoying a Friday night out at a local restaurant. Following that altercation—and it was a very serious altercation that, no doubt, would have intimidated and frightened many families and visitors to the Gold Coast—the bikies proceeded to the Southport Police Station and

started a siege, demanding that their mates who had been arrested following the brawl be let out. They undertook a siege of a police station, demanding that their mates be let out. That occurred under the laws put in place by the previous Labor government, which said it was getting tough on organised crime gangs, that is, the Criminal Organisation Act 2009. That legislation, which led to no criminal organisations being declared and gang crime flourishing not only on the Gold Coast but also in other parts of the state, was implemented by the then attorney-general and current health minister, Cameron Dick. Eight members of the current government and six members of the current cabinet were members of the government that implemented that failed legislation.

From the footage taken that night in Broadbeach, it is clear that criminal motorcycle gang members have no respect for the police or the law. As a result of that brawl, 18 people were charged. Sadly, it was not an isolated incident. It followed a series of incidents on the Gold Coast and across Queensland that involved criminal motorcycle gangs and other forms of organised crime. At that time and previously when there had been outbreaks of violence on the Gold Coast, I remember the bad headlines from around the world. At that time I remember seeing media reports from Canada, the United States and literally all parts of the world containing bad headlines about the Gold Coast, because of the outbreak of violence that had occurred. Obviously, that was very damaging to our international reputation as a safe place. In response to the Broadbeach incidents, the LNP drew a line in the sand and said that enough was enough when it came to criminal motorcycle gangs. Community anger and dismay at the events leading to the night of Friday, 27 September 2013 had been building over many years. The response by our LNP team was the introduction of strong laws based on successful antiracketeering legislation in the United States, which I have to say were supported by the parliamentary opposition at that time.

In 2013, the seven-member opposition sat over here and voted with the LNP to introduce the suite of VLAD laws. Those were the toughest anti-bikie laws in Australia and they still are the toughest anti-bikie laws in Australia. They were so successful that the South Australian Labor government has sought to implement them. Recently, the Victorian Labor government announced that it will introduce new offences mirroring the LNP's successful anti-association laws, following South Australian Labor's adoption of the policy. When it comes to standing up to organised crime gangs and implementing strong laws to put them out of action and protect the community, South Australian Labor says yes. When it comes to standing up to crime gangs and implementing strong laws to put them out of action to protect the community, Victorian Labor says yes. However, when the same statement is applied here, our friends opposite, the Queensland Labor government, say no. It is impossible to explain why the government would want to unwind a set of laws that on the Gold Coast, in particular, had the effect of pushing the bikies out of town.

**Mr Walker:** Read Tom Tate's letter.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I will refer to Mayor Tate's letter later on. The Gold Coast City Council and other parts of the community are very clear that the LNP's laws have had the desired effect of getting bikies off the streets and reducing the intimidation, the extortion and the crime that goes with criminal motorcycle gangs.

Tourism is a very big part of the Queensland economy and, of course, it is a major part of the economy of the Gold Coast. When we look at the effect that this bill may have on the tourism industry on the Gold Coast, it becomes very clear that the longer this government lasts the more obvious it is that it just does not get the tourism industry, not only in Queensland but especially on the Gold Coast. We could talk about lockouts and scaremongering over the Great Barrier Reef, but as this bill is all about serious and organised crime I want to focus on what the government's plans will do to tourism in this state. It is obvious that for both our international and domestic appeal, Queensland's reputation as a safe destination is paramount. This bill can do real damage to our international reputation as a safe place. I have already spoken about the international attention that was focused on the Gold Coast when the bikies were out of control. It was very damaging for people's perception of the Gold Coast as a safe place. When you are sitting in your lounge room in the United States, Canada or anywhere in Asia and you are considering where to go on a holiday, and CNN, BBC World or whatever your news network is shows outlaw bikie violence on the streets of the Gold Coast, you will not choose to go there for a holiday. That is not the image that we need to be projecting. It is not an image of a safe place and it is not one that I, as a member of this parliament, want to support.

The only people this government is pleasing by bringing this bill to the House are the bikies. The organised criminal motorcycle gangs cannot wait for the bill to be passed, because they see the red carpet being rolled out for them, and not only through this bill. Ever since this government was elected, the bikies have known that they can get back into business because it is not just about the legislation

that is in place; it is about the approach and the policies that governments put in place, as well as the support that governments give to law enforcement agencies. From the start this government has made it clear that it is going to unwind the successful laws. It is no coincidence that, since the LNP laws came into place, tourism, particularly on the Gold Coast, has been booming. It is no coincidence at all that business confidence has been higher and the shock-and-awe campaign that was the LNP's crackdown on the Gold Coast was obvious for everyone to see. You cannot see bikies on the streets intimidating tourists and residents having a dinner out on a Friday night, as they were in the past. There was a clear intention to send the bikies packing, which was sent with stronger laws and more resources for law enforcement agencies to do their job. In fact, they did their job so well that the bikies packed up and fled the state.

At a time when, from a tourism perspective, we are losing market share to the other states and Labor has decided to spend money on a statewide marketing campaign, even though everyone has already booked their holidays, rolling back the strong bikie laws sends the wrong message to tourists as well as locals living and working on the Gold Coast. The catchcry for TEQ's campaign is, 'I know a place'. Well, I know a place where people were afraid of criminals and intimidated by gangs and where families could not have a holiday without the threat of being caught up in organised crime violence. I know that place and all the LNP Gold Coast members of this House know that place. That place is the Gold Coast before the LNP's tough approach to criminal motorcycle gangs was put in place. I know that place and I know the member for Burleigh knows that place, as well. We do not want to go back in time to that place, but that is exactly what will occur if this bill is passed today. That is a place in time when bikies said that they ran the town.

Back in 2013 there was a headline in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* which read 'We run this town'. That is exactly the attitude they had. That is exactly the attitude that the LNP government at the time was combatting. The laws, policies and resources given to our law enforcement agencies were effective in combatting that attitude and in reassuring the public that the laws made in this place would actually be what would be implemented on the streets of the Gold Coast and across this state and not the rule of law of the organised crime gangs, which is what this bill is opening the door to again today.

For all their talk about supporting tourism, the government is ignoring the calls of the mayor of the Gold Coast and the tourism industry bosses on the Gold Coast to keep the LNP's tough laws and policies in place. As I have said, the laws and policies we implemented are being copied by Labor governments in other parts of the country and yet Queensland Labor are winding them back.

This is happening because Labor just does not get it. They are soft on crime. Going soft on crime is not the answer. It is happening because they did a deal to get into office. They are beholden to the minority groups that oppose strong laws to deal with crime and laws that put the community first and the criminals last.

I refer briefly to a letter that was tabled at the committee hearing on the Gold Coast which was authored by the mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate. He refers to one of the paragraphs in the Attorney-General's introductory speech where she said that this bill will return to traditional criminal law approaches and well proven methods of crime detection, investigation and prosecution. The mayor's words in his letter were as follows—

Well, I'm sorry, but sad experience proves beyond argument that previous approaches simply could not remove the threat posed by outlaw motorcycle gangs to the Gold Coast.

The mayor has been there and has seen what occurred. All of the LNP members from the Gold Coast on this side of the House have lived through that time when organised criminal gangs ran amok on the Gold Coast.

The mayor also refers to the trail of devastation caused to thousands of families by the drugs peddled by these gang members. This is a real concern even in my electorate of Beaudesert, which is not on the Gold Coast but pretty close by. We see the effects of the scourge of ice in my community, as in many other communities across the state. There is irrefutable evidence from multiple sources, whether it is the CCC, the QPS or other federal law enforcement bodies, that organised criminal gangs and in particular organised criminal motorcycle gangs are part of the drug-peddling trade in this state.

When we cracked down on outlaw motorcycle gangs in 2013 we were not just attacking the violence, intimidation and thuggery, but also attacking the drug trade and the proliferation of ice in our community. We know that that continues to be an issue. We need to be ever vigilant about that. Softening the laws in relation to criminal motorcycle gangs will not help with that at all. As the mayor says in his letter—

Few people living outside this city can appreciate what it was like on the Gold Coast when bikies roamed without fear of the law. We were a city under siege. But the VLAD law stopped them dead in their tracks. Nothing else had worked but that did.

Yet Queensland Labor is winding back those laws and bringing in another suite of laws which have significant issues in relation to how they are going to practically work in actually keeping criminal motorcycle gangs at bay.

I want to talk about a couple of other issues in the bill. In particular, I refer to the antiassociation provisions that are being repealed by this bill. The antiassociation provisions in the LNP's suite of laws prevented more than two members who are members of a criminal organisation from congregating. They were strong antiassociation laws. These laws are not being repealed immediately. They are not being repealed in three months when the anticonsorting laws come into place. They are staying in place for two years from commencement.

For all members of the government who think that the antiassociation laws are so offensive and so unworkable—I know that is their opinion because they have stated it time and time again—I point out that they are not being repealed for two years. One has to ask the question: why are they not being repealed for two years? I am at a loss.

**Mr Hart:** They know they work.

**Mr KRAUSE:** Perhaps they do know they work. I am at a loss. It might get the government past the next election. The strong antiassociation laws are being repealed but not for two years.

In the committee report government members questioned the constitutionality of the antiassociation laws. In the committee hearings there was evidence given that they may not be constitutional. That is simply not true. This was identified on page 17 of the report where it talks about the consorting offence. There was a view taken by the Wilson task force that the antiassociation laws would be unconstitutional if they were challenged. There has been a High Court case about the anticonsorting laws in New South Wales. They were held to be constitutional.

The High Court also said that there is no straight out freedom of association in the Australian Constitution. The laws that were put in place in Queensland in 2013 are perfectly constitutional. They have not been challenged. As far as I can tell, they would survive any constitutional challenge in the High Court.

**Mr Walker:** Who knows how the new ones will go?

**Mr KRAUSE:** We do not know how they are going to go because they obviously have not been tested. Whereas, the antiassociation laws have already been tested. There is very strong commentary from the High Court that the antiassociation laws that we implemented in government would survive.

The new whizzbang replacement for the antiassociation laws is the consorting offence. That offence puts in place a regime where people are warned for consorting with members of criminal organisations. The problem with the consorting provision is that it unfortunately requires a number of different warnings to be given before any action can be taken in relation to the people who are consorting. There are a number of warnings that need to be given. There will be plenty of delays. There is a judicial process that will be involved. If three people are warned about consorting and then two of those people meet with another person at another point in time they have to restart the process of being warned.

These anticonsorting provisions are simply no replacement for the strong antiassociation provisions that we implemented in government. Members know that it is the antiassociation provisions that have kept the bikies off the streets of the Gold Coast and out of our communities and prevented the thuggery, violence, intimidation and extortion and the other ways they did their dirty work before the VLAD laws came into place. The anticonsorting laws are simply no replacement for the strong antiassociation laws we had in place.

The other thing that should be mentioned is that new clubhouses for criminal organisations will be able to pop up in places where they were closed before. All of the clubhouses that were associated with declared criminal gangs were closed under our laws. Once this bill is passed there will be no restriction on those clubs opening up new clubhouses in new premises. The old clubhouses will need to remain closed but new premises will be able to be opened. That is something that the people of Gold Coast and the people of Queensland do not deserve.

Through our laws we had criminal motorcycle gangs that were shut down and taken off our streets. Their clubhouses were shut down and they were prevented from congregating in groups of two or more. That has been effective in reducing their intimidation and presence, but that is all being wound back in this bill today.

I call on everyone in this House to reject this bill because it will take us back to the old days when bikies were free to ply their trade, intimidate and bring violence to the streets of not only the Gold Coast but also other parts of the state. That is not what I want to see for my community. That is not what those opposite should want to see for their communities. That is what they are voting for today. That is not what I want to see for the tourism industry in Queensland either. I do not want to see that place. We should all reject this bill.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.48 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset I want to say that I am very proudly joining with my colleagues on this side of the House in opposing this Labor government's attempt to weaken what are some of the strongest anticriminal gang laws in the country. These laws have been so strong and so effective at stopping criminals and organised crime and bikie gangs from even getting on to the streets of the Gold Coast that we have seen jurisdictions across Australia follow the LNP's lead.

I was very proud in the lead-up to the 2015 election to stand firm with my Gold Coast colleagues as we stood up to the criminal motorcycle gangs, as we stood up to the drug rings, as we stood up to the paedophile rings and as we stood up to all organised crime not only on the Gold Coast but across Queensland. We stood up to them and we said, 'You are not welcome in our city.' Gold Coasters spoke very loudly. They spoke very loudly, indeed.

What we can see from the legislation before us today—and this is just one of many pieces of legislation that affirm and reiterate this point—is that, where the LNP wants to be tough on crime and criminals and the LNP wants to protect Queenslanders, the Labor Party time and time again is weak on crime. With this legislation the Labor Party is rolling out the red carpet to criminal motorcycle gangs on the Gold Coast. It is rolling out the red carpet to organised crime across Queensland.

I have had the opportunity since 2012 to talk to people in my electorate about the issues that matter most to them. Consistently people tell me that they are very, very concerned about law and order and, particularly on the Gold Coast, they are very, very concerned about criminal motorcycle gangs. Indeed, it is the third most important issue for my community behind management of the economy and jobs. Since the election in 2015, nearly 2,000 people have actively sought me out to complain about the fact that Labor is rolling out the red carpet to criminal motorcycle gangs on the Gold Coast and across Queensland. It is quite significant that that many people would actively, of their own volition, make the effort to complain about what this government is doing.

The Labor Party, as part of their big suite of claimed reforms, want to introduce anticonsorting laws which they say are modelled on the New South Wales provisions. As has been outlined by the member for Beaudesert, what that means is that we are stopping them from hanging out after they have committed the crimes. The whole intent and purpose of the anti-association element of the original VLAD laws, which were introduced and passed by the LNP government, was to stop them from even hanging out together in the first place.

We want the crime and criminal activity on the Gold Coast and across Queensland to stop. That is the whole point of the anti-association element of the VLAD laws, to make sure that they were not able to get out there on the streets of the Gold Coast, that they were not able to go to Robina and fire a weapon catching innocent people in the crossfire, that they were not able to go to Broadbeach and have a riot in front of terrorised families and tourists, that they were not able to go to the Southport Police Station to try to take a police station in this state to have members of their criminal motorcycle gang released.

I have spoken not only to many people in my community but to many police officers on the Gold Coast. They are telling me and every other member of this parliament from the Gold Coast that they absolutely want and need these laws to stay because they need to have a firm and tough hand. That is the power that these laws gave them. That is why last year the Police Commissioner himself said that he thought these laws were being effective. That is why the head of the Queensland police union said these laws were being effective. If you speak to police officers on the beat, they will tell you that these laws have been very, very effective. You just need to look at how often Taskforce Maxima is mentioned in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. I see the member for Burleigh nodding, because we know that just the other day Taskforce Maxima completed a raid and collected drugs and weapons. We know that if we weaken our stance and if we weaken the resolve then criminal motorcycle gangs will again try to run our city.

For the benefit of the House and for the benefit of Labor members—who probably do not get a chance to read the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on a regular basis because it is not their local paper given that the Labor Party does not have any members on the Gold Coast—I would like to table this article, the headline of which is ‘Gold Coast bikies laugh off gang “crackdown”, tell police: “We run this town”’ and the cover of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that day.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* online, dated 2 October 2012, titled ‘Gold Coast bikies laugh off gang “crackdown”, tell police: “We run this town”’ [2160].

What we said in government was, ‘You do not run this town. We will run you out of town,’ and that is exactly what we did. That is why we need to make sure that we do not weaken our resolve. We have seen Labor go weak at the knees when it comes to being tough on crime. We have seen Labor go weak at the knees when it comes to saying to criminal motorcycle gangs, to drug rings, to paedophile rings, to extortion rings that they are welcome in this state again.

I am very proud to say that, until the next election and beyond the next election, I will be very, very firm, alongside my Gold Coast colleagues—I see the member for Burleigh nodding and I acknowledge and thank the member for Mermaid Beach for his support as well. We will take a very, very strong line that the LNP opposes absolutely the changes that this government is making, because we know and we saw firsthand the impact and the effect that criminal motorcycle gangs and organised crime more broadly had on the Gold Coast.

We just had schoolies on the Gold Coast. I note that the New South Wales school leavers and the Victorian school leavers are there this week. We need to make sure that drug gangs and drug rings which seek to peddle illicit substances amongst those 17-year-olds and all across the Gold Coast are not given the opportunity to do so. That is another reason that we must not and should not weaken our resolve.

I spoke about some of the more famous incidents where people were caught in the crossfire both figuratively and, unfortunately, as we saw at Robina Town Centre, literally. The people on the Gold Coast have spoken loud and clear. They do not want these laws repealed. We know that we have the wholehearted and full support of the Gold Coast City Council when it comes to taking a firm stand against criminal motorcycle gangs.

I will just reflect on the committee report that was tabled in this House. I think it is most unedifying that a parliamentary report would seek to so shamefully and disgracefully make assertions and references about the character of the mayor of the Gold Coast and one of the local city councillors because they have had the guts to stand up to Labor and say to Labor that they should not repeal these laws. It is absolutely disgraceful. It is unedifying.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Miss BARTON:** I take the interjection from the member for Burleigh: it is reprehensible. It reflects on all members of this parliament that that committee would make such a reflection on elected officials across this state.

In the time that I have remaining, I make it very clear to the people of Broadwater and the broader Gold Coast that the LNP stands firm on the decisions that we took in government to keep Queenslanders safe because that is what governments need to do. Very clearly, by the laws that the government are attempting to pass after that sham review, they do not care about keeping Queenslanders safe. They are rolling out the red carpet to criminal motorcycle gangs in Queensland.

Mark my words, the LNP, particularly on the Gold Coast, will continue to fight the fight to make sure that there are no criminal motorcycle gangs, there are no drug rings, there are no paedophile rings and there are no extortion rings which are threatening the everyday lives and the safety and the enjoyment of everyday Gold Coasters. Shame on Labor. They do not understand the Gold Coast and they never will.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.58 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to first thank the Attorney-General for introducing this bill. I also want to thank the committee, particularly the chair of the committee, for all of their hard work. I note that some members of the opposition have become a bit fixated on the chair’s foreword, which when I last looked amounted to around 1½ pages. The committee’s report on the bill extends to over 100 pages. I commend the report and all of the hard work of the members of the committee.

Of course, this bill is a response to the government’s findings of the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, the review of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009 and the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation. The Palaszczuk government is once again delivering on its election

commitments by fulfilling our promise of establishing a commission of inquiry into the extent and nature of organised crime and its economic and societal impacts on Queensland. It is very interesting that we have heard insinuations from those opposite that members of the government are not serious about organised crime. We have also heard insinuations from those opposite that organised crime happens in certain areas and does not in other parts of Queensland. The reality is that this government takes serious and organised crime very seriously. Unfortunately, this kind of criminal activity can happen in any part of Queensland. Personally, I will never forget—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Furner): All members, the last two non-government members were heard in silence. I expect the same consideration to be given.

**Mr PEGG:** I will personally never forget a night in April 2012 when I received a phone call from my partner. She was having dinner at one of the restaurants in our local shopping centre, the Warrigal Square Shopping Centre, which is well known to people in my electorate. It is, in fact, the closest shopping centre to where I live. Like many hundreds of people that night who were shopping and having dinner, my partner was going about her business with her friend and, unfortunately, a young man was shot and subsequently passed away that night in front of many, many people in my local area.

Serious crime can happen in any community and in any part of Queensland. To insinuate that it does not affect certain areas or to insinuate that members of this place do not take the matter seriously is completely wrong. I know it is something that I and my partner will never forget. I am sure that anybody who was there and the many people in my local community will never forget as well.

This bill acts on both the government's election commitment to a safer Queensland and to address the inadequacies of the 2013 LNP laws. Members may recall the inadequate process conducted by the Newman-Nicholls-Bleijie government which lacked both consultation and consideration. This was seen when they rushed the VLAD laws through parliament. There was no notice and no committee inquiry despite the wideranging impacts these laws had on individual liberties and freedoms. It has been very interesting to hear from those opposite and their complaints about the extensive committee process that was conducted in relation to this bill because many of them were members of the former government. There was no committee inquiry back then; there was no consultation then. I find it very interesting to hear some of the remarks that those opposite have made in relation to these laws when they were silent in relation to consultation when the VLAD laws were introduced.

Unlike the former LNP government, this government is implementing this legislation on the basis of strong comprehensive evidence. As I have already mentioned, it has been considered by the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, the review of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009 and the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation to ensure consultation with the wider community and a strong evidence base. In the course of its inquiries, the commission conducted interviews and hearings, wrote to key stakeholders and advertised in the *Courier-Mail* and the *Australian* newspapers inviting submissions as well as on the commission website. That sounds like a pretty open and extensive process to me. This is in stark contrast to the VLAD laws, which were introduced and passed in the same evening.

In response to these inadequacies, this bill removes the elements of the former government's regime that were excessive, unnecessary and poorly targeted while introducing a suite of new and improved tools to tackle organised crime. The fundamental aim is to achieve a legally robust and operationally strong approach to tackling organised crime as well as empowering police to target these crimes so that the Queensland community can feel secure and have confidence in the justice system. Importantly, this bill will ensure appropriate safeguards and oversight of these new powers as well as empowering police to target serious and organised crime to keep our communities safe and ensure that justice is administered. They are a wideranging suite of laws being implemented including a consorting offence, public safety orders, child exploitation material and drug offences to name a few. I will only mention a few key areas.

The new consorting offence in the bill makes it a criminal offence for a person to associate with two other people who have previous convictions. It is preceded by a warning to the person that continued association is a criminal offence. The Queensland offence is modelled on the New South Wales offence, which is constitutionally valid and, unlike the LNP offence, has been successful in securing convictions. This offence will deter convicted criminals from establishing, building and maintaining criminal networks. It is a useful tool to disrupt this criminal activity and, importantly, it is

based on someone's criminal history and not simply the membership of a group. To ensure this power is not inappropriately used, the consorting offence will not apply to persons aged under 18 years and the defence of allowing consorting with family members will take into account Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander norms of kinship.

I am sure all members of the House will agree that one of the most disturbing manifestations of organised crime is the production and distribution of child exploitation material. These illegal acts are committed against the most vulnerable in our society. In response to these vile acts, this bill increases the maximum penalty for child exploitation from 14 to 20 years and creates new circumstances of aggravation. It also introduces new offences that will apply to people who administer child exploitation websites, encourage the use of child exploitation websites and provide advice on how to avoid detection in gaining access to child exploitation websites. This government recognises the imperative of tackling these issues and this bill will enhance the legal accountability and police powers in ensuring that child exploitation material is dealt with adequately.

This set of laws will deliver a new regime to tackle organised crime and ensure a safer Queensland. The safety of Queensland is of the utmost importance to our government. This is why I support this bill to ensure the future safety of those not only in my electorate but also across Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.06 pm): As Jack Gibson famously said, this is *deja vu* all over again. I was sitting here through the Bligh government and their answer was their stupid law the Criminal Organisation Act, which arrested nobody, got nobody through the courts and did nothing. When in opposition I gave nine speeches in this House and on national ABC on the bikies before this took off in Mermaid Beach, Nobby's Beach, Broadbeach—all around my area. We would see them sitting around in coffee shops intimidating people and the whole box and dice and not one was put away at that time under the Bligh laws. Now we are going back to where we were with the Bligh laws. It is a total watering down of the successful VLAD laws that were introduced.

In those early Bligh years my wife went to a Pilates class in the bottom end of Broadbeach and was home by seven o'clock. That night tattoo parlours all around Broadbeach were shot up by the bikies. She went to Robina shopping centre the next day and, bang, the bikies were back again. I say to the police minister that they did not use rat-shot; they used fair dinkum guns that actually cleaned up somebody. They were serious about their crime.

The member for Rockhampton knows that I have been talking about this matter since before it became famous due to the bokie brawl in Broadbeach. The fact of the matter is we are watering down these laws and I do not understand why Premier Palaszczuk is doing this. All I can think is that, as a Hilary Clinton fan, she does not care about the Gold Coast deplorables. She is basically saying that her union mates, the CFMEU, and the lefty lawyers who are nudging her to water down these heavy penalties only for criminal bikies are saying, 'We have to get rid of those. How are we going to do that? We are going to finesse it by putting it under child exploitation and hiding it.' The coppers have all said to us, 'Don't get rid of the VLAD laws.' We will be bringing them back when we return to government, hopefully after the next election.

Why is the government doing this? Why are they watering down a successful law for the Gold Coast? It did not come in overnight. It came in because of the awful scenario that happened on the Gold Coast in the Broadbeach brawl and that was broadcast on national television. Forget about the 'ballroom blitz' that happened at Royal Pines which happened years previously. When the LNP was in power Premier Newman, who was in China at the time, got on the phone and said, 'Bang, we're going to fix this. It is not happening. Anarchy is not happening in Queensland. We are putting in these tough laws.'

The attorney-general at the time did a great job taking advice from a leading barrister in Queensland, quite a famous gentleman, who modelled these laws on the Mafia laws in America by getting these bikies to talk and dob on each other. That is why the mandatory 25-year and 15-year sentences were put in there to make senior bokie executives talk, because they have a code of silence which cannot be broken. They will not dob in their mates. They will do three years, no problem, and their families will be looked after and they will pop out bigger and badder than ever. They get a lot of money out of this game through their tattoo parlours. They wash the proceeds of crime and turn the dirty money which they obtain through drugs, standover tactics and prostitution into clean money. They then pay the 30 per cent tax rate through a company, and that is how they are able to fund the enormous amount of drugs that you see in drug busts because they are making such a truckload of money out of these illicit and illegal activities.

Why are we winding it back? No sensible government would wind back the laws. In fact, those big fans and followers of the LNP—the South Australian Labor government—have introduced the same laws. Isn't that amazing? They really love the LNP. I wonder if Campbell would like to run in South Australia. The fact of the matter is that the laws are good and they have worked. They are so good that this government is hanging onto them for two years until after the next election, I presume, just in case the bikies start to roll back into town—and they will and they are. I see them around. They are not in big groups in the coffee shops like they were, but they are coming back. You will see by the violent activity on the coast and the ones that have been put in jail that the bikies are back because they know they have a friend in the Labor Party.

Unfortunately, the only reason I can put down to the Labor Party being friends with criminal bikie gang members is through their CFMEU union mates and their lefty lawyer mates. As we all know, Mr Bill Potts—great fellow and great solicitor that he is—is one of the legal defenders of these criminal bikie gangs, and I am sure they have paid him lots of money over the years to defend them as they carry on their illegal criminal activities. Oh, guess what? Mr Potts is the boss of the Law Society in Queensland. Isn't it amazing that he wants the existing laws of the LNP wound back and watered down? They were unashamedly tough on bikies—not anyone else that rides a motorbike, but on criminal motorcycle bikie gang members. I would like someone to explain to me why we are hiding this watering-down, soft-on-crime legislation under the guise of child protection when it really is about going soft on the bikies on the Gold Coast. We do not have any members on that side from the Labor Party on the Gold Coast. I wonder why. The fact of the matter is that when the tide went out for the LNP government we won the seat of Gaven, so that tells you how the Gold Coast feels about law and order on the Gold Coast. We are very, very protective of our family-friendly city, and this will put the image of the Gold Coast at risk and will put the bikies back in town.

I cannot understand why anyone would take members from the RAP squad, for instance. Twenty members have been moved for other duties. The RAP squad has been very successful. In fact, as we all know they had a very successful leader in Jimmy Keogh. All members on the coast would know what a great copper he was and what a great service he provided to the Gold Coast in cleaning up crime. I would like anyone over there to come forward and say that Jim has not done a great job for the Gold Coast. What happened immediately after Labor got in? They shifted him out and put him somewhere else, tied him up behind a desk in Brisbane. Basically, all this government has done for their mates, either in the CFMEU or the lefty lawyers, is make the Gold Coast a worse place to live from a law and order point of view. It absolutely amazes me that the Attorney-General can stand up in this House and claim that this law is as tough as the laws that the LNP put in place. It makes no sense whatsoever. As I understand it, they have a seven-year mandatory sentence in this new legislation.

I cannot understand why they would pick on the Gold Coast mayor, Mayor Tom Tate, who is a great supporter of the city and has been in that industry—he knows the night-life on the Gold Coast—and knows the problems that these characters cause in that particular industry. Why a Labor government would pick on a mayor for defending his city amazes me. It is beyond belief. Councillor Paul Taylor, who I work closely with in the Broadbeach area, is all over the problems we had with the bikies in the area. He was a very popular member of the Kurrawa Surf Club, and to pick on him was absolutely in the poorest taste and below the standard that is expected of a proper parliamentarian or a proper party in the state of Queensland.

Please, Attorney-General, explain to the Gold Coast why you are going soft on crime and why you are making it an easier place for the Gold Coast bikies to open up their clubhouses. I had one right next to Pacific Fair that the businesses around it were very, very frightened to say anything about. Fortunately, Jimmy closed it down with his RAP squad. If we see the tattoo parlours back and the clubhouses back again it will be thanks to the Labor Party, this Attorney-General and Premier Palaszczuk's soft-on-crime government. It is an absolute disgrace that the Gold Coast has to wear it.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.17 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak about what bikie gangs mean to country areas, considering that all my colleagues around me have been from the Gold Coast and have spoken about what it means to the Gold Coast to have tougher laws on bikie gangs to make sure that the peace is in order. In the country areas, if a mob of bikies pull up at a country pub usually there are only about one or two police officers on during that time and it can be a scary experience. In my younger days I saw some pretty scary ones, but in the old days nearly every city had a good football team. I remember at the Pialba pub one night the bikies came in there and all the footballers were there as well, so there was a huge brawl and the bikies left town. It is quite intimidating for a lot of small country towns when bikies do ride in like that with all their colours. They do not fight very fair, because in the brawl that night they were using shifting spanners and anything like that to hit

each other, so it is not the nicest thing to happen in country areas. In some areas where the bikie gangs have put clubhouses they are fortified and they nearly look like something out of an American old Indian thing where it is nearly fortified with big steel doors and cameras and all the rest of it.

If you are going to go soft on crime you will see more drugs and more drug abuse. The worst part about that is I am starting to see grandparents who have to look after their grandchildren because their parents are not able to because of drug abuse, and I believe that is going to expand a lot more if we are going to go soft on crime. We really have to get out there. Not too much research has been done on what some of these drugs do to unborn children while they are in the womb, and some of these kids have slight brain damage and different conditions like that. If we are going to go soft on crime and allow these drugs to get out there, it really does affect families.

There are parents in Hervey Bay who have spent thousands trying to rehabilitate their children and get them off the drugs that these guys are pushing, and they spend until they go broke. They sell their houses to help these kids. If we are going to go soft on crime, well, we are going to have a mess down the track and we have to really get into it. That is all I want to say today. I am sick and tired of seeing young babies being looked after by their grandparents and parents having to look after their kids because of drug overdoses and schizophrenia, for example. It is sad when you see somebody commit suicide because of the drugs that are out there. That is all I want to say.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. In 2013 the Queensland parliament passed the Newman government's Vicious Lawless Association Disestablishment Act 2013, which became known as the VLAD laws. The VLAD legislation was shamelessly rushed through this parliament by the Campbell Newman government with no notice and without the usual review by a parliamentary committee inquiry. The VLAD laws were introduced and passed on the same night—at 3 am on 17 October 2013. These laws were said to be designed to dismantle criminal organisations in Queensland and loosely based on the RICO laws of the United States. Passed in 1970, the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, the RICO laws, was federal legislation designed to combat organised crime in the United States.

One of the strongest arguments given to support the Queensland government's crackdown was that the overwhelming majority of bikies were supposedly hardened criminals. As such, outlaw motorcycle criminal gangs were the focus of the legislation. As the Australian crime commission has said, bikie gangs are just one part of the organised crime picture in Australia. At the estimates hearings in 2014, former Queensland premier Campbell Newman admitted that only 11 bikies—one per cent of the 1,113 criminal gang participants—had been charged under the VLAD Act provisions. A grand total of 11 bikies were charged under this supposedly successful legislation.

The reality is that outlaw motorcycle gangs are just one of the organised crime groups that our law enforcement agencies have to deal with on a daily basis. They are just the most obvious. In dealing with organised crime we do not have the luxury to just focus on bikie gangs; we must also deal with other criminal groups including paedophile groups and boiler room fraudsters. This legislation allows our law enforcement agencies to be more effective and successful in confronting all organised criminals, not just bikie gangs.

These laws will allow the police to demand passwords and access codes from reportable offenders for their electronic devices if there is reasonable suspicion that an offence, such as accessing child pornography, has occurred. It prioritises community and police safety and injects judicial oversight across key elements of the regime. Fundamental to the proposed changes is that a person's criminality should be determined by their actual conduct. This is an approach that pursues groups of individual criminals instead of attempting to combat the threat they pose by going after the organisation itself.

The Palaszczuk government has done what the Newman government should have done. It has consulted widely before making these new laws. The serious and organised crime bill incorporates into law the considered outcomes of three reviews, an extensive and multistage consultation process and feedback from the various law enforcement agencies that are called upon to enforce these laws. The three reviews commissioned by the government into organised crime were the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation and the statutory review of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009, which I will refer to as COA.

The commission of inquiry commenced on 1 May 2015 to make inquiry into the extent and nature of organised crime in Queensland and its economic and social impacts. The commissioner, Mr Michael Byrne QC, presented the final report of the commission to the Premier and Minister for the Arts on 30 October 2015. This commission made 43 recommendations to improve the regulation of organised crime in Queensland, and the bill implements 14 recommendations that require legislative reform.

Implementing a Palaszczuk government election commitment, a high-level task force was established in June 2015 by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice to conduct a review of the legislation introduced by the Newman government in October and November 2013. The COA allows the Supreme Court of Queensland, under application by the Commissioner for Police, to declare an organisation a criminal organisation if satisfied that the members of the organisation associate for the purpose of engaging in or conspiring to engage in serious criminal activity and the organisation is an unacceptable risk to the safety, welfare or order of the community. Mr Wilson QC conducted a COA review concurrently with the work of the task force. He delivered his report to the Queensland government on 15 December 2015 and recommended that the COA be repealed or allowed to lapse, with certain elements utilised and redeployed elsewhere in Queensland's new organised crime legislative framework.

The bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, which held public hearings at Brisbane and the Gold Coast. The committee received 282 submissions to consider, some of which were accepted on a confidential or partially confidential basis. Unfortunately, the committee was unable to reach a majority position as to whether the bill should be passed, with the opposition committee members' position being that the bill should not be passed.

Prior to the last election the Palaszczuk opposition made an election commitment to review the VLAD laws to ensure the Queensland framework for organised crime was capable of targeting new and emerging criminal threats. This process has been in sharp contrast to the lack of consultation and consideration adopted by the Newman government and the former attorney-general. This legislation removes the elements of the Newman government's regime which were excessive or poorly targeted while introducing a suite of new and improved tools to tackle organised crime in Queensland. The legislation provides law enforcement agencies with the tools and powers to tackle organised crime in all of its forms while also ensuring oversight by the courts.

In closing, I thank the Attorney-General, Yvette D'Ath, for introducing this important and groundbreaking legislation to the Queensland parliament. I also thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, chaired by the member for Ferny Grove, Mark Furner, the committee secretariat and the submitters. I am pleased to commend the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 to the House.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. In this debate members have referenced the footage from Friday, 27 September 2013, when 50 Bandidos bikie gang members started a public brawl in a restaurant at Broadbeach in front of terrified men, women and children who were out enjoying dinner with family and friends. It was clear from the footage reported on the night that criminal motorcycle gang members have no respect for the police or the law itself. It is important to remember that, sadly, this is not an isolated incident. The front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* of 2 October featured a Bandido under the headline 'We run this town'. It is important to remember the arrogance this showed and the way these criminal gang members treated the police and the community—with absolute, utter contempt.

In response to the bikie brawl the LNP drew a line in the sand and said, 'Enough is enough.' The response by the LNP through the introduction of the strong laws was swift and undoubtedly successful. There is no doubt in my mind that when we left government Queensland was a safer place than the one we inherited from the previous Labor government. We invested heavily in more front-line police officers, better resources and better laws to help the Police Service to get their job done. We backed the police and we can all agree that the community was a much safer place as a result.

The question that still has not been answered to my satisfaction is why this government is changing laws that have proven to keep Queenslanders safe. I note that Gold Coast Mayor Tom Tate has said—

Repealing or weakening of these laws, risks re-emergence of bikie gangs in the city, undoing of the great work of our police force and an irreparable damage to the city's image ...

He continued—

Any recommendation of the review that would lead to perceived or tangible weakening of the legislation would go against the expectations of the Gold Coast community.

I note Police Commissioner Ian Stewart said—

I have been on the public record as saying I think that they were a good thing ...

We've had amazing success over the last few years; those laws have certainly had an impact.

I am yet to be convinced that these laws needed to be changed at all, especially when the review of this suite of legislation was actually due about the time of this debate.

Non-government members in their statement of reservation in the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report No. 42 into the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 note that two provisions in the bill have merit. The LNP may well have considered these provisions if they were brought forward in separate legislation, and I refer to measures such as amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act and the Criminal Code relating to child exploitation over the internet. However, these provisions have heavily outweighed the significant number of amendments which will take the state backwards and the increased risk to the safety of all Queenslanders.

In referring to the committee, I note the member for Ferny Grove's comments describing the LNP laws as 'as useful as an ashtray on a motorbike'. I remind the member that this is not about comedy and not about throwaway one-liners. One-liners will not protect the Gold Coast community and the rest of Queensland from the impact of serious and organised crime. This is about community safety. This is about enabling our Police Service and our court system to deal with serious and organised crime. When it comes to these laws, the old saying 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it' comes to mind. Queenslanders expect their government and their community leaders to put community safety and crime prevention ahead of politics. They expect their government to protect the police so that they can protect us. There is no reason to give these bikies and their lawyers 450 pages of untested legislation to try and have a go at when we have laws that are proven to work and that have been upheld by the courts. There is no reason, not if we are serious about protecting the community and taking a stand against organised crime.

There have been many things said in the House today—and I listened to those opposite—but the legislation that the LNP put in place did so much good for the people of Queensland. The threat to open the doors to these criminal organisations and bikie gangs to run rampant again in Queensland is a huge mistake to make on behalf of the Labor government. It is letting the people of Queensland down yet again. It has let the people down with train timetables and the way it operates the finances of Queensland, and our state is steadily but surely sinking into the debt quagmire. This bikie legislation is going to put the lives of our children at risk and allow more drugs to be distributed on our streets and is basically a support for bikie organisations. For these reasons, I cannot support this bill.

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (4.33 pm): I rise to oppose the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Under the LNP, Queensland had the strongest criminal gang laws in the country. Under Labor's proposed laws, bikie clubhouses will reopen, bikies will be allowed to carry weapons and they will once again be free to run licensed premises. This bill does nothing to alleviate the fear that is in the hearts of all Queenslanders and that, without tough laws, we could actually lose the war on organised crime and see an increase in the number of assaults, robberies, car thefts, homicides, drugs and weapons offences. One of life's important lessons is to learn how to deal with bullies and, since bullies only respond to strength, we as law-makers must show a zero tolerance to organised crime. Zero tolerance does not look like Labor would have us believe.

I would argue that this bill, in contrast to the LNP government's VLAD laws, is indeed quite tolerant and, in fact, fairly good news for criminal gang members. Making it easier to access weapons and get a weapons licence, reducing police powers to stop, search and detain suspected criminals, watering down bail laws so criminals are back on the streets quicker and removing laws that prevent criminal gangs from recruiting members in jail is certainly not a sign of force. That is why I assume the president of the Rebels bikie gang, Mick Kosenko, said that he was pleased with parts of the bill but believed the government could have done more. Not a bad day's work, really, when you think about it. Most criminals like to operate below the radar, but not criminal motorcycle gangs. They are proud to be seen for what they are. They wear their colours with pride and, in a perverse act of unity, boldly and recklessly intimidate the rest of society so that they get what they want when they want and win at all costs. Without tough laws to control them, they are a law unto themselves.

Under the LNP's VLAD laws, criminal motorcycle gangs were forced to shut up shop in Queensland and now the Labor Party has put out the welcome mat for them. In Noosa the Rebels clubhouse on Eumundi Noosa Road was closed under our laws. They left Noosa. I do not want to see them back. By using legitimate business fronts such as locksmiths, tow trucks and tattoo parlours as a disguise, these gangs conduct covert criminal activity, cleverly slipping through the cracks and defeating law enforcement efforts.

Labor is playing the civil liberties card to the detriment of the wider community. Of all the places to apply a fairness test, this is not one of them. The same rules cannot apply to businesses run covertly by criminal gangs as they are outside the law to begin with. This government refuses to recognise the

gaping holes and the threat to our civilised society which remain by scrapping the VLAD laws and replacing them with little more than a ban on the wearing of gang colours. Law-abiding citizens already pay far too much and put up with too much as a result of sharing their communities with criminals.

Once again this government has packaged together a set of various laws which stood a much better chance of bipartisan support if dealt with in a logical manner. For example, why would you include a Criminal Code amendment to address the proliferation of child pornography on the internet in a bill that sends a strong message to criminal motorcycle gangs that Queensland is once again open for business? This sloppy way to conduct government business defies logic and prevents real change from being achieved. There are only two places for members of outlaw motorcycle gangs—in prison or interstate.

This legislation makes a mockery of the real concerns Queenslanders have for their safety and, if passed, will do a great disservice to the state of Queensland. In a recent survey of my electorate of Noosa, 77 per cent of respondents supported the LNP's tough stance on criminal motorcycle gangs, 84 per cent thought current sentencing did not reflect community standards and 95 per cent supported tougher measures to deal with domestic violence. Law and order is a serious matter for all of us and the thought of not having sufficient legislation in place to protect us all is terrifying.

On that note, I ask the Attorney-General: when will the much lauded Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council hand down its first review into the effectiveness of sentencing orders in the reduction of crime? I put it to members that the answer will not be forthcoming given the low priority this government has given to law and order and to bridging the gap with community expectations. At this point in time we have our collective hands at the throats of these criminal gangs and we must let the police and the courts tighten their grip until we snuff out their life in this state.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.38 pm): Today I rise to speak in opposition to the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Three years ago last month I rose in this House to speak in support of the LNP's Criminal Law Amendment Bill and want to begin by reflecting on my words. I said—

The Gold Coast has had enough of this issue. We have had enough of the escalating violence and we have had enough of the intimidation and scaremongering. The Gold Coast's reputation is being tarnished by a lawless minority and it is time to put a stop to this madness.

When I first ran for parliament in 2012, I heard from many people in suburbs like Ashmore and Southport, parts of Parkwood and other parts of my electorate, particularly from a lot of elderly people, about how concerned they were for their own safety. Gang violence, drug dealers, drug dealers' disputes and break-and-enter offences had dominated our local news bulletins for far too long. However, this issue is not just about my local community; it is also about my city's image. It is about the tourism and development industries on the Gold Coast. In recent months, we have heard so much from the government about how important tourism is to the state of Queensland and how spectacular the growth in domestic and international visitors has been. I do not think that any of us should dare be frivolous about the importance of protecting the image of the Gold Coast and Queensland.

My comments back then were that this issue was really about jobs and opportunity, that Queensland and the Gold Coast did not need the negative publicity generated by the kind of behaviours that we saw in Broadbeach in that infamous brawl, which then spilled out into an all-out assault on the Southport Police Station and the watch house. That is absolutely not the image that the Gold Coast needs. We are at a time in our state's history when we can ill afford to turn away visitors. This issue continues to threaten a secure future for families in our state. It is also threatening the secure future for the city of the Gold Coast. It absolutely needs to be addressed.

I am pleased to say that, in the past three years, community confidence and a sense of safety in Southport and the Gold Coast has risen. The streets feel safer. When I was first elected in 2012, I had people come to my office who told me that it was a regular occurrence to see people dealing drugs down the back alley behind my office at Chirn Park. I can assure members that, over the past few years, there have been no repeats of that. I can also assure the House that that is a trend that we are seeing less and less of across the city of the Gold Coast.

The Gold Coast is in an era of great prosperity. We have the Commonwealth Games just some 18 months away. Infrastructure development is being rolled out across the city. There is great enthusiasm and optimism. Stage 2 of the light rail is well underway. The new Health and Knowledge Precinct and the university are thriving. All of this activity underpins the need for us to maintain a strong stand on law and order. If these reforms are passed—this softening of our approach to criminal gangs—I am particularly concerned that, in a sense, we will be putting out the welcome mat to them. We are already hearing stories from across the border of criminal gangs planning to gear up and come back once these laws go through.

I am particularly concerned about the consultation on these proposed changes that has gone on with the Gold Coast community—or, should I say, the lack of consultation. In September, I was fortunate to fill in on the committee when a public briefing on the recommendations of the task force that had been set up was held. Fortuitously, at that public hearing I was there with the member for Coomera and the member for Currumbin—three members representing the Gold Coast filling in on the committee that day. The committee received briefings from Acting Inspector Ian Carroll from the Queensland Police Service; Mr David Ford, the Deputy Director-General for Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; Ms Carolyn McAnally, the Acting Director for Strategic Policy and Legal Services of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; Mrs Leanne Robertson, the Acting Assistant Director-General of Strategic Policy and Legal Services of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General; Ms Louise Shephard, also from that department; and, most importantly, Commissioner Ian Stewart from the Queensland Police Service.

I simply asked the question: of all the people on the task force who were given the job of coming back with these recommendations and to review what was being proposed, how many of them either lived on the Gold Coast and had some practical work experience on the Gold Coast at some point or had spent some part of their working career down the Gold Coast dealing with this issue in what is a very dynamic and unique market?

**Mr Walker:** What was the answer?

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I take that interjection from the member for Mansfield. The answer was none. Apart from perhaps the commissioner himself, who has spent a bit of time down on the Gold Coast from time to time, not one of the task force members charged with the responsibility to come up with recommendations on how to deal with serious crime on the Gold Coast had ever lived or worked on the Gold Coast for any significant period of time. I think that is an absolute disgrace. I have real concerns about that.

At that hearing I also asked the commissioner questions about the proposed new anticonsorting proposals. I asked if he was happy with them. I have to say that I was not very satisfied with the answer. I do not think that the responses that we received from the commissioner and other representatives in that hearing were adequate. How do we monitor these new anticonsorting proposals? How are we going to have people in the field with the ability to observe whether people are consorting? How do you monitor that? In years gone by, the commissioner had previously expressed concerns about these anticonsorting proposals.

A lot of the venue owners have concerns about these anticonsorting proposals. They want to know what their responsibilities are. How are they supposed to monitor and act on these anticonsorting rules? I want to quote from a contribution that was made to the public hearing by Mr Paul Burton, the general manager of the Southport RSL. He said—

From the outset, any diminishing of the 2013 suite of laws primarily targeting outlaw motorcycle gangs, which I will refer to as OMCGs, would be to the detriment of society, given the purpose and result achieved thus far by the then introduced laws. For the sake of our towns and licensed venues, our tourism and our children, I respectfully submit that any proposed softening of these laws will again bring fear back to our society and undo the extreme positive efforts of our law enforcement officers, which in turn sends out a message to the OMCGs.

For the record I have witnessed and been subject to the intimidatory tactics employed by OMCGs in my licensed venue which, from the coalface, is a very disturbing experience, not only for the venue operator but also for members and guests. Members and guests constantly advise me that they feel safer in the club than they do in their own homes. Whilst this is a sad indictment on the world we live in, it is a reality in certain sectors of society, particularly the elderly.

Mr Burton's contribution reflects the concerns of venue operators and owners and the wider community as he also heads up the alliance of venue operators in Southport.

I want to go back to some comments that I made in the hearing. This is a very personal issue for me, too. The LNP responded to outrageous behaviour on the Gold Coast. We were at a conference at the convention centre. The Premier pulled a few of my Gold Coast colleagues aside and said, 'You need to come to an unscheduled meeting with the Police Commissioner. I cannot tell members how disturbing it was to be handed the Police Commissioner's phone number and the Deputy Police Commissioner's phone number, to be given a briefing on the personal risks involved and advised to give those phone numbers to my family and my kids just in case 000 did not work and they found themselves in a situation where they were being targeted. I could also talk to the House about the four months that we had police officers stationed at my office at Chirn Park for the safety of my staff. I cannot support this legislation.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. In so doing, I commend the Attorney-General for the outstanding work that she has done on this bill. When the Palaszczuk government, of which I am privileged to be a part, came to power last year we made a commitment to ensure that Queensland's framework for organised crime was capable of targeting new and emerging threats. We made a commitment that this framework would have extensive consultation and be evidence based. I am proud to stand here today as part of a government that has fulfilled that promise.

The government's new regime is the result of comprehensive consultation and based on evidence, something that was sorely lacking from the LNP's vicious lawless association disestablishment laws. Many members will remember that the VLAD laws were a set of laws hastily rushed through parliament with no notice. There was no committee inquiry into these laws and there was certainly no consideration of their implications.

This is in stark contrast to the commission of inquiry commenced by the Palaszczuk government on 19 May 2015. This commission's activities included extensive community and expert consultation. The commission conducted interviews, hearings and wrote to key stakeholders. It advertised in the *Courier-Mail* and other Australian newspapers, as well as on the commission website, inviting submissions from experts and the public alike. What is more, the commission met with key stakeholders, including the Bar Association of Queensland, Director of Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid Queensland, Queensland Law Society and Queensland Police Service.

In conjunction with the commission, the Attorney-General established the high-level task force. This task force conducted a review of the suite of legislation introduced in October and November 2013 to combat organised crime and, in particular, outlaw motorcycle gangs. Continuing on with this process of actual consultation and conversation, the task force proceeded to publish its terms of reference on its website. It called for additional public submissions and made targeted requests for submissions from key stakeholders. Additionally, the Crime and Corruption Commission was consulted by the task force. The CCC and the Director of Public Prosecutions were consulted on an overview of the policy proposals under the bill and were provided with extracts of a draft bill.

Members may be wondering why I am going on about the consultation process. The reason is: I believe it important to highlight the significance of this amendment bill. I believe it is important to highlight just how much consultation has been undertaken. This is no rush job. This is a thorough and well-thought-out process which consulted all of the relevant parties involved. This legislation is not a fly-by-night piece of legislation performed by a near-dictatorial regime. This government's objective and motivation is to provide Queensland with significant and robust legislation that will target criminal organisations. It will target the individuals in those criminal organisations, not blanket innocent people for crimes that they may have committed but can still be punished for.

Unlike the VLAD legislation put forward by the LNP, this well-thought-out and considered legislation is not something that will be passed on the same day that it was introduced to the House. Praise must be given to the Premier, our Attorney-General, the head of the commission of inquiry, Mr Michael Byrne QC, and the head of the task force, the Hon. Alan Wilson, for producing laws that are fair and just, laws that benefit our state and its people.

The task force, while recommending the retention of amendments made in 2013, has also recommended the removal of those parts which the majority of task force members came to accept were unnecessary, excessive and disproportionate. One offence of particular note was the consorting offence. The new consorting offence will make it a crime for a person to associate with two other people who have previous convictions. This will be preceded by a warning that continued association is a criminal offence. This is a strong law. It is much stronger than the LNP's flawed VLAD laws where it was a crime to simply associate with someone due to membership of a group. This law is based on the criminal history of the associate. This law has been successful in securing convictions in New South Wales and was modelled off their system. I applaud this law as it now no longer discriminates against people's choice of apparel and it notes the difference between a criminal and a member of a motorcycle group. While our government has made the wearing or carrying of a prohibited item in a public place a new offence, no longer will the wearing of this apparel or the membership of a club automatically register as an offence. I commend the Attorney-General for her decision.

Another key element of the task force recommendations is the public safety order. This order will prohibit one or more persons from being in or going to an area, premises or event for a prescribed period if they pose a serious risk to public safety or security. While this order can be issued by police for up to seven days, it can only be maintained and ordered by a court. This means that for anything longer than seven days the order must be made by a court, not the police, and it can only be for a

period of up to six months. This court ordered component has been relocated from the Criminal Organisation Act. The key difference is that the applications will be made to the Magistrates Court, not the Supreme Court. It is important to note that public safety orders cannot be issued consecutively or intensively over a short period of time as this would result in circumvention of the court oversight function.

The Palaszczuk government inherited laws that were destructive to personal freedom, needlessly complex and caused much anxiety to innocent Queenslanders across our state. By presenting these amendments tonight our Premier and Attorney-General have maintained their commitment to the people of Queensland. They have removed the elements of the former LNP government's regime that were excessive and poorly targeted. The Palaszczuk government has introduced a suite of new and improved tools that will ensure that we tackle organised crime effectively and fairly. For these reasons I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise to oppose this bill. I think it is a sad day in this House when a government comes to the chamber and tables a bill that puts the safety of all Queenslanders at risk. I want members of the House to cast their minds back just over three years to Friday, 27 September 2013 when all was well on the streets of Broadbeach, families were enjoying dinner in the warm Spring air, but minutes later 50 Bandido bikie gang members started a public brawl in a restaurant in front of men, women and children who were simply enjoying dinner and a night out. As other colleagues have said, the sight of 50 bikie gang members pulling up is intimidating in itself, let alone the public brawl that ensued.

What is clear from the replay of the CCTV footage and reports on that night is that criminal motorcycle gang members have no respect for the police or the law. Eighteen thugs were charged as a result of that brawl. After that brawl was broken up, the remaining gang members then went to the Southport Police Station and attempted to intimidate police, demanding that they let the charged gang members out of the watch house. For gang members to be in the arrogant position to think that they can walk down to the Southport Police Station and say, 'We want our gang members out,' I think indicates how serious the bikie problem is, especially in the Gold Coast area. I need to point out that sadly this was not an isolated incident but followed a series of incidents on the Gold Coast and across Queensland that involved criminal motorcycle gangs and other forms of organised crime.

I have lived in towns where there have been no-go zones, where gangs have basically intimidated, terrorised and threatened individuals going about their business. Police are reluctant to go into certain parts of a particular town because of the criminal activity going on there. That leaves a whole group of vulnerable and helpless people unprotected. Do we want our communities to live in fear? Is that what we want for our children in the future? I can tell members that when gangs walk into a city and the city is under siege, as the mayor has said, and when gangs say, as was reported on the front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, day after day, 'We run this town', that certainly says that any responsible government needs to act.

Community safety must be the No. 1 priority. Law and order must be maintained. Our police must be able to do their job with the support of a government that introduces effective laws. That is exactly what the LNP government did. We said 'enough is enough' and introduced strong laws. I have been listening carefully to Labor members. They are using the old union tactic which focuses on the process and not the results. The reality is that the community wanted to see action and the LNP members introduced legislation, which I remind those on the other side was supported by the opposition at that time. Labor politicians on the other side have to accept that the current laws are working.

This is a government that continues to contradict itself when it comes to introducing legislation. Only this morning we heard the Labor government talking about the increase in the number of ice users and the impact that ice is having on families, yet this afternoon the Attorney-General introduced this bill which allows the drug trade to flourish.

As I said, the LNP introduced a strong suite of laws based on the successful antiracketeering legislation of the United States. Our laws were dubbed the toughest antibikie laws in Australia. The laws are working. They were backed by the police on the ground and are still backed by the police on the ground, and they have been upheld by the High Court. As my colleagues have said, those laws were so successful that even South Australian and Victorian Labor governments have sought to adopt the same tough stance on crime.

It is this state that has felt the fury of organised crime and I have given examples of that. The Palaszczuk Labor government is putting the interests of thugs for hire over the interests of ordinary Queenslanders. As the member for Mermaid Beach asked, why would Labor seek to do that? Again, like the member for Mermaid Beach, I answer by mentioning only five letters: C-F-M-E-U. That is right:

the construction arm of the Labor Party is the reason Labor is taking such a weak and pathetic approach to these laws. Recently in this House I mentioned two individuals from the CFMEU who have consorted with gangs, thugs and criminals. That is the very same cashed-up union that bankrolls the Labor Party opposite.

We have to respect the fact that our community is crying out for tough laws. On the Gold Coast we have proven that those tough laws work. Now we see a Labor government that is soft on crime and has absolutely no desire to stand up to organised crime. One of the key questions that needs to be asked is: is this bill in the best interests of the community? The answer is a resounding no!

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.02 pm): I rise to speak to the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill. I thank the committee for its work in assessing this bill. I was pleased to attend one of the committee hearings held in my electorate. I thank the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Mansfield, for his assessment of the bill. I confirm that, along with the LNP, I oppose this bill.

Gold Coasters need only look at this bill to confirm that this Brisbane-centric Labor government does not get the Gold Coast. Drugs, guns, gangs and money: members opposite may think it sounds like a bad movie, but we on this side of the House and Gold Coast locals know that it was a reality on Gold Coast streets. We remember the terrifying Broadbeach bikie brawl in 2013. In fact, I was there, in the vicinity of the entrance to the Oasis. We remember the bikie related shooting at Robina Town Centre when an innocent bystander was shot and we remember the ballroom blitz at the Royal Pines Resort. In fact, in his contribution the member for Mermaid Beach forgot to mention—it is unbelievable that he could forget to mention this—that one morning in 2013 he and his wife came home from a night in Brisbane and could not get into their apartment block because someone had been shot or stabbed to death on the footpath outside. The bikie related gang member who committed the crime absconded to America, was brought back and subsequently went to jail. Those are the sorts of issues that we on the Gold Coast faced year after year.

Until 2013 bikies knew that they ran our city and they let us know it. I table the article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, which the member for Broadwater mentioned, that has the very vivid headline, 'We run this town'.

*Tabled paper:* Front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, undated, with the headline 'We run this town' [\[2161\]](#).

That Friday night was the start of the September school holidays. People in my then department were there with their families, in the heart of Broadbeach. It is why the LNP brought in the strongest criminal gang laws in the country and they were working to keep Queenslanders safe. Those laws ultimately empowered the community. Finally it felt like the police were back in charge.

Those of us who were here in the 53rd Parliament will remember then deputy premier Paul Lucas and then police minister Neil Roberts saying that there were no problems on the Gold Coast. They denied that there were any problems, yet in 2011 those problems culminated in the tragic shooting of Damian Leeding at Pacific Pines, which really galvanised the Gold Coast community.

As we have heard from other members, the South Australian Labor government has duplicated the laws, with Attorney-General John Rau saying—

Since they have come into effect in South Australia, police advise that there has been a dramatic decrease in both the visibility and the number of incidents involving members of organised criminal groups.

In his commission of inquiry report on the bikie laws, Commissioner Michael Byrne QC indicated that there had been a reduction in OMCG or criminal motorcycle gang membership numbers since the VLAD laws were introduced. In this place and outside we have heard outrageous statements from the Premier and the Attorney-General suggesting that the extra police resources that we provided to Taskforce Maxima, in our attempts to sort out this problem, meant that we turned a blind eye to other crimes, including paedophile gangs. Those were outrageous slurs that the police had to come out and reject.

There are apologists for criminal gangs. Terry Goldsworthy, a Bond University criminologist, has constantly drawn the simple conclusion that bikie gang members are responsible for only a small portion of crime—0.52 per cent being the amount quoted. Some members opposite have quoted that statistic today. He ignores even the experts who point out that proportionally criminal gang members are over-represented in the damning crime statistics. Terry Goldsworthy is harming the outstanding reputation of Bond University with his ill-informed persistent pro-criminal-gang statements. He is as bad as Alexander Douglas, the former member for Gaven, who spruiked the same puerile statements as a Palmer United Party member and as an Independent member of this House.

In what can only be described as a politically motivated move, the Palaszczuk Labor government has sought to water down these effective laws. The bill before us will mean that bikie clubhouses can reopen, bikies will be allowed to carry weapons and they will be free to run licensed premises. In September, former Southport Court District judge, Judge Wall, said that Labor's new laws will not stop the bikies. I table a copy of that article for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Media article, undated, titled 'Judge says new laws won't stop bikies' [\[2162\]](#).

**Mr Bleijie:** A judge.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Yes, the hanging judge, Judge Wall. We will miss him on the Gold Coast. There is no doubt that Labor is weak on crime. However, those are not my words. Even the Crime and Corruption Commission has said that the laws are being weakened by Labor. It is a shame that the CCC was not represented on the task force that reviewed the 2013 laws. In fact, not only was the CCC unrepresented on the task force that advised how to repeal and replace the laws; not one Gold Coast local was invited to join the task force. I note that in his contribution the member for Southport discovered that, of the members of that task force, none had worked or lived on the Gold Coast and none had any knowledge of what those of us who do live there have experienced. It is outrageous that not one Gold Coast local was invited to join that task force. It is perplexing that Gold Coast locals were not invited to weigh in on the future of laws that were implemented because of the serious issues we were facing in our city. Then again, it is typical of a Labor government to not consult with Gold Coasters.

Commissioner Michael Byrne QC learned that outlaw motorcycle gangs play a major role in illicit drug markets in Queensland and are involved in other illicit activities. He said that outlaw motorcycle gangs use violence to extort money and assets from legitimate business owners, non-affiliated drug dealers, rival gangs and people operating in gang territory. We saw that in the lead up to 2013, as people involved in tattoo parlours, tow truck operations and locksmith businesses were being extorted. That then extended to other reputable businesses, such as restaurants, which gang members took over saying, 'I want cash from people who come here every week.' I mentioned locksmiths, tattoo parlours and tow truck operations. The fourth business was massage businesses, which the gangs discovered they could open along the whole length of the highway. Unfortunately, due to city council planning provisions, they were allowed to open. Supposedly we had the strictest prostitution laws in the country, yet they were allowed to open along the length and breadth of the Gold Coast Highway.

This bill and associated task force report is nothing but a kick in the guts for Gold Coast locals. To begin with, this bill is built on the false premise that these laws need to be repealed or replaced. This is an outcome that was determined by a task force that was asked to conduct a review into the laws. Upon closer inspection, the terms of reference actually asked the task force to determine 'how best to repeal or replace, by substantial amendment, the 2013 legislation', not how effective the laws were. The task force was nothing more than a closed shop review with a predetermined outcome. Labor must take Queenslanders for fools.

To add insult to injury, we had the chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the member for Ferny Grove, mounting an extraordinary attack on a Gold Coast City councillor and mayor in the committee report. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* certainly hit the nail on the head when they described the member for Ferny Grove as a weak on bikies, tough on antigangs councillor bullyboy. I table for the benefit of the House a copy of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* headline 'Bully boy'.

*Tabled paper:* Front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 2 November 2016, with the headline 'Labor MP weak on bikies, tough on anti-gangs councillor: Bully Boy' [\[2163\]](#).

While the member for Ferny Grove says that he now regrets those comments, the member for Capalaba made it clear that he does not regret them. The member for Ferny Grove criticised Mayor Tom Tate as well, suggesting that it was inappropriate influence that stopped representatives of the Surfers Paradise Alliance and the Broadbeach Alliance from appearing before the committee. What outrageous statements. The member for Capalaba also tried to discredit a Gold Coast councillor and Mayor Tom Tate. It took all of five sentences before he started attacking our local elected representatives.

Bikies are revving their engines because everyone knows that Labor is weak on crime. We as local MPs—10 state and five federal—as a contrast to no local resident Labor MPs, will fight the Labor government on this issue every day until the next election because nothing is more important to our community, parents, families, workers and visitors than keeping the Gold Coast the best place to work, live, play and raise a family. I want to put the Premier and Labor on notice: we will make Labor wear their soft on crime attitude like a crown of thorns all the way to polling day.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill will tackle organised crime in all—and, I repeat, in all—its forms in Queensland. It offers a vastly improved approach to the LNP's suite of laws which primarily targeted outlaw motorcycle gangs—laws that were counterproductive and unworkable.

We have heard a lot of talk from those opposite about what happened, why the laws came about and the fact that it is all about the Gold Coast. They obviously ignore the rest of Queensland that also has issues in relation to serious and organised crime. All we hear is what happened on the Gold Coast and that this is a Gold Coast law. I have no problems with ensuring that the Gold Coast has tough laws, but it is also important that we have similar laws throughout all of Queensland—regional Queensland and everywhere else—and not just where those opposite say we should. The interesting thing is that we are hearing a lot of stories and a lot of talk, but very little detail. There is no detail at all.

It is a measure of the arrogance of the previous government that they rushed their VLAD laws through the House in a single day. There was no appropriate stakeholder consultation nor were the VLAD laws subject to the proper scrutiny of a parliamentary committee. Instead, the LNP ignored due process just like the laws themselves. The implications for operational policing, criminal prosecutions and the rights of Queenslanders took a back seat as the previous government thumped its chest in search of cheap headlines, just like they are here today.

I am pleased to say that we contrast that to the actions of the Palaszczuk government. We have consulted widely on the bill before the House. It is a culmination of three reviews. Are those opposite seriously saying that the commission of inquiry, conducted by Michael Byrne QC, which made 14 recommendations for legislative reform, was all about weakening the laws? Are they seriously implying that in this House? Are they seriously implying that the task force chaired by the Hon. Alan Wilson QC, with representation from the Queensland Police Union of Employees, the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association of Queensland, and the review of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009 was all about watering down these laws and making them weaker, allowing criminal bikie gangs to get away with what they are intending to do and allowing them to walk the streets? It is preposterous. It is absolutely ridiculous.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Millar): Member for Mermaid Beach, if members are to interject they should do so from their seat.

**Ms GRACE:** The task force published its terms of reference on its website, called for public submissions and made targeted requests for submissions from key stakeholders. They had the best interests of all Queenslanders at heart. I believe that their recommendations go to the fundamental changes that are going to make these laws more effective, more workable and tougher in all areas of organised crime.

This far-ranging review found that in addition to outlaw motorcycle gangs Queensland was also facing other key organised crime threats. Do those opposite seriously believe that the only people who peddle drugs and other illicit substances are motorcycle gang members on the Gold Coast, and that is it? It is a joke. They are a joke just like their laws were a joke. We are here to clean up what is fundamentally their mess.

The other organised crime threats include the illicit drug market, online child sex offending including the child exploitation material market and cold-call boiler room investment frauds. The bill has been drafted to tackle these and other emerging threats and was subsequently referred to the parliamentary committee for consideration. The committee, chaired by the member for Ferny Grove, received 282 submissions on the bill, which is being opposed by those opposite along party lines. I commend the work of the chair and the committee on the bill which I believe offers a workable way to tackle serious organised crime in all of its forms, without throwing out proper legal safeguards and without ditching due process.

This bill is guided by the principle that criminality should be determined by a person's conduct not by their membership of a particular organisation alone. It is tough on serious and organised crime. It introduces a new consorting offence that makes it a criminal offence for a person to associate with two other people who have previous convictions. It prevents the wearing of colours in all areas and in all establishments, not just licensed premises.

Do members know where family mainly gather? It is in non-licensed premises. The bill of those opposite just stops the wearing of colours in licensed premises. This bill prevents it in all premises—cafes and restaurants—where children and their parents gather. Is that a watering down of serious organised crime legislation?

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** We have the member for Kawana interjecting. He does not really understand what we are introducing here. He is struggling to grasp this. How this is a watering down of laws is beyond me. I would like the detail from those opposite rather than them just getting up and speaking in platitudes and phraseology. I would like them to get down and tell us what is being weakened by these laws. They are very short on substance. I have really not heard—

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I heard nothing of substance from the member for Mermaid Beach in his speech. It was just platitudes, phrases, words and talking points. Somebody wrote them for him and he read them out. There is nothing about the substance of the laws. They should have a look at the bill and read it and if they think that that is watering down the law then I suggest they think again.

The bill also allows for conviction based control orders to impose conditions to prevent, restrict or disrupt involvement in serious criminal activity post imprisonment. It contains provisions allowing police to issue a public safety order, which can be used to prohibit one or more persons from being in or going to an area, premises or event for a prescribed period if they pose a serious risk to public safety or security.

The bill allows CCC and police officers to request an order requiring a person to provide information necessary to gain access to electronic information stored. If that is watering down laws, I do not understand their thought patterns. These are not the kinds of provisions you introduce if, as they keep saying using the same old phraseology, you are soft on serious and organised crime. We know that that is absolutely ridiculous. They have no proof. They are offering no substance to what they are saying.

These laws are tough but fair. They are targeted and measured. Above all, they are practical. If those opposite believe that the people who reviewed these laws were all about watering them down and giving organised criminal activities the upper hand, they need to think again because they are vastly misinformed. Convictions will stick under our laws, unlike the laws of those opposite under which not one biker gang member has been convicted in this state. Queenslanders will be safer, and those engaged in serious and organised crime will have nowhere to hide. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.20 pm): It is always great to follow the member for Brisbane Central because the member for Brisbane Central points out exactly what is wrong with this Labor government. This Labor government does not understand the effects that our laws had on the Gold Coast, the issues that they solved and why we should not take these laws away. The member for Brisbane Central said we are light on detail. The only detail we need to know is that the laws that we put in place in 2013 worked. They worked. They have given the people of the Gold Coast that feeling of safety that they were missing for years and years under Labor laws.

The member for Brisbane Central asked if we were serious about looking at the results of the inquiries that the Labor Party set up in order to justify the reversal of these laws. We only need to look at the terms of reference of the Wilson inquiry where they say that one of the major things they must do is come back to the parliament and tell them 'how best to replace or amend the 2013 legislation'. That is the end of the story there, isn't it? This was a completely fixed outcome for this inquiry. There was no other alternative but for this inquiry to come back and tell the government how best to repeal or replace those laws. That was their intention. There was no real consultation there at all. This was a fixed inquiry with a fixed result, just like the other—what are we up to now?—100-odd inquiries that the Labor Party have put in place since they came to government.

The member for Brisbane Central said that our laws are a joke. Again, they worked. As a member on the Gold Coast who has lived on the Gold Coast for over 30 years, I have seen what has happened on the Gold Coast. I have seen the effect of the changes. I have seen the bikies take control of the Gold Coast. Many members have pointed out the front page of the *Gold Coast Bulletin* when the bikies told us that they control the Gold Coast. That was after the ballroom blitz at Royal Pines, with bikies throwing chairs at each other and throwing punches at each other—just running riot.

**Ms Bates:** And the shooting at Robina.

**Mr HART:** I take the interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba. We saw at Robina two bikies confront each other. One of them pulled out a gun and attempted to shoot the other one. What did he do? He hit an innocent bystander. He hit an innocent woman who was just there shopping. He did that in front of children. These people have no respect for anybody else. They are only in it for themselves. The majority of them are criminals. I do not care what those opposite say. The majority of patched bikies on the Gold Coast are there for a very good reason, and that is to break the law. They are there breaking the law. We needed to fix that.

We saw that activity on Friday, 27 September 2013 when 50 Bandidos stormed into a restaurant in Broadbeach and confronted another bikie in front of women and children who were there peacefully having their dinner, and they attacked each other. Then we saw a number of police officers trying to contain them. They had their tasers out. They were trying to control them, but they were being completely intimidated by those bikies. After those bikies were taken to the Southport Police Station, we saw a number of these guys get in their cars and on their bikes and go to the Southport Police Station in an attempt to intimidate the police into letting the other bikies go.

I am out and about in my electorate a lot. I am out there at marketplaces and on the streets talking to the people in my electorate. I can tell the House that they were very happy with those laws that we put in place. There is no doubt that they were shock and awe tactics, but they worked.

The people on the Gold Coast are really concerned that the Labor Party are now going to undo our good work and let those bikies come back. We saw straightaway, just a couple of days after it was clear that the Palaszczuk-led Labor Party would take government in Queensland, the bikies on the Gold Coast back out there in their intimidatory fashion. They were riding their bikes around the street in great numbers. They were getting to the front at traffic lights, revving their bikes and taking off. They thought they were right back in the mix to the stage where there was another article, which I will table, in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that says, 'Burleigh MP holds fear of coast erupting into turf wars'.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 6 October 2015, titled 'Burleigh MP holds fears of Coast erupting into turf wars' [2164].

This was not last week. This was not last month. This was in the paper on 6 October 2015. As soon as this government was elected, the bikies on the Gold Coast were looking to get back into business, and they are doing that.

In my electorate alone I had the Black Uhlans in the industrial areas of Burleigh. Their clubhouse is now closed. It is still there. One of them still owns the place. They can go back there. The Hells Angels had also moved into my electorate in Lemana Lane, which is halfway between my office and my home. That building has now been closed down. It was fortified. I am not sure what sort of tank or armoured personnel carrier the police may have needed if they had need to go in there. It was fortified. They were setting up for the long term.

I speak to a lot of police officers on the Gold Coast. In 2013, when we put these laws in place—and I will admit that they were shock and awe; they were in some instances draconian laws but, again, they worked—the police officers on the Gold Coast felt like their handcuffs had been taken off, that one arm had been released from behind their back. They were finally able to take action against these guys that they had wanted to take action against for years and years and years. Unfortunately, under the previous Labor government, their arms were tied behind their backs and their hands were handcuffed, and they were not able to take action. We are starting to see that happen all over again. We are seeing bikies in their hundreds go to funerals and ride around in their patched areas. I can see that this will turn out badly for us. As members of parliament who are supposedly here to represent the people of Queensland and our electorates, we need to take a dim view of what is happening here. We need to stop this legislation from changing. The situation on the Gold Coast is a lot better. We do not want it to go back to what it was.

The member for Brisbane Central said that their laws banned bikies wearing colours anywhere. That might well be the case. I commend that part of the legislation. What worries me is that 50 Bandidos could now go to a restaurant not in colours and attack each other and attack somebody else and we are right back where we started again. Whether or not they are wearing colours, if they are part of a criminal organisation—and it is not just the bikies I am talking about—we should stop them from gathering in numbers that cause us a real issue. We should stop them from gathering in numbers that cause our police officers a real issue. Do not shackle our police officers again. Let them do their job. Let them protect the people of Queensland. That is what we pay them to do. That is what we put them there for. That is why when we were in government we put more front-line police officers out on the beat. They are there to protect us from these sorts of people and we should not stop that from happening.

I would urge the Labor backbench to really think about what they are doing here today. We cannot afford for these laws to be relaxed in any fashion. I will not support this bill.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (5.30 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Friday, 27 September 2013 will always be remembered as a black stain in the annals of the Gold Coast. News feeds around the world were electrified by images of open gang warfare on the Gold Coast. It was a night when mums and dads, sons and daughters were sitting down to enjoy an evening meal at a Broadbeach restaurant in the spring open air. A seemingly peaceful evening was shattered by a complete lack of consideration for the safety of the general public when 50 Bandidos members started a public brawl inside a restaurant.

I heard a harrowing story from one of my local constituents who was present that night. She was not in the restaurant, but she was in the mall. She was there with her young daughter and also her in-laws who had recently come over for a holiday from Canada. She said she was absolutely horrified that this would go on in this country. Her in-laws were horrified and they were concerned about the safety of their daughter-in-law living in this country with the absolute disrespect these individuals showed for our laws. These images of complete disregard for law and order—taunting police officers and families placed in harm's way—were televised around the world. There was sheer embarrassment that the family friendly reputation of the Gold Coast was tarnished for years. It took an uncompromising approach from the former LNP government to say enough is enough. Under the LNP laws, Queensland had the strongest criminal gang laws in the country. They sent a clear message to those who do not share our views, 'If you do not wish to conform to the laws that keep our streets safe, your time for open disorder is over.'

Labor's attempts to water down these tough laws have certainly been met with anger by a passionate community, especially on the Gold Coast. There were over 282 submissions from individuals to this bill. These include crime rate statistics. Reading the statement of reservation from opposition members highlights that in 2014 the LNP's tough on crime approach to criminal gangs and crime as a whole made significant inroads in decreasing crime rates on the Gold Coast. Homicide rates were reduced by 21.4 per cent, assaults reduced by almost two per cent, robberies reduced by 17.2 per cent, unlawful entries reduced by 27 per cent and car theft reduced by almost 18 per cent. Whilst drug offences increased by 29.4 per cent, this was because more drugs were being taken off the street. If I compare this to the pleas for additional police resources for the northern Gold Coast that I have made in speeches in this chamber on numerous occasions—my latest speech about that was on 14 September—I can say that we do not want police cuts. In one such speech I stated—

... we need more police in my area. If we look at the statistics for the Gold Coast over the last 12 months, we see that homicide rates have increased by 27.3 per cent; assaults are up 47.4 per cent; robberies, 13.9 per cent; unlawful entry, 20 per cent; and unlawful use of motor vehicles, 20 per cent. We only need to look at our local newspapers to see headlines such as 'Gold Coast in the grip of a new crime wave and police say tourists and new residents to blame'.

It only took this soft-on-crime Labor government 12 months to present a welcome mat to all those undesirables in criminal gangs. The last people we need in the tourism capital of Australia are these individuals. I would also like to remind the new police minister that my pleas for those additional police for my region have not changed. We do need those extra 30 officers to equal other regions throughout Queensland.

As the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Mr Tom Tate, stated in a passionate plea to the committee, these individuals peddle vast quantities of drugs. I will never forget when I was doorknocking in my electorate many years ago I came across a single father who was trying his best to protect his daughter from methamphetamines. It destroyed his daughter's life. This is the real toll of the drugs that organised crime syndicates are peddling in our state. His daughter was a beautiful 16-year-old and drugs destroyed her life. He spent years and years doing all he could to get her back on the straight and narrow. He has since left my electorate and moved elsewhere but after all the conversations I have had with him I do wish him well and wish him all the best with his daughter. He was certainly making massive inroads with his daughter in getting her on the straight and narrow. These criminal organisations are peddling these tablets of death, and we cannot forget that.

One other section of the bill that I found very concerning is the relaxation of the provision that will potentially allow criminal gang members to obtain a weapons licence. I think that is absolutely ridiculous. I spoke to a few of my constituents about this and they said, 'You have to be kidding! You can't be serious!', but, no, this government is willing to give these individuals the instruments of death. There are a lot of illegal firearms around and they are continuously seized from these individuals. They are not nice people. They are not the type of people one would find in a local church group—

**Mr Stevens:** A kindergarten.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:**—or in a local kindergarten. These individuals are paramount to all that is wrong with our society especially considering what they peddle. It concerns me greatly that watering down these laws, which the Labor Party is attempting to do in this place today, is going to place my constituents and the Gold Coast as a whole in more danger. We are a tourism capital. We rely on having a family friendly environment. We rely on international tourism and on domestic tourists coming to the Gold Coast. However, if they see that these criminal gangs are starting to run amok again, openly rioting on our streets and openly having brawls, that is going to send a message to the rest of the world and the rest of Australia: don't come to the Gold Coast; don't come to any tourism destinations in this state because it's not safe.

That concludes the contribution I would like to make on this matter, but I would just plead with you—especially the crossbenchers—to please think about what you are doing. Do not let this legislation go through. My constituents have suffered enough, especially when it comes to illegal drug use. It is in our schools, it is in our society and these guys are the pedlars of death.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.40 pm): I rise to add my voice in support of this government's tough new organised crime laws. Before the last election we made a commitment to Queenslanders to review the Newman-Nicholls government's bikie laws to make sure that they were workable and the right laws for this state. We gave this commitment because Queenslanders were telling us that the laws rammed through by the previous LNP government in a late-night sitting of parliament went too far. Rather than keeping us safe from criminals, Queenslanders were telling us that these laws were running roughshod over the rights of ordinary people in this state.

Many Queenslanders were shocked and dismayed, and these laws led to the arrest of, and anti-association charges against, library assistant and mum of three Sally Kuether. Ms Kuether, who went for a drink at the Dayboro tavern with two men who were wearing gang colours, faced the prospect of a mandatory six-month jail term after being accused of knowingly participating in a criminal organisation in public in 2013. After heightened media attention and public pressure the anti-association charge was eventually abandoned in court. The trio were instead handed small fines for wearing gang colours in a licensed premises. This is a clear example of the former LNP government's anti-association laws going too far and risking the rights and livelihoods of Queenslanders. More than just overreaching, however, these anti-association provisions failed to net a single conviction.

We commissioned former Supreme Court judge Alan Wilson QC to conduct a two-pronged review of the 2013 laws through the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation, encompassing a statutory review of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009. The task force comprised senior representatives from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Queensland Police Union of Employees and Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees as well as the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association and the Public Interest Monitor. This expert task force recommended sweeping changes to the LNP's suite of legislation to ensure that the laws that we have in Queensland combat not just outlaw motorcycle gangs but all organised crime in Queensland. The task force made it clear that the existing laws failed to protect Queenslanders adequately from other threats, including evolving organised crime syndicates and child exploitation rings.

We also tasked one of Queensland's most respected barristers, Michael Byrne QC, to conduct a full and careful inquiry into the extent, nature and impact of organised crime in this state. Commissioner Byrne found that the LNP's obsession with bikies meant that boiler room frauds and cold call investment scams, as well as online child pornography rings, had been allowed to proliferate. The Palaszczuk government's strong new organised crime regime is in direct response to the reviews conducted by Commissioner Byrne and Chairman Wilson, and we have taken on the ethos of those reviews to design tougher and more effective laws to keep Queenslanders safe from all forms of organised crime, not just bikies.

This includes amendments to the Criminal Code to directly address the concerns raised by Commissioner Byrne around child sexual exploitation offending. As the Minister for Child Safety it is particularly concerning to me, and I know this disturbing crime is of concern to many Queenslanders. These amendments will create new offences, each with a maximum penalty of up to 14 years imprisonment, to target persons who administer websites used to promote child exploitation material, encourage the use of, promote or advertise websites used to distribute child exploitation material and distribute information about how to avoid detection and prosecution for child exploitation offending. We are also increasing the maximum penalties for offences involving a child in the making of child exploitation material and making child exploitation material from 14 years to up to 20 years

imprisonment. These laws will create a new circumstance of aggravation to apply to existing and new offences related to child exploitation material if a person uses a hidden network or an anonymising service in the commission of an offence.

We will also respond to the increasing threat of boiler room scams by increasing the maximum penalties for existing fraud offences under section 408C from 12 to 14 years imprisonment. We will create a new circumstance of aggregation for the offence of fraud to be punishable by a maximum of 20 years imprisonment where the yield to the offender is greater than \$100,000.

We are creating a new consorting offence punishable by up to three years in jail for a person who interacts with a recognised offender. A recognised offender is someone who has a conviction for an indictable offence punishable by a maximum of at least five years imprisonment or a lesser offence linked to an organised crime such as riot. Police must notify the person that the person they are consorting with has a conviction and that continued dealings with that person will constitute an offence. Queensland's Public Interest Monitor will be required to report annually on these police warnings, with the final report to be tabled in parliament. The consorting offence is modelled on the New South Wales approach, which has been found to be constitutionally valid, and has been modified to ensure that it does not capture people aged 18 years or under or other vulnerable persons such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. Police will have the power to stop a person to give an official warning, either orally or in writing, and police will be able to search a person reasonably suspected of engaging in an act of consorting or to take identifying particulars.

This will ensure that police resources are targeted at disrupting and preventing contact between serious and/or organised criminals. Importantly, we will also be introducing a new serious organised crime circumstance of aggregation to deter and punish participants in criminal organisations and to also encourage cooperation with law enforcement. If a person is convicted of a prescribed offence with the new circumstance of aggregation, it will activate a new and targeted sentencing regime which can only be avoided if an accused significantly cooperates with law enforcement agencies. Critically, the utility of the cooperation is to be assessed and determined by a sentencing judge. Those who do not cooperate will have an organised crime control order imposed and be required to serve a further sentence of seven years actual jail time.

This bill makes vital improvements to ensure that our laws target all forms of organised crime in Queensland, to ensure they are robust and strong and to ensure they are not vulnerable to legal challenges. Chief in our commitment to deliver targeted and workable laws for Queenslanders is our belief that a person's criminality should be determined by their actual conduct. As Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart said in a report by the ABC in August of this year, 'We can arguably say that we will have the strongest laws in Australia.' I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. My first point is simply this: if the current laws are so very, very bad—to quote those opposite—why is there a two-year transition period for most of Labor's laws come into effect? If there is such a pressing need to change the current legislation, why wait?

When the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected back in early 2015 two election commitments were undertaken, including a commission of inquiry. The Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry—or the QOCCI—reported on 30 October 2015. Commissioner Michael Byrne QC undertook the inquiry and it cost around \$3 million, which was half of the budget originally outlined. The QOCCI made 43 recommendations as part of a report which was full of political rhetoric about events after the infamous Broadbeach brawl back in September 2013 which precipitated the whole debate. It was interesting to note that the report also came under fire from Acting Police Commissioner Ross Barnett for saying that police had 'dropped the ball' in relation to child safety and exploitation issues. In addition, there was also criticism about the fact that there were no public submissions. So much for the notion of openness and transparency that we hear those on the other side of the chamber harp on about! There were no submissions.

The second commitment was the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation, established on 22 June 2015 and headed by former Supreme Court judge Alan Wilson SC. This task force included representatives from the Queensland Police Union of Employees, the commissioned officers union, Queensland Law Society, Bar Association of Queensland, Public Interest Monitor and relevant government departments. Of real interest was the fact that the Crime and Corruption Commission was not represented. As I am currently a member of the PCCC I will not comment any further on this fact. The task force made 60 recommendations. The terms of reference started by saying—

The Taskforce will note the Queensland Government's intention to repeal, and replace the 2013 legislation, whether by substantial amendment and/or new legislation ...

Let us cut to the chase right here, right now. It is the LNP's contention that the Palaszczuk Labor government review of the laws was not a proper review and the stated intention is clearly outlined in the terms of reference. Furthermore, it is also worth noting—this is an important point—that the LNP did have a sunset clause in the VLAD Act stating that a review of the legislation needed to commence by October of this year, three years after the commencement of the act.

The Palaszczuk government is a go-soft and do-nothing government which appears hell-bent on repealing or amending any decision made by the former LNP government between 2012 and 2015. Its desire to airbrush recent history is extraordinary, yet those opposite do not like to comment on previous Labor administration periods in government. They simply did not exist. Apparently all the ills of the world, particularly in Queensland, started in March 2012 and ended in January 2015. Nothing else matters. A competent, mature, confident government would acknowledge legislation that works and simply concentrate on those areas of public policy which were demonstrably not working.

Members opposite always like to cite evidence based facts. They love the evidence based facts. Let us try these statistics on for size, then. Back in 2014 crime significantly decreased across Queensland. Let us roll the tape: assaults reduced by 3.7 per cent; robbery reduced by nearly 25 per cent; unlawful entry reduced by 17.4 per cent; car theft reduced by 19.4 per cent; and drug offences increased by 23.7 per cent, meaning that more drugs were off our streets.

The LNP knew that enough was enough and that something had to be done, particularly after the Broadbeach incident. The bikies were proud of the fact that they controlled the streets on the Gold Coast. Additionally, we needed to protect our men and women in blue, who do so much across our state—day in, day out—protecting Queenslanders and their property. They deserve the backing of strong laws and better resources so they can get the upper hand in fighting Queensland's organised crime.

As a result, we introduced a suite of strong laws based on the successful antiracketeering legislation from the United States. These new laws were dubbed the toughest antibikie laws in Australia. The laws were so successful, with a more than 10 per cent reduction in reported crime in the first full year since the laws were introduced, that, as other members have commented, even the South Australian Labor government most recently sought to adopt the same tough-on-crime approach that this government now seeks, extraordinarily, to repeal. The Victorian Labor government also recently announced that it would introduce new offences that mirror the LNP's successful anti-association laws. What we see is South Australian and Victorian Labor prepared to stand up to organised crime gangs and implement strong laws to put them out of action and in turn protect local communities. Alas, here in Queensland instead we see this flip-flop government ready to repeal the laws—laws that were working—irrespective of their success and growing implementation across Australia.

The task force review set up to advise the government on how to best repeal and replace the LNP laws was nothing more than a closed-shop review with a predetermined outcome. After all, the Attorney-General herself cracked under the pressure of estimates questioning, admitting there was a clear intention to repeal and replace the legislation by 'either amendment or new legislation'. On 4 January 2015 QPU president Ian Leavers stated—

These laws—  
our laws—

are good, they work and finally criminals are avoiding Queensland at all costs and the Gold Coast is once again a family-friendly Mecca, thanks to our lobbying for this legislation and the great work of police.

In addition, in August 2015 Police Commissioner Ian Stewart said on Steve Austin's 612 ABC radio program—

I have been on the public record as saying I think that they—  
the laws—

were a good thing. We've had amazing success over the last few years; those laws have certainly had an impact.

Needless to say, there is overwhelming support for the LNP's initiative and much angst across the state about the consequences of repealing and softening legislation regarding organised crime.

I have several concerns with the government's Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, including but not limited to scrapping the VLAD laws; removing important police powers such as the ability to stop, search and detain a participant in a criminal organisation based on reasonable suspicion; removing the circumstances of aggravation for evading police; generally watering down a number of strong penalties; and removing the fit-and-proper-person test from certain industries that encourage criminal gang members to have an honest job. I have many, many other concerns, but in the interests of time I will leave it at that.

I continue to be proud of our strong response back in 2013 because, very simply, it got the job done. The simple fact is that many criminal gangs fled the state, crime reduced as a result and Queensland was a safer place to live, work and raise a family. I wonder why all of our members from the Gold Coast in particular were returned at the 2015 election. We brought in these broad-ranging laws to combat not just criminal motorcycle gangs but also other key crime areas. We did so because the laws that were there, after nearly two decades of Labor rule, clearly were not working.

We do not want more convictions; we want less crime. The reason there were not many convictions is that many of the criminal gangs, as I said, fled the state and crime dramatically reduced as a result. I know people who live on the Gold Coast in particular, and people felt much safer there as a result of the efficacy of our comprehensive suite of laws. Queensland was a safer place because of our laws.

I have mates who ride motorcycles, and some like dressing in their riding leathers. Good for them. In a robust democracy, they should always have that right. Some have tattoos and piercings. Good for them. What a vanilla and bland world it would be if we all looked and sounded like a cookie-cutter cut-out of each other. They all work hard, pay their taxes and enjoy the essential liberties and freedoms we sometimes take for granted which were forged in blood on battlefields since Federation. The essential distinction here is that they are not criminals. I stress again that our VLAD legislation was centred on many types of criminals.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.58 pm): I rise to speak briefly on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I will state the obvious: why change legislation that is obviously working? This bill is not based on common sense. It is not based on best practice and using the best way to ensure the safety of the majority of Queenslanders. It is based on political cynicism, hypocrisy and expediency. This bill is seriously flawed. It has its genesis in the government's blind determination to overturn the previous government's successful legislation. Out of sheer political expediency, the Labor Party government had decided on a conclusion well before it investigated the adequacy of that 2013 legislation.

The government has tried to justify this legislation by reference to recommendations made by the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry and the Taskforce into Organised Crime Legislation. The Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry held no public hearings and the task force was provided with a predetermined conclusion. There was no proper, thorough, broad, comprehensive attempt to investigate and review the laws. The government had already predetermined the outcome of that task force because it had set out in the terms of reference that—

The Taskforce will note the Queensland Government's intention to repeal, and replace the 2013 legislation, whether by substantial amendment and/or new legislation, and will ...

...

- advise how best to repeal, or replace by substantial amendment, the 2013 legislation ...

It was not—and never could be—a fair review of the laws. This is the cynical treatment of the safety of everyday Queenslanders who have been affected by the activities of organised crime.

Debate, on motion of Mr Perrett, adjourned.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Production of Documents

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the Legislative Assembly has the power to call for any record or document by order. This power is an inherent power of any house of parliament, as such a power is deemed necessary for a house of parliament. In Queensland that inherent power is reinforced by the Constitution under which the Legislative Assembly has the power and privileges of the House of Commons at Federation and more particularly by section 50 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 and standing order 27. An order or summons to produce documents under that act or standing orders must be made by way of a notice of motion unless the Assembly otherwise suspends standing orders. However, standing order 30 provides—

A document read or cited by a member may be ordered to be tabled pursuant to a motion moved without notice, amendment or debate by another member.

Standing order 30 provides a mechanism to short-circuit the requirement for a notice of motion. The historical rationale for this standing order is akin to the best evidence rule at common law—that is, the House may determine that it will not rely on second-hand renditions of documents and insist upon the source document's production.

This morning during question time the Premier referred to legal advice. At the time the Deputy Leader of the Opposition rose and asked whether the Premier could table that legal advice. The deputy leader did not move a motion that the advice be tabled in accordance with standing order 30. At the end of question time, the Leader of Opposition Business moved in accordance with standing order 30 that the legal advice referred to by the Premier be tabled. Some debate on points of order then took place.

Two issues arise. The first issue is the meaning of 'read or cited by a member'. I see no reason to limit the ordinary meaning of those words in their context. Obviously reading a document in the House satisfies the requirement of the standing order. Similarly, quoting from a document in part or in whole also satisfies the meaning of either 'read' or 'cited'. Further, a reference to a document as an authority or source of information is sufficient to satisfy the requirement of the standing order to trigger the standing order in that such an action constitutes citing the document. It is not necessary to have the document in the member's possession in the House or to quote from it directly to trigger the availability of the standing order. The Premier cited the legal advice as authority for legal propositions the Premier outlined to the House. In doing so, the standing order became available to the House to exercise on a motion without notice. Of course, whether the House would agree to such a course of action is a matter for the House.

The second issue is one of timing. The standing order creates an exception to the general rule that a summons or order to produce documents under the act or standing orders must be made by way of a notice of motion. I have been unable to find a direct precedent on the matter in the time available, but it appears to me that the motion must be made at the time the member reads or cites the document or immediately thereafter, such as at the conclusion of the member's speech. This is because a motion under standing order 30 is essentially subsidiary to the matter then before the House. The Leader of the Opposition pointed to the absence of a time limit in the standing orders within which the motion must be moved, but logically there must be a time within which such a motion could be moved otherwise members could move such motions hours, days or weeks after the document is read or cited in the House. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition moved no motion at the time the Premier referenced the document. The moving of the motion at the conclusion of question time by the Leader of Opposition Business was simply too late and therefore out of order.

**Mr SEENEY:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, in light of your ruling, which I hope I have understood correctly, I would then give notice that I shall move the motion that you have apparently ruled to be out of order because it was too late. I am giving notice. As I interpret your ruling, that is the situation.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Callide. We have a matter already before the chamber. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is about to move a motion. If you want to speak any further about this matter, I am more than happy to have a conversation and then you can reserve whatever rights you want to take at that time.

## MOTION

### Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.05 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. supports the LNP's policy agenda to develop Northern Australia and in particular North Queensland;
2. supports the establishment of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) to encourage investment in infrastructure that benefits Northern Australia, including, port, road, rail and water infrastructure; and
3. calls on the Palaszczuk government to support investment decisions by the NAIF to progress projects in North Queensland.

As I travel around this great state listening to everyday Queenslanders, I am constantly reminded that Queensland does not have a shortage of good ideas but certainly has a severe shortage of capital, and this shortage of capital has only been made worse over the years by incompetent Labor governments. The LNP came into power in 2012 with \$80 billion worth of debt, rising up to \$100 billion worth of debt. It has all gone—completely squandered—by those opposite and their predecessors, although a lot of them are still sitting on the front bench and we now have one of them as the Treasurer of this great state. Incredible! This shortage of capital has been made even worse by this inexperienced Palaszczuk government's \$2.3 billion worth of cuts to the LNP's infrastructure plan, Labor's failure to deliver 20 per cent of the infrastructure budget in its first year and the politically motivated scrapping of

the LNP's highly successful Royalties for the Regions program that delivered over \$700 million of much needed infrastructure in regional Queensland. Given the Palaszczuk government's inaction on infrastructure in regional Queensland, it is critically important that it does not delay or does not frustrate any Queensland applications for funding to the Northern Australia infrastructure fund. In fact, if this Labor government was serious about the development of rural and regional Queensland, in particular Northern Queensland, it would actively be out there championing and supporting the NAIF.

As the LNP members of this parliament know, the NAIF's \$5 billion fund of concessional finance is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to get North Queensland moving. It was the LNP members of rural and regional Queensland and particularly North Queensland—members like the member for Hinchinbrook—who argued for this funding to be put on the table by the federal LNP government. We know that this \$5 billion is sitting there ripe for the taking, and what do we need? We need a competent state government that can actually push projects. What a shame we do not have that! This is an opportunity that, if tapped into, would provide thousands of jobs—no, I would say tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of much needed jobs and game-changing infrastructure such as water, rail and port infrastructure that would actually get this state moving. The NAIF is targeted at projects that would not otherwise be able to secure debt funding from any other source and without NAIF these projects simply would not be developed. We know that North Queensland has the land. North Queensland also has the water. It has an embarrassment of riches, and when it comes to natural resources it just needs the investment in the infrastructure. Most importantly, it needs supportive governments to get it moving.

This inexperienced Palaszczuk government, which has a dedicated minister for North Queensland—who appears as competent as the rest of them—needs to stop the petty political games and back Queenslanders, back the jobs of North Queenslanders instead of their own, and get behind this vitally important \$5 billion that is sitting there on the table, ripe for the picking. But, no, unfortunately, we see Labor's petty political games. We saw it with the minister for roads in relation to the northern beef roads. We saw it in relation to the water projects—those vitally needed projects. We saw it with Rookwood Weir. What did we see? We saw petty political games from those opposite.

The people of Queensland want action from this government. They want support to take that vitally important \$5 billion that is sitting there. They do not want the minister's petty political games about, 'It's not going to go to the Northern Territory; it has to be in Cairns', and thinking that that is going to be a way to tap into this vitally important money. We need to support North Queensland and we need to get behind this fund.

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (6.10 pm): I move—

That all words after 'House' be deleted and the following words inserted—

1. supports the policy agenda to develop Northern Australia and in particular North Queensland;
2. supports the establishment of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) to encourage investment in infrastructure that benefits Northern Australia, including, port, road, rail and water infrastructure; and
3. calls on the Palaszczuk government to support investment decisions by the NAIF to progress projects in North Queensland.

I have omitted the letters 'LNP', because the Palaszczuk government supports very strongly infrastructure investment in North Queensland. Since we came to office, we have been working very closely with the Commonwealth government to facilitate the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility—the NAIF—in North Queensland.

This project has had a long and winding road, mimicking the twists and turns of the federal coalition government in Canberra, including leadership changes. When the NAIF was first announced in the Hockey federal budget in 2015-16, although I was disappointed that it did not include a direct grants funding program, we got behind the concessional \$5 billion loan scheme. Despite the long and disorganised road to get the enabling legislation in place, the Palaszczuk government still gave its steadfast support. The NAIF became operational on 1 July 2016, despite it being more than 12 months after it was first announced. Today, I can confirm that we have supported the next step in the NAIF process. I have written to the Commonwealth Minister for Northern Australia, Senator Matt Canavan, and confirmed that we are ready to sign the master facility agreement. This is the agreement that will ensure that the Commonwealth funds can be sent to NAIF projects via a pass-through financial arrangement with the state government.

Under the Commonwealth's existing constitutional powers, it is unable to provide financial assistance directly to proponents within a restricted geographic area. As such, the implementation of the NAIF requires Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory to legally undertake the

lending role on behalf of the Commonwealth. This will be undertaken by a master facility arrangement between the states and the Commonwealth. The master facility arrangement also ensures that the Commonwealth's borrowings for the NAIF project will remain on the Commonwealth balance sheet and not on Queensland's. That is a very important point that I hope those opposite understand.

Today is not the first time that those opposite have sought to use NAIF as a political plaything. Let us not forget the debate in this place in February, when those opposite accused the government of supporting a NAIF headquarters in Sydney. That was another attempt to inject petty politics into the NAIF. We had the member for Whitsunday accusing the state government of sending NAIF south when it was the federal government shaping up to place the NAIF headquarters in Sydney. He then proceeded to give a geography lesson, pointing out that every provincial centre above—

**Mr COSTIGAN:** I rise to a point of order. I find the comments made by the Treasurer personally offensive and I think that he should—

**Mr SPEAKER:** And you ask that they be withdrawn?

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Absolutely. I ask that they be withdrawn.

**Mr PITT:** I withdraw. The member for Whitsunday was, at his usual best, checking every name under the sun, but never checking the facts.

After much lobbying from the Palaszczuk government, the headquarters for the NAIF is located in Cairns. I welcome the recent appointment of Ms Laurie Walker as the CEO of NAIF, who is now based in Cairns. The Palaszczuk government looks forward to working with Ms Walker to support the continued implementation of this scheme and seeks to realise the benefits from the development of North Queensland.

Another sleight of hand by the member for Whitsunday, among others opposite, is to cry out that we do not support Adani. It is through the NAIF facility, which the state wholeheartedly supports, that Adani can get the infrastructure support that it needs. Adani has indicated that it intends to apply for financial support from the NAIF. It started that many months ago—very early in the term of our government.

There are many worthy projects that are worthy of NAIF assistance, such as the Cairns Airport redevelopment, which can inject over \$800 million of economic benefits into the Cairns regional economy and which has great potential for tourism, agribusiness and aviation. I encourage other prospective proponents to consider how they can access the NAIF to support the development of important infrastructure in North Queensland.

Those opposite will seek to drive the wedge on NAIF. Sadly, they are unaware that all of us on this side of the House will engage in a bipartisan way—in the way that the Northern Australia policy was developed. An all-party parliamentary committee worked on the Northern Australia policy. I remember sitting with Tony Abbott when he announced the policy in Cairns. This was something where all sides of politics were acknowledged for their contribution. That is why it should not be considered the LNP's Northern Australia policy; it is the Australian government's policy, which has been supported by the Australian parliament.

I call on those opposite to stop their petty politicking. We on this side of the House know that, given that we have around 70 per cent of the population of Northern Australia in Queensland, we should be trying to aim to get 70 per cent of the funding, or at least certainly more than our lion's share. It is only fair that that comes to Queensland.

I call on the House to support the amendment that I have moved. This issue has to be free of politics. It has to be something that we can work collaboratively on, including with those opposite, to deliver good outcomes. This process and this policy will probably outlive the tenure of many people in this House. We should be focusing on developing and tapping into the untapped potential of North Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (6.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Nanango, particularly point 3 of the motion, which calls on the Palaszczuk government to support investment decisions by the NAIF to progress projects in North Queensland.

In light of the rather lukewarm support that the Palaszczuk government has demonstrated in relation to the LNP's northern development agenda, the LNP opposition has felt the need to move this motion. I point out to the House that two years in a row during the estimates committee process I have put questions directly to the minister representing the Premier in North Queensland. During the

estimates hearing for the 2015-16 budget, I asked the minister, the member for Mundingburra, 'How many business cases for projects in North Queensland are you preparing for submission to the NAIF?' The answer to that question was zero. Twelve months later I put the same question to the minister representing the Premier in North Queensland. I asked, 'How many business cases have you prepared and submitted to go to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility?' The answer was zero. Absolutely zero cases have been prepared.

During my contribution to this debate tonight, I want to focus on the reality of the situation around the implementation of this northern development agenda and that is the need for confidence and investment certainty from the state and territory jurisdictions for potential investors in projects in Queensland, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. When we are talking about the Palaszczuk Labor government, that is a very scary concept. North Queensland is significantly underdeveloped. On many occasions we are accused of being parochial, but the bottom line is that people in North Queensland do not necessarily want a special deal, they do not necessarily want to be given handouts; they want the opportunity to reach their full potential. People in North Queensland have not been given that opportunity to reach their full potential by government after government represented by those people opposite.

Resource security is essential, particularly in the two areas of industry that I represent in my portfolio, the resources sector and the agriculture sector. Over the past two years, in relation to the mining industry, the track record of those opposite has been allowing green activists to get back into the courts to frustrate and delay the progress of projects. They are taking proposals to put the World Heritage listing of Cape York Peninsula back on the agenda. We have something called pristine rivers, which is a badly disguised resurrection of the old wild rivers policy that was so fiercely opposed by people in the gulf and in the cape in North Queensland. We have the interference in the approvals and the assessment process for the Aurukun bauxite deposit. They are politically interfering in the development of that project, creating more uncertainty for investors. The agriculture sector also suffered under those opposite.

I refer to the outrageous proposals to change the vegetation management framework. If we are going to have new irrigated agriculture projects in North Queensland we need to manage the vegetation on properties properly for productive purposes. Those opposite want to take away the ability to manage regrowth vegetation on freehold properties; they want to dismantle our self-assessable code frameworks; they want to remove the availability to apply for a high-value agriculture project under the Vegetation Management Act; they have dismantled the LNP's water reforms; they have reintroduced a restrictive purpose into the Water Act which will predetermine unnecessarily risk-averse water resource allocation decisions by the department of natural resources; and they have removed the opportunity for water development options to make it harder, more expensive and more time consuming to secure water entitlements for a new irrigated agriculture project in North Queensland.

The motion tonight asks the Palaszczuk government to get behind this Northern Australia development agenda. If they are going to do it, they need to start getting serious about the resource availability for the development of all types of projects in North Queensland such as agriculture projects and resource projects, not to mention the lack of access they are going to provide for tourism projects into our wilderness and conservation areas as a result of the amendment bills that the Minister for Environment has brought. I support the motion moved by the member for Nanango for that reason.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (6.20 pm): I rise to support the amendment. I have spoken in this House many times about our government's support for the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility and for the development of the region. It was our government that called for the NAIF headquarters to be based in North Queensland and not in Sydney as requested by the federal government. It was our government that put pressure on the Turnbull government to push through the necessary legislation to enable the NAIF to start operating. It was our government that pushed for fair representation of Queenslanders on the NAIF board to see the best possible outcomes for our state.

The Palaszczuk government has been and will continue to be a big supporter of the NAIF. This support goes right back to when the facility was announced in the Abbott government's 2015 budget. Since then I have had a number of discussions with the federal Minister for Northern Australia, Senator Matt Canavan, as well as his predecessors. As a Queenslanders, I expect that Senator Canavan will be working with us to drive forward opportunities through the NAIF that will benefit the North. I also met with the NAIF board in June where I again highlighted our government's desire to work with the board to use the facility to help unlock North Queensland's economic potential.

Despite what those opposite claim, the reality is, as the Treasurer outlined, our government has taken an active role in engaging with infrastructure proponents for North Queensland. Representatives from Queensland Treasury have partnered with NAIF representatives and the board to identify key stakeholders and refer potential project proponents to NAIF for its consideration and engagement. It is disappointing that the opposition is more interested in grandstanding than delivering outcomes for North Queensland. Those opposite claim that they are the only ones with a plan, but we only need to look at their track record to see that that is not the case. With the current opposition leader as treasurer, the LNP closed the office for North Queensland while their government simply focused on the south-east corner.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I am having difficulty hearing the minister who has the call.

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** There was no dedicated minister for the North and they slashed front-line services across the region.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have had a pretty good go.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, you have had a pretty good go. I call the minister.

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** The one thing we have consistently seen from the LNP is a focus on talking down the North, talking down our economy and talking down my role as an advocate for the region. Members on this side of the House and my cabinet colleagues would be well aware that I am a proud and passionate advocate for the North and the region I call home. That is why our commitment to the North extends beyond the NAIF. Only we have a clear plan to create jobs and grow and diversify the region's economy through our Advancing North Queensland strategy because we know the areas of roads infrastructure, water security, research and innovation, tourism, trade and investment are vital to boost the region's economy now and into the future. I will continue to work each and every day to deliver the jobs and growth for our region.

**Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (6.24 pm): I am delighted to rise to show my passion for North Queensland. The member for Mundingburra is completely devoid of passion for North Queensland. Because of the fact that she let the clock basically go begging, tonight her constituents in Townsville, maybe in Aitkenvale and Cranbrook, will be thinking, 'Did we really vote her in to be our local MP? Did we really vote her in to be standing up for the people of North Queensland?' She is an embarrassment to not only the people of her electorate of Mundingburra but also, indeed, the great city of Townsville. Tonight the citizens of Townsville are still wondering where their water security is coming from. I am passionate about dam development in North Queensland. Many members in this House would have seen what I had to say in the biggest selling newspaper in Queensland, the *Sunday Mail*, on 13 June when I called for the bulldozers to move in. My critics might say it may have been a bit over the top regarding the proposed Urannah Dam, but I happen to believe that we need to do this to drive economic development in North Queensland into the 21st century.

I speak of water security in the city of Townsville, the biggest city in Northern Australia, the city that I once called home. As the members for Burdekin and Hinchinbrook would know, water security in Townsville is a big issue. The Ross Dam is below 15 per cent and on the very day that the federal Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, woke up in Townsville the council had to press the go button on pumping water from the Burdekin because it was at a critical stage. It is costing the ratepayers of Townsville \$27,000 a day. The mayor of Townsville needs to have a good look at herself because we have got wall-to-wall Labor in that city—a Labor council and a Labor mayor. Of course we have the three amigos along the Ross River. What are they doing? The people of that city are sick and tired of the muppets and the puppets.

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** As the member for Hinchinbrook rightly says, let us not forget the crowning glory after 2 July, the accidental member for Herbert, who is doing nothing. What has she said about northern development and developing our water resources, developing northern roads, our railways and ports? We have heard from the member for Mundingburra. What the member did not say is how long it took her before she basically walked the plank and said, 'I haven't got anything left. I've got nothing.'? She had all that time to go to Canberra and bang the drum for North Queensland.

**Mr Cripps** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** Twelve months, as the member for Hinchinbrook says. It took the member for Mundingburra, in her role as the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, 12 months to go to Canberra and lead the case for projects in North Queensland.

**Mr Cripps:** A disgrace.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** It is a disgrace. I take the interjection again from the member for Hinchinbrook. To think that she can make-believe we can all forget about it! It took a year for her to go to Canberra. We see people from Townsville Enterprise and Advance Cairns going to Canberra, but the member for Mundingburra is asleep at the wheel—in fact, in a coma. Next time I am out at Stockland I will go to Terry White and I will buy some No-Doz for the member for Mundingburra.

I am passionate about developing our water resources: the Nullinga Dam on the Walsh River on the Atherton Tableland; the Hells Gate proposal on the Upper Burdekin that will deliver water security for the people of Townsville; developing my pet project, the Urannah Dam, in a remote corner of my electorate which I know has the support of my good friend the neighbouring member for Burdekin because his constituents will benefit, as will my constituents and, in fact, so many people from Mackay through to the Burdekin. It is a dam that would be basically three-quarters the size of the Burdekin Falls Dam as we know it today. There will be up to 30,000 hectares of irrigated farmland downstream. It would be a big tick for construction, a big tick for tourism—especially ecotourism—a big tick in terms of agriculture and a big tick for water for the resources sector for the largely undeveloped northern Bowen Basin and, potentially, the yet to be developed Galilee Basin.

I could go on and on. I would like to have another 20 minutes. I will not be sitting down with time left on the clock. Of course we have seen lukewarm support, tokenistic support—Mickey Mouse support—from the members opposite, whether it is the Rookwood, Urannah, Hells Gate or the Nullinga Dam, and on it goes. The people I speak to across North Queensland, as a fifth generation North Queenslander, see politicians as a dime a dozen. What they want is visionaries and they want action—politicians not only listening but taking action. At the moment North Queensland is crying out for economic development. We need to embrace the \$5 billion on the table through NAIF. Thank goodness it is based in North Queensland. I call on members opposite, especially those northern Labor members, to lift their game and find some fire in their belly.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.29 pm): What is this motion about? This motion is about the fact that the opposition lost seven seats in North Queensland and lost government at the last election. This motion is about the fact that they lost government, three seats in Cairns, three seats in Townsville and Mirani. They smashed up and lost government, and now they are trying to gain some kind of credibility in North Queensland.

We have heard three speeches from opposition members who talked about North Queensland, but not a single word about solar or wind projects going into North Queensland. There are hundreds of millions of dollars worth of investment, and hundreds and hundreds of jobs coming into North Queensland. If we listened to the opposition, we would not even realise it existed. According to the opposition, we may as well forget about clean energy such as solar and wind, because they are not interested in North Queensland jobs and they are not interested in North Queensland investment, but this government is. The Palaszczuk government is delivering those projects into North Queensland. We are delivering a clean energy future and a more diverse energy future for North Queensland. The opposition had three years to do that, but they did absolutely nothing on energy in North Queensland other than to drive up prices by 43 per cent in only three years, which is another reason they lost government. They did not say a word about that. They are absolutely in the wrong century.

I turn to the unique North Queensland road projects being delivered by the Palaszczuk government. It is an impressive record: the Townsville Ring Road; the Bill Fulton Bridge duplication, which the member for Barron River has delivered; the Captain Cook Highway upgrade; the Hervey Range Road, which was delivered by the member for Thuringowa; the River Way Drive upgrade, which is a \$30 million investment going into Thuringowa, meaning a lot of jobs; the Vines Creek Bridges, which was delivered by the member for Mackay when the opposition could not deliver it in three years; the Cape River Bridge upgrade, south of Charters Towers, worth \$34 million; the Gregory Developmental Road; the western roads package in the north-west; the upgrade of Berth 4 at the Port of Townsville; we are getting more ships into the Cairns port; the boat ramp at Cannonvale; and the Mackay Ring Road is coming. There is incredible investment going into North Queensland under the Palaszczuk Labor government, which was something not mentioned by the LNP members because they are not interested in roads and they are not interested in jobs in North Queensland.

Of course, I come to the issue of the stadium. Who delivered the stadium for Townsville? The Palaszczuk government! We believe in North Queensland. We do not sit around making excuses for our mates in Canberra. We stand up for Queensland. We will always stand up for Queensland, while those opposite make excuses for Barnaby and Malcolm. On water feasibility, they make excuses for the most incompetent deputy prime minister we have seen in a few decades. They are making excuses for diverting nearly \$150 million in Queensland road money to the Northern Territory. Who stood up for Queensland then? The Palaszczuk government! Who sold Queensland out and justified it with their Canberra mates? The opposition! They talk big, but they sell out. That is their attitude towards Queensland, whether it is on water feasibility funding, the stadium or road funding. They talk big, but in the end they hold onto the coattails of their mates in Canberra. That approach did not work for them for the three years that they were in government and they lost the most catastrophic election in Australian political history, yet they have the same attitude and strategy now. I say to members opposite: good luck with that at the next election, because it really worked the first time.

A lot of projects have missed out because of the money being diverted into the Northern Territory, such as the Bowen Developmental Road, the Cairns access road, the Gregory Developmental Road, the Flinders Highway and the Burke Developmental Road at Karumba. They did not stand up for those projects. They would rather back their mate Barnaby and see the money go into the Northern Territory than stand up for Queensland. This government will stand up for roads, water infrastructure and clean energy projects in North Queensland. We will deliver the jobs and we will deliver the investment.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 43:**

**ALP, 41**—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, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**INDEPENDENT, 2**—Gordon, Pyne.

**NOES, 43:**

**LNP, 41**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

Pair: Russo, McArdle.

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

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. supports the policy agenda to develop Northern Australia and in particular North Queensland;
2. supports the establishment of the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) to encourage investment in infrastructure that benefits Northern Australia, including, port, road, rail and water infrastructure; and
3. calls on the Palaszczuk government to support investment decisions by the NAIF to progress projects in North Queensland.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Production of Documents

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (6.41 pm): Mr Speaker, in accordance with our previous discussion, I have sought advice about your ruling. In accordance with your ruling regarding the motion I moved without notice after question time today, I now give notice that I shall move—

That this House orders the documents containing the legal advice cited by the Premier in her answer to a question from the member for Nanango today when she said, and I quote from *Hansard*, 'I have sought legal advice in relation to whether or not, firstly, I can read that report and, secondly, whether I can make it public. I have legal advice that advises me ...' be tabled in the parliament with any necessary redactions made to protect the privacy of any children named in that advice.

I table the notice of motion.

*Tabled paper:* Notice of motion given by the member for Callide, Mr Jeff Seeney MP, and extract from proof *Record of Proceedings*, dated 29 November 2016, p. 4571 [2165].

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, the House will resume at 7.42. Your Speaker's choir are looking forward to their performance.

Sitting suspended from 6.42 pm to 7.42 pm.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports and Reporting Dates

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (7.42 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that: Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 3 of 2016-17 titled *Follow-up: Monitoring and reporting performance (report 3: 2016-17)* be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee; and Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 4 of 2016-17 titled *Criminal justice system—prison sentences* be referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, to vary the committee responsible for: the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 from the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to the Agriculture and Environment Committee, to report by 7 March 2017; and the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee, to report by 7 March 2017.

The committee has also resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, to vary the reporting date for the Stock Route Network Management Bill 2016 and the Strong and Sustainable Resource Communities Bill 2016 from 2 February 2017 and 9 February 2017 respectively to 7 March 2017.

## SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 4627, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (7.43 pm), continuing: No-one can forget the appalling activities of bikie gang members, particularly on the Gold Coast, and their involvement in serious crime. These gangs have no respect for the police or the law. Their criminal tentacles are extensive and pervasive. It is time we let the police and the legal system crack down on this behaviour. This is what the successful LNP VLAD laws were doing. They achieved more than a 10 per cent reduction in reported crime in the first full year since the laws were introduced. The VLAD laws were about serious crime and not just about criminal bikie gangs.

Despite the myth that is peddled by the Attorney-General and others that the LNP's laws only focused on bikie gangs, the Police Commissioner made it abundantly clear that it also applied to other forms of organised crime. He confirmed that the first conviction under the VLAD laws was actually someone on drug related offences and not a member of a criminal motorcycle gang. The LNP's laws work.

The Gold Coast superintendent of the antibikie task force, Superintendent Jim Keogh, said—

While it will be all good from a police perspective to lay claim to the success in relation to the criminal motorcycle gang problem, the reality is you can't do it without the legislation.

This legislation had been obviously the right legislation and it's withstood the test of time and it's proven to have cleaned up the street. Bottom line is why change something that's working?

As it stands currently, should you remove the legislation you would see the return of the organised criminal motorcycle gangs. It would be foolhardy to think that they've totally walked away from a multimillion-dollar criminal enterprise.

We are talking about an enterprise which deals in all levels of criminal and illegal drug activities. No community in Queensland is immune from the effects of their illegal, multimillion dollar drug industry. In my electorate of Gympie the police are working hard to combat and tackle increased illegal drug use. It affects families, friends, the users and our community.

Last month I was disturbed to hear reports in the national media that families were selling houses, cars and going into debt to rescue their children from the effects of ice. It was disturbing to hear an addiction counsellor on the ABC's *Four Corners* program rhetorically ask what parent is not going to say, 'Yes, I will sell my house or I will give you my kidney to save my child's life.' It should be concerning for our entire community.

Parents are risking everything to rescue and help their children, including families risking bankruptcy and turning to private clinics for rehabilitation. Its impact is insidious and it is not just the user but their families, friends and our broader community which is being affected. Unfortunately, it travels across all regions and all levels of society, and no income group, family circumstance, employment or educational level is immune.

It ends up with increasing numbers of drivers being caught drug driving rather than drink-driving. It ends up with increased levels of crime in Gympie which are either directly or indirectly related to the use of drugs. In October residents of Imbil Rural Watch were warned by the officer in charge at Imbil that there had been more drug-driving than drink-driving offences in the Mary Valley.

Crime figures have shown in the Gympie electorate big increases in the last year, with assaults up 12 per cent, unlawful entry up 13.7 per cent, drug offences up 22.9 per cent, unlawful use of motor vehicles up 57.1 per cent and offences against the person up 70 per cent. None of these categories is immune from drug taking as users resort to theft and other crimes to support their habit.

This bill is flawed in that it adopts recommendations from two reviews which have been heavily criticised. The LNP laws have been working and that is why they should be retained and this bill rejected.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (7.48 pm): I rise tonight to speak on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill. In my speeches on previous legislation during my short time in this chamber I have been able to, on many occasions, provide a brief overview on how the legislation being debated will add to the Queensland community. This is not one of those occasions. Let us face it, this bill is nothing more than a farcical, thinly-veiled exercise by an unscrupulous Labor government to strip our hardworking men and women of the Queensland Police Service of the very laws that have allowed them to protect communities across Queensland from criminals, especially those involved with organised crime.

For those of us on the Gold Coast, the face of organised crime is outlaw motorcycle gangs. The activities of these low-life criminals involve extortion, assaults, armed robberies, murder and selling drugs to our kids, just to name a few. These gangs were running riot, especially on the Gold Coast. Thanks to consecutive weak Labor governments, they believed they were untouchable.

As we have already heard from previous members in this chamber, on that fateful night on Friday, 27 September 2013, 50 Bandidos bikie gang members started a public brawl in a restaurant at Broadbeach in front of families who were simply there to enjoy dinner. This was the final straw for the people of the Gold Coast and for Queenslanders. It took the courage of the then LNP government to take a tough stance and introduce strong new laws, which are considered to be the toughest antibikie laws in Australia.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Mr CRAMP:** Funny that—Victoria and South Australia. When these laws were introduced by the LNP, I was an operations centre supervisor at the Queensland Ambulance Service Southport Operations Centre on the Gold Coast—one of the busiest standalone emergency operation centres in Australia. I can tell you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the reduction in our workload, especially on a Friday and Saturday night, was remarkable. The reduction in emergency responses to assaults and drug overdoses was especially notable. This was clearly reflected in results showing a more than 10 per cent reduction in reported crime in Queensland in the first full year since laws were introduced. In fact, in 2014 crime significantly decreased on the Gold Coast: homicide reduced by 21.4 per cent; assaults reduced by almost two per cent; robbery reduced by 17.2 per cent; unlawful entry reduced by 27 per cent; car theft reduced by almost 18 per cent; and drug offences increased by 29.4 per cent, meaning that more drugs were off our streets.

Ironically, one of the hotspots on the Gold Coast for these types of cases was in the Gaven electorate. At that time, I had no idea that I would be the very proud representative of the Gaven community. Unfortunately, whilst the Gaven electorate was full of great people who are community proud, the electorate was also home to outlaw motorcycle gang clubhouses, with many of the gang members living throughout the Gaven community. These laws were so effective in allowing our incredible police officers to gain the upper hand in fighting this scourge of organised crime—

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Mr CRAMP:** I take that interjection from the member for Currumbin: they are great cops; they are very good cops—that it was not long before we saw bikie clubhouses close not only in Gaven but right across the Gold Coast and throughout Queensland. We also saw gang members pack up and move to New South Wales and other states that had weaker laws which would allow them to conduct their criminal activities.

The fact is that these laws are working. They are backed by the police and they have been upheld by the High Court. In fact, they are so successful that the Labor governments, as duly noted by my colleague the member for Whitsunday, in South Australia and Victoria are seeking to mirror the LNP's tough stance and laws against organised crime.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRAMP:** Don't they hate the truth on that side of the chamber! Amazing, isn't it, that, as a result of the LNP's strong laws, Queensland and especially the Gold Coast has never been a safer place to live, work and raise a family? The safety of Queenslanders will not get in the way of this despicable Labor government who are seemingly hell-bent on repealing every piece of legislation from the previous LNP government, regardless of the benefits to the community.

Even though we heard again and again from the Premier saying that she will be tough on organised crime, the Attorney-General cracked under the pressure of estimates questioning by the shadow Attorney-General. The shadow Attorney-General said—

Okay. So there is a clear intention to repeal and replace the legislation. The words are crystal clear.

The Attorney-General admitted—

By either amendment or new legislation, yes.

These laws have been backed from day one by all of the LNP Gold Coast state members and the communities we represent. They have also been endorsed by our hardworking men and women in blue; the QPU president, Ian Leavers; the media; and, most importantly for the Gold Coast, our hardworking and visionary Gold Coast Mayor, Tom Tate, and the Gold Coast councillors.

**Mr Costigan:** I wonder what the tourism people think.

**Mr CRAMP:** They are not thinking much of the Labor government at the moment, member for Whitsunday. I would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank Mayor Tate and Gold Coast councillor Paul Taylor for their unwavering support in standing shoulder to shoulder with the Gold Coast community and state LNP members against Labor's watering down of these very effective laws which have kept the Gold Coast safe over the past few years.

It was therefore extremely disappointing that the member for Ferny Grove, in the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on this legislation, sought to use his foreword as the committee chair to denigrate the reputation of the mayor and Councillor Taylor. As reported in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on 2 and 3 November 2016—and I table these reports—Mayor Tate rightly stated that he had been consistent in his stance against the softening of the LNP's strong laws, questioning what we on this side of the chamber already know; that is, whether Labor are in the pockets of unionist/bikie gangs.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of media articles from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* relating to criminal motorcycle gangs [2166].

The one thing I do know about the mayor is that he is a great judge of character. With the mayor's assessment of the member for Ferny Grove, or as per the news articles 'the Minister for Bikies', as being 'either ignorant or dumb', I have to say that this has only reinforced my viewpoint on Mayor Tate's great ability to assess others. Considering that when I noted this topic to the member for Ferny Grove in the last sitting, the member called for me to 'take it outside', I would suggest that his threats of violence and standover tactics are the exact type of behaviour that—

**Mr FURNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find those comments personally offensive. I ask the member to withdraw them. They are completely incorrect.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Crawford): Member for Gaven, will you withdraw?

**Mr CRAMP:** I withdraw.

**Mr Power:** Liar.

**Mr CRAMP:** The member for Logan made a personal reflection on me. I take great offence to that. I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Logan, was that you who used the phrase that was unparliamentary?

**Mr POWER:** It was. I withdraw.

**Mr CRAMP:** The fact is that the video of the last sitting would show this; however, I move on. Individuals and gangs involved in organised crime do consider themselves to be one percenters—

**Mr FURNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member withdrew and then proceeded to reflect again on my character. I take offence to those comments. He indicated that I had furthered some suggestion that I had approached or attacked him. I find those comments offensive and I ask him to withdraw them.

**Mr CRAMP:** I withdraw but I will be writing to—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRAMP:** I am moving forward. I will be writing to the Speaker on this.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Very well—continue.

**Mr WATTS:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member never suggested he found them personally offensive. He just said that he found them offensive. There is no reason to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order, member for Toowoomba North.

**Mr CRAMP:** I will have to be careful of glass jaws. Individuals and gangs involved in organised crime do consider themselves to be one percenters—

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That was a conditional withdrawal. I ask that the withdrawal be completely unconditional in accordance with the standing orders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. Member for Gaven, continue.

**Mr CRAMP:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Logan was not—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gaven, I ruled that there was no point of order. You may continue.

**Mr CRAMP:** Thank you. My apologies. Individuals and gangs involved in organised crime do consider themselves to be one percenters, being the one per cent of the population that do not care for society or its rules. All that has happened here is that the LNP have simply had the courage and the fortitude to provide a special set of laws just for those special one percenters.

As per the non-government members' statement of reservation in the report into this legislation, recommendations from the task force into organise crime legislation should be disregarded because it was clearly not a proper review of laws. The terms of reference clearly state—

The Taskforce will note the Queensland Government's intention to repeal, and replace the 2013 legislation, whether by substantial amendment and/or new legislation ...

This bill is clearly flawed. It proposes to remove police veto powers for outlaw gang members who apply for tow truck, tattoo parlour, weapons or liquor licences. It weakens the VLAD Act which prevents members from gathering in public and would shave up to 25 years off the maximum sentences of proven office-bearers of crime gangs. Without doubt, it absolutely fails the community safety concerns and expectations of Queenslanders, especially for those of us living on the Gold Coast. I therefore cannot support this bill.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (7.58 pm): I rise to support the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I start by firstly commending the Attorney-General for developing what has been described by many stakeholders, by many Queenslanders, as Australia's most comprehensive, operationally strong and legally robust approach to organised crime in all its forms, not just outlaw motorcycle gangs but also child exploitation networks, drug-trafficking syndicates and financial crime scams.

These laws are built to withstand all stages of the criminal justice system, to secure actual convictions and to prioritise the safety of police and the community while ensuring judicial oversight. These laws draw on the recommendations of the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry, the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation and the statutory review of the Criminal Organisation Act 2009. They have also been through a rigorous and robust parliamentary committee process with input from all stakeholders including the legal community, police unions and local government.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, of which I am a former member, examined this bill. I thank the members of the committee and particularly the chair, the member for Ferny Grove, as well as the stakeholders who made submissions to the committee and took part in the public briefings. Their submissions were a valuable contribution to this important legislative process.

I also take the opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of our Queensland police officers, who are working hard every single day to keep Queenslanders safe. It is my priority as minister to make sure that they have the tools and resources they need to keep Queenslanders safe. It is interesting that I mention the Queensland Police Service because these laws are backed by them. These laws are backed by the police. These laws have been described by the Police Commissioner, Ian Stewart, as 'the strongest laws that possibly exist in Australia to tackle organised crime'. This is the organised crime regime which the Newman LNP government should have implemented in 2013.

Last week I was privileged to visit the dedicated team at Taskforce Maxima. I heard firsthand from front-line officers about how the new powers contained in this bill will support police in tackling serious and organised crime from a practical policing perspective. The current Criminal Code anti-association offence will be replaced by a new habitual consorting offence. Under the bill it will be an offence for a person to consort with two recognised offenders after having been given an official warning with respect to each of those individuals. The use of the consorting warnings is aimed at disrupting criminals from establishing and maintaining their criminal networks. This will be a valuable tool in breaking up serious criminal networks involving not only outlaw motorcycle gang members but all aspects of major crime including fraud and paedophilia networks.

The ban on the wearing or carrying of prohibited items such as outlaw motorcycle gang colours in licensed premises will be extended to cover all public places including motor vehicles. The Queensland Police Union has strongly supported the extension of the banning of colours to public places, stating during the committee hearings that it enhances public safety and it also enhances the perception of public safety. The wearing of these colours in public spaces only serves to instil fear and intimidation in the community. Outlaw motorcycle gangs also use their colours to attract young and impressionable recruits. Under our laws, this will no longer be the case. Police will investigate and prosecute anyone seen wearing or carrying these prohibited items in public. Police will have the power to seize these prohibited items.

New public safety orders will be made available to police where the presence of the person or a group of persons at a premises, event or within an area poses a serious risk to public safety or security. A commissioned police officer will be authorised to issue a public safety order for up to seven days and a magistrate will be authorised to issue a public safety order for up to six months. Once the order is made, police will be authorised to use a range of powers to address public safety and security concerns including stopping a person who is the subject of an order from entering the public safety area or removing them from the public safety area.

The new restricted premises scheme will allow a senior police officer to apply to a Magistrates Court to declare a premises to be a restricted premises if particular unlawful or disorderly conduct is occurring at the premises and is likely to occur again. While this conduct is normally associated with outlaw motorcycle gang clubhouses, it will apply to other premises where the prohibited conduct is taking place including where habitual consorters frequent. When the order is made, police will be able to search the premises without warrant for prohibited items at any time. Critically, this bill recognises that the threat posed by organised crime is much wider than criminal outlaw motorcycle gangs.

This bill provides tough new laws to tackle child exploitation material on the internet and target those who use technology to promote and distribute offending material and conceal their offending. The bill creates new offences, each with a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment, that will target those who administer websites used to distribute child exploitation material; encourage the use of, promote or advertise websites used to distribute child exploitation material; and distribute information about how to avoid detection of or prosecution for an offence involving child exploitation material. The bill recognises the lifelong harm that these forms of offending have on victims, their families and the broader community. The maximum penalties for offenders that involve a child in making child exploitation material and making child exploitation material will increase from 14 years to 20 years imprisonment.

The bill also creates a new circumstance of aggravation with a maximum penalty of 25 years imprisonment if a person uses a hidden network or an anonymising service in committing an offence related to child exploitation. I have spoken with officers at Task Force Argos and they have made it clear they need these powers. Our most specialised police when it comes to keeping our children safe are telling me that these powers will go a long way in distributing and dismantling anyone involved in child exploitation. Sadly, the opposition is opposing these laws. However, the Palaszczuk government agrees with our police officers.

The reports into organised crime also identified a disturbing trend in boiler room and similar high-pressure fraud and scam activity. In response to the increasing prevalence and seriousness of these scams and the evolving threats of financial crimes, particularly in the area of identity theft, the bill increases the maximum penalties for the existing aggravated offence of fraud from 12 to 14 years imprisonment. This bill also introduces tough new circumstances of aggravation for the offence of fraud, carrying a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment.

This bill represents the most comprehensive, the most rigorous and the toughest organised crime regime in Australia. It provides our front-line police with the necessary powers to dismantle and destroy serious organised criminal networks in all of their insidious forms. This is an outstanding bill which will put Queensland at the forefront in the fight against serious and organised crime. I commend the bill to the House and, of course, encourage all members to support it.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (8.08 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. It has taken two short years for this Palaszczuk government to prove to Queensland that it has no backbone on matters of public safety. At a time when existing laws should be built on, not weakened, Queenslanders should rightly demand the fullest protection of laws against serious and organised crime in all its forms.

The bill was introduced on 13 September this year and was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. The committee received and examined more than 280 submissions. The changes that this bill proposed were part of a closed-shop inquiry and the terms of reference were simply designed to repeal or replace the 2013 VLAD laws, not to actually review them. I agree with my LNP colleagues who sat on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee and the view expressed that the recommendations of this inquiry should be disregarded because it was not a proper review of the law. I think it is important to continue to remind those opposite just exactly why the original laws were introduced.

We will never forget the distressing images splashed across our TV screens of the Broadbeach bikie brawl in 2013 and these vicious, lawless criminals fighting it out in front of innocent families. These criminal gangs then started a siege at Southport Police Station demanding that their mates, who had been arrested following the Broadbeach brawl, be let go. Could we rely on the previous Labor government's Criminal Organisation Act? No, we could not. Sadly, that legislation as introduced by the then attorney-general and now health minister was a complete failure. Not one declaration had ever been made and criminal gangs were given a free ride. This is why the LNP government took the steps needed to tackle serious and organised crime and criminal elements in this state.

What was the result at that time? Crime went down significantly. Across Queensland armed robberies were reduced by 24.8 per cent; unlawful entry dropped 17.4 per cent; theft reduced by 19.4 per cent; and more importantly, police were able to catch more drug offenders and get the drugs off our streets. As the mother of a daughter who got caught up in substance abuse, methamphetamines, I will do everything and support any piece of legislation that goes towards getting drugs off our streets. Under the VLAD laws the Gold Coast in particular, one of our major tourist destinations, could breathe again. When the Attorney-General claims VLAD laws caused unnecessary drain on police resources, she is choosing to ignore the fact that in 2013 crime dropped significantly. We on this side of the House remain committed to having the toughest laws possible to dismantle and destroy any presence of serious and organised crime in Queensland. These multipurpose laws have proven effective to date to knock out and dismantle criminal gangs and serious criminal activity; there can be no denying this.

The bill before the House puts out the welcome mat for bikie gangs to re-establish themselves across Queensland. In contrast, the LNP sent a clear message to criminal motorcycle gangs: 'Pack up and get out of this state; you are not welcome here.' Already we have heard evidence from the CCC that criminal bikie gangs are out there recruiting again and starting to move back into the Gold Coast. Withdrawing the existing laws and replacing them with an inferior set of laws will cripple the police and other agencies in their ability to tackle serious and organised crime in Queensland. What we are seeing now is a return to the bad old Labor days of being soft on criminals, soft on gangs, soft on anything that requires backbone and substance. Let us not forget that under the Bligh government police minister Judy Spence said there were no serious organised youth gangs in Queensland. 'Gangs? What gangs?' was the line from the minister at the time.

History shows that Labor has a poor record on tackling serious and organised crime in Queensland. First they opposed gang laws in 2007; then they brought in their own failed laws in 2009; then they voted against the VLAD laws; and now they come in here with weak laws. The Queensland

public deserve to know what is really going on here. By weakening the provisions around bail we will likely see a decrease in people coming forward to report serious crime. People will feel threatened and may fear reprisal once the alleged offender is released on bail for matters involving serious and organised crime activity.

The issue of dealing with association by wiping out the previous tough laws and replacing them with a consorting model which focuses on arrests and police intervention after the fact is, as my colleague the shadow Attorney-General noted, the wrong way to go and should not be supported. It was the LNP who brought in tough laws that prevented criminal gangs from gathering in public spaces. They could no longer spread fear through the community by their show of force because, as a result of these strengthened laws, these unlawful groups were too afraid to associate. This bill dilutes police powers and, as the shadow Attorney-General pointed out, the QPS submitted to the task force that removing and reducing the existing suite of legislation will reduce the capability of police, increase the risk to public safety and have an impact on community confidence in police and, I imagine, a worse impact on this haphazard government.

Far from being a rebel, as a mother and grandmother I am deeply concerned at what the Palaszczuk Labor government is attempting to do here today. As the shadow Attorney-General has already noted, we acknowledge some value in a number of the amendments being proposed to the Drugs Misuse Act and the Criminal Code; however, given the significant and detrimental amendments that weaken existing laws I cannot support this bill in its current form. In closing, I know that every state and every jurisdiction in Australia faces organised crime and the traces of this are evident, but the fundamental difference in how we can protect Queenslanders lays in the various response capabilities of governments to prevent, resist or reject the infiltration of organised crime and to never let it again prevail due to weak laws. We should never make it easier for organised criminal groups to find the conditions in which they can operate lawlessly.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (8.15 pm): It gives me enormous pleasure to rise to speak on the Serious and Organised Crime Bill 2016. This bill marks the culmination of an enormous amount of work by my colleagues the Attorney-General and the former police minister, the member for Rockhampton, and those people who provided advice and guidance in the drafting of this legislation. I want to personally place on record my thanks to the Attorney-General for all of the extensive consultation that has happened to make sure that we have workable, robust laws which tackle all forms of serious and organised crime in this state.

I would also like to put on record my thanks to the Hon. Alan Wilson QC, who chaired both the Taskforce on Organised Crime Legislation and the review of the original Criminal Organisation Bill 2010. Retired Justice Wilson is an eminent jurist and a sound and solid reviewer, and the work that he did was collaborative and highly consultative. This has meant that his report is both comprehensive and extremely well written and contains the views of all participants, whether there was consensus on issues or not. I also thank the participants of the task force who brought to the task their extensive knowledge in the area and managed to share their views in both a respectful and a collaborative approach.

There is no doubt that the original criminal organisation laws failed to adequately address the problems of organised crime in Queensland. We have been willing to admit this—unlike the LNP, who opposed those laws because they infringed the civil rights of the bikies. The former leader of the opposition, the member for Southern Downs, led the opposition to any organised crime or anti-association laws. Remember when he met with the head of the United Motorcycle Council and then came into this House decrying the legislation for breaching the civil rights of bikies? Former premier Campbell Newman said that wearing bokie colours was like wearing your team's footy jersey. Their attitude was a disgrace. The former attorney-general wanted to repeal our laws which restricted association and replace them with strengthened criminal confiscation laws. We can have strengthened criminal confiscation laws as well as laws that restrict the association of all serious organised criminals.

Our concern with the previous government's laws has always been that they do not target all organised crime. Members opposite have been criticising the previous criminal organisation laws which did not see any gains declared, yet they want to hang on to their laws. The attitude has changed. Acknowledging the legal ineffectiveness of the laws, the former attorney-general has said that it does not matter about convictions because the important thing was deterrence. I fail to see how laws that do not work provide any deterrent effect. Why would anyone change their behaviour because they might be charged with an ineffective, toothless law? The answer is that they would not, which is why we are replacing those laws with tough new laws that target all forms of serious and organised crime. We saw the alarming advice contained in a report of the Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry headed by

another eminent criminal lawyer, Michael Byrne QC, which stated that organised crime was much wider than just bikie gangs. The commission acknowledged the involvement of outlaw motorcycle gangs in organised crime, but what it found was that—

... in the period of October 2013 to 30 June 2015, a period of intense law enforcement focus on outlaw motorcycle gangs and their members and associates, members of such gangs only appointed for 0.52 per cent of persons charged with criminal offences throughout Queensland.

Mr Byrne's report also told us that—

... according to the CCC, the heavy focus on outlaw motorcycle gangs has meant that: [The Crime and Corruption Commission] has lost visibility of other areas of organised crime active in Queensland, who are likely to have benefited from and or exploited the opportunity to stay under the law enforcement radar.

Further, the QPS acknowledges that:

[While] OMCGs [outlaw motorcycle gangs] are an important focus for policing strategies, they are but one of the many types of activities that make the organised crime environment in Queensland.

That is what we said all along in opposing the previous laws. We wanted workable laws that targeted all forms of organised crime. That is what we are delivering here tonight. Our laws will enable law enforcement officers to target the other forms of organised crime posing a problem in Queensland such as those identified by Mr Byrne—paedophile rings and boiler room fraud—as well as outlaw criminal motorcycle gangs, by focusing on people's criminal activity rather than the name of their group.

Justice Wilson's task force report gave a degree of prominence to the risks posed by less structured organised crime groups which can be camouflaged and adaptable while still posing a serious threat to the public. They may not be a defined, structured, concrete group like a traditional organised crime gang. Modern organised crime is much more fluid in nature and needs more flexible laws to target that criminal activity.

The serious and organised crime bill is a tough suite of laws that are operationally strong and constitutionally sound. That is what makes laws a great deterrent, for the benefit of the former attorney-general. The Police Commissioner, Ian Stewart, has said that anticonsorting laws, along with some other laws around the wearing of bikie colours, could prove more effective than the existing VLAD laws. Our laws will centre around consorting orders, which have been proven to be constitutionally sound in other jurisdictions. Unlike the LNP's laws which could apply to anyone who was deemed to be a participant in a criminal organisation, our laws will only apply to criminal conduct. The consorting laws will make it illegal for a person to consort with two or more convicted offenders after they have been warned by police not to do so. The bill also contains the public safety protection order scheme, which is capable of delivering a multilevel strike against organised crime.

For members opposite who have expressed concern about any proposed changes to clubhouses, all currently declared clubhouses will remain under a ban at present. For those scaremongers opposite who have been talking about new clubhouses opening, this bill allows a magistrate to declare a premise to be a restricted premises if there is a reasonable suspicion that unlawful conduct, criminal behaviour or antisocial behaviour is occurring or where recognised offenders or anyone issued with a consorting warning is present. Once a declaration has been made, police can search the premises without a warrant at any time and seize property, which will automatically be forfeited to the state.

These are proper laws that will stand up to constitutional challenge. Members opposite have been championing their laws because they were upheld in the High Court. Perhaps they should read the judgement. The High Court found that the applicant did not have the requisite standing to bring the application and therefore it did not have to consider the validity of the laws, so it is disingenuous to say that they were found to be valid.

Owners and occupiers who continue to allow the type of conduct that allowed the order to occur in the first place will be guilty of serious criminal offences. Police will also be empowered to issue a stop and desist fortification notice. If they observe premises that are habitually occupied by recognised offenders or participants in criminal organisations being excessively fortified, they will be able to order them to either stop the work or remove it.

Throughout this debate concern has been expressed about the banning of the wearing of colours. These laws go further than the previous laws. These laws will ban the wearing of colours in all public places, not just on licensed premises as the existing laws do. Our laws are tougher, stronger, more robust and better able to be used by our law enforcement officers.

It is a disgrace that those opposite have been intellectually dishonest in their protection of laws that they know do not work and which the Wilson task force found are unlikely to be upheld by the courts. I am heartened by the news that the United Motorcycle Council intends to challenge these laws in the High Court once they are passed. It means that we must be doing the right thing. These laws will be found to be constitutionally solid.

I believe that tonight is an incredibly important night for this parliament. What we have seen through the creation of these laws, introduced by the Attorney-General, is a robust process—a process of consultation, of inquiries, of listening to the stakeholders. These laws have not been rushed. These laws have not been tabled and debated on the same day. I went to the election promising that I would deliver to the people of Queensland robust, workable laws targeting all forms of serious organised crime. Tonight my government is delivering on that promise to the people of Queensland.

In closing, if those opposite do not support these laws tonight they are saying that they do not believe that serious child sex offenders should be targeted as part of serious organised crime in this state. They are saying that fraud and boiler rooms should not be targeted. These laws are workable and robust and I commend them to the House.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (8.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate and to voice my opposition to the bill. We are a long way from the Gold Coast, which is where in 2013 this basically boiled over—and then some, putting it mildly. Some 1,100 kilometres away is the very peaceful tourist town of Airlie Beach. Like the Gold Coast, it very much revolves around the tourism industry. As the ‘member for paradise’, as I like to call myself, I think it would be absolutely unthinkable for something like that to play out in Airlie Beach, which hosts families from around Queensland, the nation and indeed the world. That people could be having a quiet meal on the esplanade or in the main street, which I have to say is humming at the moment, and suddenly all hell breaks loose—shootings, stabbings, bashings, biff—*is* unthinkable. I think if I went tomorrow to the main street of Airlie Beach and asked people what they think, no matter where they come from and no matter who they vote for, they would say, ‘We just could not imagine that happening here.’ I understand how the people of the Gold Coast could feel that enough was enough.

It is all well and good for the Premier to come in here tonight and talk about how we rushed this and rushed that, but the people of the Gold Coast were looking to the then government to do something about it. The paramount concern of any government is the protection of its citizens. Nationally it is in relation to terrorism, border protection, deciding who comes here and all of that business. The government of the day of Queensland, a state of the Commonwealth of Australia, has an obligation to look after and protect its citizens and visitors to the state.

In my part of the world, many long-time Mackay-ites remember what happened on 31 August 1997. That was the date of the infamous bikie shootout at Cremorne on the north side of the Pioneer River. I remember very well the incident involving the Odin’s Warriors and the Outlaws. At the time I was chief executive of Mackay Rugby League. We had a pretty big game on that day. I can say that every copper left the ground like his or her life depended on it and went straight up Juliet Street, the main drag of South Mackay; straight up Sydney Street, the main drag of the city heart; over the Forgan Bridge—

**Mr Whiting:** Forgan Smith.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** It is the Forgan Bridge. The member for Murrumba is a bit rusty. I am happy to counsel him outside. They went across the Forgan Bridge because the round house was where it was all unfolding between those rival motorcycle gangs. Trouble had been brewing for a long time.

It was interesting this evening to go back through the press clippings. On 5 October 2013 Kim Waters wrote in the *Daily Mercury*—

... no-one expected a horrific shoot-out that shocked the city’s police and frightened its residents.

People like Steve Eggleston, a paramedic, put their lives on the line that day. He was later awarded an Ambulance Service bravery award for his courage in tending to the wounded.

How no-one was killed that day was nothing short of a miracle, and there are many long-time coppers around Mackay such as Kevin Wall, Dennis Hansen and Kojak Campbell. I saw some of those blokes only the other day presenting two national Police Service medals to Sam Sheehan and Kojak Campbell. In the case of Sam Sheehan, across three generations of his family there is something like 180 years of policing. Kojak Campbell, as the name suggests, is a great character.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** He is not so follically challenged, but he had some style on the beat. It was a great honour to be there to present those medals to those officers who have now retired such as Craig Joy—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr COSTIGAN:** He did not play football; I hear the interjection from one of the members across the aisle. As the self-styled 'minister for Rugby League', I can say that there is nothing wrong with that and a lot of them do go to the football and were working at the football. These officers remember the calamity—the wild west—that descended on the city of Mackay that day 19 years ago. I have no doubt there is a strong political will on this side of the chamber to do whatever we can to combat the scourge of serious organised crime in this state. I commend the police officers across the Mackay-Whitsunday region, particularly with the recent drug busts and for getting those drugs off the streets of Mackay and the Whitsundays. I commend officers like Superintendent Bruce McNab and his fine men and women of the Queensland Police Service, Inspector Steve O'Connell, Senior Sergeant Mark Flynn, Senior Sergeant Nathan Blain and on it goes. They do a wonderful job. We have already heard the statistics by members on this side of the House on how those laws were working. I will not come into this chamber and not say my piece because I do not want to see any weakening of the tough approach on organised crime and criminal activity in this state. I have said it before in this place: Labor is not soft on crime; it is deadset marshmallows.

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (8.31 pm): I thank the committee for its work and in particular the committee chair, the member for Ferny Grove. What a load of delusional nonsense we have heard from the opposition this evening in this debate. It is obvious that very few members of the opposition have actually read the bill—they certainly have not read the explanatory notes—because their contributions have been completely vacuous. The non-government members' statement of reservation was a cherrypicked omelette of comments selectively quoted and repeated in this debate by the opposition. What the report did prove is the incredible level of consultation and engagement that has led to the introduction of this signature bill in this House. The Attorney-General is to be congratulated on a body of work that represents the gold standard in consultation, transparency and intellectual rigour. It is a fantastic achievement. It is an entirely operationally focused piece of legislation. As usual in this House, it appears that no-one from the opposition has actually read the bill—just like an SDS and budget papers.

The government's approach to this topic is in stark contrast to what the history of those opposite really is. The Premier, the Attorney-General and the police minister have addressed the technical elements and gave specific opinions about the substance of this bill compared to those from the opposition who have addressed none—as we just saw from the last speaker, the member for Whitsunday, who did not speak about the bill at all. In the few minutes that I have I want to flag the LNP's schizophrenic approach. The truth is that the LNP's record on crime I would characterise as focused entirely on media spin, synthetic optics and being completely ineffectual in terms of what really matters. Let us talk about this soft-on-crime mantra. There are more police in Queensland than ever before due to the Palaszczuk Labor government, they have more resources—millions of dollars extra, well beyond anything those opposite across the chamber did—going into organised crime and drugs and there are more prisoners in Queensland than ever before, by the way. With regard to this nonsense that we are soft on crime, there are more prisoners—more people locked up—more police and more resources, but those opposite still run around saying that we are soft on crime. It is a complete nonsense.

Let us talk about the effect. In 2009 LNP members opposed Labor's organised crime bill, the COA. They were apparently concerned about the civil liberties of bikies at that point. They were apparently concerned for years about the civil liberties yet did absolutely nothing, but Campbell Newman persisted with equating colours with football jerseys. The LNP did absolutely nothing about bikies or organised crime while in opposition or while in government—up to a point. In 2012 I stood in this House and pleaded with the government of the day—Campbell Newman's government—to do something about bikies. About the same time I recall the member for Mermaid Beach—and he reflected on this earlier this evening—making his speech which aligned very closely with my perspective. Those sentiments were completely rejected in this chamber and I was assailed.

According to the LNP at that point, there was no trouble, no problem, nothing to see here. It did nothing until 2013 and the Broadbeach incident. What did we see then? We saw a rushed, draconian approach that did nothing but suppress the optics and turned the whole community against the VLAD

laws. My recollection is that it was 4½ hours from the first reading to when it rammed the second reading debate on a substantive piece of legislation through this House on a Tuesday night. That is what we saw—4½ hours from first reading to second reading based on the optics of an event down the coast after being in denial for years and years. That is what we saw from those opposite—completely ineffectual, worried about the optics.

In this debate the shadow Attorney-General suggested a couple of things. One is that he suggested the bikies left. Other LNP members have also suggested this during the debate. That is totally false. What happened? The *Starship Enterprise* flew over and Scotty beamed them up, did he? The fact is they did not go anywhere; they stayed here, they took their colours off and they kept on doing what they were doing. Did the ice issue just disappear because those opposite were so successful in dealing with bikies? Absolute nonsense, factually incorrect, complete and utter drivel coming from those opposite! The shadow Attorney-General did say one thing that was correct: his perspective on drugs. I recall standing in this House and asking about the street price of ice after the ramming through of that legislation by the LNP during the last parliament. I was attacked for supporting the advertising of illicit drugs in Queensland, and Premier Newman led that assault. I found that rather ironic given that his bikie task force leader, retired Brigadier Bill Mellor, identified that the street price of drugs was a significant metric in terms of the success of the LNP laws—that is, the actual effect on organised crime, one would say. It is supply and demand after all! Of course, this data was all publicly available, but the LNP in government refused to allow the facts to pass its lips—much the same as what we have seen here this evening.

What did the LNP laws do? What was achieved? They drove bikies underground—there is no doubt about that—and bikies did not leave this state. They did not depart. They did not go to some magical place in heaven; they continued to exist and undertake their activities. The LNP suppressed the optics and proceeded to harass every person on a motorbike in this state. That sanctioned indiscriminate stop and search turned the community against every aspect of the LNP's efforts, and that happened virtually overnight.

The facts are overwhelming. Drugs are the centre of gravity in organised crime in this state, so what is really happening and what happened while the other mob was in power? Let us look at the first-year comparisons on crime, because much is said about statistics in here. Let us look at first-year comparisons—our first year and their first year. There were 30 per cent more robberies under their first year. There were 31 per cent more unlawful entries in their first year. There were 73 per cent more manslaughter charges in their first year. There were 52 per cent more driving causing death charges in their first year. There were 24 per cent more unlawful use of motor vehicles in their first year, and then they stopped publishing crime statistics. That is the truth about them.

What have we done? What are the ALP's efforts in government? In 2015-16 more than 300 arrests have been made and 1,200 charges laid through covert operations—over three times the number that occurred in 2014 during this apparent Valhalla period of the Liberal National Party. In 2015-16 amphetamines and ice with a street value of over \$2 million were removed from the streets through covert operations—10 times what was done by that mob when it was in government in 2013-14.

Let us look at what is going on nationally. In Queensland, during the term of the LNP government, drug offences went like this. I heard one of the members opposite saying, 'Drug offences? That means we were working harder.' It would be great if the members opposite were working harder and intercepting more drugs. The only problem is that the street price went down that way. They would never admit that. Drug offences were going that way and the street prices were going that way. There was no pressure on supply and demand. The statistics demonstrate quite unequivocally that, while this state and this country were subjected to an avalanche of ice coming in from overseas, what were the members opposite doing? They were running around worrying about a bunch of idiots wearing bikie gang colours. They did absolutely nothing about the issue.

All we have to do is look at the median street price of drugs. The ice border seizures went like that while the members opposite were talking about bikies and they are still going that way. While the members opposite were in charge, the median purity of ice went from 20 per cent to over 60 per cent. While they were in charge, ease of access for users went through the roof. What were the members opposite doing? They were running around worrying about some idiot with the word 'Rebels' on the back of his jacket while the state and the country was experiencing an avalanche of ice.

The other night I listened to a speech delivered by the senior magistrate for the domestic violence court on the Gold Coast. The senior magistrate spoke about the reasons domestic violence is such a problem on the Gold Coast. What was the first word that came out of his mouth? 'Ice.' Not only is ice at the centre of organised crime in this state but also it is feeding directly into domestic violence. What do we hear about the real issues that people are confronting? Nothing—not a thing from those opposite.

When the LNP was in government, ice use went up threefold. In 2005—and more so today—more than 10 per cent of Queenslanders and Australians had used ice. What do we hear from the members opposite about the effectiveness of their laws? Those laws have achieved absolutely nothing. As a government, the members opposite spent three years unconscious behind the wheel. Half of that time they talked about football jerseys. They had no idea about crime. They had no idea about what was really going on. They get up in this House and embarrass themselves.

**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (8.41 pm): Those are the words of someone who protests too much. There is someone who knows that the laws that are being debated tonight are a serious weakening of the efforts of police and society against organised crime of all descriptions. We heard the ravings and rantings of someone who is deliberately ignoring or obscuring the facts and the realities.

The safety of Queenslanders and the protection of their property and their families is a fundamental responsibility and role of any government. It is a responsibility and role of government that the former Bligh Labor government failed to deliver. As I travel throughout the state, most recently in the far north of Queensland, Queenslanders tell me the things that are of concern to them. On jobs, Labor is failing. On the economy, Labor is failing. On health and education, Labor is failing. Most importantly, as we all know, on law and order, Labor is failing.

Anyone who was living and working on the Gold Coast in the lead-up to that fateful incident in September 2013 knows the level of fear and concern running through the community about the fact that criminal bikie gangs were running the town and that there was little that the police or anyone else could do about it. Business owners were being stood over and extorted. Drugs were being peddled through the nightclubs to our kids. People were living in fear. We only have to speak and listen to the people who were on the Gold Coast in 2013 to know that they were not going out to the restaurants. They were not going out to the nightclubs. Tourists were not going to the Gold Coast. They were afraid to go to the Gold Coast.

What will we see under this weak-on-crime Labor government? A return to that fear. It is already happening. We are hearing from senior members of the business community, from people in the Police Service—those who are out on the street—that this legislation will open the door and roll out the red carpet.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I appreciate that this is a very heated debate, but there are so many interjections from members on my right that I can barely hear the member for Clayfield speak. Let us make sure that the member has an opportunity to be heard.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The bikies will be back into bat. Under these soft-on-crime laws, they will be back at the crease, ready to hit out again.

In 2013, all of that activity was bubbling away—the extortion, the drug deliveries, the violence, the standover merchants, the standover tactics—under the surface with the occasional act of public violence, such as the shooting of Kathy Devitt, who, in April 2012, was caught in the crossfire of a dispute between two bikies in a Robina shopping centre. How were the laws working there? An innocent person in a shopping centre was caught in the crossfire between bikies. That was Labor's legacy on crime and law enforcement in Queensland.

For a new government at the time, that was when the alarm bells rang. We knew that there were issues on the Gold Coast. We had made election commitments that included resourcing and a new major crime squad, which has subsequently been disbanded by those opposite. Until that Robina shooting, I do not think that people broadly realised how bad the situation was. The LNP government's resolve was so obviously sharpened with the incident at Broadbeach and subsequently at the Southport Police Station. On Friday, 27 September 2013, 50 Bandidos bikie gang members started a public brawl in a restaurant in Broadbeach in front of men, women and children who were out enjoying dinner with their families and friends. That was the legacy of the Labor government in this state.

**Mrs D'Ath** interjected.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister and the member for Burleigh, this is not a conversation between the two of you.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. That was the legacy that Labor left Queenslanders: bikies emboldened to take their brawls into a restaurant where people were simply wanting to have an enjoyable night out.

**Mr Walker:** A family event.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** A family event. Can any of us imagine what it would have been like to be out with your partner, maybe some kids, maybe mum and dad and all of a sudden you are subjected to the foul, intimidating violence of 50 bikies wanting to wreck the night simply so that they can have a gang war? It is clear from the footage and reports on the night that the criminal bikie gang members had no respect for the police or for the law. After the brawl was broken up, the remaining gang members then went down to the Southport Police Station and attempted to intimidate the police, demanding that they let their comrades out of the watch house. The bikies, who for years had run the Gold Coast, had crossed the line and the violence was more than just spilling onto the streets; it was in people's faces and a turf war was on.

The LNP was listening to the people of the Gold Coast. They were demanding strong action and we acted quickly and decisively. We did not need a committee and 24 months to do it. We did not need the interminable reviews of the Palaszczuk Labor government in order to know that people deserve to be safe and secure in their homes, in their businesses and when they were out enjoying themselves with simple family fun. Not for us the dithering and delays of the Labor government. There was swift, decisive action against criminal gangs.

The police and the Crime and Corruption Commission wanted more targeted resources and better laws. We granted those wishes as well. When it comes to community safety, it is vital that the government of the day listens to and acts on the advice of the law enforcement agencies that protect Queenslanders from harm day in and day out. That is what we did. We took the advice of the police, we took the advice of the CCC and we took the advice of the then solicitor-general, Walter Sofronoff. That was the situation that existed under our government. We listened and we acted. We also promised a three-year review clause, all in the space of a very short time.

It is a shame that time and time again we have seen the policies of the soft-on-crime Palaszczuk Labor government and how out of touch they are with the hopes and expectations of ordinary Queenslanders, whether that is in Far North Queensland, where we see the revolving door of crime, where we see 20 youths being charged for offences at the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre last week—

**Mr Walker:** Up on the roof wanting KFC—

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Up on the roof wanting KFC, as I said this morning—where we see hundreds and hundreds of offences, where we see offenders appearing more than 20 times as a result of this government's soft-on-crime attitude. The criminals know that they have nothing to fear from this government. They know that for all their talk and all their rhetoric, when it comes down to it they will go to jelly. They do not have the intestinal fortitude to drive the criminal gangs out of Queensland to protect Queenslanders.

There is no better example of this than the bill that we are debating tonight. It shows a government that is more concerned with pandering to special interest groups rather than the concerns of many Queenslanders. I refer again to Gold Coast residents who want a government that listens to the silent majority and keeps the laws that are working to keep them safer. That is what the people of Queensland are telling us. It is not just anecdotal evidence that steels our resolve to stand by the laws that we brought into this place; I refer to the crime statistics from 2014. There is no coincidence that they dramatically fell across the state. In 2014 crime significantly decreased across Queensland. Assaults reduced by 3.7 per cent; robbery reduced by 24.8 per cent; unlawful entry reduced by 17.4 per cent; and car theft reduced by 19.4 per cent. On the Gold Coast homicide reduced by 21 per cent; assaults reduced by two per cent; robbery reduced by 17 per cent; unlawful entry reduced by 27 per cent; and car theft reduced by almost 18 per cent. These are not just numbers and percentages; they show the real impact of a tough approach to organised crime. It means that 700 fewer Queenslanders were assaulted; it means that 450 fewer businesses were robbed; it means that 7,000 fewer businesses and homes were broken into; it means that 2,200 fewer cars were stolen—

**Mrs D'Ath** interjected.

**Mr Walker** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member for Mansfield and the minister to please cease their conversations across the chamber.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** And it means that more drugs were off our streets and not being peddled to our kids. As a father with a 17-year-old who has just finished at schoolies, can I tell members what a relief that is as well. I heard the Premier talk about the survival of our laws in the High Court. She is

disingenuous at best and misleading at worst. She knows, and her Attorney-General knows, that our anti-association laws were held valid by the High Court. It is the VLAD laws that she refers to disingenuously. Queenslanders will not forget they were sold out by political self-interest from a Premier who promised to govern in their interest but does the complete opposite. We will continue to remind them of that as well.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (8.53 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. It is timely that I follow the contribution of the Leader of the Opposition, who so succinctly and accurately laid down the circumstances in which the LNP's laws of 2013 were introduced and the environment in which they were introduced. In my contribution tonight I seek to draw clear distinctions between the LNP laws of 2013 and the laws that we see proposed by the Labor government today. Those opposite are seeking to overturn laws that have operated effectively and efficiently for a number of years.

Firstly, there are significant concerns with the removal of certain police powers which allow them to stop, search and detain a participant in a criminal organisation based on reasonable suspicion. The five circumstances of aggravation that were introduced by the LNP in 2013 which enhanced penalties for participants of criminal organisations committing the offences of affray, misconduct in relation to a public office, grievous bodily harm, serious assault and obtaining or dealing with identification information, will all be repealed and replaced with the serious and organised crime circumstance of aggravation. As Associate Professor Mark Lauchs, a QUT criminologist, has commented, so much of this debate has occurred without any data on the nature of the clubs and their violent or organised crime activities. He suggests the data relied upon by the various reviewing bodies that have conducted reviews over the last couple of years fail to understand organised crime and that there is a significant lack of cooperation between government and academia, which holds back the necessary investigative research from being undertaken.

The bill removes the power introduced by the LNP in 2013 which allows a minister to make a recommendation to the Governor in Council to have an organisation declared a criminal organisation by regulation. Notably, it is proposed that this power will not be removed for two years. This means that clubhouses that were closed down by the LNP are only guaranteed to remain closed for two years and there is no guarantee that new clubhouses will not be created into the future. Anti-association provisions which currently make it illegal for two or more members of a criminal organisation to be knowingly present in a public place will be repealed only after two years. Existing provisions that make it unlawful for any person who is a member or participant in a criminal organisation to enter or attempt to enter a prescribed place or event will be overturned, but again only after two years.

A new consorting offence has been established to replace the anti-association provisions. The bill states that it will be a misdemeanour for a person to consort with two recognised offenders after having been given an official warning by police with respect to each of those individuals. The offence will not apply to persons under the age of 18. The question is: what constitutes consorting? Consorting will prima facie be circumstances where a person associates with another that involves seeking out or accepting that other person's company. Day-to-day social interactions that may occur inadvertently will not constitute an act of consorting. In this regard I note the Queensland Law Society's concern about the operation of the proposed consorting offence. They raise that there is no required nexus between the association and the commission of or intended commission of a serious criminal offence. As a result there is some risk for the proposed consorting offence to criminalise associations that are unrelated to criminal activity.

Proposed amendments to the Bail Act 1990 overturn the 2013 amendments assuming a presumption against bail for a person who is a participant in a criminal organisation. In that instance a person was required to show cause why their remand in custody is not justified rather than the Crown justifying why a person should not be granted bail for alleged charges of an indictable, simple or regulatory offence. This proposal removes the same presumption against bail for criminal gangs that is used in connection with people accused of murder.

Amendments to the Corrective Services Act overturn the 2013 amendments that granted Queensland Corrective Services the ability to rely on criminal organisation segregation orders, which are enhanced powers to manage prisoners identified as participants of criminal organisations. Such orders included segregation from other prisoners and restricted privileges such as visits, mail and access to other activities. This was to prevent criminal gangs operating in prisons and recruiting new members to their respective criminal organisations.

Particularly troubling is the overturning of the LNP's laws that related to the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. Minimum mandatory sentencing guidelines that provided set time periods of imprisonment for contempt have been replaced with an escalating, tiered maximum penalty system. The 2013 amendments specifically excluding a person's genuinely held fear of retribution as a reasonable excuse for failing to comply with the CCC's coercive powers are proposed to be repealed. The CCC outlined in its submission to the task force into organised crime legislation that it supported the retention of provisions removing claims of reasonable excuse founded on fear of retribution to person or property. The CCC submitted that the existing provisions already effectively addressed the public interest concerns. Finally, powers that give the CCC authority to refuse to disclose information given or produced at an intelligence hearing or hearing authorised under the immediate response power is also proposed to be repealed.

The LNP's 2013 laws introduced, appropriately, a fit and proper test to assess and, if deemed appropriate, deny criminal organisations and their members the ability to operate under a variety of acts including the Tattoo Parlours Act 2013, the Weapons Act 1990 and the Liquor Act 1992. The Police Commissioner exercised his judgement that if a member of a criminal organisation was not a fit and proper person they would not receive one of the occupational licences attributable under those acts. The Queensland Hotels Association said that it was difficult to reconcile the fact that the bill identifies the criminality of criminal organisations and expands the offence of wearing colours to include anywhere in public, yet at the same time weakens the existing licensing provisions to enable members of a declared criminal organisation to be deemed a suitable person to hold a licence. That is a contrast of messages requiring further explanation from the government.

Throughout the debate this afternoon a key question that was posed by many of my colleagues is this: why are these legislative changes necessary in the first place, especially when the existing legislation was due for a review in the shortcoming period? There has been no real demand for change from any of the key stakeholders, any enforcement authorities or the public generally. With the introduction of the LNP's 2013 amendments, in Queensland 2014 crime rates significantly reduced with assault down 3.7 per cent, robbery down 24.8 per cent and unlawful entry down 17.4 per cent. As so many members have articulated this afternoon, under those headings Gold Coast crime statistics fell similarly. The 2013 LNP changes did the job and they did it well. Criminal gangs got out of Queensland, our crime rates reduced and Queensland was a safer place for it. Nothing is to be gained from weakening the LNP introduced laws and opening up the risk to a rise in criminal activity, not just on the Gold Coast but also on streets across our state. Queenslanders will not support that possibility and I will not be supporting this bill.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (9.01 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill, otherwise known as the soft on crime bill. We have heard much intellectualising about how, in Labor's view, the VLAD laws did not work. We have heard screeching from unions and bikie gang empathisers about perceived police harassment and we have heard how the New South Wales inspired consorting laws will better target organised crime gangs. If we look at the evidence from our neighbour, in Sydney criminal gangs are more sophisticated, better armed and more violent than ever. Criminal gangs, either in cooperation with criminal bikie gangs or in competition with them, are currently expanding to take over not only the east coast drug trade but also other international opportunities. In China, a kilo of ice is valued at \$5,000; in many Australian cities, it is worth \$2 million, making Australia one of the most attractive places in the world for organised crime to flourish and for criminals to grow their drug empires. It is reported that, under this Palaszczuk Labor government, criminal gangs are returning en masse to the Gold Coast and other regional cities to reassert control over the drug trade.

I refer to a published article that states—

The number of bikie gang chapters in Australia has exploded over the past decade by nearly 50 per cent, ACC statistics show. There are now 44 separate bikie gangs in Australia, with 179 chapters throughout the country and 4,483 members.

A criminal barrister and senior lecturer in law enforcement at Charles Sturt University, Hugh McDermott, said it was hard to put a precise figure on the size of the bikie gang economy, but including associates—like lawyers, accountants and chemists—the entire business would be approaching \$10 billion in annual revenues.

"The networks are huge. You're talking into the billions of dollars," Dr McDermott told News Corp Australia.

Of the \$15 billion that the Australian Crime Commission estimates organised crime costs the economy a year, Mr McDermott estimated bikie gangs accounted for "two thirds" of activity.

According to IBIS World, the financial conglomerate Macquarie Group declared revenues of \$9.9 billion in 2013—

That makes the bikie economy bigger than the Macquarie Group. The article continues—

“It’s all about the money,” Dr McDermott said. “It’s very rare that you have individuals not doing it for the money. They enjoy the lifestyle, the violence, the ego, but it really comes down to the money. This is a major corporate operation.”

“Everyone has this image of bikies as thugs beating the hell out of each other in airports. But the guys that really run things are sophisticated and have very strong support networks around them of professionals like lawyers, chemists, bankers, accountants. They are well organised and well protected.”

Dr McDermott said bikie gangs had overtaken the Russian and Italian mafias to become the most serious element of organised crime in Australia ...

Those people are not going to enliven the ill-conceived consorting laws. It will simply be business as usual.

Criminal bikie gang members fled Queensland as a result of the introduction of the LNP legislation. Where did they go to find safe haven? Predominantly, they went to New South Wales and Victoria. It was widely reported that New South Wales police set up on the border to try to keep criminal gang members from fleeing Queensland and entering New South Wales, where gang crime is out of control and consorting laws are hopelessly inadequate to stem the rise of criminal gangs.

It gives me great cause for concern that members opposite seem to have no comprehension of the danger they are dealing with. Criminal gangs, most notably criminal bikie gangs, do not identify with the Queensland community. They do not respect our society or have any regard for it. Rather, they hold society in contempt. They willingly seek to intimidate the community and they have no regard for public safety. They are an alternative society with separate rules and a separate identity, which underpins why the Palaszczuk Labor government’s weak laws will never work. Labor’s laws try to create a framework that expects people to conform to societal norms. Under the Premier’s laws, prisons will return to their role as recruiting grounds where gang members do soft time. Instead of being a strong deterrent as it was under the LNP, under Labor prison time becomes an opportunity to grow criminal networks.

However, is it any surprise that Labor would soften the laws and allow gangs to flourish? Australia’s largest bikie gang, the Rebels, holds large sway over Queensland. What work sector do most gang members identify for their employment? That is right; it is the construction industry! What union might those members belong to? The CFMEU! The CFMEU holds criminality as a normal part of doing business. It is a union that uses intimidation, bullying and extortion as part and parcel of workplace relations. It is a union that incorporated under its patch the now outlawed and criminal BLF. It is no surprise that criminal gang members choose the CFMEU as their spiritual socialist home. It is ever true that birds of a feather flock together.

It is important to understand that the legislation before the House seeks to dismantle the tough, uncompromising legislative stance of the LNP with a softer, complex and unwieldy approach to criminal gangs. The gang members who fled Queensland in fear of the VLAD laws are returning in the knowledge that it will be easier to run their criminal organisations with less fear of prosecution and consequence. This bill represents a significant weakening in the response to organised crime in the state. It is worth noting that the committee could not reach an agreement on whether this bill should be passed. It is worth considering that the Queensland police force will have a tougher job enforcing our laws under this bill and it is worth the notice of this Palaszczuk Labor government that the bill puts Queenslanders at greater risk. I urge all members not to support this bill.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (9.07 pm): I rise to speak to the Serious Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill. I listened to the member for Whitsunday and I must say that there is an element of fact in what he was saying about crime and illegal activity among outlaw bikies. There are many cases of thuggery. I have to say that an element of good did come from the introduction of the VLAD laws and that part of what the member for Whitsunday and other members have said is true; however, the problem with the LNP laws was the process that they went through. At that time under the Newman experiment the LNP government believed that they were the saviours of this state. They believed that they were different to Labor, so they came in and declared war on everybody; however, then they realised that the polls were not looking good for the LNP.

The LNP parliamentary leadership team and the party leadership had to come up with a strategy. They met in the Strangers’ Dining Room. They said, ‘We are in trouble politically and we have to do something. So that it is perceived that we are doing something we could go tough on bikies.’ Their great strategy was to say, ‘We can smash legislation through hard and fast to give Queenslanders the perception that we are doing something and we are tough on crime and then hopefully our polling that is down will climb and we will look a little bit more presentable at the next election.’ This was their strategy. They had the perception that the strategy was going to work. They fast-tracked the legislation and smashed the laws through. They said that they were going to put the bikies in pink pyjamas.

The LNP promised that they were not going to be like Labor. They promised that they were going to be different—that they were going to be honest and accountable and a government that was going to deliver. They promised they would be different. They said, 'We will not be like the Beattie-Bligh government. We will be different.'

The polling was bad. They fast-tracked the legislation. They did not even have the bill printed. They said, 'We have to do it now because the sky is falling in.' As we were receiving a briefing and were being told by the department how good the legislation was and why it had to pass, we did not even have the legislation in front of us. The sky was going to fall in. There was an element of good in it, but it was all about politics. At the same time their polling went down—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! We are having a bit of fun, but the interjections are getting a little bit too loud for me to hear the member.

**Mr KNUTH**: There were elements of good in the legislation. As it was smashed through—

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr McEachan** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order! Member for Pine Rivers, you have been interjecting quite a lot tonight. The member for Redlands and the member for Pine Rivers, this is not about your conversation. The member for Dalrymple has the call.

**Mr KNUTH**: I would probably like the Attorney to address some of the issues that I have concerns about. We have concerns with regard to the laws that impacted law-abiding motorcycle riders. The police and law enforcement officers targeted them. Places like the Herveys Range Heritage Tea Rooms lost business for five months. We had people like Noel Evans, a member of the LNP, who was impacted. His wife died and he had motorbike riders at her funeral as a guard of honour. The police pulled them up and harassed them to check to see whether they were members of an organised motorcycle gang. These are the ridiculous things that happened. What they were hoping to achieve was that this legislation might build a bit of credibility for them across the state. It really did backfire.

Labor is known to be soft on crime. I acknowledge that these proposed laws cover amendments to the Drugs Misuse Act, the Criminal Code relating to child exploitation over the internet and stronger enforcement measures for drug trafficking. Another good aspect is that the police union has come out and supported the measures. I do not know about now, but in the past the police union has always been pro the LNP. I think that might have changed. I am not quite sure. The police union have come out and said that the laws are quite strong and worthy of support.

I would like the Attorney to address the issue of patches and colours. My concern is that we do not want police seeing legal bike owners in coffee shops and public places and going in and harassing them. This is very important and I ask the minister to address that issue.

There were some elements of the VLAD laws that were good, but the way the opposition went about introducing the laws was overdone. I wanted to bring that to the attention of the House. I ask the Attorney in her summing-up to respond to the issue of protecting law-abiding bikies who are wearing patches and colours.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.15 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contributions to this debate on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill implements a new organised crime regime for Queensland. It delivers an agile, comprehensive and workable response that tackles all forms of serious and organised crime—not just outlaw motorcycle gangs but also individuals and organised crime groups who sexually exploit children or who are involved in sophisticated financial crimes or who run drug-trafficking syndicates and generate illicit profits.

The cornerstone initiatives of our new organised crime regime—the consorting offence, the public safety protection order scheme, the serious organised crime circumstance of aggravation and the organised crime control orders—will operate together to deliver a comprehensive, targeted and multifaceted regime to target these criminals. The bill delivers a reform package that is both legally robust and operationally strong.

The initiatives have been developed to pass through all stages of the criminal justice system which, as the task force emphasised in its report, is fundamental to truly confronting the threat posed by organised crime in Queensland. The bill is designed to secure actual convictions against these offenders.

The prohibition against the visible wearing or carrying of outlaw motorcycle gang colours in all public places is an additional initiative and extends the current ban beyond merely licensed premises. Queenslanders have the right to walk down the street and to drive on our roads free from the fear and intimidation that these bikie colours instil in ordinary members of our community. This government will not tolerate such fear and intimidation continuing or for it to be felt by everyday Queenslanders.

Importantly, I touch on the point that the member for Dalrymple has raised. This is not about targeting lawful recreational riders who were targeted under the VLAD legislation. We all had constituents coming up and telling us how they were being targeted. We are getting the outlaw motorcycle gang colours off the streets. What we can say to the community is that when they see their local recreational clubs—and I have the Patriots club in my electorate—that they are there as legitimate recreational clubs. The Patriots are retired veterans. The club is there for the enjoyment of members and for them to socially ride and not engage in criminal activity.

Police are provided with extensive powers under the bill to ensure the tough new initiatives can be enforced. However, in framing the provisions, appropriate safeguards and oversight mechanisms have been incorporated so that Queenslanders can be confident that the laws will be applied in a transparent and just manner. A vital distinction between this bill and the 2013 laws is that it maintains the independence of Queensland's judiciary, it respects the doctrine of the separation of powers and the importance of the rule of law and it preserves the right to a fair trial. We believe in and value these important principles and the need to ensure these key elements of an independent judicial system.

I turn now to a few allegations or suggestions made during contributions to the debate. Unsurprisingly, we largely saw the same old lines from those opposite, who are not capable of engaging in a mature, evidence based approach to public policy reform. The shadow minister has blindly criticised these important reforms from day one, claiming some sort of conspiracy theory and 'closed shop' because we actually implemented our election commitment and established a high-level task force. As we all know, the task force had a diverse membership which included key legal stakeholders, law enforcement unions; namely, the Queensland Police Union, the Queensland Police Commissioned Officers' Union of Employees and the Public Interest Monitor.

As to the unfounded claim that the task force's terms of reference were unfairly constrained, do not take my word for it. The report itself confirms this was not so. The recommendations made by the task force are evidence of this. In his introductory chapter, the chair of the task force wrote—

The Terms (of reference) required the Taskforce to consider the repeal and replacement of the 2013 suite (whether by substantial amendment or new legislation) but also, in doing so, to consider whether the provisions of the 2013 suite were effectively facilitating the successful detection, investigation, prevention and deterrence of organised crime.

He went on to say—

The Taskforce took this to mean that it was neither compelled nor constrained in its consideration of the 2013 legislation (ie, if the Taskforce considered that the 2013 suite did not require amendment then the Terms of Reference did not prevent such a recommendation being made).

Indeed, as I have said on numerous occasions, our comprehensive regime incorporates some elements of the 2013 suite, some elements of COA that have been adopted or adapted, as well as new and expanded elements and initiatives. The opposition's criticisms of the task force are a furphy and an insult to the dedicated men and women who served on the task force and dedicated their considerable experience and expertise from a wide variety of criminal justice backgrounds.

I was somewhat bemused that the shadow Attorney tried to draw on the New South Wales Ombudsman report into the consorting offence. Rather than being some revelation, the New South Wales Ombudsman report has been explicitly mentioned by this government, and I quoted the ombudsman's report in my second reading speech. That work of the New South Wales Ombudsman has been used to better target and frame the consorting offences, especially in relation to the threshold offences.

While the shadow Attorney would not admit it, I thank him for effectively confirming that our regime is more effective and targeted than the New South Wales counterpart. Then the shadow Attorney went on to claim that his laws were more effective at targeting OMCG members, despite the fact that, under his legislation, how many OCMG members were convicted? How many OCMG members were convicted under the VLAD legislation? Zero—zero OMCG members. Not a single member of an outlaw motorcycle gang has been convicted under the VLAD Act, and the regime has never been tested at trial.

There seems to be a belief that the reported crime statistics do not reveal the full picture or true extent of outlaw motorcycle gangs' involvement in crime and that other sources such as unreported crime trends and community surveys should be relied upon. The task force gave a careful and detailed

examination of these sources. The shadow Attorney also tried to talk up supposed reductions in extortion and, indeed, tried to take the credit for it. This flies in the face of the task force findings. The QPS Annual Statistical Review, from where the statistics relied on by the shadow Attorney are drawn, makes the following comment at page 53—

Extortion is the lowest in volume of the offences against the person categories and, as such, is prone to random variations from month to month. Overall, no statistically significant increasing or decreasing trend was detected over the ten year period.

The shadow Attorney was determined to continue to suggest that, beyond actual evidence, our legislation should be based on their own general perceptions. I guess you call it the 'it's the vibe' argument. The task force addressed the serious and significant limitations on surveys such as this, highlighting that they can provide a 'partial glimpse of public perceptions but ... may distort the true views of the community'.

The next argument is somewhat hard to discuss. The member for Everton tried to claim that bikies had in fact left Queensland under the LNP regime. In the course of this debate, the member for Everton said—

There were limited convictions because our laws were about preventing crime from happening, about stopping it, about deterring it. They cannot commit crimes if they are not here, and they were not; they left ... Our laws sent criminals interstate and overseas and the crime rates reduced accordingly.

The task force specifically addressed the issue of outlaw motorcycle gang numbers in Queensland at page 82. The QPS figures showed that in July 2013 there were approximately 920 OMCG members in Queensland. As at February 2015, there were 789. In June 2015, there were 798 OMCG members in Queensland. This data shows that in the period of over two years following the introduction of the 2013 laws OMCG members in Queensland only reduced by 124—this is by all accounts an objectively small reduction, and certainly does not support the contention that OMCGs have moved interstate and left Queensland.

The lack of convictions—in particular of the anti-association and clubhouse offences—is also a lingering risk of the 2013 suite. As articulated by the task force, these legal challenges with the 2013 suite makes successful prosecution of the offences very difficult. In one particular matter examined by the task force, prosecutorial difficulties led to the dismissal of the charge and a \$30,000 costs order being made in favour of the defendant.

Those opposite cannot make up their minds when it comes to bikies. They are confusing themselves, and they are trying to confuse Queenslanders. While the member for Everton claims there are no longer any bikies, what have his colleagues said? Let us start with the member for Surfers Paradise. On 12 February, he told the *Gold Coast Bulletin* he was convinced that bikies had never truly left the Gold Coast. The article quotes him as saying—

"I think they are still here," he said.

"The arrests we have had in the last few days with alleged associations with bikie gangs and the drugs with large amounts of cash show that they never left.

The member for Surfers Paradise is completely correct: the task force report found outlaw bikies simply went underground and in some cases handed in their colours or patched over to other clubs. The task force report also found repeatedly that the LNP laws had produced no convictions of outlaw motorcycle gang members under the VLAD Act. The shadow Attorney-General thinks he knows why. On 5 April he told ABC Radio—

... you can only get convictions if you have crime. We don't want convictions, we want no crime. The fact that the laws have been in effect has pushed the bikies away from creating chaos in Queensland.

The member for Surfers Paradise says the bikies never left, the member for Everton says the bikies have all gone away and the shadow Attorney says that the fact that none of the bikies charged were actually convicted means there was no crime! This just makes no sense. We know there was alleged crime because people were charged. What it means is that the 2013 laws are not resulting in actual convictions, ultimately because their laws are flawed.

More confusing for the people of Queensland was the contribution of those opposite referencing the submissions of the Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties. The shadow Attorney is apparently worried about the consorting offence impacting the civil liberties of people who are not engaging in criminal activity, while their own law is specifically based on association alone. Which is it? Impose mandatory sentencing on the association of individuals or criticise the government's regime by calling for more civil liberties? It is the same old LNP—very, very divided and very, very mediocre.

Our regime is based on the activity of individual criminals acting in organised ways. Our consorting offence is based on criminal histories and incorporates important safeguards and oversight mechanisms so blatantly missing from the LNP laws.

We also heard the shadow Attorney, along with his colleagues, promote the very sophisticated argument that the bill is too big! The shadow Attorney carried on about how comprehensive the bill was, saying about my explanatory speech—

... it went carefully through all the provisions of the law—450 pages of them. We heard the Attorney-General go through them, every jot and tittle, and the first thing that comes to anyone's mind is the excess of complexity, of intricacy, of paperwork and reports that this new legislation brings forward.

I used to be a lawyer. I was not a criminal lawyer, but I know that if my criminal lawyer mates got 450 pages of legislation like this by breakfast, by the time lunchtime came around they would have six High Court challenges ready to go and 21 rolled gold defences to meet these new provisions.

The shadow Attorney must have been in his own world—getting a large piece of legislation and finding challenges by lunchtime? The shadow Attorney must have been confused about what he was talking about. It sounds like the member is having flashbacks to how the 2013 laws were passed. We remember how that happened, don't we? On 15 October 2013 the then government tabled their bills at 2.30 pm and at 2.45 pm the then attorney-general moved to have them declared urgent so they would not go to a committee. The opposition had not been provided briefings on the bills. The urgency motion was passed shortly after 3 pm. The second reading of the bills commenced at 7.41 pm. Debate continued until the early hours of 16 October and was passed at 2.47am on 16 October 2013.

The hypocrisy of those opposite complaining about time frames and openness of debate knows no bounds. Those opposite introduced and passed legislation overnight. In contrast, we had a commission of inquiry to better understand and target organised crime. We established a high level task force to draw on the expertise of experts from various sections of the criminal justice system. The task force provided a detailed, comprehensive report—a report that was made public. The government responded to the report with a comprehensive, targeted and effective legislative regime, with that legislation introduced into the House. It went to a parliamentary committee, including public submissions and public hearings, and it is continuing through parliamentary debate.

It speaks volumes about their laziness and lack of capacity to deal with serious issues of public policy for those opposite to claim they cannot deal with a comprehensive piece of legislation. Indeed, the shadow Attorney tried to mock me and mock this legislation as being 'workmanlike' with 'complexity, intricacy, paperwork and reports'. Let me be very clear: when it comes to important issues like public safety and targeting serious and organised crime, I am not afraid of doing the hard work, doing the heavy lifting, the hours of reading and the extended consultation required to deliver a comprehensive and effective regime. Surely the people of Queensland would demand nothing less from the first law officer of this state and from their government. Indeed, surely the people of Queensland demand it of someone presenting themselves as the alternate first law officer and as the alternate government in this parliament. The attitude of those opposite in complaining about the complexity or size of legislation is quite telling. Forget about whether or not a witness to a parliamentary committee hearing did not read the legislation; I am concerned that the shadow ministers did not read the legislation.

Today we heard another argument about how this legislation has progressed. While the member for Coomera complained about not having long enough and that we were ramming the legislation through, the member for Beaudesert wondered why we took so long. It is hard to keep up with the divided members opposite. Apparently the bill does not do anything, but it is too comprehensive; we are ramming it through, but we are not acting quickly enough. Perhaps we are rushing the bill through too slowly. It became very clear tonight—we heard it from one of those opposite who said, 'In government the LNP will bring the VLAD laws back.' They will bring the VLAD laws back. What does that mean? Two years on they have not learnt a thing; they did not listen to the community in 2015 and they are still not listening to the community.

The lack of attention paid by those opposite to the details of this legislation might explain why those opposite have failed to support so many key areas of the new regime. Those opposite did not even support efforts to tackle boiler room fraud—the sophisticated organised crime that can be devastating for Queenslanders. The lack of support for—indeed, the lack of interest in—tackling this sort of crime is particularly disappointing from Gold Coast based members because we know the Gold Coast has been a hub of boiler room fraud and phoenix business structures that can devastate investors and pensioners, often robbing them of their life savings. In their own dissenting report they said there were only two elements with merit: drug trafficking and child exploitation. They did not touch on financial crimes at all despite the devastation they can cause. Those opposite are not supporting the extensive

efforts in this legislation to tackle individuals and organised criminals engaged in child exploitation material. It is certainly disappointing to say the least. It is a shame that so much of the contribution from those opposite failed to engage with the actual legislation before the House. They failed to show interest in or support for the very detailed and effective regime that this legislation will provide for Queensland.

We have also heard several members opposite make blanket claims that the 2013 laws have been copied by South Australia and Victoria. That is not correct. Victoria has not implemented laws like the 2013 laws. What they have established is a form of consorting offence. Under their legislation it is called unlawful association, but it operates as a consorting offence, just like what was recommended by the task force and that is provided for in this new regime but with an important exception. The consorting regime in Queensland's new legislation is operationally more robust and simpler to implement.

While South Australia has introduced laws modelled on the 2013 anti-association offence, the clubhouse offence and recruitment offence, South Australia has not enacted a VLAD Act. Again, it is simply not correct to claim that Victoria and South Australia have copied the LNP's 2013 suite of VLAD laws. This is more than just semantics. It goes to the underlying strength of our new regime: that it provides a range of effective and robust measures to tackle organised crime in all its forms.

Unfortunately, we have seen some reporting and deliberate misconstruction by those opposite of the new licensing regime. The 2013 laws imposed disproportionate regulatory burdens and unnecessary restrictions across a range of occupational licensing laws. This government believes it is possible to strike the right balance between the rights of individuals to obtain legitimate, lawful employment and to protect the community. The bill amends a range of occupational licensing laws to address the failings of the 2013 laws. In particular, the bill will substantially enhance procedural fairness and transparency in licensing decisions, which was seriously undermined and compromised by the 2013 laws.

A number of members have expressed concerns about amendments in the bill relating to probity assessments under occupational licensing legislation. The occupational licensing acts affected by the bill will continue to provide for scrutiny and vetting of people wishing to work in regulated occupations or industries. If a person fails to meet the required probity standards, then they will be refused a licence. The approach taken to prevent the infiltration of criminals into particular industries is targeted to the needs of those industries. In addition to retaining a range of restrictions that were in place prior to 2013, the occupational licensing acts will include new provisions, or rely on existing provisions, that place mandatory or discretionary exclusions on anyone who: has been convicted of particular criminal organisation offences, including recruiting; has been convicted of a prescribed offence, with the circumstance of aggravation, under the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992; is subject to a control order or registered corresponding control order; or has contravened a public safety order, restricted premises order or a fortification order under the Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982. In this way, the new regime is intended to exclude people with a proven history of breaking the law from obtaining licences and other authorities under the relevant occupational licensing acts.

Occupational licensing legislation will still permit chief executives to ask for, and receive, criminal history reports about licence applicants from the police to assist in assessing the suitability of applicants to hold an occupational licence. As recommended by the task force, the bill is designed to remove the requirements introduced in 2013 for chief executives to refer every licence application to the police for an assessment as to whether an applicant is a criminal organisation or an identified participant in a criminal organisation. The task force found that the 2013 requirement for all licence applications to be referred to police for this type of assessment 'requires a deployment of QPS and government resources which is disproportionate to the risk posed by the potential infiltration of organised crime groups to the respective industry and to community safety'.

Turning specifically to liquor licensing, in accordance with the task force recommendations and consistent with other occupational licensing acts, the Liquor Act 1992 will continue to include the application of general fit-and-proper-person and suitable-person tests, which were in place prior to 2013, as part of the licensing decision-making framework. These probity tests provide the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming with a broad discretion to consider a number of matters when assessing applications, including an applicant's criminal history. The bill will strengthen the probity tests in the Liquor Act by specifically providing that the commissioner may have regard to the new organised crime offences and the terms of control orders. In addition to this, the commissioner will retain the ability to consider other offences when deciding an applicant's suitability and any other matters specific to the approval.

It is the intention of the bill that probity assessments are based on a person's own conduct and actual criminal behaviour. The bill also strengthens the ongoing monitoring of licensees, permittees and approval holders under the Liquor Act to ensure they continue to be fit and proper and suitable to hold a licence or other authority. It does this by amending sections relating to disciplinary or relevant action for licences, permits and other approvals to refer to the new organised crime offences and by clarifying the matters to which the commissioner must have regard in considering whether the holder continues to be a fit and proper or suitable person. Further, I am advised that, under the current provisions enacted in 2013—the VLAD suite of legislation—no persons have been disqualified from holding a licence, permit or other approval under the Liquor Act on the basis of being a criminal organisation or participant in a criminal organisation. Regarding the ID scanning provisions contained in the Liquor Act 1992, the bill amends section 173EQ to clarify the matters that the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming may have regard to in deciding whether an individual is a suitable person to operate an approved ID scanning system.

There are currently only two approved operators of approved ID scanning systems in Queensland, which demonstrates that this is a very specialised industry. Currently, when examining an application to be an approved operator, the commissioner must consider whether the applicant is a suitable person to operate an approved ID scanning system or, if a corporation, whether each executive officer is a suitable person. There are no particular limits on what the commissioner can look at in determining suitability, although the section does specify that a criminal history report can be obtained in relation to the person. Examples of suitability considerations are also included in the section, and relate to whether the applicant has the skill, knowledge and experience required for operating an approved ID scanning system and whether the applicant demonstrates the ability to comply with statutory obligations relating to privacy. To reiterate, the legislation is clear that the commissioner has a broad discretion to consider a range of matters when determining suitability, including the new criminal organisation offences.

Turning now to tattoo licensing, currently under the Tattoo Parlours Act 2013, the chief executive must decide to refuse a licence if an 'adverse security determination' has been made by the Police Commissioner about an applicant or licensee. Adverse security determinations may be based on criminal intelligence held by the Police Commissioner. Additionally, neither the applicant, licensee, nor the Office of Fair Trading is provided with the reasons why an adverse security determination is made about a particular applicant or licensee.

The amendments contained in the bill will establish a more transparent process for assessing the probity of tattoo licence applicants and licensees based on a fit and proper person test. The fit and proper person test will focus on a person's own conduct, which is consistent with the task force's recommendations, and more closely align with the approach of other existing occupational licensing frameworks such as the Security Providers Act 1993. In cases where a person is operating a tattoo business on behalf of a corporation, partnership or trust, the chief executive will be able to make enquiries about, and consider, probity matters concerning the directors, partners or trustees. Assessment of a person's suitability for a tattoo licence will include consideration of the person's criminal history and whether it is in the public interest to grant that person a licence. In conclusion, this bill affirms this government's commitment to deliver a considered and effective response to serious and organised crime and to ensure that Queensland is a safe place to live.

I once again thank all honourable members for their contributions during the debate. I have believed in every piece of legislation I have put before the House and each policy reform is important in its own right, but in terms of policy engagement, public submissions and thorough legislation this has been a particularly comprehensive but rewarding process and one that will result in good outcomes for the people of Queensland. I thank those who have been genuinely engaged in this policy reform since last year. That extends to members of the House whose support I appreciate as we have engaged in this detailed and comprehensive reform, and that includes the crossbench members. In particular I thank the committee members, the committee secretariat and the chair, the member for Ferny Grove. I think we can all agree that, in terms of legislative review, the Legal Affairs and Public Safety Committee certainly does its fair share.

Commissioner Michael Byrne QC, the Hon. Alan Wilson QC and the members of the task force all contributed to the public discussion and research in this important policy area. I thank them for dedicating their extensive expertise and experience across the justice system towards this significant policy reform. I would like to again thank the Premier for her strong leadership on this issue and the member for Rockhampton for his work while police minister and for his genuine partnership throughout this process. I thank Minister Ryan for his support, and I look forward to continuing to work together as

we move to implement the new regime. I also thank the officials from the Premier's and ministers' departments and the Commissioner of Police, who worked with us throughout this process. I especially want to thank the hard working officials from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, whose dedication and expert knowledge of the criminal justice system is second to none—thank you so much.

Through this bill we have delivered on our election commitment to the people of Queensland to enshrine a comprehensive organised crime regime that all Queenslanders, including our law enforcement agencies, can have confidence in. This new regime will tackle serious and organised crime in all its forms. It is operationally effective and legally robust, and I commend the bill to the House.

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

**AYES, 44:**

**ALP, 41**—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, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**KAP, 2**—Katter, Knuth.

**INDEPENDENT, 1**—Gordon.

**NOES, 41:**

**LNP, 41**—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pair: Russo, McArdle.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—



**Mrs D'ATH** (9.50 pm): I move the following amendments—

**1 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 6 (Definitions))**

Page 35, line 2, '(1)'—

*omit.*

**2 Clause 4 (Amendment of s 6 (Definitions))**

Page 35, lines 4 to 6—

*omit.*

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

*Tabled paper:* Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [2167].

Amendments 1 and 2 can be read together and make consequential changes to clause 4 of the bill as a result of amendment 3.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5, as read, agreed to.

Clause 6—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I note the Attorney-General's amendment 3 proposes to omit clause 6; therefore, the Attorney-General should oppose the clause.



**Mrs D'ATH** (9.51 pm): Amendment 3 proposed to omit clause 6 of the bill. The effect of the amendment would be the retention of existing section 15A of the Bail Act 1980. The retention of section 15A will facilitate the efficient administration of the Magistrates Court jurisdiction and ensure flexibility to allow bail hearings to proceed before a magistrate sitting at a location outside of the original jurisdiction of the charge thereby avoiding delays, for example, over holiday and court closure periods and in relation to regional and remote courts where there are limited resources to hear applications.

Clause 6, as read, negated.

Clauses 7 to 49, as read, agreed to.

Clause 50—



**Mrs D'ATH (9.51 pm):** I move the following amendment—

**4 Clause 50 (Amendment of s 205 (Legal assistance for crime investigations))**

Page 60, after line 2—

*insert—*

- (1AA) Section 205, heading, 'for crime investigations'—  
*omit.*

Amendment 4 relates to clause 50 of the bill to clarify the heading to section 205 of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. The amendment will accurately reflect the effect of the other amendments made to section 205 of the bill which provide that all people appearing before a Crime and Corruption Commission coercive hearing will be able to apply for financial assistance towards legal representation.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 50, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 51 to 181, as read, agreed to.

Clause 182—



**Mrs D'ATH (9.52 pm):** I move the following amendment—

**5 Clause 182 (Replacement of ss 47B and 47C)**

Page 133, after line 17—

*insert—*

- (5) In this section—

**information** does not include information given to the police commissioner or commissioner, or to which the police commissioner or commissioner has access, under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Amendment 5 amends clause 182 of the bill to ensure that the new exchange of information provision under the Liquor Act 1992 does not allow the sharing of information given to or accessed by the Police Commissioner or Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 182, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 183 to 204, as read, agreed to.

Clause 205—



**Mrs D'ATH (9.53 pm):** I move the following amendment—

**6 Clause 205 (Amendment of s 142ZO (Police commissioner's information report))**

Page 146, lines 4 and 5—

*omit, insert—*

- (A) state the details of the order; or  
(B) be accompanied by a copy of the

Amendment 6 makes a minor amendment to clause 205(2) of the bill to renumber a provision to ensure consistency with numbering conventions under the Liquor Act 1992.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 205, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 206 to 250, as read, agreed to.

Clause 251—



**Mrs D'ATH (9.54 pm):** I move the following amendment—

**7 Clause 251 (Insertion of new ss 230A and 230B)**

Page 167, after line 22—

*insert—*

**information** does not include information given to the chief executive or a relevant agency, or to which the chief executive or relevant agency has access, under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Amendment 7 amends clause 251 of the bill to ensure that the new exchange of information provision under the Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act does not allow the sharing of information given to or accessed by the chief executive or relevant agency under the Crime and Corruption Act 2001. I note that similar amendments apply in relation to amendments 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, so I will not rise to speak to those particular amendments as they make similar changes.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 251, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 252 to 266, as read, agreed to.

Clause 267—



**Mrs D'ATH** (9.56 pm): I move the following amendments—

**8 Clause 267 (Replacement of pt 4 (Miscellaneous provisions))**

Page 194, line 33, 'The senior police officer'—

*omit, insert—*

A police officer

**9 Clause 267 (Replacement of pt 4 (Miscellaneous provisions))**

Page 195, line 3, 'The senior police officer'—

*omit, insert—*

A police officer

**10 Clause 267 (Replacement of pt 4 (Miscellaneous provisions))**

Page 224, line 26, 'The senior police officer'—

*omit, insert—*

A police officer

**11 Clause 267 (Replacement of pt 4 (Miscellaneous provisions))**

Page 224, line 29, 'The senior police officer'—

*omit, insert—*

A police officer

Amendments 8, 9, 10 and 11 can be read together. The amendments relate to clause 267 of the bill and the new public safety protection order scheme inserted by the bill under the Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982. The amendments allow a police officer, as opposed to a senior police officer, to serve applications and orders for variation and revocation of a public safety order or a fortification removal order, consistent with the approach taken elsewhere under the new public safety protection order regime, and overcomes the unintended operational impact on the Queensland Police Service resulting from the current drafting.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 267, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 268, as read, agreed to.

Clause 269—



**Mrs D'ATH** (9.57 pm): I move the following amendment—

**12 Clause 269 (Insertion of new s 11A)**

Page 252, line 1—

*omit.*

Amendment 12 relates to clause 269 of the bill, which provides the prescribed list of premises that will be automatically deemed to be restricted premises under the Peace and Good Behaviour Act. The amendment moves unit 5/37-31 Pound Street, Kingaroy from the list of premises. After the introduction of the bill, advice was received from the Queensland Police Service that the property is no longer linked with any declared criminal organisation. I advise that a corresponding amendment to the Criminal Code (Criminal Organisations) Regulation 2013 has been made so the property has similarly been removed from the list of prescribed premises in the 2013 regulation.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 269, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 270 to 347, as read, agreed to.

Clause 348—



**Mrs D'ATH** (9.58 pm): I move the following amendment—

13

**Clause 348 (Insertion of new s 98A)**

Page 344, after line 20—

*insert—*

*information* does not include information given to the commission or a relevant agency, or to which the commission or relevant agency has access, under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 348, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 349 to 372, as read, agreed to.

Clause 373—



**Mrs D'ATH** (9.59 pm): I move the following amendment—

14

**Clause 373 (Insertion of new ss 111 and 112)**

Page 358, after line 2—

*insert—*

*information* does not include information given to the chief executive or a relevant agency, or to which the chief executive or relevant agency has access, under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 373, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 374 to 390, as read, agreed to.

Clause 391—



**Mrs D'ATH** (10.00 pm): I move the following amendment—

15

**Clause 391 (Replacement of s 48 (Confidentiality of information))**

Page 371, after line 10—

*insert—*

*information* does not include information given to the chief executive or a relevant agency, or to which the chief executive or relevant agency has access, under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 391, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 392 to 439, as read, agreed to.

Clause 440—



**Mrs D'ATH** (10.00 pm): I move the following amendment—

16

**Clause 440 (Replacement of ss 61 and 62)**

Page 407, after line 6—

*insert—*

*information* does not include information given to the chief executive or a relevant agency, or to which the chief executive or relevant agency has access, under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 440, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 441 to 463, as read, agreed to.

Clause 464—



**Mrs D'ATH** (10.01 pm): I move the following amendment—

17

**Clause 464 (Replacement of s 36B (Chief executive may enter into arrangement about giving and receiving information with police commissioner))**

Page 421, after line 1—

*insert—*

*information* does not include information given to the chief executive or a relevant agency, or to which the chief executive or relevant agency has access, under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 464, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 465 to 487, as read, agreed to.

Clause 488—



**Mrs D'ATH** (10.02 pm): I move the following amendment—

**18 Clause 488 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))**

Page 431, lines 14 to 16—

*omit, insert—*

- (1) Schedule 2, definitions *criminal organisation* and *identified participant*—  
*omit.*
- (2) Schedule 2, definition *criminal intelligence*, from 'activity,'—  
*omit, insert—*  
activity.

This amendment relates to clause 488 of the bill to remove the terms 'criminal organisation' and 'identified participant' from the dictionary contained in schedule 2 of the Weapons Act 1990 and to correct an oversight during the drafting of the bill with respect to the definition of 'criminal intelligence' in the Weapons Act.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 488, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 489 to 495, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.03 pm): I move—

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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.03 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.

## INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS BILL

Resumed from 1 September (see p. 3330).

### Second Reading



**Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak on the Industrial Relations Bill 2016. The bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to restore fairness to Queensland's industrial relations system and industrial laws. It follows a comprehensive review of the state's IR laws—the first major review in nearly 20 years. Since that time, there have been significant changes to Queensland's industrial relations landscape. Private sector workplaces in Queensland are now covered by the federal industrial relations system as a result of the hostile takeover by the Howard government in 2005 and the further referral of powers by the state government in 2010. The remaining state industrial jurisdiction

now covers essentially the state public sector and local government. This new Industrial Relations Bill reflects these changing realities while delivering on one of our key election commitments—to create fairer workplaces in Queensland.

The review I mentioned into the Queensland industrial relations system by the tripartite industrial relations reference group made 68 recommendations for reform and legislative change. Consistent with those recommendations, the bill establishes the key defining features of the state industrial relations system. These are a set of minimum employment conditions and standards; collective bargaining as the cornerstone for setting wages and conditions; a set of individual rights to fair treatment; effective, transparent and accountable governance and reporting obligations for all registered industrial organisations and employer associations; and a strong and effective independent umpire.

The bill moves away from, and improves on, the current legislation in three important respects. First, the bill introduces significant new protections for workers in the state jurisdiction. I am particularly proud that the bill delivers on the government's commitment to provide an entitlement of 10 days paid leave for victims of domestic and family violence as recommended in the *Not now, not ever* report into the scourge of domestic and family violence by Dame Quentin Bryce. Queensland is leading the way by being the first state to put this entitlement into law. In doing so we recognise that domestic and family violence is a workplace issue and, just as our workplace laws support workers with leave entitlements in circumstances when they are sick or when their family is sick or when they lose a loved one, those workers experiencing domestic and family violence need and deserve the same type of support to help them in those most desperate of times. While we can do all we can in this House to provide an entitlement for domestic and family violence leave for workers in the state system, I echo the Premier's call on the federal government to make domestic and family violence leave available as a universal entitlement for all workers in Queensland and across the country through its inclusion in the National Employment Standards in the Fair Work Act. In addition, the bill will establish a general protections jurisdiction to protect workers against adverse action taken during employment or leading to dismissal from employment and a system to address workplace bullying the same as what is available to private sector workers under the Fair Work Act.

Under the bill as it stands, the new state antibullying jurisdiction will cover both public sector workers as well as private sector workers in those unincorporated workplaces in Queensland that are currently exempt from the Fair Work Commission antibullying jurisdiction. However, I can report that I am continuing discussions with the federal minister, Senator Cash, with a view to a further referral of powers to enable employees in unincorporated bodies and other entities which are not constitutional corporations to be covered by the antibullying jurisdiction of the Fair Work Commission. This is consistent with the recommendation of the reference group. The bill also aligns Queensland's minimum employment standards with the National Employment Standards for parental, carers and compassionate leave and the requirement to give an information statement to an employee when they start work. For the first time in Queensland law, the bill introduces a right for all workers to request flexible work arrangements, with workers who have their requests turned down by their employer able to seek a review from the QIRC. That will give workers the ability to better find that balance between their work and the rest of their daily lives.

Additionally, this bill includes an amendment to the Holidays Act 1983 to make Easter Sunday a public holiday from 2017. Declaring Easter Sunday a public holiday will bring Queensland into line with New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory where Easter Sunday is already a public holiday. The change recognises the religious and cultural significance of Easter Sunday and will ensure that work on Easter Sunday is treated and remunerated in the same way as the Good Friday, Easter Saturday and Easter Monday public holidays that surround it. Alongside our decision to declare Easter Sunday a public holiday, the government has established a separate review of the state's retail trading hours arrangements under the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act. The review is chaired by QUT School of Justice Associate Professor and former speaker John Mickel.

Secondly, this bill will wipe away the last vestiges of the former Newman government's unfair and unbalanced industrial relations laws in Queensland. The LNP's laws stripped away the hard-fought and won employment conditions of state and local government workers. The Newman government's laws failed to respect the rights of workers to collectively bargain with their employer for their wages and conditions. They tied up registered industrial organisations in expensive and ineffective red tape. The Newman government's laws made it harder for workers to be represented in their workplaces. This bill will remove these provisions and reframe the objects of the act around a fair and balanced system that restores the primacy of collective bargaining. The bill gives effect to the bargaining model

developed in the report of the reference group, placing the emphasis on the parties to reach agreement through good faith bargaining and for the commission to assist the parties to reach agreement through conciliation. Arbitration will be available as a last resort only when an agreement cannot be reached.

The bill recognises the rights of parties to take protected industrial action in pursuit of their bargaining claims and ensures that the members of an industrial organisation have their say when it comes to taking that action. Provisions in the current act that enable an employer to exclude a union from enterprise bargaining will be removed, as will the restrictive protected action ballot order arrangements.

The bill revises the regulation of registered industrial organisations consistent with the recommendations of the industrial relations reference group. All members of the reference group recognised the importance of strong, effective and transparent governance, accountability and reporting obligations for all registered organisations. In line with their recommendations, the provisions in this bill promote democratic control of organisations and good governance by ensuring that reporting, training and other obligations are directed at ensuring accountability to members rather than unnecessary and unproductive red tape.

Importantly, the bill ensures that strong accountability and transparency requirements are applied equally to employer and union organisations without the one-sided measures introduced by the LNP because it wanted to single out registered unions of employees. The provisions in the bill include stringent requirements on all registered organisations to ensure that officers' duties are conducted honestly and in good faith with reasonable care and diligence; to have financial policies over a range of matters, including credit cards, contracting activities and spending on hospitality and gifts; to continue to disclose the material personal interest of officers and relatives where a conflict in decision-making occurs; to maintain a register for gifts, hospitality and other benefits given and received; to continue financial management training for positions with financial management responsibilities, with exemptions for those who already have appropriate financial qualifications; and to comply with the requirements of the Electoral Act with regard to political spending and reporting.

I note that last week, on 21 November, the federal parliament passed the government's Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill 2014. The focus of these laws was to establish a new Registered Organisations Commission with enhanced powers to monitor and investigate compliance by federally registered obligations. We do not need to go down this path of creating a brand-new bureaucracy in Queensland to ensure proper accountability and good governance. Our bill provides the Industrial Registrar, a well-respected independent statutory officer, with the authority to perform these functions and investigate suspected breaches of industrial organisations' obligations.

In terms of the obligations on industrial organisations on matters such as financial reporting, the requirements under the federal bill passed last week are broadly compatible with the requirements that I have outlined under the Industrial Relations Bill that I present this evening. This means that, if and when both bills come into operation, there will be no substantial issues for registered organisations in complying with both state and federal legislation. Under clause 808 of the Industrial Relations Bill, an organisation that has a counterpart federal body can seek an exemption from an obligation under the state law if it complies with a similar obligation under the federal law, which is now the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act. This provision will assist those organisations with counterpart federally registered bodies to manage their administrative burden while ensuring that registered organisations in this state are accountable to their members.

Thirdly, the bill strengthens and expands the role of Queensland's industrial tribunals in line again with the recommendations from the report of the industrial relations reference group. Under the bill, the QIRC will have exclusive jurisdiction to deal with all workplace related antidiscrimination matters, including those taken under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991. These matters will go to the Anti-Discrimination Commission in the first instance but, if they cannot be resolved through conciliation and they are work related, the matter will be referred to the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission. The QIRC will also expand its jurisdiction with the introduction of the antibullying and general protections provisions.

The bill that I introduced on 1 September was developed on the back of an extensive public consultation process overseen by an independent tripartite industrial relations reference group which, as I said, made 68 recommendations for reform that are reflected in the bill before the House. On top of that, the bill was then referred to the Finance and Administration Committee for inquiry and report back. This process has provided further welcome scrutiny of the bill and opportunity for feedback and consultation with all interested stakeholders.

The committee received 44 submissions and a number of stakeholders also appeared before the committee at its public hearings. I would like to place on record my thanks to all members of the committee and the committee secretariat and staff for their deliberations and consideration of those submissions. The committee report was handed down on 28 October 2016 and it provides a comprehensive overview of the matters that were raised during the inquiry. Unfortunately, the committee as a whole did not reach a position of consensus support for the bill, but I note the government members' support for the bill and note that the majority of submissions to the committee were supportive of the bill.

I note also the statements of reservation from both government and non-government members of the committee. Government members have made two recommendations relating to the treatment of temporary employment in the Queensland public sector and appeals. I thank the government members for those suggestions. The government considers that there is merit in them and I will outline in a moment the amendments that we propose to make to the bill in response.

Unfortunately, the statement by the non-government members added little to the debate. Instead of engaging in a constructive discussion about the bill and its specific provisions, the statement launched into an all too predictable rant against the union movement—just more of the same from those opposite. I hope that we get better debate in what follows after my speech.

I note the committee also raised a number of potential issues with the bill relating to the application of fundamental legislative principles. At the request of the committee, my department provided a response to each of the identified FLP issues raised during the examination of the bill. On the basis of those responses, the committee was satisfied, as is the government, that any potential breach of the FLPs is justified to ensure the IR Bill provides fair and balanced protection to all participants in the state's IR jurisdiction.

I turn now to amendments I propose to move during the consideration in detail stage. These amendments follow consideration of further issues raised through the committee process and issues identified by stakeholders. The majority of these amendments are confined to minor, technical and consequential amendments to correct omissions and errors, such as incorrect cross-referencing. Others provide further clarification of clauses in the original bill. This includes clarification on eligibility to take protected industrial action, the appointment of associates in the commission and appeal processes from the QIRC to the Industrial Court. These amendments do not alter or affect the policy positions in the bill. Unfortunately, as members are probably well aware, sometimes a simple word that is in the wrong place in an industrial relations bill has significant implications for workers entitlements. These have been picked up by the stakeholders—there are quite a few of them—and they are all there to be amended so that we get it perfectly right.

Further important amendments are proposed in relation to the use of temporary employment in the Public Service and in relation to fair treatment and appeal processes. These amendments will address the matters identified by the government members of the committee in their statement of reservation and issues raised by stakeholders. As the report of the reference group noted, Westminster aspirations in public sector employment include the maximisation of permanent employment. Temporary and casual employment are legitimate forms of employment and can serve a critical role in managing a large public sector workforce, but at the same time there is a legitimate concern that temporary employment has increased markedly over the last decade and in ways that go beyond its original intended purpose. In some circumstances employees are left in limbo for a number of years as their temporary contracts continue to get rolled over without any apparent prospect for them of converting across to a permanent position.

To address these issues, proposed amendments to this bill will amend the Public Service Act to strengthen the conversion arrangements for long-term temporary employees in the Queensland public sector. Under the amendments, the onus is on agency CEOs to make a decision within 28 days when they conduct a review of the ongoing employment status of temporary employees under the Public Service Act. Any decision will be made in accordance with criteria to be set out in a relevant industrial instrument and directive. A temporary employee who is aggrieved by a decision of an agency CEO not to convert their employment will have the right to appeal that decision. The appeal will be heard by the QIRC as an appeals officer under the Public Service Act. The amendments will allow the appeals officer to set aside the decision of the CEO and substitute another decision in its place. In relation to fair treatment matters, the amendments will create an express right to make an appeal against a fair treatment decision in relation to a Public Service employee's employment and also that a complaints directive be issued.

Clarifying amendments will also be moved in relation to legal representation arrangements in the QIRC. These amendments are being moved to ensure these provisions in the bill better reflect the relevant recommendation of the industrial relations reference group and strike the right balance between continuing the traditional layperson nature of the tribunal and recognising the need for legal representation to be an option in more complex legal matters. The amendments clarify that, as a general rule, legal representation is available only where the parties consent, as is currently the case. Beyond that, legal representation will also be available on leave of the commission in matters before a full bench, other than a full bench arbitration of bargaining matters where legal representation is not permitted, and in other specified matters such as general protections matters and unfair dismissal cases, which can have more of a legal element to them. In considering whether to grant leave in such matters, the commission must be satisfied that certain factors exist to justify the use of legal representation. This includes consideration of how complex a matter is and whether it would be more efficient to allow legal representation and whether it would be unfair not to allow a party to be legally represented.

Finally, I note that further amendments will be moved to provide clarity on the transitional arrangements for parties who have an existing collective bargaining process underway at the commencement of the new act. Generally, the transitional arrangements will apply to cases where bargaining has commenced under the current act but has not yet got to the stage where an application has been made to certify an agreement or the matter has gone to arbitration. This includes where parties have taken steps towards negotiating an agreement, where they are taking protected industrial action under the current legislation, where they have applied for a protected action ballot order or commenced conducting a ballot, or where they are in conciliation in relation to the proposed agreement. In such cases, the amendments are designed essentially to ensure that steps already undertaken to negotiate an agreement under the current act are effective for continuing negotiations under the new act and the whole process does not need to start again. Where an application has already been made to certify an agreement, or where arbitration has commenced, these matters will be determined under the existing IR Act provisions. The new laws, if passed, will not apply in those cases.

To conclude, the Industrial Relations Bill 2016, with the amendments I propose to move during consideration in detail, will provide a regulatory framework for the state's industrial relations jurisdiction that is fair and balanced and which will support the delivery of high-quality services, economic prosperity and social justice for Queenslanders. Just as the Industrial Relations Act 1999 did when it was introduced almost 20 years ago, this bill will ensure that Queensland has a set of industrial laws that is right for the times and that reflects changes in the labour market and the changing size and scope of the state industrial relations jurisdiction.

The bill has been developed following open and robust consultation and consideration, first through a broad and independent review of Queensland's IR laws and tribunals that was established as part of the government's election commitments and then being subject to the scrutiny of the Finance and Administration Committee, including public hearings and submissions. This is in stark contrast to the approach of the former LNP government which rushed through its legislative changes without even the semblance of genuine consultation.

The Palaszczuk Labor government made a commitment to Queenslanders that we would restore fairness to the state's industrial relations jurisdiction. Queenslanders want fairness and balance in their industrial relations laws and that is what this bill delivers. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Grace, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.28 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

## Coal Reuse

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (10.28 pm): I rise to again raise an issue of concern that is important to the whole Queensland community; namely, Coal Reuse, which is a company contracted to Stanwell Corporation that has gone into liquidation. Unfortunately it only lasted two years. I have a copy of the report to the creditors from the liquidator Rodgers and Reidy which states the company had insufficient initial working capital and equity investment to meet the start-up and preliminary trading expenses of the contract with Stanwell and, further, the company had insufficient working capital to meet the infrastructure requirements of the contract.

Unfortunately, the company has caught the community for \$3.7 million, which is almost \$4 million. It was appointed by a government corporation. It was appointed by the chief executive officer, the chief financial officer and the chief operating officer of Stanwell. They have caught the community. Some of the plant operators have been caught out to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Some of those people have worked for Stanwell for up 10 years and it appointed a head contractor that lasted two years. As the report says, it does not have the ability to trade out of it. That is catastrophic.

What is even more catastrophic is that the executives get bonuses. For the 2015-16 year, there is a bonus of \$60,000 for Richard Van Breda and \$38,000 for Michael O'Rourke, the chief financial officer, who I think must have been behind the door when the contract was awarded.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled '2015-16 Bonuses' [2168].

I cannot believe it. It is disappointing that the—

**Mrs Lauga:** What does this have to do with your electorate?

**Mr RICKUSS:** I am a Queensland member of parliament. I realise that over there you do not realise that. I am a Queensland MP and I have people—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, member for Lockyer! Pause the clock. Member for Lockyer, you are aware of the proper procedure in relation to speaking in the House. I would urge you to follow the proper process.

**Mr RICKUSS:** I am a Queensland member of parliament and I try to look after Queenslanders. Guess what? Stanwell supplies power to a lot of Queenslanders and it is ripping off a lot of Queenslanders. I took the interjection from the member for Keppel, because she does not seem to realise that we have to try to look after Queensland. This is a government corporation that should be held to a higher standard than the average punters. They have ripped off punters from all over Nanango. Even a bloke from Tamborine has been ripped off for \$27,000, I think it was. That is atrocious. Then we pay them bonuses! Those blokes are on half a million dollars a year, but they cannot do proper probity checks. What is going on? It is a debacle.

These companies have to be held to account, rather than the poor old punters, the taxpayers and the poor old hardworking subcontractors who have tried to supply a decent service to a company that should never have been given the contract. I call on the two shareholding ministers to look into this—that is, Minister Pitt and Minister Bailey.

### Claremont Special School

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (10.32 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the excellent work being carried out at Claremont Special School in my community of Ipswich. Claremont Special School is an established and treasured part of the Ipswich community. The school has been educating some of our most disadvantaged children for over 20 years. I commend and thank Principal Patricia Thiedeman, staff and teachers, who are committed and passionate about educating some of our most disadvantaged students and providing the opportunity to students to develop respect, independence, communication and, above all else, healthy self-esteem.

At Claremont State Special School, all students can learn and have the right to learn through an innovative, current, fun and challenging teaching and learning program. The school aims to develop independence in the students, preparing them for life and work post school. At Claremont Special School the curriculum is designed and implemented by a committed and enthusiastic team of professionals, including classroom teachers, therapists, specialist teachers in music and physical education, and teacher aides.

Students can also choose to undertake certificate courses in the senior school. One of the courses is the Certificate I in Hospitality. The senior hospitality students have been working in the school tuckshop to develop a menu that considers healthy eating options, including gluten-free foods for students and staff. The menu is reviewed at the end of each term and new foods have been trialled by students in the school through taste testing and given a vote of approval prior to becoming available on the menu.

It gives me great pride to announce that at the 2016 Tuckshop of the Year Awards run by the Queensland Association of School Tuckshops, Claremont Special School was recognised with the Menu of the Year in the Special Schools category. The school takes great pride in offering a five-star menu full of healthy choices prepared by the senior students. The students are learning valuable life

skills whilst preparing items such as zucchini slice, ham and pineapple pizza, lasagne and chicken burgers for their peers. The school has shown that a simple menu and teamwork between dedicated staff and students can be a winning combination. The awards were sponsored by the Department of Education and Training. I acknowledge the tuckshop convenors and volunteers, who are really leading by example in offering a service that nourishes the minds and bodies of young Queenslanders while they learn.

The recognition of the work undertaken by the staff and students at Claremont is fantastic and it comes in addition to the allocation in this year's budget of \$10 million to assist in the further development of the Claremont Special School. The funds will provide a new two-storey building that will house not only 10 new classrooms but also an additional administration centre that will enable Principal Trish and her staff to continue to provide the high level of professionalism we have come to expect from them. The excellent work at Claremont Special School is an example of the results of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the education of students with disabilities.

### Night of 1000 Drawings

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (10.35 pm): Last Wednesday evening, the Bundaberg and region community came together to celebrate artists, share local culture and, most importantly, provide hope and comfort to those in need both in the local community and on a global scale. The Night of 1000 Drawings event is an initiative of Act Of, a project run solely by volunteers whose mission it is to promote, share and mobilise acts of kindness locally and globally.

Bundaberg's Night of 1000 Drawings was a one-night-only art exhibition and sale to raise funds for a locally based organisation, Phoenix House, which we all know does wonderful work with DV Connect, and the South African based Makhundu Christian Support. In the lead-up to this extraordinary event, many professional artists, budding artists, art enthusiasts and even local children submitted original artwork pieces that were then up for grabs on the night. All profits raised from the sale of those one-off pieces went straight to Phoenix House in support of its equine facilities therapy program, which helps women and children affected by domestic or sexual violence, and to Makhundu Christian Support, which has housed, fed and monitored the progress of more than 1,800 AIDS orphaned children in South Africa.

Last Wednesday I was privileged to witness those remarkable acts of kindness as volunteers from different ages, backgrounds and walks of life stood shoulder to shoulder in support of the cause, helping to raise vital funds. I was proud to stand beside those amazing people as a sponsor and volunteer. Throughout the evening, the donated pieces of artwork flew off the walls as our community rallied together. The Bundaberg and Burnett community's generosity shone through, with over \$3,000 being raised in profit from the night. Incredibly, the generosity of locals continued after a further \$5,000 was raised thanks to an anonymous donor in Bargara.

Having spent a little time with the volunteers and attendees on the night, at the end of the evening I walked away with a sense of enormous pride in our community's spirit and generosity. The creativity and kindness exuding from our community is truly awe inspiring. In closing, I pay tribute to the organisers, volunteers and generous locals who brought the event to life. Their compassion helped to support the important work of Phoenix House in providing safe, supportive services to women and children who have been affected by domestic or sexual violence.

It is also important to acknowledge our host for the night, the Bargara Brewing Company, which is a craft brewery and retail brew house in the region. It is a boutique brewery. We are very excited that Jack Milbank and his team continue to put Bundaberg and the region on the map. Of course, most members will not remember—but they should remember—the first two beers that were brought out, the Thirsty Turtle and the Drunk Fish. Importantly, two new brands have been added to the menu: the Bargara Hip Hop and the Bargara Rusty Roo. I thank Jack Milbank and all of the volunteers for the great event.

### Stretton Electorate

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (10.37 pm): As I have said many times in this House, we have a fantastic community in the electorate of Stretton. Earlier this year, before semester 1, we had flashing lights installed at both Kuraby Special School and the Islamic College of Brisbane. Later in the year, we had flashing lights installed at Runcorn Heights State School and Kuraby State School. I place on the record my thanks to the school community, the relevant P&Cs and also Minister Bailey for that fantastic

result. We have had another wonderful result in Stretton. Recently, at the Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools, the Stretton State College Executive Principal Jan Maresca was named the best principal in Queensland. That is a fantastic result and a tribute to her hard work.

Tonight I want to speak about a very serious issue that is happening in my local community. Earlier I spoke about the work that was done to install flashing lights along Acacia Road in front of ICB. Unfortunately, at the moment a lot of dangerous activity is happening on Acacia Road, particularly around school drop-off and pick-up times. Unfortunately, a lot of bad and inappropriate driver behaviour is taking place. The school are doing everything they can. CPAC president, Maryam Kissane, and her team are doing a lot of hard work. Dr Ray Barrett and the principal are doing what they can. The local Calamvale police are doing what they can in relation to the issue.

Fundamentally, there needs to be some changes to Acacia Road to make it safe for road users and to make it safe for schoolchildren who use that particular road, predominantly around pick-up and drop-off times. The reality of the situation is that there have been plans in place since at least the beginning of this year for changes to Acacia Road. For some reason these changes have been slowed by the council.

The police cannot be policing Acacia Road every day at school pick-up and drop-off times. The road needs to be changed. The council needs to do something before semester 1, 2017 to make this road safe for all road users. This is a very important issue. I do not want to make it a political issue, but I put on the record that I have very serious safety concerns. They are shared by many members of the community. I am happy to work with anyone to resolve this issue, particularly before the start of the school year next year.

### Gaven Electorate, Roads

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (10.40 pm): I have made a list and I have checked it twice, but it has nothing to do with who is naughty or nice. This year, my Christmas wish list is directed to the Minister for Main Roads and Minister for Road Safety, seeking urgent upgrades to a number of Gaven's busiest and most dangerous roads.

This time of year, around the Christmas holidays, we are reminded of the importance of road safety—as the minister did in the media today—and encouraged to do what we can to keep the holiday road toll down. One way we can do this is to ensure road infrastructure is in place to minimise the risk of there being a serious incident in the first place.

In my list to the minister, I am calling for funds to be made available to: improve Maudsland Road at the intersection of Beaudesert Nerang Road; implement a slip lane towards the M1 at Binstead Way at Pacific Pines; and complete safety upgrades for Beaudesert-Nerang Road outside the Queensland fire and rescue service station in Nerang. The intersection at Maudsland Road and Beaudesert-Nerang Road has to be one of the most dangerous intersections in Gaven for motorists and pedestrians alike, with not even a pedestrian refuge in the middle of this busy four-lane intersection to protect locals crossing, including our schoolchildren.

In the northern area of Gaven, Pacific Pines residents continue to feel trapped in crawling traffic onto the M1 on Binstead Way. I, along with my friend and colleague the member for Albert, have made previous representations to the minister, including a petition to seek an upgrade for this traffic nightmare, but this has so far fallen on deaf ears.

Whilst nothing has been done by the Labor government to address local concerns for our roads, I will not stop advocating on their behalf. At the end of the day, we need to see funding allocated towards these road upgrades. I hope the minister is feeling generous at this time of year—it is the season of giving, after all—rather than being the Christmas grinch.

My Christmas road campaign follows the launch of a petition calling on the Labor government to improve safety measures for vehicles exiting the Nerang Fire Station. As the petition sponsor, I am working with Nerang local Gloria Jones on pressuring the Labor government into installing emergency stop traffic lights. The proposed lights would be activated from inside the station by a Queensland fire and rescue service officer in the event of a vehicle exiting the station to attend an emergency situation.

The petition also calls for appropriate road markings for the traffic lights and to provide a keep clear zone immediately outside the station on Beaudesert-Nerang Road. We have also asked for some signage to be erected to warn oncoming traffic to be prepared to stop for emergency vehicles.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the shadow minister for main roads, the member for Glass House, for his support and for taking the time to come to the Gaven electorate to visit the location of these proposed upgrades and to speak with locals. It is comforting to know that at least our side of politics sees the common sense in improving local roads.

### **Bundaleer Lodge Nursing Home**

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (10.43 pm): The aged-care facilities in the electorate of Ipswich West have been considerably enhanced with the opening in July of a major extension to the Bundaleer Lodge Nursing Home at North Ipswich. Bundaleer Lodge was established by Robert Renton and his wife, Beryl, now deceased, as they strived to be a leader in aged care, providing a warm and peaceful secure home for residents.

In 1970 Mr Renton was a carpenter when he and his wife decided to buy a piece of land on Raymond's Hill and build a nursing home. Beryl's nursing background came in handy as the family slowly increased the size of Bundaleer Lodge over the subsequent decades. This \$12 million project to extend Bundaleer Lodge Nursing Home has meant dozens of jobs for tradies during the construction phase.

Bundaleer Lodge now boasts a total of 171 nursing care beds, including the 48 extra-care nursing beds in the new building set out as single rooms and five independent living units. The new facility includes a new main entrance to Bundaleer Lodge, a new administration area consisting of a large training facility, seven offices and a conference room. Extensive landscaping is being undertaken creating new outdoor living areas. Other new features include a cafe, an entertainment room, an internet cafe, dining rooms, lounge rooms, a kitchen and a laundry.

The second stage of the redevelopment involves renovating the old section of the facility so it seamlessly merges with the new building. The cost of the second phase is approximately \$3 million, bringing the total cost of the project to \$15 million. This investment by the Renton Family Trust represents an enormous vote of confidence in their home town of Ipswich, with an aged-care facility that they have built from the ground up with the family always opting to use local tradespeople. With this extension, a total of about 40 permanent new positions have been created not only in nursing but also in supporting industries like physiotherapy, IT and catering.

The Renton family deserve praise for their faith in the Ipswich community, with these works being funded totally by their own resources. This represents a huge commitment to the Ipswich community, providing valuable permanent jobs, with thousands of people in their later years having relied on Bundaleer Lodge over the years.

I was pleased to see Mr Renton was on hand for the official opening of the new 48-bed wing, celebrating an achievement four years in the making. His daughter Lynette Dresselhaus officiated at the opening. Mr Renton's three daughters, Karen Renton-Vedelago and Susan Dreyer as well as Lynette Dresselhaus, were all in attendance and they all play a continuing active role in the management of Bundaleer Lodge. The Rentons are a close-knit family that deserve to be proud of their achievements and their contribution to the Ipswich community.

### **Mount Ommaney Electorate**

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (10.46 pm): My mantra is local issues are best fixed with local solutions. I think it is an ideal opportunity tonight, as we approach the end of the year, to reflect on what has been an eventful and unforgettable 2016, both here in Australia and around the world. Tonight I would particularly like to draw to the attention of the House the electorate of Mount Ommaney and some of the local issues we have solved and some of the great local community milestones that we have celebrated.

We celebrated 50 years of the Jindalee State School this year. That is 50 years of education in the Mount Ommaney electorate. It is a beautiful little school. We celebrated that occasion with a fete. It was a great fundraiser as well. It is a lovely little school that really does punch above its weight.

In terms of services clubs, we celebrated the Jindalee Lions Club 50th year last Sunday at the Jindalee Bowls Club. Some 50 years they have been around servicing the electorate of Mount Ommaney. We actually had a couple of original members attend the 50th anniversary. It was great to see so many volunteers and supporters.

I also had the opportunity to take the shadow minister for environment, the member for Moggill, along to the 20-year celebration of the Centenary and District Environment Action group. We are also celebrating 20 years this year of OCCA. Both organisations are very passionate and keen on working on and in our local environment.

We saw great festivities with the Darra Street Festival that goes from strength to strength every year. Then of course there was everybody's favourite, which gets bigger every year, the Centenary Rocks! riverside festival. Our region continues to go from strength to strength. I certainly would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the residents and community stalwarts who year in and year out make our community tick.

Finally, I would like to mention the Centenary Salvation Army Christmas carols which will be held again this year. It is a great opportunity for the community to come together and celebrate the festive spirit. That is on at Peter Lightfoot oval this Sunday at four o'clock. I invite any parliamentary members to attend. It is always a wonderful night when the community gets together and sings some favourite Christmas carols. I am not too sure whether the 12 days of Christmas is on the list, but we will see what we can do. In the Christmas spirit, I would also like to extend a very merry Christmas to all of the local residents. I look very much forward to getting back to work early next year on our local issues. As I said, when we work together locally we find local solutions.

### Townsville, Crime

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.49 pm): I rise tonight to speak on the subject of crime issues that have challenged Townsville and caused us so much grief in the past, particularly in relation to youth crime. As the member for Thuringowa, I have given a commitment to my electorate and constituents that I will be heard in Brisbane on this issue. I have been working on a number of fronts in regard to this issue, one of which was seeking more police resources in Townsville. That was raised after my many interactions with QPS, both senior and front-line officers and the union—you know, that union backing in our laws.

I had written to the previous minister just prior to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Mark Ryan's, appointment seeking more police resources in Townsville for our RAP hub. I would like to acknowledge and thank the new minister for hearing our call for assistance in Townsville. Within two weeks he was on the ground making announcements of the 15 extra officers to be based in Townsville, the continuation of Operation Oscar Merchant over the summer holidays and beyond, and an appointment of a chief superintendent to be based in Townsville. I thank the minister for his commitment to helping us reduce crime rates.

I am proud to say that we are also making good progress on a number of other fronts on our fight against crime, including our whole-of-government Stronger Communities initiative that really is achieving results in addressing the causes of crime. Whilst we know that that whole-of-government approach—a first for Townsville—is making early headway, we cannot do this without community assistance. That is why I am proud to have backed in the Indigenous elders led Youfla, or Yinda, 'Back to Country' proposal that has been progressed to high level funding discussions with Premier and Cabinet. I am hopeful that this proposal receives funding for a pilot program that will see youth in or at risk of entering the youth justice system learning, working and coming back better people for their experience of this three-month program.

Uncle Alfred, Mr Wayne Parker, Uncle Rusty Butler—an Indigenous veteran of the Australian Army of 21 years—and Mr Noel Gertz are just some of our respected Indigenous elders, leading the way on this project. They know that there is an over-representation of Indigenous youth in the youth justice system and they want to be part of the solution.

I welcome their commitment and dedication to helping our community overcome crime issues. We recently did some media on my backing of their proposal where the irony of their program was apparent. It was given to the previous LNP government, but they rejected it. They did not support it. They went with their failed boot camp. It takes a Labor government to listen, consult and work with everyone in our community, and that is why I am backing in this proposal.

I am also backing in a number of other initiatives like the Ted Noffs Foundation Street University proposal. I thank Minister de Brenni and the Attorney-General for their input into that particular program, providing a safe place for marginalised youth. I look forward to speaking to locals at this weekend's community crime rally in Thuringowa and hearing from them on any issues that they have.

### Whitsunday Electorate, Queensland Tourism Awards

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (10.52 pm): Tonight, as the yuletide spirit descends on the chamber, I would like to congratulate all of our wonderful tourism operators around Mackay and the Whitsundays who were recently recognised at the state tourism awards. What a great night it was for a number of operators who picked up gold, silver and bronze. I will go through the gold winners.

I will start with Cruise Whitsundays, picking up gold in the Unique Accommodation category for Reefsleeper. It is pretty unique. What an experience it is. I look forward to going out to one of those amazing places in my electorate at some stage. It is something that is talked about around the globe. It is not surprising that they scored gold for unique accommodation. Well done to Nick Hortle and the team. It is a fitting retirement present for the retiring Chris Jacobs. I salute Chris on his stewardship of the industry over many years—well before I came into this place. Cruise Whitsundays also won silver in the Major Tour and Transport Operators category. Again, thanks to Nick Hortle for his dedication and that of his team, whether they are deckhands, skippers, sales staff and the like.

I also want to salute Greg and Naomi McKinnon from Big4 Adventure Whitsunday Resort, who won gold in the Caravan and Holiday Parks category. They are a wonderful couple. It is three generations now. As you come into Cannonvale, you see the big frog on the left-hand side. They have stood the test of time. They deserve to take a bow.

Well done also to the Pinnacles Resort, who won gold in the Self-Contained Accommodation category. Congratulations to Sue Watson and her team. Ocean Rafting need no introduction in the Whitsundays—a great experience. They picked up gold in the Major Tour and Transport Operators category. Peter and Jan Claxton should take a bow. Their sister operation at Cape Tribulation was also recognised, not surprisingly either as they run a terrific show.

Also, Ibis Mackay—Scott Grant and his team—is thoroughly recommended by Johnathan Thurston. I am looking forward to seeing the Cowboys play the Roosters on 11 February next year. Johnno, I am sure, will be in TurBARlence—the bar at the Mackay Ibis at the airport. Well done for picking up gold in the Standard Accommodation category.

Also, congratulations to Glenys Mansfield and her team of volunteers from the Sarina Sugar Shed, who picked up gold medals in the Excellence in Food Tourism and the Tourism Wineries, Distilleries and Breweries categories. They also picked up a bronze in the tourist attractions category. It is a tremendous community organisation.

I also want to acknowledge the contribution of the Oatley family—the late Bob Oatley, of course, and Sandy Oatley, who is the head of the family from a commercial point of view nowadays. Glenn Bourke, the chief executive officer, was very much thrilled and honoured to represent the company and the family in collecting the Marie Watson-Blake Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Individual. Of course, I am referring to the Oatley family, who have done so much for tourism, jobs, the hospitality industry and the development of the Robert Oatley College on Hamilton Island. They employ something like 1,500 people. The Whitsundays is well and truly open for business this Christmas time. You are all invited. It is the best place in the world to live.

### Keppel Electorate

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (10.55 pm): Domestic and family violence is not okay—not now, not ever. In order to spread that message and to celebrate women on the Capricorn Coast, the Keppel Bay Sailing Club held its inaugural Celebrating Women festival last weekend. The festival included a photography exhibition, artwork by local women and talented local women musicians. The photography exhibition includes a selection of photographs on display at Yeppoon Main Beach taken by local photographer Lou Shipway which features local men who stand up, speak out and act out to prevent violence against women. The exhibition was part of the Keppel Bay Sailing Club 'Celebrating Women' #canihelp event, which was launched on the 25th of this month.

Southport DV Magistrate Colin Strofield gave an inspiring and genuine speech to celebrate White Ribbon Day at the White Ribbon Day breakfast last week about his work in the Southport DV court. Many thanks to Belinda, Alicia, Karen, Chantelle, Janis, Ammie, Charlotte, Lauren, Deborah and the entire Rockhampton Women's Health Centre team for organising yet another outstanding White Ribbon breakfast.

Recently I was also honoured to be asked to open the 2016 Inclusive Technologies Expo at the Frenchville Sports Club. Inclusive technology has the ability to change someone's life and their quality of life. Technology is improving at a rapid pace, and it is wonderful that there are entrepreneurs out there who are committed to improving inclusive technology. There was a great program full of exciting and fascinating new technology, ideas and support in the space of inclusive technology so that people with a disability can work around challenges to learn, communicate or simply function better. Thanks to Julie Irwin, Des Ryan, Jodie Lord and Ben Cooke who all put the expo together. The 2016 Inclusive Technologies Expo is funded through the Queensland Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services and hosted by Community Solutions Group through the NDCO Program and the Inclusive Technologies Expo Steering Committee.

I also congratulate Farnborough State School's tuckshop convenor, Amanda McLardy, who was awarded the Convenor of the Year 2016 Award. Farnborough also took out the Top Ten Tuckshops Award and the Fruit & Veg Promotion Award at the annual QAST Tuckshop of the Year Awards. I visited Amanda and the Farnborough State School tuckshop recently and I was really impressed by the healthy menu that is very popular with students and teachers. The tuckshop is also removing plastic from the tuckshop servingware next year which is fantastic to see because plastic is so bad for our environment. Well done to Amanda, the tuckshop volunteers and Farnborough State School.

Finally, congratulations to Xavier Craggs, Yasmin Craggs, Jessica Keily, Audrey Collins, Minette Boyd, Ellen Walsh and Emily Keating, all aged between 11 and 14, who have been invited to join Australia's national children's choir—Gondwana. It is truly outstanding to have so many young voices from Keppel selected in this national choir. It was great to meet with the young vocalists. I shouted them ice-cream recently to wish them well on their trip to Sydney for the choir.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.58 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, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams