



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 2 March 2017

Subject	Page
TABLED PAPERS	443
MINISTERIAL PAPER	443
Ministerial Expenses	443
<i>Tabled paper: Public report of ministerial expenses for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016.</i>	443
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	443
Back to Work Program, Youth Boost.....	443
Renewable Energy.....	444
South East Queensland Regional Plan, Youth Summit.....	444
Youth Boost; First Home Owners' Grant.....	445
Ambulance Service.....	445
State Schools, Administration and Support Staff.....	446
Coopers Gap Wind Farm.....	446
Renewable Energy.....	447
Back to Work Program, Youth Boost.....	447
Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Funding.....	448
Small Business.....	448
Advancing North Queensland.....	449
Community Services Sector, Jobs.....	449
Better Neighbourhoods Logan.....	450
Domestic Violence Order Applications; Political Donations, Real-Time Disclosure.....	450
REPORT	451
Office of the Leader of the Opposition.....	451
<i>Tabled paper: Public Report of Office Expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016.</i>	451
NOTICE OF MOTION	451
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Unions.....	451

Table of Contents – Thursday, 2 March 2017

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	452
Sugar Industry	452
Sugar Industry	452
DISTINGUISHED VISITOR	453
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	453
Coal Seam Gas	453
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extracts from State Budget 2013-14: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4, relating to Department of Environment and Heritage Protection.	454
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account	454
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email, dated 12 October 2016, from Ms Tam van Alphen to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding GetUp!.....	454
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Queensland Renewable Energy Expert Panel: Credible pathways to a 50% renewable energy target for Queensland—Draft Report, October 2016'.....	454
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 2 March 2017, from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, to the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Mr Richard Bingham, seeking guidance on a matter of integrity related to his private email address.	454
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance	455
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	455
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account	455
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account	456
Gallery of Modern Art	456
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account	456
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email, dated 19 November 2013, from Mr Steve Smith to the member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, regarding a letter to the editor of the <i>Australian</i>	457
Works for Queensland Program	457
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Document, undated, titled 'Fraser Coast Regional Council—Works 4 Queensland'.	457
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> , dated 2 March 2017, titled 'You owe your voters some answers'.	457
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account	458
Far North Queensland, Economy	458
Child Safety, IT Upgrade	459
Sugar Industry (Arbitration for Mill Owners and Sugar Marketing Entities) Amendment Bill	460
Child Safety, IT Upgrade	460
Regional Queensland	461
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from <i>Surat Basin News</i> , dated 23 February 2017, titled 'Construction to give region a boost'.	462
Mental Health Review Tribunal	462
Health System	462
Big Rocks Weir	463
State Schools, Stop, Drop and Go Zones	463
PRIVILEGE	464
Alleged Unauthorised Release of Committee Documents	464
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract from Twitter, undated, from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey regarding private emails and committee documents.	464
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	464
Building and Construction Industry	464
PRIVILEGE	465
Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member	465
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email, dated 19 November 2013, from Mr Steve Smith to the member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, regarding a letter to the Editor of the <i>Australian</i>	465
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 3 December 2015, from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding a matter of privilege.	465
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Email, dated 8 November 2016, from the Chief Executive Officer of Surfers Paradise Alliance Limited, Mr Mike Winlaw, to the member for Coomera, Mr Michael Crandon MP, regarding the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's public hearing on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.	466
QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	466
Corrective Services, GPS Tracking	466
Youth Detention Centres, Report	467
Tourist Attraction, Refurbishment	467
Queensland Rail, Overtime	468
HONOURABLE ANGELO VASTA (REVERSAL OF REMOVAL) BILL	468
Introduction	468
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Honourable Angelo Vasta (Reversal of Removal) Bill 2017.	468
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Honourable Angelo Vasta (Reversal of Removal) Bill 2017, explanatory notes.....	468
First Reading	469
Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee	470
SUGAR INDUSTRY (APPLICATION OF TRANSITIONAL PROVISION) AMENDMENT BILL	470
Introduction	470
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Sugar Industry (Application of Transitional Provision) Amendment Bill 2017.	470

Table of Contents – Thursday, 2 March 2017

<i>Tabled paper</i> : Sugar Industry (Application of Transitional Provision) Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes.....	470
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Letter, dated 12 January 2017, from Mr Geoff Cox to the Prime Minister, Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, regarding the sugar industry.....	470
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Article from the <i>Australian Canegrower</i> , dated 16 January 2017, titled 'FIRB Chairman comments "grossly misinformed"'.....	470
First Reading	470
Referral to the Agriculture and Environment Committee	470
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	470
PETITION	472
Motion to Take Note, Lapsed	472
FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE	472
Report, Motion to Take Note	472
HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE	476
Report, Motion to Take Note	476
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE	481
Report, Motion to Take Note	481
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	484
Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Public Transport	484
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Department of Transport and Main Roads: Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) service change—Community consultation report.....	484
<i>Tabled paper</i> : TransLink flyer, undated, titled 'Get on Board with Fairer Fares'.....	484
Dalby PCYC	484
Beeley, Ms K	485
Moggill Electorate	486
Surf Life Saving Queensland; Beach Safety, Crocodiles	486
Taiwan, Trade	487
Flinders Highway	487
School Nurses	488
Member for Callide	488
Member for Callide; Mackay Electorate, Event Tourism	489
STATE PENALTIES ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT BILL	489
Introduction	489
<i>Tabled paper</i> : State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2017.....	489
<i>Tabled paper</i> : State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes.....	489
First Reading	491
Referral to the Finance and Administration Committee	491
Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date	491
LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	492
Second Reading	492
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Media release, dated 28 November 2013, by the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol titled 'New plan to reduce alcohol toll and save lives'.....	500
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Media release, undated, by the Australian Medical Association Queensland titled 'AMA Queensland backs calls for action on alcohol'.....	500
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation liquor licences issued to the Club Hotel Motel Roma.....	519
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Correspondence, various dates, regarding the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 and the Club Hotel Motel Roma.....	519
MOTION	522
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Unions	522
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed do.....	528
Resolved in the negative.....	528
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	528
Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account	528
LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL	528
Second Reading	528
Consideration in Detail	543
Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to.....	543
Clause 8, as read, agreed to.....	543
Clauses 9 to 14, as read, agreed to.....	543
Clause 15—.....	543
Division: Question put—That clause 15, as read, stand part of the bill.....	544
Resolved in the affirmative.....	544
Clause 15, as read, agreed to.....	544
Clauses 16 to 21, as read, agreed to.....	544
Clause 22, as read, agreed to.....	544
Clauses 23 to 28, as read, agreed to.....	544
Insertion of new clause—.....	545
<i>Tabled paper</i> : Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments.....	546
Amendment agreed to.....	547
Third Reading	547
Long Title	547
Amendment agreed to.....	547

Table of Contents – Thursday, 2 March 2017

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT	547
Mental Health Review Tribunal, Membership; BreastScreen Queensland, Online Booking System	547
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT	548
ADJOURNMENT	548
Questions on Notice	548
Medical Registration	549
Motorised Scooters	549
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Correspondence between the Mayor, Gold Coast City Council, Mr Tom Tate, and the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding electric scooters and bikes driven on footpaths and roads.....	549
DigiCon Hackathon	550
Southport Electorate	550
Springwood Electorate	551
Hervey Bay Electorate	552
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Extract, undated, from the <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle's</i> Facebook page regarding the Queensland electoral redistribution	552
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Fraser Coast Chronicle</i> , dated 27 February 2017, titled 'End to scallop industry'	552
Toorbul Marine	552
Ikin, Ms N	553
Access Migrant and Refugee Health Strategy	553
ATTENDANCE	554

THURSDAY, 2 MARCH 2017



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

TABLED PAPERS

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath)—

[325](#) Office of the Public Guardian—Annual Report 2015-16

[326](#) Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board: Case Review Report—Intimate Partner Homicide of 'Kelly', February 2017

MINISTERIAL PAPER

Ministerial Expenses



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.31 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of ministerial expenses for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016.

Tabled paper: Public report of ministerial expenses for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016 [\[327\]](#).

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Back to Work Program, Youth Boost



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.31 am): My government is working to get Queenslanders back to work. Already the \$100 million Back to Work program has supported 875 businesses to employ 1,805 workers in regional Queensland. There are another 787 applications pending approval. Of the 1,805 approved jobs, the majority of approved applications have come from small business. Some 367 applications have come from businesses with one to four employees, while another 610 applications were from businesses with staff of five to 19. In terms of large businesses of 200 or more employees, they account for 276 applications. I thank Queensland small businesses for partnering with my government to get Queenslanders back to work. Under the program, an employer support payment of \$10,000 is payable for employers filling a new job in regional Queensland. More than one in four of the regional Queenslanders supported into the workforce by the Back to Work program are long-term unemployed. For those long-term unemployed, our program offers an employer support payment of \$15,000.

Since late last year the government has also offered a Youth Boost payment of up to \$20,000 if those workers are aged between 15 and 24 years. As honourable members would know, the Youth Boost ended on 28 February. When I addressed the Capricornia Chamber of Commerce at Yeppoon one month ago—on the Treasurer's birthday—I was asked by a Rockhampton businessman about the Youth Boost. iAssist General Manager Jason Spence has engaged three new staff under the Back to Work program for his business in North Rockhampton. Indeed, the approval for one of the staff came through to him whilst he was at the lunch. iAssist offers bookkeeping and payroll services, technical support and business networks. Mr Spence asked me if we would continue the Youth Boost beyond 28 February. I took the question on notice as we were assessing the success of the program.

I want to thank all regional members, including the member for Keppel, for talking with me, the Treasurer and the Minister for Employment about a Youth Boost extension. I have good news for Mr Spence and I have good news for employers across regional Queensland. My government will extend the Youth Boost for another eight months to 31 October 2017. Already we have seen 902 applications for the Youth Boost—365 approved across 256 employers and another 537 applications pending. My government is getting Queenslanders back to work. We are in stark contrast to the government we replaced. We hire Queenslanders; those opposite fired Queenslanders.

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.34 am): My government is committed to ensuring the security of Queensland's future energy needs through a mix of coal and gas-fired power stations, along with a growing share for large-scale renewable energy projects. Today I also have further good news for Queensland. I can announce a \$700 million energy boost for Queensland. I am pleased to say that three planned large-scale solar projects worth a combined total of over \$199 million have reached another milestone. The proponents of the projects near Collinsville, Oakey and Longreach will today sign formal deeds of agreement with the Queensland government, bringing more viability to these major regional renewable generators. The execution of these deeds locks in Queensland's Solar 150 long-term commitment to these projects, guaranteeing financial security and enabling those projects to reach financial close. Confirming that the Collinsville, Oakey and Longreach solar projects are included in the state's Solar 150 program provides a 20-year revenue guarantee, meaning financial contracts can now be delivered and construction can begin.

I can also announce today that the Coordinator-General has approved the environmental impact statement—with conditions—for the \$500 million Coopers Gap Wind Farm near Kingaroy. This AGL Energy project will have an installed capacity of up to 460 megawatts. The project is expected to create up to 350 construction jobs and ongoing employment for up to 20 people in that region alone.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I hope the local member appreciates that. I will have the opportunity to meet with Andy Vesey, the chief executive of AGL, this afternoon. I will be congratulating him on this investment. I note that it is part of the Powering Australian Renewables Fund between AGL, QIC and the federal government's Future Fund, headed by former treasurer Peter Costello, that is targeting the development of 1,000 megawatts of large-scale renewable energy projects. These projects underline the vital role that regional Queensland is already playing in our transition to a renewable energy economy.

The construction phase of the Solar 150 projects will bring 196 much needed jobs to the regions. The Edify Energy Whitsunday solar farm near Collinsville is a 58-megawatt project worth \$122 million. During construction in that region it is expected to create 116 jobs. Canadian Solar is the proponent of the \$28 million, 15-megawatt Longreach project which will employ 30 people during the construction period as well as the \$48 million, 25-megawatt Oakey project which would bring along with it 50 construction jobs—jobs for regional Queensland. My government is showing confidence by supporting these projects in regional Queensland. They are bringing much needed jobs to the regions and we will continue to focus on jobs, jobs and more jobs.

South East Queensland Regional Plan, Youth Summit

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.38 am): There are now only 24 hours left for Queenslanders to have their say on the draft South East Queensland Regional Plan. Last Saturday I had the great pleasure of joining some 100 young Queenslanders here in Brisbane as they put forward their ideas. The Shaping SEQ Youth Summit featured teams of young people aged between 17 and 25 who took part in activities to articulate their aspirations for the region they call home. The draft South East Queensland Regional Plan is a critical document setting out how our most populous region will grow in the next 25 years—a period during which the population is expected to swell to more than 5.3 million people. This government is determined to canvass as wide a range of views as possible during the Shaping SEQ consultation period, which closes tomorrow. Young people in South-East Queensland will be among those most affected by the changing face of the region during this time, which is why a special summit was organised to hear their opinions and to see them expressed.

Over the course of the summit, participants worked as teams planning and developing models showing how they see themselves living in South-East Queensland in the future. Their day started with a scavenger hunt around inner-city landmarks, gathering pictures and inspiration for the rest of the day and ended with a very impressive range of ideas put forward before an expert panel in the Queen Street Mall. Their ideas took the form of physical models of different parts of the region and what the young wanted the future South-East Queensland to look like.

The government has also facilitated a very successful workshop with Indigenous representatives from across South-East Queensland and we will be holding another workshop with our traditional owners shortly. The insight received through this engagement is valuable and will serve as a platform for ongoing engagement in South-East Queensland planning matters.

The Palaszczuk government is working towards the release of the final South East Queensland Regional Plan later this year. I urge all Queenslanders to have their say on the South East Queensland Regional Plan before consultation ends at midnight tomorrow.

Youth Boost; First Home Owners' Grant

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.40 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government believes in taking an active role in building our state's future. It was great to hear the announcement by the Premier that we will see the extension of the Back to Work Youth Boost until 31 October 2017. I am very pleased to continue working with the Minister for Employment in making sure that this program is rolled out throughout Queensland. I know how welcome this policy has been throughout the state, but particularly in Cairns in my region of Far North Queensland.

We on this side of the House remain committed to helping Queenslanders, particularly when it comes to them getting into their new home. We know the important role that the government must play in creating jobs and delivering the services that Queenslanders expect and deserve and providing the right incentives to live and work in Queensland. That is why in last year's budget I announced that the government would boost the Queensland's First Home Owners' Grant to \$20,000 for 12 months, ending 30 June 2017. This boost applies to the purchase or construction of a new house, new unit, or new townhouse with a value up to \$750,000. This boost means that Queensland currently has the most generous First Home Owners' Grant of all the Australian mainland states. Up to the end of January, almost 3,500 applications have been received, worth \$69.9 million. Out of these applications, a total of 2,340 grants worth \$46.8 million have been approved, with more to be approved as house purchases by applicants proceed. The First Home Owners' Grant not only helps people get into their home sooner but also generates activity and jobs in the construction sector and related sectors. It encourages investment in new housing stock—investment that flows through to many local contractors, subcontractors and suppliers who rely on the building industry.

Yesterday we also saw the fourth positive quarter in a row for state final demand figures, after eight consecutive quarters of negative growth. That growth included a rise in the construction of new dwellings of 1.1 per cent and total dwelling investment 3.2 per cent higher over the year, reflecting the strong growth in construction work done on medium- to high-density dwellings. A strong pipeline of housing work yet to be done suggests ongoing strength in Queensland dwelling investment in 2016-17 and a strengthening domestic economy in our state.

To ensure as many Queenslanders as possible can take advantage of the First Home Owners' Grant, I have written to a number of banks and financial institutions seeking their support in ensuring that the grant is considered as part of the deposit for the mortgage applications of first home buyers. I thank those institutions that are already undertaking that practice. In many areas of regional Queensland, \$20,000 goes a long way towards Queenslanders meeting their deposit and getting into their first home. In some cases, that grant is the deposit. Our approach has been commended by the HIA, Australia's peak residential construction industry association, and also Master Builders, underscoring that the grant benefits not only those people getting into their first home but also the residential construction sector. This initiative provides tangible benefits to those who need it the most and it also boosts jobs in those areas that need it the most.

Ambulance Service

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.43 am): I am pleased to inform the House that 2017 marks 125 years since ambulance services began in Queensland. Queensland's Ambulance Service has a long and distinguished history, having served the Queensland community since September 1892 when a group of concerned citizens came together to establish the City Ambulance Transport Brigade. The original intent has prevailed through time, and that is providing care and support to the sick and injured in the Queensland community. The 125th anniversary of the Queensland Ambulance Service provides an opportunity for us to reflect on the incredible efforts of our paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, patient transport officers, ambulance volunteers and all of those who came before them.

Every day the Queensland Ambulance Service responds to serious traffic accidents, near drownings, patients suffering serious conditions such as cardiac arrest or stroke, mothers delivering babies at home or on the side of the road and patients with mental health issues. Through it all, the QAS has provided the highest standard of prehospital care. The QAS answers approximately 737,000

triple 0 calls and responds to more than 986,000 incidents every year. In 2016, demand for ambulance services was at record highs, rising by five per cent, and an extra 66,000 calls were made to triple 0 seeking assistance from the Queensland Ambulance Service, an increase of nine per cent.

The Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to ensure that Queensland ambulance officers are well supported and well resourced. As a government, we have increased the Queensland Ambulance Service budget by \$80 million to a record \$673 million. We have allocated 155 new and replacement vehicles and increased ambulance officer numbers by 2025.

Queensland Ambulance Service staff and volunteers deserve the respect and gratitude of all Queenslanders for the important work they do for our community. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that our dedicated ambulance officers have the equipment, infrastructure and support required to perform their essential roles so that they can continue to provide the highest level of prehospital health care to our community.

It is a badge of pride to be called the Minister for Ambulance Services. That is in no small part because the Queensland Ambulance Service is the envy of the other states. I look forward to joining the Queensland community in saying thank you to the men and women of the Queensland Ambulance Service during this important and special year.

State Schools, Administration and Support Staff

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (9.45 am): Every principal will tell us that their administration and support staff are the backbone of their school. That is why I am so pleased to inform the House that we are delivering on our election commitment to boost the pay for the hardworking school office and support staff in our schools. We have listened to school communities and we are delivering.

From this month, more than 600 business services managers in state schools will have their pay upgraded and more than 400 AO2 administration staff will be boosted to AO3s. These upgrades are being backdated to the beginning of the 2017 school year in line with our commitment. In addition, more than 490 schools officers, or our grounds care staff, have been upgraded from classification stream operation officer 2 to operation officer 3. We have delivered this \$102 million funding boost to school administration and support staff because we want to ensure that our principals and teachers have the support they need to do their job in the classroom. This upgrade follows 12 months of consultation with our staff, union delegates and stakeholders to modernise an outdated system.

We are proud that this Labor government has delivered more support staff in our schools, higher pay classifications for school business managers and increased opportunities for advancement and career opportunities.

Mr Stewart interjected.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection from the former principal, the member for Townsville. That is right; they work extremely hard. This is the first real reform to the classification of these positions in more than two decades and reflects the valuable and complex role that BSMs play in our state schools. I take this opportunity to thank our administration and support staff for the hard work that they do every day in our schools to make sure that our school students are safe and that they are well-functioning learning environments for all students.

Coopers Gap Wind Farm

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.47 am): It gives me great pleasure to inform the House that Queensland's independent Coordinator-General has today approved the environmental impact statement for the huge Coopers Gap Wind Farm near Kingaroy. When completed, this will be Queensland's biggest wind farm and contribute up to \$4 million each year to the local economy. It is a big win for the Wide Bay-Burnett and the Darling Downs regions. Most importantly, the project's proponent, AGL Energy, has advised that they will employ local people and local contractors depending on the timing of project approvals—and that is up to 350 construction jobs from when construction starts later this year and 20 permanent jobs once operations start in 2020.

This wind farm could generate up to 460 megawatts of electricity and potentially supply power to more than 240,000 households. As an energy project of the future, it is estimated that around one million tonnes a year of greenhouse gas emissions would be avoided through the supply of the wind farm's green power to the grid. That is the equivalent of taking about 320,000 petrol-driven cars off the road each year.

AGL proposes to construct and operate up to 115 wind turbines and has secured agreements with all landowners who would have wind turbines on their properties. The Coordinator-General has placed conditions on his approval, including on noise, shadow flicker, electromagnetic interference and impacts on flora and fauna. This project is a clear example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to generating jobs of the future and renewable energy and also reducing greenhouse gases.

Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (9.49 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its commitment to create renewable energy, regional jobs, boost investment and act on climate change. As the Premier mentioned, there is a renewable energy boom underway in Queensland as we speak. Last week I was invited by proponents Genex to the site of the Kidston solar farm, also attended by Ivor Frischknecht from the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the member for Mount Isa whose electorate it is in.

What made this trip so significant was the fact that construction was starting on this \$126 million revival of a former gold mine site as part of the energy transition that is happening in Queensland. We broke ground on the first large-scale solar farm under the Palaszczuk government's Solar 150 program. One hundred new North Queensland jobs are being created. More than half a million solar PV panels are being installed which, when complete, will produce 50 megawatts of renewable energy to pump into North Queensland's electricity grid. That is the equivalent of powering 26,500 homes.

Today the Premier announced three more large-scale solar farms, worth a combined total of \$199 million, in the Whitsundays, Oakey and Longreach. The proponents will sign formal deeds of agreement under the Palaszczuk government's Solar 150 program, bringing more viability to these major renewable generators in the regions. This is a significant milestone for all three projects. By securing long-term revenue certainty for each project, proponents can now confirm investor funding and begin construction.

I thank Edify and Canadian Solar, who are major players in the international renewable industry, for their confidence in investing in Queensland. Canadian Solar's General Manager, Daniel Ruoss, said—

We've chosen Queensland for our investment because of its world-class resources, great infrastructure and a forward looking government. Queensland is truly the Sunshine State.

I endorse the statements made earlier by the Premier and Minister Lynham welcoming the Coordinator-General's approval of the EIS for the proposed Coopers Gap Wind Farm. It is the Palaszczuk government that has kick-started the renewable energy industry in Queensland after three years of inaction and an anti-renewables agenda by the previous government. We are taking a planned and measured approach as we transition to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 in 13 years time. More than one gigawatt of privately funded renewable energy projects are currently in the works delivering more than \$2 billion of new investment to Queensland and more than 1,900 direct jobs, mostly in our regions. What an exciting day it is today for clean energy and for regional jobs in Queensland and I can assure members that there is a lot more to come.

Back to Work Program, Youth Boost

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.53 am): I welcome the Premier's announcement that the \$20,000 Back to Work Youth Boost will be extended to the end of October 2017. The Youth Boost has been a fantastic success story in its first three months of operation—365 jobseekers have been hired under the Youth Boost to date and there are a further 537 Youth Boost applications pending. What a great outcome! In just three months 902 young jobseekers are now back to work in regional Queensland thanks to the Youth Boost. A further 1,440 jobseekers have been hired under the original Back to Work categories, with a further 250 pending applications. This means that, in total, almost 2,600 Queenslanders are back to work thanks to this program, with more applications coming in every day.

I have travelled widely throughout regional Queensland and seen first-hand the benefits the Back to Work program is delivering in Townsville, where Tanya Wright and Chandell Durham have found work at local business Experience Works; at Living Colour in the Tropics Gift Shop in Cairns, where Tanya Primrose is back to work; in Rockhampton, where long-term unemployed jobseeker Justin

Leonard has found work with local engineering business All Pump Repairs. Justin had been doing it tough and was struggling to find work, but thanks to Back to Work he is now on a new career path. What a fantastic outcome!

Stories just like it are being repeated all over regional Queensland: in Bundaberg, where car detailers Rob and Robbie have been taken on as car detailers at Bundaberg Motor Group thanks to Back to Work; in Gladstone, where Lisa Crosser has been taken on by Lee Crane Hire; in Mackay, where Mobile Screen Repairs has used Back to Work to hire a new worker to help grow their business; in Emerald, where Sean Eldridge has found work at CQ Body Worx Auto. After struggling to find work in coastal Queensland, Sean moved his entire family to Emerald for his new job and he has not looked back since. Back to Work is also supporting jobs in Warwick, with Jhina Sutton finding work at Darryl Evans Real Estate and Brenton Giblin-Lloyd getting back to work with Lister Irrigation.

These are but a few of the great success stories of Back to Work. They are real employees, real jobs and real opportunities delivering a real boost to regional economies. If you are a regional Queensland employer, I urge you get behind our Back to Work program, hire a jobseeker and help grow your business. You now have until October 2017 to access the Youth Boost so go out and hire a young worker.

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Funding

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (9.56 am): Last night the member for Clayfield was desperately trying to make out he was the farmers' friend. He was desperately pandering to the right of his party and, of course, his red-headed leader sitting in the dining room watching. Today we learn that as treasurer he had no regard at all for rural communities. We know the member for Clayfield assessed his cruel cuts to environment programs according to a pain threshold. We still do not know how he determined his pain threshold, but today we have learned just how much pain they caused. Against advice, those opposite slashed environmental compliance, leaving our environment, and especially our rural communities, at risk. The member for Clayfield's Cabinet Budget Review Committee received a submission from his then environment minister, the member for Glass House, marked 'urgent and unavoidable'. It argued there was a need for an increase in compliance funding as industry expanded into prime agriculture land.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Member for Glass House, if you want to write to me about the matter that you are talking about you are able to write to me. I would urge you to not try to simply disrupt the minister in his ministerial statement.

Dr MILES: National media reports tell us that the member for Glass House warned the opposition leader that—

A high level of attention and oversight was critical given the potential groundwater impacts, the impacts of contaminant release to underground waters, soil contamination, air quality (noise, dust, nuisance, and air emissions), vegetation disturbance as well as impacts to wildlife.

Faced with this advice from his environment minister, what did the opposition leader do? According to ABC reports, he slashed the budget for overseeing the CSG industry in half. The reports say the number of full-time staff, such as scientists to test groundwater, was cut by half. Compliance is important. It is important for communities who rely on the health of the land and water to provide for their families and to provide food for us all to eat. It is also important for industry. It is in the best long-term interests of industry for Queenslanders to have confidence in our environment department—confidence that they have the tools and resources to prevent pollution. By deciding that preventing pollution did not align with the priorities of his government, he put at risk the livelihoods of farmers and confidence in the entire environmental compliance system. Fortunately, the member for Clayfield can no longer inflict his pain on Queenslanders. Labor is rebuilding Queensland's environmental programs for the sake of our economy, our agricultural communities and, of course, our native wildlife.

Small Business

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (9.59 am): I rise to update the House on some more great news for Queensland. According to recently released ABS data, Queensland's small business sector is growing, with an increase of 2.1 per cent in the 12 months to 30 June 2016. There are now 414,684 small businesses in Queensland, which is an increase of 8,000 small businesses in a year and the biggest increase in numbers of small businesses in Queensland in three years. This is encouraging news, because as small business numbers grow, new jobs are created for Queenslanders. The result is further

evidence that Queensland small businesses are confident that the Palaszczuk government is creating the right environment for businesses to start, grow and employ. This follows a recent Bankwest survey that showed Queensland's small and medium sized businesses have the nation's highest level of confidence about their future prospects. The ABS data showed that Queensland small businesses in the construction industry, in particular, showed solid growth, increasing by 2.3 per cent.

The Palaszczuk government understands that by supporting small business we are supporting economic growth across the state, which is why the Queensland government allocated \$22.7 million to the Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy, including the delivery of a range of new and expanded grants, services and programs. We are supporting businesses such as People Power Services, started by former African refugee Pacifique Gakindi, in the electorate of South Brisbane. He came to Australia, had an idea to start a cleaning business and sought advice from the Office of Small Business. After participating in the Mentoring for Growth program, People Power Services grew from a not-for-profit organisation to a business with 25 employees.

Another example is Mackay's Airconstruct HVAC. Recently, the business received funding through the Accelerate Small Business Grants Program. Airconstruct HVAC will use that funding to develop a new predicted maintenance system and improve its business operations, enabling it to work smarter and bid for new work, which will help them grow their business. The growth in small business in Queensland is fantastic news and yet another sign that the Palaszczuk government's strong economic plan is helping businesses to start, grow and employ.

Advancing North Queensland

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (10.02 am): Today I am pleased to advise the House that, following the launch of our Advancing North Queensland plan, we are seeing positive results on the ground. In the priority area of roads, we are listening and delivering, leveraging investment from partners and fast-tracking projects to create jobs sooner. This includes launching construction on the \$57 million upgrade to Sandy Gully Bridge, supporting more than 100 jobs; opening the \$200 million Townsville Ring Road, six months ahead of schedule, supporting almost 300 jobs; and starting on the \$34.2 million jointly funded Bill Fulton Bridge duplication, supporting 97 jobs.

In the areas of research and innovation, we are providing support for local entrepreneurs and businesses through initiatives such as our \$6 million Advancing Regional Innovation Program. We are investing \$10 million for the Cairns Innovation Centre at James Cook University and supporting northern startups under the Hot DesQ and Advance Queensland Ignite Ideas program.

We know the north has some of the state's biggest drawcards when it comes to tourism and trade. We are investing to bring more visitors and create jobs. We have launched new direct flights from Seoul and Hong Kong into Cairns and from Townsville to Melbourne. We have secured commitments from Adani that its workforce will come from the regions, supporting up to 600 jobs in preconstruction. Through initiatives such as Works for Queensland, Back to Work and Building our Regions, we are kickstarting regional economies and putting people in jobs.

Last month, we reached the latest exciting milestone for the North Queensland stadium, announcing the three major construction companies that will be invited to tender for managing contractor: CPB Contractors, Watpac and Lendlease. All three have offices in Townsville. Strategies to involve local businesses in the \$250 million project will support up to 750 jobs.

As a North Queenslander, I know that water security for our region is vital and our government is providing \$15 million in interim funding for feasibility studies across the region under the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. Water security assessments are also underway in Mount Isa, Mackay, Mossman and Cloncurry.

Finally, as I have met with stakeholders in the north, another important issue that continues to be raised is that of energy supply. I am pleased to say that currently we have 10 renewable energy projects being developed in North Queensland, expected to deliver \$1.4 billion to our economy and support more than 1,000 jobs during construction. We are returning jobs and investment to the north, because we know how important the region's economy is to the entire state.

Community Services Sector, Jobs

 **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) (10.05 am): I am proud to report to the House the improvements in our community services sector and the new jobs we are creating to support Queensland families. Of course, one of our government's first acts was to

remove the Newman government gag clauses that were imposed on the sector so that we can hear their frank advice on what is happening on the front line. We then set about restoring funding to repair the damage done by LNP cuts. Neighbourhood centres, community centres and women's and children's protection services have had their funding increased. Because of that, they have been able to hire more staff and help more Queenslanders. We have rolled out early intervention programs, such as the PPP parenting program, which has already helped more than 50,000 families. We have led the nation in developing a \$25 million better budgeting plan that offers an alternative to payday lenders, delivering two Good Money stores for the Gold Coast and Cairns, as well 27 new financial counsellors across the state. We have set a 50 per cent women-on-boards target that is working, because in two years we have seen the number of women on boards increase. This year we have employed 129 new child safety workers to bring down caseloads, with 119 already on the ground.

However, the greatest sign that the community services sector is back on track is the fact that, over the next decade, it will be one of the biggest drivers for jobs in this state. Last year, I released *Forecasting the future*, which showed a trajectory of 20,000 jobs being created in the community services sector and its contribution to our economy doubling to \$6.3 billion by 2025. We know that initiatives from the Palaszczuk government have directly led to the creation of more than 230 new jobs in our local communities and, over the next six months, we will be creating another 250 real local jobs across all regions, with a particular focus on North Queensland and the north coast.

Our job creation is just one of the reasons our stakeholders and non-government partners have indicated their overwhelming support and back the initiatives of this government. A recent survey of stakeholders who work with my department came back with a 90 per cent satisfaction rating, which is up eight per cent and up from the previous years under the LNP when satisfaction rates were just in the seventies. We have delivered for the community services sector in the past two years and, most importantly, we have delivered all of this with our stakeholders right behind us.

Better Neighbourhoods Logan

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (10.08 am): In December last year, I announced Better Neighbourhoods Logan, a landmark billion-dollar housing investment program that will see over 3,000 new homes built across the City of Logan over the next 20 years, delivering 2,400 jobs in the process, with a target of 410 homes built over the next five years. I can update the House that yesterday, with Logan City Council, the Beenleigh Yatala Chamber of Commerce and the Urban Development Institute of Australia, I announced the opening of a registration of interest process for builders, developers and community organisations for the first tranche of housing constructions for Better Neighbourhoods Logan. I also announced our first project—the delivery of 18 new homes in Main Street, Beenleigh, close to public transport and services. I know this has been welcomed warmly by the member for Waterford and welcomed warmly by builders and industry representatives.

We are taking a multilayered approach to these developments, creating opportunity for small, medium and large builders and developers to be involved in Better Neighbourhoods. The market sounding conducted by my department and Economic Development Queensland found strong interest from industry for development opportunities in Logan. Industry is excited by this transformational development opportunity.

The registration of interest process is a direct response to industry feedback from the market sounding program. The feedback we received is that developers and builders want a more streamlined process to avoid the costs and the time-consuming nature of a large tender process. The ROI will see potential proponents submit a two-page application outlining their skills, capacity, track record and possibilities for development. Successful registrants will then be selected to submit a further expression of interest after the ROI closes on 17 March. Better Neighbourhoods will see a transformation of housing across Logan with new, modern homes, better typology of homes and improved street scaping and development.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Luke Smith and Deputy Mayor Cherie Dalley for their constructive engagement on this program. The response from the council, industry, community leaders and local business has been very encouraging and I look forward to updating the House on progress.

Domestic Violence Order Applications; Political Donations, Real-Time Disclosure

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.10 am): I am pleased to announce that the Palaszczuk government is taking yet another step towards assisting victims of domestic and family violence. Yesterday we launched a

form where people will be able to go online and access an online form to guide them through the process of applying for a protection order. One of our election commitments was to investigate ways to streamline domestic violence order applications and court processes for police and victims, and reduce the stress and complication of the process. This website is delivering on that commitment.

We can only imagine what domestic violence victims go through when they are in an abusive situation, and the courage it takes to apply for a protection order. This online form is designed to make the process easier for those victims, and will help guide them through the process in an intuitive and personal way. The online form can be completed on any device. This user-friendly tool will take people step-by-step through the process of applying for a protection order.

It will also help define complicated legal terminology, provide information about where to get help and explain the court process. Importantly, there will also be a quick exit button so users will be able to quickly and discreetly leave the site. Before this tool was available, victims would have to fill out paper based forms. Research in 2014 found some people found the paper based form complicated and difficult to understand. Now people can access this online tool anywhere, at any time.

I would like to thank the collaborative effort of government agencies, the Chief Magistrate and various support services in developing this online tool, which has been tested with people who have actually applied for a protection order in the past two years. The online form represents another key response by the Palaszczuk government to the *Not now, not ever* report and all of the recommendations we accepted. We have accepted every one of the report's recommendations, with 46 having already been completed and the remaining 75 currently underway.

In addition, yesterday we launched real-time disclosure on the Electoral Commission of Queensland's website. I remind all members of parliament that when they now receive a donation they must declare that donation online within seven business days. At the end of this month all political parties will have to submit their six-monthly return for 1 July through 31 December 2016 which means all of those disclosures will be—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not know who is interjecting, but if I can identify you you will be warned under standing order 253A or 252. I do not know who the member for Gaven is having a discussion with. Is it with the member for Ipswich West? You will both be referred to if you are having a discussion across the chamber. This is an important matter.

Mrs D'ATH: All of that information will be publicly available by the end of the month. Importantly, yesterday Transparency International Australia released the world's largest survey on public experience of corruption and noted that the rest of the country should now be looking to follow Queensland's reforms to ensure that there is transparency around political disclosure. We support the chairman's call to see the Commonwealth and other states follow our lead on this important reform.

REPORT

Office of the Leader of the Opposition

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House the report of expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Office Expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016 [\[328\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Unions

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for being a government of the unions, by the unions and for the unions.

Government members interjected.

Mr Pitt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: As the Treasurer said, we will save your enthusiasm for the debate this afternoon. I have no doubt the member for Kawana will be insightful in his contribution.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Sugar Industry

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (10.15 am): Last night was a very dark night indeed for the sugar industry in Queensland, particularly for those areas under the control of Wilmar Sugar. Last night we saw this Labor government sell our canefarmers down the drain. In their hour of need—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I know that government members are excited. I am having difficulty hearing the member for Burdekin. As I have said previously, if I cannot hear, Hansard cannot. I might ask the member for Burdekin to start again if members persist interjecting.

Mr LAST: In their hour of need, when a viable option to resolve this dispute between Wilmar and QSL was presented to this parliament in the form of legislation, those opposite turned their backs and said, 'We don't care.' Perhaps the most galling comment to come out of last night was that from the agriculture minister when he said, 'This is a good result for this vital Queensland industry.'

Well, I would like the minister to come up to the Burdekin and tell my canefarmers how that is a good result for them. From the calls that I have had overnight and from the calls that I have had this morning, it is a long way from being a good result for the canefarmers in North Queensland. They feel betrayed by a government that has sided with a multinational company that puts profits ahead of people. They feel betrayed that in their hour of need this government deserted them.

Let me reiterate for those on the other side of the House that we are 14 weeks away from the start of the 2017 crushing season and we do not have cane supply agreements in place. Until people have a cane supply agreement in place they cannot harvest their cane. This is a crop worth \$450 million to the Burdekin area alone—a crop that sustains thousands of employees from Sarina through to Proserpine, Ayr, Home Hill and up to Ingham, the Herbert Valley canegrowers. Sugar is the lifeblood of those communities and what those opposite did last night was cut off that supply.

As Dan Galligan, the CEO of Canegrowers, said last night—he was here last night—'There is a high level of anxiety in the Wilmar milling areas as growers watch their crops grow without a contract in place to realise its value as raw sugar.' Can members imagine what those farmers up there are going through today? They are growing their crops, they are watering them and they are fertilising them. They are investing considerable sums of money in growing their crop and they do not have any way to harvest it and market it.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! I cannot hear the member for Burdekin. Minister for Agriculture, you will have an opportunity to speak shortly.

Mr LAST: As I said last night, the LNP will continue this fight with our farmers to have an on-supply agreement finalised within the next month because our farmers deserve better than the way they have been treated by those opposite. I am a proud LNP member. Those on this side of the House will always stand up for our canefarmers.

(Time expired)

Sugar Industry

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (10.19 am): From the ashes of defeat we now have radioactive plutonium floating around across the chamber. What a silly set of things to say. Last night the government won through with the support of those informed crossbenchers. I want to thank them for having the courage to stand in this House and support us to do the right thing for the Queensland sugar industry—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members, as I said to the member for Burdekin and I will say to the Minister for Agriculture, if I cannot hear the minister, Hansard cannot. We may turn the clock back to start again. I call the minister to continue.

Mr BYRNE: Mr Speaker, I can speak louder if you like. Last night, repeatedly across the chamber we heard members talk about six out of seven milling entities having agreements—absolutely false. They would not correct the record in this House. Three of the seven milling entities actually have

agreements consistent with the 2015 legislation. Part of this narrative constructed over here, this narrative suggestion that Wilmar is operating as a rogue independent multinational, is completely and utterly false. Much of the propaganda put out by those opposite about this dispute is completely and utterly false. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was one saying this over and over in this House and outside—absolutely false assertions and definitely misleading in terms of that debate.

What we are seeing today is mediation. The government has acted appropriately and prudently in an extension of a commercial exercise which is what the Leader of the Opposition has said and claimed for years to support. It was noteworthy that when he was sitting over there in the 2015 debate none of the Liberals—I did not see the member for Indooroopilly, nor the Leader of the Opposition—were getting up and backing in that 2015 act because they tried to maintain the vestige of having some economic credibility.

Even this last week we have seen the Leader of the Opposition in *Country Life* saying, 'We want to see a mediated outcome.' Of course we do, and that is exactly what this government is doing. It is the equivalent of walking down a barbed wire fence, straddling it, trying to be half pregnant. That is what the Leader of the Opposition has been doing in this debate—one minute getting jammed from on high and one minute pretending that he is doing something for the industry, when in fact the interventions of those opposite on two occasions now have deliberately subverted the commercial process. To suggest otherwise is a complete and utter fallacy. You should be condemned. You should be ashamed of yourselves, absolutely ashamed of yourselves.

Later on today I will put out more information. We know that the federal government has legal advice on this matter. We know that it is in breach of the SAFTA. We know that what they were proposing was going to trigger compensation components under the SAFTA. The Leader of the Opposition knows this. He knows all of this, but he is prepared to get up and compromise himself to such a degree that his tenure here is limited.

(Time expired)

Interruption.

DISTINGUISHED VISITOR

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Hinchinbrook, I am pleased to announce that we have visitors from the New Zealand parliament. We have the Rt Hon. David Carter MP, Speaker of the New Zealand parliament, accompanied by the Clerk of the House of Representatives of the New Zealand parliament, Mr David Wilson. Welcome to our parliament.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Resumed.

Coal Seam Gas

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (10.23 am): This morning an article appeared on the ABC Queensland website reporting that the former LNP government allegedly cut funding for coal seam gas compliance activities. These allegations are false. The ABC article claims to have obtained cabinet documents that show that the budget for overseeing the CSG industry was repeatedly cut. This is inaccurate. State budget documents covering this period clearly document that the allegations in this ABC article are incorrect. In fact, the 2011-12 budget, the last budget of the Bligh government, allocated no money for CSG compliance activities. I table an extract from the 2011-12 state Budget Measures document which shows the last budget allocation for CSG compliance activities was made by the Bligh government in 2010-11, with the 2011-12 forward estimates left vacant.

In fact, the incoming LNP government were confronted with an unfunded allocation by Labor, a measure we accommodated in our first 2012-13 state budget. I table a state Budget Measures extract to support this statement.

In addition to covering Labor's \$9 million shortfall, the former LNP government allocated an additional \$3.6 million to CSG compliance activities in our first budget in 2012-13. I table the Budget Measures extract to support that statement.

In our second budget, the former LNP government provided a further \$11 million for coal seam gas compliance activities across DEHP, DEWS and DNRM. This represents the largest state budget allocation ever by any Queensland government for CSG industry oversight, supervision, compliance and regulation—something the LNP did in recognition of community concerns about this issue.

In our third budget, the former LNP government put into place the very first substantial long-term funding for CSG compliance activities, with a \$23.4 million allocation over four years—again, more than any other Queensland government. This funding was allocated through the departments that I have previously mentioned but, in addition, funded the activities of the newly established GasFields Commission. I table a state government Budget Measures extract that clearly demonstrates these allocations.

Tabled paper: Extracts from State Budget 2013-14: Budget Measures—Budget Paper No. 4, relating to Department of Environment and Heritage Protection [329].

When the former LNP government left office in early 2015, it had put in place funding for CSG compliance activities that were sustainable across the forward estimates, in contrast to the unfunded mess that we found when we came to office in 2012.

It is extremely disappointing that the publicly funded national broadcaster has failed to check publicly available, published state budget documents to corroborate the information it alleges to have secured from a leaked cabinet document. The performance by the Minister for Environment was absolutely embarrassing. He has relied on a factually inaccurate article by the ABC to mount a childish political attack on the Leader of the Opposition, an attack that is completely unfounded.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would suggest that the Minister for Environment be given an opportunity to apologise to the House immediately or I shall be writing to you suggesting that there is no option but to have him referred to the Ethics Committee for deliberately misleading the House.

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

Mr SEENEY: In so doing, can I note the comments that you have made about being able to demonstrate the deliberateness of those actions. It is impossible to suggest that the minister could not have been aware.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Callide, resume your seat. Member for Callide, you can write to me. You do not get an opportunity to articulate your case here in the chamber. You can simply write to me. I am aware of the matter you raise. I look forward to your correspondence. Leader of the House, did you have a matter that you wish to raise?

Mr Hinchliffe: No. I am satisfied by your ruling.

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account



Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.27 am): I wish to update the House with information in relation to an RTI recently released from my office and in relation to my private email account. The right to information officer within my department redacted one sentence from an email chain between me and my staff dated 12 October 2016. This followed advice from my office that it related to a cabinet process.

I was informed late yesterday that in fact the information contained in that email was publicly available at that time, being referred to in the draft report released by the Renewable Energy Expert Panel on 12 October 2016 and therefore part of a public document. The final report prepared by the Renewable Energy Expert Panel was provided to government on 30 November 2016 and is currently under government consideration.

I sought advice from my department on how to correct this matter. My department informed me late yesterday that, while the RTI matter was closed, it is open to me to release the information to the applicant which I will now do to clarify the record. I therefore table the unredacted email of 12 October 2016 for the benefit of members. I also table the publicly available draft report.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 12 October 2016, from Ms Tam van Alphen to the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding GetUp! [330].

Tabled paper: Queensland Renewable Energy Expert Panel: Credible pathways to a 50% renewable energy target for Queensland—Draft Report, October 2016' [331].

I would also like to advise the House today that I propose to reactivate my private email account. I have written to the Integrity Commissioner seeking his guidance on how best to do this to ensure process integrity. I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 2 March 2017, from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports, Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, to the Queensland Integrity Commissioner, Mr Richard Bingham, seeking guidance on a matter of integrity related to his private email address [332].

I will also make arrangements for the Director-General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet to have full access to the account as part of his investigation at the appropriate time following receipt of that advice. As I have already outlined in this House, I will be fully cooperating with the investigation and I thank the House.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.29 am): The week that was under the Palaszczuk Labor government! A do-nothing government that finishes the week as badly as it started the week. We found out this week that the Deputy Premier likes Hollywood but hates Bollywood. She would rather trash Adani to help save her own party than support our international trade position. She carefully failed to mention anything about the Bligh train debacles earlier this week. These were trains without seats and trains without air conditioners. When the air conditioners were fitted, they could not fit through the tunnels. There were no toilets fitted and they were running at 86 per cent on time. She forgot to mention that her union mates wanted to change the design a year ago so they could have guard cubbyholes they could hide in rather than going out and walking on the platforms and walking on the trains. Colleagues, we finally saw the Premier make a decision this week. Congratulations—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I apologise for interrupting, Leader of the Opposition; you are on a roll. Deputy Premier, if you persist, you will be warned under standing order—

Ms Trad: I have been provoked.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I call the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr NICHOLLS: Finally we get a decision out of this Premier, but it is the sort of decision that I have a problem with because I can hear the conversation now or perhaps it might have been an email that was sent out. The conversation goes like this: 'Hi, Mark, it's the boss.' He says, 'Yes, Jackie—oh, no, I got the wrong person there. I am sorry about that.' 'Mark, can you please delete your email? Everyone knows that the unions control us, but we just don't want them to have the evidence, so do you mind getting rid of the email because it is going to cause us some embarrassment.'

How did it go? Did the minister delete the account of his own accord? There continues to be a stink over the way the Minister for Energy has dealt with this matter. The Minister for Energy has only just stood up this morning after three days to speak to the Integrity Commissioner to say, 'I have no idea what integrity is. Can you please tell me?' That is what he has done today. There is a stink over this government that will not go away and it starts with the energy minister—

(Time expired)

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.33 am.

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.33 am): My first question is to the Minister for Energy. Given the minister's last-minute decision to reactivate his account, can the minister guarantee that all emails on his deleted email account are still available?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Clayfield for his question. I have made it very clear in my statement that I have sought advice in terms of that process to make sure that it is an appropriate process and that anything I do has integrity in the process. I will wait to see what that advice is. I do not want there to be any question in any shape or form that I did not do it appropriately, so I have done that. The member for Clayfield has raised a concern about this email issue. I would like to ask whether he is concerned about his MPs using—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I do not need your assistance, member for Toowoomba North. Minister, it is not an opportunity to debate the matter with the questioner. Is there anything further you would like to add?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I submit that the question by the Leader of the Opposition is about the appropriate use of private emails and my question—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Honourable members, I am having trouble hearing the minister's answer.

Mr BAILEY: I was asked a question by the member for Mount Ommaney, who uses the private email account tarneve@aapt.net.au and has used this account—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I am aware that you may have other information you want to share with the House but I do not think that is relevant to the question.

Mr BAILEY: It is a public document. It is on the record.

Honourable members interjected.

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

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account

Mr NICHOLLS: My second question is to the Minister for Energy. Why does the minister have to go to the Integrity Commissioner to be told to do the right thing?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the opposition leader for his question. It does not surprise me at all that he has no idea what the function of the Integrity Commissioner is. His whole record for three years in this place lacked integrity. We saw \$30 million spent on a secret branch in Transport and Main Roads preparing for privatisation and outsourcing under his government. We saw \$70 million on Strong Choices—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I think you have answered the question.

Gallery of Modern Art

Mr POWER: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on attendance for GoMA's 10th birthday exhibition launched in December last year? Also, are there any upcoming art events in South-East Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Logan for that very important question because we know how important art is for Queensland. We know how important GoMA is. GoMA is celebrating its 10th birthday this year. More than 355,000 people have already gone through the doors for their 10-year exhibition. That is equivalent to the population of Cairns and Townsville. In fact, the free exhibition is called *Sugar Spin: You, Me Art and Everything*. Weren't we in a sugar spin last night! I can imagine the phone call from Malcolm Turnbull to Tim Nicholls this morning. 'Tim, I gave you one job: to sort out sugar so George Christensen won't leave the LNP, but you failed.'

We have Marvel coming up this year. GoMA will be preparing its blockbuster *Marvel: Creating the Cinematic Universe*. That exclusive show will feature hundreds of props, costumes, set pieces, concept works et cetera. The success of GoMA over the last 10 years underlines the interest in art in all its forms among Queenslanders.

The collections at our galleries are precious cultural assets. However, we need to continue to renew and to welcome new artworks and new perspectives to art. I am excited to hear recent media reports that our parliament will be welcoming a new piece of art to its collection tonight. As arts minister, I am interested to see how the artist David Hinchliffe captures the subject in all of his colour and movement. We know portrait painting would not be easy. In fact, the great artist Margaret Olley once said—

I used to love painting portraits but there's something about making an appointment with somebody to come and sit for you—might be a day that you want to do something else.

David Hinchliffe was obviously patient and had the time available to paint this portrait of his new subject, former premier Campbell Newman. I would like to know who is attending tonight. I would like to know who from the opposition is attending—raise your hands. On this side of the House, I have nominated the member for Ashgrove to represent the government at the unveiling of the portrait. It will be interesting to see if the member for Clayfield and the member for Callide will go, because they were featured in another art book, the Campbell Newman book. They were there on the back deck getting him to come in. Let us see—

(Time expired)

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account

Mrs SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Energy. This is an important question that deserves a yes or no answer. When the minister deleted his Yahoo email account containing official government records, did his ministerial staff know that the *Australian* newspaper had lodged an RTI application for those emails?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for her question. It is appropriate that she has asked the question given that she uses her private email, as evidenced in this document which I tabled from 19 November 2013.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 19 November 2013, from Mr Steve Smith to the member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, regarding a letter to the editor of the *Australian* [333].

In relation to her question, I made it very clear yesterday that I was not aware of the *Australian* RTI document. I made it very clear in this House that the—

Mr EMERSON: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The question was very clear. The minister was asked whether his staff were aware of the RTI application before the account was deleted—not himself, but his staff.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The question referred to both the minister and his staff.

Mrs SMITH: On the point of order, no, it did not and I am happy to read it again.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need you to read it again. I rule that the minister's answer is relevant. Minister, is there anything further that you wish to add?

Mr BAILEY: No.

Works for Queensland Program

Mrs LAUGA: My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the Works for Queensland program and how it is delivering much needed infrastructure and jobs right across the state?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Keppel for her question. She is a great advocate for her regional community, and I was very, very proud to stand with her, the Premier and the Treasurer only last month to announce money for Livingstone Shire Council for some dedicated local infrastructure projects that will see jobs generated in her region. That is what Works for Queensland is all about. There will be 130 jobs in the Livingstone shire, and that is a fantastic outcome for that local community. Right across the state, Works for Queensland is supporting really important local infrastructure projects and thousands of jobs.

The member for Indooroopilly does not appreciate Works for Queensland and does not appreciate regional communities. He has been coming in here and bagging the program, but in doing that he is also bagging local mayors and local councils who are at the coalface delivering these projects and keeping their people employed. Some other LNP members are also bagging this program—like the LNP-ONP member for Whitsunday. He has been bagging this program. If he does not want the \$4.36 million spent in his local area, I am sure that other regions would like that.

I could not help but be drawn to today's *Fraser Coast Chronicle* editorial by Jordan Philp. He had been asking why the local member, the member for Hervey Bay, had not responded to any questions about achievements or what was happening locally from a state government perspective. I could not help but be drawn to that editorial. I thought for the benefit of the House I would talk about what we are doing in Works for Queensland in the Fraser Coast region, specifically in his electorate. Here is a list of the 29 projects that are supporting 162 local jobs. I would like to table that for the benefit of the member for Hervey Bay in particular.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Fraser Coast Regional Council—Works 4 Queensland' [334].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, dated 2 March 2017, titled 'You owe your voters some answers' [335].

The member for Hervey Bay could just put his name down the bottom and submit this as his homework to the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*. That way, he could tick that off his list. We know there are other members of the opposition who cannot tick homework off their list—like the Leader of the Opposition. He had some homework from his federal colleagues to do last night. He had some homework to deliver on, and could he do it? No.

Ms Palaszczuk: An LNP fail.

Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection from the Premier—an LNP fail. As the Premier said, he had one job to do. He had one piece of homework and that was to keep George Christensen in the LNP. Who knows what George is going to do. George will no longer be the whip after today. Will the member for Whitsunday still be in the LNP after today? Who knows.

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Minister for Energy. Why won't the minister answer the question about whether his staff knew of the RTI application before he deleted his account?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. I can consult my staff and report back to the House. I am not a mind-reader but I can certainly do that. Further to the question, I am informed that the member for Mount Ommaney became an assistant minister in February 2013 so there are certainly some questions to be asked about her use of her private email and whether she did that while she was an assistant minister.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister. I know you want to talk about it but I do not find it relevant to the question that was asked.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I note that the minister has indicated that he will come back to the House. I trust that that will be by the end of this day's sitting.

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr SEENEY: I want to clarify. I want to confirm.

Mr SPEAKER: No, there is no opportunity. Resume your seat. There is no point of order.

Mr SEENEY: Well, on a point of order, I move under standing order 164 that the minister be required to provide the answer to the House by the end of this day's sitting.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I am happy to—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment please.

Mr SEENEY: I apologise, Mr Speaker.

Mr Hinchliffe: Standing order 164 is about messages from the Governor.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, member for Callide.

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

Mr SPEAKER: I will call the minister and then I will call the member for Callide for his point of order.

Mr BAILEY: Given the information just supplied by the Leader of the House, I believe there is no specific point of order but I am happy to give a commitment that I will come back to the House before the close of proceedings today. That is fine.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. That answers the intent of what you were trying to do, member for Callide.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need assistance. I have got the Clerk. Member for Callide, what is your point of order?

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, my point of order is that I wish to apologise to the House. It is actually standing order 114 where it is required.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. I think the minister has given the commitment that you were after.

Mr SEENEY: Absolutely.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I move that the apology be accepted.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Far North Queensland, Economy

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is directed to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer update the House on how the Far North Queensland economy has been performing since the LNP's time in office?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for Barron River for his question. He is a very passionate advocate for delivering for his electorate and for the broader Far North Queensland region. Since my first budget as Treasurer, I have delivered many things. The first budget of the previous treasurer ripped nearly \$100 million out of Cairns.

My last budget pumped investment into roads, into securing additional international flights and into restoring funding for health and education services that have been cut. Let us not forget the Bill Fulton Bridge duplication, for which we know the member for Barron River has lobbied so hard to ensure we are getting not only great results for commuters but also nearly a hundred jobs in terms of construction. The member for Barron River should be commended for his lobbying efforts. Members opposite spoke endlessly about that project and they failed to deliver it.

I would like to show today how the *Cairns Post* reported—we will take a trip back in history—when the member for Clayfield handed down his budget. What did the *Cairns Post* say? ‘Gone, gone, gone’. That was when the projects and services were cut, cut, cut. When this government brought down its most recent budget in 2016, the *Cairns Post* reported ‘Budget rocket fuel’ and ‘Take-off for Far North Queensland’. When we look at the difference between the Labor government and the former LNP government we see there is no comparison when it comes to working on behalf of Far North Queensland. As memory serves me, they were still trying to cut the ribbon on the Cairns Bruce Highway upgrade, which we all know was a project funded by federal Labor and state Labor; they had nothing to do with it. Of course, they are always happy to show up and cut the ribbon. They are always happy to have a smile, but they do not like how projects are funded.

That reminds me. When we start talking about the member for Clayfield and his role when treasurer, we know that he wanted to sell off our income-generating assets for a short-term sugar hit. Last night the Leader of the Opposition thought he could get a sugar hit from his leadership, but all we saw was a sugar crash. I have three young children and I know what happens when you see a sugar crash, and that is exactly what we saw last night. I have asked many times in this House: what does the member for Clayfield stand for? I think we know the answer after last night. It is political expediency. He sold out his principles to push the bill to make sure he could appease George Christensen, Malcolm Turnbull and One Nation. However, what he ended up doing—just like when he was treasurer—is disappointing everyone. We know that the member for Clayfield cannot deliver.

A government member: One job!

Mr PITT: He did have one job, and I take that interjection. He cannot deliver. His backbench knows it. His federal colleagues know it. We know that when it comes to the member for Clayfield and his leadership it is quite simply another example of someone who promised much but failed to deliver. After last night we now know that his leadership is toast.

Child Safety, IT Upgrade

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Heavy Vehicle Access Management System project has blown out from a total cost of \$4.3 million to \$10.3 million, an increase of \$6 million, and has been delayed by almost 18 months. My question to the Premier is: in light of her government’s poor IT track record, how can Queenslanders trust the government to deliver the \$6 million Child Safety IT upgrade?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, would you like the question repeated? Would you repeat the question, please, member for Glass House?

Mr POWELL: I refer the Premier to the fact that the Heavy Vehicle Access Management System project has blown out from a total budgeted cost of \$4.3 million to \$10.3 million, an increase of \$6 million, and has been delayed by almost 18 months. My question to the Premier is: in light of her government’s poor IT track record, how can Queenslanders trust the government to deliver the \$6 million Child Safety IT upgrade?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. In relation to the first part of the question, I am happy to investigate that matter. I do not have those details to hand. In relation to the \$6 million IT system that the Minister for Child Safety and I announced recently, I have every confidence that that system will be delivered because we are doing it in the best interests of our vulnerable children throughout our state. We know how important it is to ensure that the different agencies are communicating with each other. The agencies are already speaking about this. We are putting in place the structures that are needed. That is why \$6 million has been allocated. My government took that very important decision to put that money in there because we will not stop until we ensure that our most vulnerable children are protected right across the state.

It is money worth spending. An amount of \$6 million will be spent, and the Minister for Child Safety will be overseeing that project to ensure that our most vulnerable children are protected.

Sugar Industry (Arbitration for Mill Owners and Sugar Marketing Entities) Amendment Bill

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries. Will the minister outline to the House the consequences of the defeat of the LNP's Sugar Industry (Arbitration for Mill Owners and Sugar Marketing Entities) Amendment Bill?

Mr BYRNE: I thank the member for Mackay for the question. There will be some consequences, all right; we are already starting to see them. We have already started a book on this side of the chamber. It is three days to three weeks at the moment, and that is the time of the tenure that the Leader of the Opposition has left given the great success that the opposition has demonstrated with these urgent motions and bills that they bring to the House: defeat followed by defeat followed by subsequent defeat. It is a great record and usually involves the destruction of the Leader of the Opposition in the immediate aftermath. That is the first consequence: the tenure of the Leader of the Opposition is done.

I turn to more serious matters and matters I have not dealt with previously. The real consequences for the way forward is that this shifts into the federal domain. Rightly, the federal opposition has been considering this issue and particularly the Queensland legislation over a considerable period. Last year during Senate estimates there was an exchange between Senator McGrath and Senator Wong. This was about the Queensland legislation. It states—

Senator McGrath: We have legal advice—
referring to the state legislation—
and that is protected under legal privilege.

Senator WONG: Oh, come on. Do you think the state legislation contravenes the SAFTA, and are you going to do anything about it?

Senator McGrath: Well, we have legal advice, and it is privileged.

Senator WONG: Is that the answer?

Senator McGrath: Yes.

There was further interrogation in which she asked the bureaucrats the same question. The answer to the question was, 'Yes, we have legal advice specifically covering the question of the SAFTA ISDS provisions and the consistency with the legislation of those SAFTA provisions.' Nobody answered the questions.

What we do know is that the federal coalition are in possession of legal advice that says that the Queensland legislation backed by those opposite breaches the provisions of the Singapore trade agreement. We know that because of the denials. If it did not, they would be up-front saying in saying so. Further, the federal coalition have been sitting on a Productivity Commission report for months. It is sitting on the federal Treasurer's desk and they are refusing to release it. Here is the highlighted version of the interim report, which has pages and pages of condemnation of that bill supported by those opposite directly in breach of every competition provision and every sensible economic policy. That is what those opposite have stood for. What are we going to see? This competition policy report has to be tabled in the federal parliament. That will condemn everything that those opposite have been advocating. We already know that Singapore has written previously to the likes of Robb and Julie Bishop—all of those who know what a disaster that legislation is.

(Time expired)

Child Safety, IT Upgrade

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. How can Queenslanders trust this government to deliver the \$6 million Child Safety IT upgrade if the government cannot manage to deliver something as simple as a BreastScreen online booking system, which has blown out by a million dollars and been delayed by one year?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Honourable members can trust my government not to cut jobs like the LNP government did. That is right. What we saw from those opposite was 225 front-line Child Safety staff axed—950 from the city. We saw cuts, cuts, cuts by those opposite. Every member of the former government was responsible and the prime person who was responsible for that is the Leader of the Opposition, who is sitting there, who was Campbell Newman's right-hand

man. I have every confidence that the IT system for Child Safety about information sharing between departments will be delivered because we are ensuring the most vulnerable children are protected. I heard the comments by the member opposite on television the other day talking about—

Ms BATES: I rise to a point of order. My question to the Premier was very specific about the BreastScreen online booking system, which has blown out by \$1 million and been delayed by one year. The Premier has failed to answer the question.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. If members have a point of order about relevance in relation to a question, they should be making that clear and then sitting down. It is not an opportunity to repeat the question unless the minister seeking to answer the question has sought that to provide clarification. This is something that members opposite are doing repeatedly in order to have a chance to maybe get their lines right again and repeat the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you are familiar with the question. Do you have anything further you would like to add to the answer?

Ms PALASZCZUK: In relation to breast screening, I am happy to look at that. When the former member was minister we know what people thought about her time in that portfolio—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and it was not good—

Mr SPEAKER: No, Premier—

Ms BATES: I rise to a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mudgeeraba, Premier, I would ask you not to debate the question. I think you have answered the question. Member for Mudgeeraba, what is your point of order?

Ms BATES: I was asking a question on the—

Mr SPEAKER: I have ruled that the Premier has answered the question. I now call the member for Thuringowa for your question, please.

Regional Queensland

Mr HARPER: My question is of the Minister for State Development. Will the minister outline the government's position regarding jobs and resources in regional Queensland and any alternative policies?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. The member knows full well that this is a government that looks after regional Queensland. With the Works for Queensland and Building our Regions programs and investment in the resources sector, this is a government that looks after the bush and looks after regional Queensland.

Those opposite are a tad confused, because in Tuesday night's debate we saw the member for Nanango vote against coal-fired power in the resources sector. She voted against the Minister for Energy's amendment about coal-fired power; then in that debate she stood and supported coal-fired power stations and supported the coal industry, but we all know that she does not support coalmining in her own electorate. She refuses to support coalmining in her own electorate. We saw her there at the protest. There she was at the town hall right beside the big sign the 'Knitting Nannas of Nanango'. She does not support coal and she does not support CSG. What does she support? Let us look at renewables. Does she support renewables?

Ms Trad: Malcolm Turnbull!

Dr LYNHAM: Yes, she tries to support Malcolm Turnbull. That did not go well.

Ms Jones: That didn't work out!

Dr LYNHAM: That did not work out well. Let us talk about renewables. Does she support renewables? Well, she did on 30 November 2016, when she said—

Let us talk about, for example, the proposed wind farm. That will be great and provide 10 jobs.

But on Tuesday night she attacked wind turbine power. 'A couple of windmills,' was her statement. She is confused at best, but let us take the confusion of those opposite and clear it up. Let us go to the member for Condamine. Does he support renewable energy? Of course he does. He is a very sensible member. He said—

I am pleased to see these energy projects being developed in the Condamine electorate with the promise of jobs for local people.

Mr WEIR: I rise to a point of order. I would like the member to table the document he is quoting from in its entirety, because I expressed my concern about the Renewable Energy Target.

Mr SPEAKER: I think the minister is going to table that document. Do you have anything further to add, Minister?

Dr LYNHAM: Yes, I table the document as requested.

Tabled paper: Article from *Surat Basin News*, dated 23 February 2017, titled 'Construction to give region a boost' [336].

The member for Condamine is a fine local member who stands up for renewable energy in his electorate. May I just mention to the fine people of Nanango that when those opposite were in government they stripped away objection rights to mining leases. If the people of Nanango want a say about their coalmine, they will not deliver it. We are the ones who gave them the right to object to that coalmine, not them.

Mental Health Review Tribunal

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier guarantee that no other members of the Mental Health Review Tribunal have sat or worked on the tribunal while unqualified, given that we know of at least two members or staff who have acted in legal roles without a qualification?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Surfers Paradise for the question. I have been advised by the health minister that they have been undertaking due checks on all of the members. There is one member outstanding that they are still checking on, and the health minister will come back to the member in relation to that particular issue.

Health System

Mr PEGG: My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister advise the House of any potential threats to the Queensland public health system?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Stretton for his passionate support of public health. Can I just say that all of those Queenslanders who thought Santa may have brought some skerrick of integrity to the Leader of the Opposition at Christmastime have been sadly disappointed. Last year on radio the Leader of the Opposition said that he did not take riding instructions from Canberra, and he has spent every single day since then trying to disprove that. There is no greater threat to the Queensland public health system than the Leader of the Opposition. He has maintained a deafening and consistent silence about the massive cuts to the public health system that are being imposed by Malcolm Turnbull and his colleagues in Canberra.

We now know why he is so deafeningly silent about the billions of dollars being ripped out of the public health system. He is so willing to do the bidding of his masters in Canberra, including Malcolm Turnbull, that he will do anything—including introducing legislation into this parliament, as he did this week—because Malcolm Turnbull got on the phone and told the Leader of the Opposition to do it. He is on the phone saying, 'No worries, Malcolm. I'll fix the problem with George Christensen for you. Don't worry about the member for Whitsunday or the member for Burnett or the member for Burdekin. Don't worry about them, but I'll look after George for you.' After that terrible conversation with President Trump, wasn't it a great day for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to call a fawning leader who would write down anything and do anything for him as the Leader of the Opposition did for him? He has not said a word about the \$10 billion coming out of the public health system.

Mr Saunders: Shame!

Mr DICK: I take interjection from the member for Maryborough; it is a shame. Why do we not tear up the national partnership agreements on dental funding, mental health care and aged care? There has been absolutely deafening silence from the Leader of the Opposition. He has said nothing but, 'Are you worried about losing George Christensen? We'll rush a bill into parliament to help you, Malcolm. That's exactly what we'll do.' He did not lift a finger to stop the federal LNP gutting the health system in Queensland, but he cannot act fast enough to help his mates in Canberra.

Queenslanders know what LNP cuts look like because the Leader of the Opposition implemented three years of health cuts: 4,400 people out of the public health system; 1,800 nurses and midwives. The Leader of the Opposition is taking the shadow cabinet to Bundaberg, and the first thing he can do when he goes there is apologise to the 107 nurses and midwives he took out of the Wide Bay region. I call on him to do that when he goes to Bundaberg. It is not unreasonable for Queenslanders to think

that members of this parliament, including the Leader of the Opposition, will stand up for their interests and not the interests of political leaders in Canberra, but he is dancing to the tune of his puppetmaster Malcolm Turnbull. Everybody sees through the fraud of what he did this week in the parliament. It is an embarrassment to him and his party.

Big Rocks Weir

Mr KNUTH: My question is to the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines. The Big Rocks Weir project will deliver water security and an economic boost around the Charters Towers region by supporting development, mining, meatworks and other future industries. Can the minister update the House on the progress of the Big Rocks Weir project?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for the question. There has been no greater advocate for this project than the member for Dalrymple. He has been on the phone constantly and was with me last year when I went to look over the site of the Big Rocks Weir. He understands that Charters Towers needs security of water supply. That means Charters Towers can develop as a city and develop its regional economy. I know that the people of Charters Towers are looking forward to having manufacturing industry in their centre. They are looking forward to facilities such as an abattoir, which is a very water hungry facility.

The member for Dalrymple has organised teleconferences with me and officers of the department. He has visited officers of the department and has been in my office constantly in relation to this particular development. I have asked the Coordinator-General and officers of my department to be intimately involved with the member to see if we can get this project up and running. As this is a water project and as it is within the Great Barrier Reef catchment, appropriate environmental approvals and other approvals must be obtained. I look forward to working with the local member to develop these approvals as we progress.

I note the member's contribution in requesting amendments to the Burdekin water plan, administered by Minister Bailey. I also understand that we must achieve a sustainable balance between water security and the environment for this particular region. The Burdekin is a magnificent river and Charters Towers is a magnificent community.

I note that the electorate of Dalrymple will no longer exist after the redistribution. That is a shame, because the member for Dalrymple has been a very strong member representing his community. There are many opportunities. He just has to look to adjacent electorates. He will see weak LNP representation anywhere he looks. He may like a coastal sojourn. I hear that Broadwater might be an option. A holiday down the coast at Broadwater may be an option for the member. The member for Dalrymple would be a real contender in any seat he chose in his region. The only competition he will face is from the local ALP candidates because the LNP candidates will be absolute pushovers, no matter which electorate he chooses to contest.

State Schools, Stop, Drop and Go Zones

Mr RUSSO: My question is of the Minister for Education. Brisbane City Council is seeking to change a longstanding partnership with the state government to construct and maintain stop, drop and go zones at local schools. Will the minister update the House on her efforts to deliver a much needed stop, drop and go zone for MacGregor State School to improve safety for students?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for his question and acknowledge his advocacy on behalf of the MacGregor State School community. I know how passionate he is about seeing a real, long-term solution to the traffic issues at MacGregor State School. I had the opportunity to visit the school with the local member and to listen to the concerns of the P&C and the principal.

The reason I am so concerned about this is that today I am meeting with Councillor Amanda Cooper with regard to the letters she has sent me—I am happy to table them—about how the Brisbane City Council is walking away, it appears, from the longstanding bipartisan arrangement when it comes to ensuring our children are safe getting to and from school.

Mr Dick: Shame.

Ms JONES: It is shameful. We are not having this problem with any other council across Queensland. No other Queensland council is seeking to walk away from the clear joint responsibility that has been in the partnership agreement since 1997. Since 1997 there has been bipartisan support for councils and the state government working together in the best interests of local communities and the safety of our children.

I pray that today's meeting with Councillor Cooper is successful and that we see the Brisbane City Council step up and meet its responsibility. I acknowledge that the two former Brisbane City councillors sitting opposite us today did understand the importance of this arrangement. We have had long-term bipartisan support for this. It is deeply concerning to me as the Minister for Education, and indeed to the member for Sunnybank, that the correspondence from Amanda Cooper indicates that Brisbane City Council is looking to walk away.

It is particularly disheartening for the community around MacGregor State School. The LNP councillor went to the election saying that he would secure funding in the budget to conduct the feasibility study for the stop, drop and go zone. A basic rule in politics was demonstrated by the local councillor and by the Leader of the Opposition this week. That is, you never overpromise and underdeliver. That is exactly what happened to the member for Clayfield last night: 'Don't worry about it, Prime Minister. I've got it covered. I'll keep George Christensen in the tent.' Getting him in the tent is a tall order to start with, but keeping him in the tent is a tough thing to do. The opposition leader talked himself up to Canberra. We know that Tim Nicholls wants to be Malcolm's man in Queensland, not the man for ordinary Queenslanders. He has been caught out overpromising and underdelivering. I hope that is not the case when it comes to my meeting with Amanda Cooper today.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Unauthorised Release of Committee Documents

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (11.15 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. It is a serious matter. It concerns the Minister for Energy, who has apparently tweeted a number of documents during question time. One of those documents appears to be a proceeding of a parliamentary committee. I am sure that all members are aware of the confidentiality requirements under standing order 211 regarding parliamentary committees. I will table this document, because it is already in the public domain, even though I am hesitant to do that. I will table it because the Minister for Energy has made it public.

Tabled paper: Extract from Twitter, undated, from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey regarding private emails and committee documents [\[337\]](#).

Mr Speaker, I will write to you in regard to what appears to be a breach of standing order 211, the unauthorised disclosure of a committee proceeding.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The documents I put out on Twitter are all publicly accessible documents, available on the web. He has no matter of privilege. It has no basis. He can write to you all he likes.

Mr SPEAKER: I will consider the matter and report back to the House in due course.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Building and Construction Industry

 **Mr EMERSON:** My question is to the Treasurer. The latest building approval figures, which have just been released, show that Queensland has seen building approvals fall for the 12th straight month and had the fastest decline of any state, with a 38 per cent fall over the past year. Is this not just further proof that Labor's policies are not working in Queensland?

Mr PITT: I thank the honourable member for the question. It is good to see that he is paying attention to the latest releases. I note the ABS building approvals statistics released today. The concern about housing affordability is held by not only this government but also the federal Treasurer. In fact, federal minister Scott Morrison has spoken about it at each and every meeting of the Council on Federal Financial Relations. That is why they put such a big effort into talking with states and territories about housing affordability.

What are we as a state doing? We are putting forward our First Home Owners' Grant, which I announced in the budget. Earlier in my ministerial statement I spoke about the success of the First Home Owners' Grant. The boost to \$20,000 has been achieving very good outcomes. Why are we doing that? We know that it is more challenging than ever to get into the housing market. We know that

there are a range of other things in the marketplace right now, but we on this side of the House are focused on continuing to see strong investment in housing affordability. When you start looking at dwelling investment—

Mr Emerson interjected.

Mr PITT: Mr Speaker, does he want an answer to the question or not?

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. You will have an opportunity if you want to ask a question. Member for Indooroopilly, you have asked a question and you have been continually speaking during the minister's response. The minister's answer is relevant.

Mr PITT: We have a range of things in place with our draft SEQ Regional Plan which is about ensuring housing affordability and better planning to meet the growing population needs of this particular region, and that is being drafted in consultation with South-East Queensland's 12 local councils and work that is being done with the Deputy Premier.

I come back to the point that there is no secret that there has been a significant uptake in the approvals of dwellings, particularly high-density dwellings, and it is well known—and the member for Indooroopilly would acknowledge this—that we are seeing a tapering off after a significant spike in dwelling investment. That is no secret and that is why it is so important for us to redouble our efforts in terms of what is happening with first home owners in Queensland.

I thank the member for the question. It is a question that is relevant, and it is nice to hear a question that is relevant from those opposite rather than some of the other claptrap we have received today. I am very clear. The position that we as a government hold around housing affordability and what is happening with construction and dwelling investment in Queensland is resolute. We will continue to back the programs that we have in place which have the backing of the Housing Industry Association of Queensland and the backing of Master Builders. We are doing what we can with regard to all avenues of affordability of housing and investment in housing stock in Queensland, and that includes medium- to high-density dwellings, town houses and units. It is why we have these incentives in place. We will continue the program because it is the right way to go because we are looking at broadening the broader economic conditions to ensure that people have every opportunity to get into the housing market.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (11.21 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The member for Callide just raised a point of order in relation to a document that I put out on Twitter. I point out the fact that this was tabled in this parliament by the member for Mount Ommaney. I table that document dated 19 November 2013, when she was an assistant minister using a personal email.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 19 November 2013, from Mr Steve Smith to the member for Mount Ommaney, Mrs Tarnya Smith MP, regarding a letter to the Editor of the *Australian* [339].

Just to clarify further, I will also table the other two documents which I tweeted, both of which were also tabled—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Members, there is too much discussion in the chamber. The minister is speaking about an important matter.

Mr BAILEY: I will also table the full document in relation to the member for Mudgeeraba using her private email address, which also was tabled, I believe, on 3 December 2015.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 3 December 2015, from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding a matter of privilege [340].

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Member for Mudgeeraba, if you want to rise on a point of order, you know the process.

Mr BAILEY: I will also table a document from the member for Coomera using his private email address Michael.Crandon@westnet.com.au, which I believe was also tabled, according to the stamp on it, by him on 10 November—

Tabled paper: Email, dated 8 November 2016, from the Chief Executive Officer of Surfers Paradise Alliance Limited, Mr Mike Winlaw, to the member for Coomera, Mr Michael Crandon MP, regarding the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's public hearing on the Serious and Organised Crime Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 [338].

Mr Bleijie: Are you responding? What are you doing? He is putting on a speech!

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member for Kawana has raised a valid matter. You are able to respond to the matter raised by the member for Callide, but it is not an opportunity for you to raise other matters. If you have nothing else specifically relevant to the matter the member for Callide raised—

Mr BAILEY: Yes, I do, Mr Speaker. Mr Speaker, I will be writing to you to lodge a complaint in terms of the member for Callide deliberately misleading this House in relation to this matter.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed from p. 465.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members that question time finishes at 11.33 am.

Corrective Services, GPS Tracking



Ms PEASE: My question is directed to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister please advise the House of the steps the Palaszczuk government has taken to implement GPS tracking of parolees, in line with the recommendation made in the Sofronoff review?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the minister.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment. Member for Everton, you are warned under standing order 253A. That was designed to disrupt the minister.

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for her question and for her support of our Queensland Corrective Services officers. I acknowledge in the gallery some of our Queensland Corrective Services officers as well as other public servants and say to them: we will always back you. We will always back our public servants and we are grateful for your service to the people of Queensland.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. You have had a pretty good go.

Mr RYAN: When we came to office in 2015 we inherited a system which was under pressure. When the LNP was in government we saw prison numbers increase by over 30 per cent in less than three years. It gutted rehabilitation programs, it slashed prison industries, it shut down the Darling Downs dairy farm and the Capricornia dairy farm, it sacked public servants whose job it was to ensure our prison system ran smoothly and it also abolished diversionary court programs. In other words, it wrecked the system. It wrecked it and reportedly had a secret plan to privatise our prisons. However, we are fixing it. We are rebuilding our corrective services.

Unlike those opposite, we have embarked on the most sweeping reforms in probation and parole in over 80 years. Our aim is to fix Queensland's corrective services system and end the revolving door that has seen prisoners come in and out of jail. Our aim is to break the cycle of offending so we can keep more Queenslanders safe.

Walter Sofronoff, one of the finest legal minds in Queensland, has recommended that parole supervision would be more robust and more resilient with GPS tracking devices for certain parolees, and we have acted swiftly. One week after publicly releasing the report, already we have seen our first parolee having a GPS tracker placed on them as part of our plan to tighten supervision and keep Queenslanders safe. This parolee will be one of 510 parolees to be managed under this new, tighter, tougher regime. Our government has committed more than \$35 million to expand GPS monitoring to better manage certain parolees and give our hardworking corrections officers an extra set of eyes to closely monitor parolees.

Make no mistake: if a person commits a crime, they will do the time. GPS tracking technology provides the independent Parole Board with an extra option when considering how we can keep Queenslanders safe, and that is our priority—keeping our community safe. It is about being smart on crime and smart on the causes of crime.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Mansfield, member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. I find your interjections were designed to disrupt the minister in his answer to that question and if you persist I will take the appropriate action.

Youth Detention Centres, Report

Mr WALKER: My question is directed to the Premier. Why has the government not released the independent report into the management of our youth detention centres undertaken by Commissioner Kathryn McMillan QC that was commissioned in August 2016 and given to the Attorney-General some almost three months ago, on 14 December 2016?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member very much for the question. The government will be releasing that report as soon as cabinet considers it.

Tourist Attraction, Refurbishment

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is directed to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. Will the minister update the House on how a well-known tourist attraction is being rebuilt by the Palaszczuk government at a cost of more than \$1.6 million?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for his question and for his ongoing interest in tourism facilities across our national parks. Cape Tribulation's Dubuji Boardwalk in Far North Queensland is being rebuilt from recycled materials at a cost of \$1.643 million. The Palaszczuk government has worked with the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal Corporation, the Douglas Shire Council and the Wet Tropics Management Authority to find ways to replace and upgrade the entire boardwalk. The Daintree region is an integral part—

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I am sorry, Minister; I usually try not to interrupt when you are on your feet. Member for Hinchinbrook, you are warned under standing order 253A. I find your interjections are designed to simply disrupt the minister in his answer to the question. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Dr MILES: The Daintree region is an integral part of the Wet Tropics World Heritage area. It is one of the oldest rainforests in the world—over 135 million years old—and is home to the largest range of plants and animals on earth. It is a privilege to have this World Heritage site in our own backyard. People flock from around the world to see it and, when they arrive, we want to make sure that the infrastructure is there for them to have a world-class ecotourism experience. The local community said that they were concerned about the aged boardwalk, which had deteriorated in the tropical conditions.

We listened to Douglas Shire Council and the community and agreed to replace this vital and much loved tourism asset. I am happy to say that the boardwalk is being totally rebuilt using recycled plastic and fibre composite materials that will not rot in the damp rainforest environment. The new boardwalk will last long into the future and require far less maintenance. The replacement work started at the section leading from the day use area, with about 730 metres already completed. This includes the replacement of the boardwalk from the carpark and the section leading to Myall Beach.

Ms Palaszczuk: This is exciting.

Dr MILES: I take that interjection by the Premier. It is exciting. A new linking section has also been constructed, allowing visitors to opt for a shorter 550-metre loop walk if they do not have time to do the entire boardwalk.

Ms Trad interjected.

Dr MILES: It will assist the Deputy Premier to get those 10,000 steps. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service works closely with traditional owners in managing our parks and forests and has employed two traditional owners from the Daintree area to work on this project. The project is currently on budget and ahead of time, with a forecast for completion in the 2018-19 financial year. This government will continue to invest in visitor infrastructure that brings tourists to our World Heritage areas and provides vital employment for people in regional communities, particularly our traditional owners.

Queensland Rail, Overtime

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. At the last sitting the Premier could not answer this question, so let us try again.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, that was a completely unnecessary preamble to the question and I ask that you give some guidance to members in asking questions.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, you have been here for some time now. That preamble is unnecessary.

Mr MANDER: I will go straight to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: I think you should.

Mr MANDER: In October 2016 it was revealed that, at the peak of Labor's rail fail, Citytrain drivers alone were being paid almost half a million dollars per fortnight. Will the Premier tell Queenslanders how much overtime has been paid to Citytrain crew since the opening of the Moreton Bay Rail Link and the start of Labor's rail fail?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Everton for the question. Perhaps the member for Everton could have secured a deal with Malcolm Turnbull. Maybe he could have delivered for Malcolm Turnbull, because he could have done the one job—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. I know that you may want to talk about that topic, but that is not the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we have stated previously, overtime needs to be paid because Queensland Rail is in the process of recruiting more drivers. That is why we had the Strachan report, that is why we are recruiting, and that is why we want extra drivers—because that will reduce the reliance on overtime.

Mr SPEAKER: Question time has finished.

HONOURABLE ANGELO VASTA (REVERSAL OF REMOVAL) BILL

Introduction

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (11.33 am): I present a bill for an act to reverse the removal of the Honourable Angelo Vasta from office as a Supreme Court judge. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Honourable Angelo Vasta (Reversal of Removal) Bill 2017 [\[341\]](#).

Tabled paper: Honourable Angelo Vasta (Reversal of Removal) Bill 2017, explanatory notes [\[342\]](#).

In 1989, the parliament moved to dismiss the judge from his office on the basis of findings from a commission of inquiry established by the parliament. This is the only occasion since Federation that any parliament in Australia has removed a Supreme Court judge. The decision to remove the judge was made after a statutory commission of inquiry, established by an act of parliament, found that the judge's behaviour in some personal affairs warranted his removal from office. The allegations of this statutory commission included giving false evidence regarding the AAT incident at the defamation hearing; making and maintaining allegations that the then chief justice, attorney-general and Mr Fitzgerald QC had conspired to injure him; arranging sham transactions to gain income tax advantage; and making false claims for taxation deductions in respect of the lease of a library.

The legislation that established the statutory commission of inquiry was done hastily, with numerous deficiencies identified by subsequent reviews of the case, with the most serious deficiencies being that the terms of reference were too wide and examined all aspects of the judge's life; the legislation prevented any decisions of the commission to be made the subject of review in a court of law; there was no provision for the judge to appeal any adverse findings of the commission; and, finally, if the parliament sought to have the commission make findings of fact to assist the Legislative Assembly, any provision that gave the inquiry the authority to submit an opinion as to whether the judge should be removed was wrong and possibly unconstitutional since that power belongs to the parliament and to the parliament alone and cannot be delegated.

Since the report of the commission of inquiry was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in 1989, a number of the commission of inquiry allegations have since been dismissed or proven to be untrue. The 1995 report of the International Commission of Jurists, Australian chapter—the ICJ report—into the dismissal of the judge outlines the allegations that have since been dismissed or proven to be untrue. These allegations include alleged false evidence given by the judge in a defamation hearing—

the commission did not accept as true the evidence of the judge; a sham loan that was arranged to gain a tax advantage—the Australian Taxation Office and the Commissioner of Taxation eventually accepted that the judge's tax affairs were legitimate and no sham loan existed; and, finally, a number of other allegations relating to the judge's tax affairs that have since been determined and are in contradiction of the commission of inquiry's report. Clearly, the inquiry report that the parliament relied upon to, for the only time in history, remove a Supreme Court judge was flawed. That was the advice that the parliament acted on.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr KATTER: I take that interjection by my colleague. My father was a member of that parliament. In addition to the ICJ's findings, further circumstances suggest that the decision to remove the judge may have been influenced by attitudes at the time rather than an objective process. The commission of inquiry emphasised how important it was that the matters that may warrant the judge's removal be considered in conjunction with each another.

At the time of the judge's removal, a number of members of parliament, from all sides of politics, publicly and privately voiced their dismay at the events surrounding the dismissal of the judge from the Supreme Court of Queensland. Mr Wayne Goss regarded the report 'as quite unsatisfactory in a number of respects' and Mr Terry Mackenroth said in parliament on 7 June 1989—

The commissioners say in the report that those dealings do not come within their jurisdiction, yet they find him guilty of them.

The proper course of action was that the matter should have been dealt with by the taxation authorities before the report came before the Parliament for debate ...

Many other members of parliament voiced serious concerns at not being able to thoroughly consider and research the matter over a number of days. This bill is not about judging people from the past and conducting a witch-hunt of them; it is acknowledging that there were some serious flaws behind the judgement that was made at the time. There was also a concerted effort to allow for a conscience vote for all members of parliament. This was denied when government ministers instructed all government members to vote en bloc.

Although the judge comprehensively proclaimed that he should not be removed from office, the motion was passed by the Assembly at approximately 3 am, with only the support of the government but with intense disapproval from the opposition and other parties. The vote was determined only by voting on the voices and no division was called. It is suggested that the commission made a glaring error when the commissioners delved into the judge's taxation matters.

On 12 September 1995 the Hon. Neil Turner raised the matter of the judge's dismissal as a matter of public interest and subsequently tabled the ICJ report to the Legislative Assembly. Mr Turner sought to have the parliament review this matter and he highlighted the events which show clearly that the parliament was in error in the decision to recommend the dismissal of the judge by the Governor in Council. Over the years a number of other people involved in the decision have expressed their regret privately. I expect now that this legislation has been put forward more people will come out publicly with their views.

Angelo Vasta, at 76 years of age, is now too old to be readmitted. This is about righting the wrongs of the past and the parliament doing the right thing. It is not about condemning anyone who was involved in the decision. It is important to note that there is no issue of compensation. It is just about clearing someone's name. I think it is the right thing for the parliament to consider. It is not casting judgement on anyone involved in this decision. I think there was some flawed advice that was given. It was around the time of the Fitzgerald inquiry, when there was a real fervour to cast someone out from that role. Unfortunately, judge Angelo Vasta was on the receiving end. That was the only time since Federation that a parliament has removed a Supreme Court judge. One would expect that he had committed grand larceny or murdered someone or done something really severe, not had some tax issues that subsequently were mostly found to be invalid. That was a strong pillar for the removal of Mr Vasta. I ask that the parliament consider this bill and do the right thing by someone who I think was unfairly removed.

First Reading

Mr KATTER (Mount Isa—KAP) (11.41 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

SUGAR INDUSTRY (APPLICATION OF TRANSITIONAL PROVISION) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (11.41 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Sugar Industry Act 1999 to extend the period within which particular supply contracts are not required to include particular terms. I table the bill and explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Sugar Industry (Application of Transitional Provision) Amendment Bill 2017 [343].

Tabled paper: Sugar Industry (Application of Transitional Provision) Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [344].

This is a pretty straightforward bill. It is looking to buy a year in time so that the two parties who have been doing battle for some time can work through their agreement without being coerced in any particular way. This amendment is necessary to overcome the issue facing the sugar industry currently being experienced in the Burdekin Basin. Currently Wilmar Sugar has not finalised its agreement with QSL due to ongoing negotiations resulting in the delay in reaching suitable terms of contract to growers with Wilmar pursuant to their cane sale agreement. As a result, the canegrowers cannot lock in the forward-pricing contracts.

This amendment to the act allows the current agreement to be extended for one year to allow the existing contract to be carried over by those growers supplying cane to Wilmar Sugar and hence enable forward-pricing contracts to be finalised. Equally, this amendment allows QSL and Wilmar Sugar to continue negotiations without the deadline pressure to complete. This amendment does not affect other refineries or other growers with different mills who have already settled their individual contracts. I have two letters that I would like to table. The first is an open letter to the Prime Minister from a Mr Geoff Cox and the second is a newsletter from Mr Paul Schembri.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 12 January 2017, from Mr Geoff Cox to the Prime Minister, Hon. Malcolm Turnbull, regarding the sugar industry [346].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian Canegrower*, dated 16 January 2017, titled ‘FIRB Chairman comments “grossly misinformed”’ [345].

I will not take up a lot of time. There was much discussion about this. This is not about politics; this is about putting the canefarmers first. I think we have all lost sight of this issue. It has become a political football, with the Labor Party trying to condemn the LNP. I think we all need to pull together to get the desired outcome so that canefarmers are not the ones left carrying the can. We as politicians need to do better. We need to stand up. That is what One Nation is about: putting people before politics. The two major parties have lost their way.

First Reading

Mr DICKSON (Buderim—PHON) (11.45 am): 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 Agriculture and Environment Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (11.45 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Agriculture and Environment Committee report to the House on the Sugar Industry (Application of Transitional Provision) Amendment Bill by 20 March 2017.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (11.45 am): If there is a motion before the House then we have an opportunity to speak to it.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Yes, member for Callide.

Mr SEENEY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker, and I do want to speak to it so it is very clear to people who may be reading or listening to this debate why the House is going to take a decision that I would advocate. Last night we had an extensive debate about these issues that are very important, to our side of the House at least. Anyone who looks at the debate on the bill last night will clearly understand the passion and the emotion that was involved in that debate—not only passion and emotion but also detail. It is a very detailed area. For any member to come in the morning after a debate such as that and present another private member's bill and request the House to treat it urgently is a little difficult to support because we struggle to understand what is in the bill.

The House considered the bill last night, but that bill had been in the public domain for some days. It had been discussed at length and the concepts in the bill had been considered during the committee hearing. I struggle to even understand what the concepts are in this bill. I have just had a hurried conversation with my colleagues who represent the sugar-growing areas and they, too, are struggling to get their heads around it. My colleague the member for Hinchinbrook is struggling to get his head around it as well.

I would say to the honourable member that I agree 100 per cent with him when he says we all have to work together on this important issue. We do. We have to work together on a strategy that will get legislation through this House to achieve the outcomes that I think all of us on this side of the House want to achieve. We saw that fail last night because a particular member of the House had an issue with the fact that the previous bill had been declared urgent. The bill failed because of that. It failed because that member felt that it was inappropriate to debate that bill in an urgent manner.

The provisions for a bill to be declared urgent are part of the standing orders of this place and arguments can be advanced for particular bills to be declared urgent so that they do proceed quickly through this House. That strategy failed last night on a bill that was designed to address the same problem that this bill is supposedly aimed at addressing. I only say that because I have no idea what is in the bill. I have not had an opportunity to look at it.

For us to support an urgency motion again this morning would be almost dooming this bill to failure based on the debate and the proceedings that we saw in this House last night. While I agree with the honourable member for Buderim that we do need to work together, we need to do it in a way that has some likelihood of success in terms of the procedures of this place. That is not saying anything about the content of the bill because I have no idea whether the content of the bill has a likelihood of success or not.

We need time to look at the bill to work out whether or not it has some likelihood of success in addressing a very real problem that we all recognise. Nobody can doubt that if they look at the debate that was had in this House last night. I say to the honourable member for Buderim that nobody should go out and misrepresent that. However, it is impossible for us to support an urgency motion that will doom the bill to failure before we even have a chance to consider what is in the bill. On that basis, the opposition will be opposing the urgency motion moved by the member for Buderim.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.50 am): The government will be opposing the urgency motion moved by the member for Buderim for similar reasons to those proposed by the Leader of Opposition Business. We in the government also clearly understand and appreciate the great challenges and difficulties that are associated with these issues in the important and historical sugar industry, which is so important to our future. The sugar industry is fundamental to the history of the state and it is fundamental to its future. That is why we want to make sure that within the industry we have legislative arrangements that support further investment and development for a highly functioning industry that is fair to all. It is why we opposed the bill that was brought to this parliament, I note, via an urgency motion.

I welcome the commitment from the leader of opposition business to debating an urgency motion, rather than guillotining it. I appreciate that we should all come together to ensure that these issues are properly understood and properly ventilated. The committee process, which I know many members of this House value, would add to the consideration of this private member's bill without any truncation or declaration of its urgency without an appropriate explanation, and I agree with the leader of opposition business that we have not heard such an explanation today. Therefore, the House should oppose this proposal for urgency on a bill that deserves appropriate extensive and detailed consideration and

reflection from all the stakeholders who will have a great interest in it and not just all of the members in this House, who I know share a commitment to, and a passionate support for, the important role that the sugar industry plays in this state.

That is why the government will be opposing this motion. We look forward to examining the content of the private member's motion and allowing the whole of the committee process to proceed, enabling all of the stakeholders who have a great interest in it, from across Queensland and, indeed, across the world, to have an opportunity to make their submissions.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (11.52 am): It was amazing to listen to the hypocrisy spoken just a couple of moments ago by an opposition that, with the support of the backbenchers, was pushing for a bill to be passed urgently, especially considering the amount of time they allowed everybody to look at their documentation. I think it was a very short amount of time. I make this point very clearly: the people of North Queensland are waiting for an answer. They want certainty. They would love to have clarity. I will go whichever way the House wishes to go today, but I will be dividing on the matter so that the people of Queensland understand how much the parliament does care about solving this matter with the canefarmers of North Queensland and with how much urgency the LNP really pushed forward to resolve this matter. That is evident by the words and the actions that they have put before this House and the people of the state of Queensland. We all have an opportunity to vote a particular way. When those votes are counted today, the people of Queensland will understand how much the opposition really cares about the canefarmers. I think they will be greatly enlightened, which will continue to drive their votes towards One Nation. It will continue to prove that both parties have lost their way and they are not continuing to look after the people of Queensland.

This was an opportunity for a bipartisan movement to go forward to resolve this issue, but clearly today we have seen that there is no bipartisanship here. This is no longer about the farmers; it is about playing party politics and one-upmanship. It has never been about the farmers. I am very sorry that in this House today members want to vote down this very urgent matter, which could have resolved the situation very quickly and given the farmers at least one year's certainty as the two opponents would have been able to renegotiate their outcomes and come up with a deal that will be good for the farmers of Queensland. Today is a very sorry day in the Queensland House of Parliament.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion negatived.

Mr DICKSON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Buderim and everyone else, resume your seats while I take advice. Member for Buderim, under standing order 103(1), you failed to record an 'aye' vote and, therefore, you are unable to call a division. The question has been resolved in the negative.

PETITION

Motion to Take Note, Lapsed

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): As there are no members to move this motion in respect to a petition on a referendum on daylight saving, the order of the day has now lapsed.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (11.57 am): I move—

That the House take note of Finance and Administration Committee, report No. 35 titled *Inquiry into how to improve health and safety outcomes for combat sports contestants in high risk and amateur contests in Queensland*.

Currently in Queensland, combat sports are self-regulated and individual disciplines have multiple forms of self-regulation by a number of different organisations. The self-regulation varies greatly between sports and between amateur and professional contests. Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria each have stand-alone bodies to regulate combat sports. Combat sports in Tasmania and South Australia are regulated by government departments. A comparative table of interstate regulation and relevant legislation provided by the department is contained within the report.

The committee received eight submissions into the inquiry. On behalf of the committee, I thank those submitters for their submissions and the departmental officers for their cooperation in providing information to the committee in a timely manner. While it is unfortunate that the committee only received eight submissions, this could be a reflection of the nature of the combat sports industry, with many groups and organisations operating in relative isolation from each other. Of the eight submissions received, four supported self-regulation and some government intervention by way of mandatory or voluntary standards for combat sports; three submissions were from medical organisations and, while they opposed combat sports, they provided recommended harm-minimisation measures to protect combat sport contestants; and two submissions supported a government-led commission to regulate all combat sports in Queensland.

On consideration of the material before it, a majority of the committee members considered there was no demonstrated need for an inquiry at this time and the committee resolved to take no further action on this inquiry. In my statement of reservation, I expressed the contrary view. The tragic loss of the lives of two young men—one in a contest in Toowoomba and one in a contest in Mackay—made a need for an inquiry on this issue clear.

There were submissions made that Queensland has no minimum health, safety and public standards to manage expectations of the government, the combat sports industry and the community in terms of combat sports. There is no single Queensland or national body responsible to coordinate consistent, effective and standardised self-regulation of combat sports to ensure suitable risk management and minimum health, safety and public standards. There are no publicly available standards that articulate how to minimise health and safety harm arising from combat sports.

Given there are an unknown number of combat sports groups and organisations operating in Queensland, it is difficult to obtain a clear understanding of how each and every combat sports event deals with the associated risks to the health and safety of the participants and the spectators. There appears to be no activity of the department to correlate any information on how combat sports are self-regulated in Queensland and therefore no data or reliable facts upon which to base any findings.

When the department was asked whether cage fighting or kickboxing in Queensland has the same level of self-regulation as some boxing organisations in Queensland, the department advised—

We do not know. I think that is the crux of the issue: we do not know.

...

We do not know what the practices are within those sports and within each discipline of those sports.

The Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland considers that self-regulation is insufficient to protect participants in high-risk combat sports. While it notes that some codes have introduced detailed regulations to protect their contestants, enforcing such rules would increase harm minimisation. Despite the lack of available data in Queensland, it is clear that repeated blows to the head during combat sports will cause head trauma.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.02 pm): The Finance and Administration Committee is very good at looking into matters of finance and administration—surprise, surprise. One of the things that we are very concerned about is the use or misuse of taxpayers' funds on investigation into matters relevant to Queensland taxpayers and the Queensland public.

After the combat sports matter was referred to the committee by the Treasurer we followed that up with a call for submissions, as committees appropriately do. As the chairman has correctly pointed out, there was a considerable lack of submissions in relation to this matter. We then followed that up with a presentation by departmental officers—the fiddlers three and the whole crew. The lack of knowledge and the lack of input from the departmental officers was quite embarrassing for them. It was quite evident from the departmental officers that a demand for this inquiry was sadly lacking.

In relation to furthering large expenditure of taxpayer funds in going around the state and looking at this matter, the committee took the very wise decision, in my view, to not proceed with a wideranging inquiry into the combat sports industry. As the chairman has alluded to, there are other states with government bodies. We understand that. Instituting a government body for government body sake and recommending legislation be put through this House for no particular reason is not the ambit of the Finance and Administration Committee. I believe the committee has a duty to expend funds in a right and appropriate manner.

After that presentation and given the lack of submissions in relation to combat sports—even though some submitters said they did not want any government interference in their sports and wanted to be self-regulating; we certainly respect those requests—as a committee we decided that a further

inquiry was not needed and not necessary. I understand that there are fight clubs and that these sports are full on in terms of the ability to harm, as I suppose playing a game of rugby league is or a game of AFL and other sports are.

In terms of setting up a big government department and expending a lot of parliamentary funds trying to justify the setting up of another big government department, the Finance and Administration Committee was clear in its majority that it was not necessary. I thank the member for Bundamba, Mrs Jo-Ann Miller, who demonstrated a very sensible and pragmatic approach in joining with members of the opposition in rejecting the idea that we should be traipsing all over the state spending taxpayers' funds. That is the sort of sensible decision-making we would like to see come from the government on more occasions rather than the very obvious expenditure of funds on the number of reviews and inquiries that we are currently seeing with this government. I congratulate the brave member for Bundamba in casting her vote with members of the opposition in relation to not proceeding with this expensive and wasteful investigation.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I was not on the committee, but I believe that committee proceedings that are not published are not to be discussed outside of the committee, except with individual members.

Mr STEVENS: For the member's information, it has been published and tabled. He can see it before him. Now that the member has joined the committee, I am happy to give him some advice.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): I will respond to the member for Logan. I am going to take the word of the member for Mermaid Beach and ask him to proceed.

Mr STEVENS: This was a very good decision of the Finance and Administration Committee. I am sure the member for Logan will get with the process now that he has come onto this exclusive committee, will understand the workings of the committee and will enjoy his time saving the taxpayers of Queensland some money.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.08 pm): I reiterate the member for Mermaid Beach's arguments put forward with regard to this issue. As he said, the committee received only eight submissions for the inquiry. When this came up in the committee process we asked departmental officers: why has this come up? Has something happened that we have not seen? Is there a reason for this? The departmental officers said no. They did not know why this was coming up. It was very important for us as a committee to make sure that if we were going to investigate this matter there were good reasons to do so.

In the seat of Gregory there are plenty of amateur combat sporting clubs. One comes to mind. It is not just so much a sporting club but an iconic event that happens around regional Queensland, and the heart of that is in Birdsville—and that is Fred Brophy's tent.

Mr Perrett: He lives in Kilkivan.

Mr MILLAR: He does live in Kilkivan. He also has the pub at Cracow. He is an absolute champion of regional Queensland.

Mrs Frecklington: He came to the Nanango show last year.

Mr MILLAR: I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Fred Brophy is probably best known around Nanango and Cracow and, of course, the member for Callide's area, but Birdsville is the place that Fred Brophy continues to head to and plays an important role. Let me get on with the issue here.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Good idea.

Mr MILLAR: Fred Brophy and people like him need to be protected.

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! While these interjections have been very interesting, could we please allow the member for Gregory to move on with his speech?

Mr MILLAR: Thank you so much, Madam Deputy Speaker, for allowing me to be heard on this issue. The eight submissions for the inquiry demonstrated that there was no real need for us to have an inquiry into this. There was little interest not only from the submissions but also from the departments when we questioned them as to why we needed to investigate this.

Sporting clubs across regional Queensland are volunteer sporting clubs. They are put together by hardworking volunteers with little funds. The last thing we need is to provide a nanny state approach to these regional Queensland sporting clubs and put more restrictions on them, making it harder for them to continue to operate.

Mr Costigan: Less red tape, not more.

Mr MILLAR: We need less red tape, absolutely. I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. My experience in these sporting groups is as an avid player of Rugby Union in my younger days. I played Rugby League for the Emerald Tigers as a junior but I played Rugby Union in my later life. I can tell the House that as a Rugby Union player and also as a Rugby Union coach we take safety very seriously. It is important that we allow these sporting associations to continue to provide the safety that they can provide without having more red tape put on them because it is getting harder and harder to participate. The cost of providing jerseys and registration fees is extremely expensive. Also, bear in mind that these regional sporting groups, such as Rugby Union and Rugby League, take safety very seriously.

As a coach of a Rugby Union team after I finished playing, it was my duty to ensure the safety of all of my players no matter what. If they came off concussed, I made it a rule that they were not allowed to play until they got a medical certificate to say that they could continue to play. I am just an amateur when it comes to playing Rugby and coaching Rugby, but I knew that I had a responsibility to make sure that safety was paramount for those people who participated in the sport. That is like everybody—every coach and every administrator in regional sporting groups such as Rugby Union, Rugby League, whether it is boxing or a combat sport. Volunteers who end up being administrators or coaches take safety as a paramount obligation to make sure that that happens.

Mr Costigan: They have the time.

Mr MILLAR: They have the time. What we need to do is to have less red tape to encourage people to be a part of those groups, not put inquiries in place which are going to send fear into those groups that there is more red tape coming and more restrictions. I was so glad that the committee was able to make the recommendation that there be no further investigation into this inquiry.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.13 pm): I rise to support the deputy chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, the member for Mermaid Beach, in his statements about this inquiry. I was on the Finance and Administration Committee until about two weeks ago. During my time on the committee we have had many, many large bills to work through, as you, Madam Deputy Speaker Farmer, would know—such as workers compensation, IR and protecting firefighters legislation. We did the inquiry into four-year terms. That was a massive bill and, as Madam Deputy Speaker knows very well, we travelled the state extensively. We did the inquiry into ending sandmining on Stradbroke island. That was also a very large and emotive bill.

One would suggest that every one of those bills would fit under the Finance and Administration Committee's jurisdiction. It was a bit of a surprise when we got this inquiry into combat sports. I am not sure how that was referred to the Finance and Administration Committee in the first place. It became very apparent that there was very little in this. As has been mentioned, we only had eight submissions for this inquiry. That is a record low for anything that I have seen in my time on committees here. It generated a surprising lack of enthusiasm. When the department were questioned about the impetus behind this, they could provide no answer. They had not been approached by sporting groups or organisations. There had been no public push for this. This inquiry basically came out of the clear blue sky.

Mr Stevens: Thought bubble.

Mr WEIR: A thought bubble—that is very well said. As the member for Gregory talked about, we see injuries in a wide range of sports which makes me wonder how this inquiry just identified combat sports. There are probably more injuries in football than there are in boxing or combat sports. Look at—

Mr Millar: Look at me!

Mr WEIR: Horse racing is another. We see deaths of jockeys. We see some terrible injuries. There has also been a spate of deaths in scuba diving on the Barrier Reef in recent times. You can understand an inquiry into that to see what is happening there. It is costing lives.

This inquiry was going nowhere and we decided that the committee had much better things to do with its time in dealing with serious issues than looking at this. As the member for Mermaid Beach has said, every one of these inquiries costs. It costs government. It costs members time. The research teams all come together to work on an inquiry that nobody had any interest in whatsoever. I can think of many, many issues that we could run other than this.

The member for Gregory mentioned the famous Fred Brophy. We had Fred Brophy's boxing tent at the Clifton show two weeks ago. It had a huge following. It ran for two nights and it was packed. During the public inquiry into combat sports, I asked a question of the department: would it have any impact on the likes of Fred Brophy? They said that it would close him down. He would have to comply with all of these restrictions and that would be the end of him.

Mr Costigan: An icon.

Mr WEIR: An icon, a legend in Australia. I had the opportunity to talk to some of the boxers in Fred's troupe while we were at the Clifton show. I can tell members that they were very aware of this inquiry and they were very concerned about it. They did not need me to tell them what this was about.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mr WEIR: They did. We could find no justification for this inquiry. Our time is well served in many other areas. I am happy to support my colleagues and the member for Bundamba in declaring that we had done enough on this. We have better things to do with our time than worry about this.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Ms LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (12.18 pm): I move—

That the House take note of Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report No. 31, tabled on 16 December 2016.

This is the committee's first report as part of its monitoring and oversight responsibilities in relation to Queensland's health service complaints management system, comprised of the Office of the Health Ombudsman, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, AHPRA, and the national boards. The way in which health service complaints are managed in Queensland underwent a significant shift in 2014 with the establishment of the Office of the Health Ombudsman under the Health Ombudsman Act 2013—which transferred investigation of serious professional conduct complaints about health practitioners to the OHO, instead of AHPRA and the national boards, which deal with such matters in most other Australian jurisdictions. Prior to 1 July 2014, responsibility for health service complaints in Queensland was divided between AHPRA and the Health Quality and Complaints Commission.

The committee's inquiry was informed by the Health Ombudsman's and AHPRA's annual reports and monthly and quarterly performance reports, and evidence provided by both bodies, Queensland Health, stakeholders and concerned citizens at public briefings and hearings. While not directly comparable, the committee also draw comparisons where appropriate between the OHO, the previous health complaints system in Queensland pre 1 July 2014 and the co-regulatory system in New South Wales. These two systems are the closest systems to the current scheme in Queensland and were therefore useful when discussing the performance of the current Queensland health complaints system.

It is acknowledged that the creation of a new organisation takes time, and the embedding of that organisation into an existing system will always require a period of adjustment, and I acknowledge the work undertaken by the Health Ombudsman and his staff in this regard. It is also acknowledged that the work of any health service complaints body is challenging. However, significant concerns were raised with the committee that after 2½ years the OHO is failing to meet its statutory time frames.

During the inquiry, stakeholders raised concerns about the OHO's noncompliance with statutory time frames, in particular, the 30-day time frame for the assessment of complaints and the one-year period for the investigation of complaints. In 2015-16 just under a third of assessments were completed within the legislated time frame of 30 days and its statutory time frame to complete an investigation in one year in 53 per cent of complaints. Stakeholders highlighted the significant adverse impact that the failure to deal with complaints in a timely manner has on patients and their families and on health practitioners who are the subject of complaints. The number of investigations exceeding two years still under investigation is also a cause for concern.

The committee noted that the OHO reported lengthier time frames for the conclusion of complaint processes in 2015-16 across almost every category of complaint action. Levels of compliance with statutory time frames and time based organisational targets were also down on the previous year and on comparable HQCC compliance rates. This is despite an increase in actual expenditure to approximately \$16.8 million and an increase in full-time-equivalent staff from 94 to 125 in 2015-16. This is also despite a commitment from the former minister for health under the Newman government that the changes would be cost neutral to the Queensland public. While acknowledging there are differences between the two models and the added maturity of the New South Wales Health Care Complaints

Commission, the New South Wales HCCC is able to complete approximately 90 per cent of its assessments within 60 days and 85 per cent of investigations within one year, despite handling more complaints, having fewer staff and a lower budget than the OHO.

In addition to the time taken to consider and finalise complaints, stakeholders also raised concerns regarding a perceived limited use of clinical advice in decisions about complaints, inconsistency between the OHO and AHPRA and the national boards' data on health service complaints, potential deficiencies in information sharing and how the OHO engages with stakeholders.

The committee's role in monitoring the health complaints system is to ensure that the public interest is being served. In this regard, the committee resolved to make a number of initial recommendations aimed at improving the performance of the system. The committee recommended that the merits of amending the act to introduce a joint consideration process for health service complaints between the OHO and AHPRA and the national boards be investigated. It was the view of the committee that joint consideration processes in place in New South Wales under its co-regulatory approach and other states and territories under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme could assist in addressing some of the consistent issues raised regarding information sharing and effective collaboration.

The committee also recommended that the government consider options for ensuring that potentially serious professional misconduct matters are able to be dealt with as a whole rather than being split between the OHO and AHPRA and the national boards, and that the Office of the Health Ombudsman, AHPRA and the national boards work collaboratively to resolve ongoing information sharing and data issues currently preventing the production of nationally consistent data. The committee will continue to monitor progress in this regard to ensure that the public interest is served. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.23 pm): I rise to talk to the report before the House. Who can ever forget the sadness that was the Bundaberg Hospital issue and Dr Jayant Patel? Those issues were examined in the Davies inquiry in 2005 and also the Forster review in that same year. The second review highlighted serious issues in the Queensland health complaints system. These reviews were followed by the Chesterman report, the Hunter review and finally the Forrester report. One could not argue that the health complaints system in Queensland has not been thoroughly reviewed over that time line.

Prior to 1 July 2014, the handling in Queensland of complaints was divided between AHPRA and the national boards that dealt with all complaints about the conduct, health or performance of health practitioners and HQCC that dealt with complaints about health service organisations and complaints about individual health service providers. The system changed on 1 July 2014 when the present OHO came into being. Queensland is unique in that the OHO is the single point of entry for all service health complaints. The OHO, upon receipt of a complaint, must within seven days make an initial decision to accept the complaint and take action or take no further action. There are a number of actions the OHO may take from immediate or urgent to referral to AHPRA or the national boards.

Stakeholders during the review, as reported in the report itself, were keen for changes to the act to reduce 'confusion', 'duplication of work' and 'delays in resolution of complaints'. Though change was being sought, there was no call to return to the HQCC model and AHPRA suggested 'building on specific strengths of the current arrangement'.

The committee made four recommendations. Firstly, it recommended to introduce a joint consideration process between the OHO, AHPRA and the national boards in dealing with complaints. It also included that the government give consideration to the New South Wales approach where 60 days is provided for initial decisions together with assessment to allow a joint consideration process including clinical input. There was much consideration and debate in the committee hearings about the use of clinical input. I believe it is one issue that should be considered strongly by the government so that initially that input is there to assist in the determination at stage 1.

Secondly, the committee recognised concern that questions of conduct and performance on health issues were divided between OHO, AHPRA and the national boards. As such, the committee recommended that consideration be given to changing the system to ensure one body deals with serious professional misconduct matters.

Thirdly, and importantly, the committee recognised that the collection and sharing of data and information both nationally and between OHO, AHPRA and the national boards is critical. As we know in our society, particularly in the area of health, sharing of data and understanding data across various bodies including federally is critical to the formulation of policy at a state and federal level. Of concern, the issue of the collection of data has not been dealt with for 2½ years and is reason for action to be

taken immediately. Importantly, the committee recommends that a joint plan be produced by the bodies covering information needs and barriers to the sharing of information. Finally, the committee suggests that the government consider amendments to the HO Act as proposed by the OHO.

As I said, it is important to understand the history in relation to complaints to the health system in this state. There are very few people in this House who were here at the time when the Bundaberg Hospital issue broke and Toni Hoffman disclosed the issues that led to the Davies royal commission. There are also very few people who were here at the time that Hedley Thomas, by a simple Google search of the name 'Jayant Patel', disclosed his history in America which should have become obvious from day one when that doctor entered this state and sought registration to practise.

The system of complaints and how to deal with them back in 2005 was shambolic to say the least. It was so shambolic that Jayant Patel was allowed to practise in a public hospital system for some considerable period of time, causing enormous pain and suffering to the many people he operated on and, more importantly, to the system itself. It took between 2005 and the LNP government coming into power in 2012 to change this system. Yes, the system does have some problems—there is no doubt about that—but it is a new system. There is no way we should go back to an old model which is antiquated, which was not effective and which was proven to be quite dangerous. The recommendations by the committee are to put in place a system that enhances what we have now but not to return to the dangers of years gone by.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Before I call the member for Thuringowa, I acknowledge in the gallery students from Varsity College from the electorate of Burleigh.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.28 pm): As a member of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, we resolved to undertake an inquiry to broaden its understanding of the health complaints system in Queensland including the respective roles of the Office of the Health Ombudsman, AHPRA and the national boards and to inform its ongoing monitoring role.

Section 179 of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 provides that the committee has functions in relation to the Queensland health service complaints management system. Some of those functions are: to monitor and review the operation of the health complaints system and to identify and report on particular ways in which the health complaints management system might be improved.

The committee has used the information and evidence that it gathered during the inquiry, including the views expressed by stakeholders, to make a number of initial recommendations to the Queensland government, the Health Ombudsman, AHPRA and the national boards aimed simply at improving the performance of the Queensland health complaints system. The committee noted there were numerous reviews and inquiries concerning the regulation of health practitioners in Queensland over the last decade.

Prior to 1 July 2014, health service complaints in Queensland were divided between AHPRA and the national boards which were responsible for all complaints about the conduct, health and performance of registered health practitioners. The HQCC was responsible for the management of complaints about health service organisations and complaints about individual health service providers. In response to the issues about regulation of medical practitioners in Queensland raised in the Chesterman, Hunter and Forrester reports, the former health minister introduced the Health Ombudsman Bill and the OHO subsequently came into effect in March 2014. The main objectives of the Health Ombudsman Act are to: protect the health and safety of the public, promote professional safe practice and maintain public confidence in the management of complaints.

We know that each new entity has teething problems. What our committee observed was ongoing problems with communication between AHPRA and the Office of the Health Ombudsman and ongoing lengthy delays—over two years—due largely to the communication issues identified between these two bodies in relation to co-regulation which occurs in other jurisdictions. During the committee's inquiry, stakeholders raised concerns about the OHO's noncompliance with statutory time frames—in particular, the 30-day time frame for assessment of complaints. Stakeholders highlighted the significant adverse effects that the failure to deal with the complaints in a timely manner have on patients, their families and health practitioners who are the subject of complaints. The Health Ombudsman has attributed delays to high numbers and the complexities of matters and delays in receiving information or in sourcing the necessary independent clinical advice required to appropriately assess matters.

The Health Ombudsman acknowledged there had been challenges in establishing the Office of the Health Ombudsman. He explained that on starting they had taken on almost 300 existing matters from AHPRA and the HQCC. He advised that within the first six months of operation the OHO also managed 3,700 contacts, made 1,750 complaints decisions, undertook 1,200 assessments and made

319 local resolutions, and undertook 202 investigations. That being said, the overwhelming and recurrent message we received during the inquiry was communication with other bodies like AHPRA and concerns over duplication of investigations.

In relation to joint consideration of complaints between the OHO, AHPRA and national boards, they suggested introducing a joint consideration process between them at the earliest stage of consideration of a complaint. Stakeholders considered such a process with appropriate clinical input would reduce duplication and delays and contribute to more consistent decisions about complaints.

At the end of the inquiry, the committee has made initial recommendations about the ongoing monitoring of the system. The committee noted AHPRA's and some stakeholders' calls for fundamental changes to the Health Ombudsman Act to reduce role confusion, duplication of work and delays in resolution of complaints. We noted, however, that whilst asking for the changes to the health complaints system, it was not suggested that we return to the HQCC model. The committee considers it would be premature to fundamentally change the health complaints system in Queensland. We do, however, have significant concerns about the OHO's performance against its statutory time frames in relation to the handling of complaints.

The committee acknowledges the hard work undertaken by the Health Ombudsman and his staff in establishing the new complaints body. The committee recommends that the Queensland government investigates the merits of amending the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 to introduce a joint consideration process for health service complaints between OHO, AHPRA and the national boards.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.34 pm): It has been a couple of weeks since I have been on the committee myself, but I thought it was appropriate that I make a few comments because there were some alarming things that came out of this particular inquiry. As the chair has noted, this was the committee's first report as part of its monitoring and oversight responsibilities in relation to the health service complaints management system. There does appear to be serious teething problems with the Health Ombudsman's operation and their interaction with other key stakeholders in the industry. The health services complaints framework was amended significantly in 2014 with the establishment of the Health Ombudsman under the Health Ombudsman Act 2013. The amendments transferred investigation of serious professional conduct complaints about health practitioners to the ombudsman rather than AHPRA and the national boards, which deal with such matters in most other Australian jurisdictions.

While the Office of the Health Ombudsman ought to be granted more time to bed down their operation, it is time, frankly, to start cracking the whip. The office is well staffed but continually fails to meet its statutory time frames. In 2015-16 the Health Ombudsman only met its statutory time frame of seven days to reach an initial decision in 49 per cent of complaints, and the statutory time frame to complete an investigation in one year in 53 per cent of complaints. This must improve. The Health Ombudsman has acknowledged the challenges in starting the new office and took over 300 existing matters from AHPRA and HQCC. To quote the Health Ombudsman, 'These staffing and other issues had an impact over the first 12 months of operation and beyond.'

As mentioned, the Office of the Health Ombudsman is well staffed but arguably not with the right people. There were many complaints regarding the time to consider and finalise complaints, with concerns raised about a lack of reliance on clinical directions and insights. A number of stakeholders considered the clinical input into decision-making about complaints was essential, noting that it was possible for a serious complaint to be resolved, including immediate action to suspend or place conditions on a health practitioner's registration, with no clinical input whatsoever. Close examination must be undertaken to ensure that relevant clinical input is available and utilised. We need to have clinicians forming opinions on these matters and fewer case managers. We need more technical ability and fewer paper pushers moving complaints from one pile to the next. Queensland consumers deserve better and I believe that there is an argument for establishing permanent health professional councils or advisory committees within the structure of the OHO.

OHO, AHPRA and the national boards seem in many instances to be working completely independently of each other. In many cases, OHO, AHPRA and the national boards seem to prosecute the same issues relating to the same practitioner. This builds stress on practitioners, and there are a number of practitioners who have made submissions to the committee and to me privately and repeatedly. There is double handling—where complaints are assessed and on occasion investigated by OHO and then subsequently referred to AHPRA and the national boards, where they are assessed and potentially investigated again. Stakeholders believed that greater collaboration and more direct referrals from OHO to AHPRA at the earlier stage of the complaints process would reduce duplication

of work and delays. It is for this reason that I request that consideration be given to a joint consideration process which would streamline time frames for initial decisions and assessment and evaluate whether the current statutory time frames are appropriate.

What is staggering in the 21st century is the inability of the Health Ombudsman to share and slice and dice like-for-like data. They fail to share valuable information, and there is a compelling need to identify the information needs of all parties and remove barriers to the sharing of relevant information. In particular, AHPRA and the national boards raised concerns that there is no statutory obligation to share information about complaints received by the OHO that are not referred to AHPRA and the national boards. There was evidence tendered which only highlights the urgency to agree on an approach for resolving data issues that are currently preventing the production of nationally consistent data about health service complaints.

One minor example of the practical problems—which in my opinion is symptomatic of the challenging relationship between OHO, AHPRA and the national bodies—is software licensing. AHPRA operates a database to store practitioner information, but OHO staff cannot use one of the licences to access the data. It is unfathomable in the 21st century and in such an important field that there are so many shortcomings.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.38 pm): As a healthcare professional and as a consumer of healthcare services, I want a healthcare system that delivers evidence based, high-quality care. Delivering healthcare services is an incredibly complex task that involves at times hundreds of people and vast volumes of equipment and resources. It is perhaps one of the most unpredictable environments I could imagine. It is incredibly difficult to control. The patient ultimately relies on the skills and the knowledge but, most importantly, the care of the people who deliver the services.

Given this situation, it is not unexpected that at times things can go wrong. When things go wrong in health care, the consequences for patients and their families can be devastating. When something does go wrong, healthcare professionals know they have an ethical obligation to be accountable for their decisions and actions. It is imperative that when something goes wrong it is investigated properly and, if necessary, practices are changed to ensure the situation does not reoccur.

There has been an ongoing evolution of the process of managing complaints and problems in health care in Queensland. The current model relies on two bodies: the Office of the Health Ombudsman and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and its associated boards. This model was established in response to problems with previous attempts to manage complaints by healthcare consumers. It may not surprise honourable members that Queensland has chosen to go its own unique way on this issue, so it is incumbent on our parliament to monitor this new approach and attempt to improve it if necessary.

I should thank the members of the committee and particularly the chair for pursuing this issue and delivering this report at a time when the committee was considering a great deal of other matters.

There is much to like about the new model and the role of the Office of the Health Ombudsman. The single point of referral, the responsibility it assumes for unregistered health practitioners and the capacity to review systemic problems are all excellent innovations. The OHO is a new system but of course there are issues.

It is very stressful to be investigated over one's clinical practice. When this has happened to me it has been extremely distressing for me and my family. When it happened to me the investigation was quick. I have spoken to nursing colleagues and other health professionals who have been investigated under the current system. They complain of lengthy delays and note the impacts this has on themselves, their families and, most importantly, their patients. Patients who make allegations of damage as a result of healthcare services are also poorly served by delays in investigation processes, regardless of the validity of their complaints. It is imperative for the delivery of quality, evidence based health care to patients that we investigate complaints and act to correct practices and systems in as short a time as possible. The experiences of my professional colleagues are borne out by the statistics in the report. I fully support the recommendations in this report that seek to address these delays.

I have also had discussions with healthcare professionals who have raised concerns about the clinical advice relied on by the Office of the Health Ombudsman. The Queensland Nurses' Union, the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Lawyers Alliance, the Medical Insurance Group of Australia and many other submitters raised concerns in this area. They noted a lack of transparency with no information being made available about the experts being consulted, their qualifications, the advice being sought or the advice being provided. This is very, very concerning and must change.

While it is important that non-healthcare professionals are involved in assessing complaints, the reality is that it is imperative that clinical advice is sought on complaints. I certainly support the recommendation that seeks to improve the clinical input into investigations and I urge the minister and the Health Ombudsman to take this issue very seriously.

We have a co-regulatory system here in Queensland. This requires a high level of coordination between the OHO and AHPRA. In the committee's interactions with the staff from the OHO and AHPRA it was obvious that the level of cooperation and coordination was not high. This was particularly evident in relation to the management of data. Data management is crucial to investigations. I would urge both parties to make cooperation and coordination in all areas as high a priority as possible. I certainly support the recommendations in the report that will assist in this.

My personal and strong preference as a healthcare professional would be to have one national, uniform system of managing healthcare quality and safety. It is my view that the issues we face in Queensland are not unique and it would be far better for patients and practitioners if the systems were national, uniform and effective. Whilst my strong preference is for a uniform national system, I believe that the recommendations in this report will certainly do much to improve the current system of managing complaints about healthcare services. These will result in better outcomes for patients and healthcare professionals. I commend the report to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.43 pm): I rise to address the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report No. 31, *Inquiry into the performance of the Health Ombudsman's functions, pursuant to section 179 of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013*. I was president of the Australian Medical Association when the Health Ombudsman came into being with the passage of the Health Ombudsman Act 2013. There is no doubt that there was a significant concern at the time among professional associations such as the AMA and other medical indemnity providers about the implementation of this new system and regime. It would be fair to say, however, that given the previous regime under the Health Quality and Complaints Commission and the relevant legislation, which was introduced back in 2006 following the Morris inquiry and Forster review, and some of the clinical governance matters that we saw at that time, the system did need to change; and there did need to be a further examination of the reporting, the review and the oversight of health complaints management here in Queensland.

Having read the report, I am concerned about the Office of the Health Ombudsman not meeting the statutory time frames which are in place. This certainly risks denying natural justice to registered health practitioners—and certainly there are some concerns in relation to lengthy delays and what that means for their own health and wellbeing. When there are delays in matters outside of the statutory time frames there can also be significant distress for both complainants and their families as well. There continues to be some broad concern amongst health professionals, medical indemnity organisations and professional associations with respect to time frames not being met.

In relation to the committee report and the recommendations which are contained within it, I think they are very worthy of consideration by the government. Having additional clinician panel or advisory council input, particularly into the triage processing of health complaints, would be very important. Also measures to reduce the duplication, communication and coordination issues, which clearly seem to be still evident between the Office of the Health Ombudsman, AHPRA and other agencies, must be rectified as a matter of urgency.

It would appear from the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report that there is still much scope for improvement with respect to the health complaints management system here in Queensland. However, I think it would be prudent and wise for the government to build on this system, to enhance it, to improve it into the future for the benefit of not only patients and Queenslanders but also registered health professionals.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.46 pm): I move—

That the House take note of Agriculture and Environment Committee report No. 29, tabled on 3 January 2017.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.47 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 29 of the Agriculture and Environment Committee tabled on 3 January 2017. There is probably no more serious issue than the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, particularly for those areas of Western Queensland still experiencing drought. I have certainly covered some miles in recent months, witnessing and viewing firsthand the impact that drought is having on some of those western communities. We flew from Augathella in the electorate of the member for Warrego across to Charleville and Wyandra, and up to Thargomindah and Cunnamulla. We saw firsthand what is going on out in that country. We spoke to quite a number of landholders to gauge how this scheme is working and what assistance they might need.

A couple of weeks ago I did a run out to Cloncurry and then back down through Longreach, which is in the area of the member for Gregory, and Barcaldine and across. There are certainly some drought impacts throughout that country. If we do not get some rain shortly there is no question that a lot of those properties in Western Queensland will be facing yet another year of drought. It is certainly having a significant impact not only on the property owners and their families but also on those businesses and the communities that really only have those localities to rely on for their businesses.

I want to touch on a couple of points. One is the need to ensure the drought support provided by the Queensland government is consistent with the national drought policy. The last thing we need is inconsistencies or confusion. Certainly the last thing we need is red tape or anything that is going to slow down or hinder the process of providing drought relief assistance.

I note the comment from AgForce in the report that the real value to producers of DRAS assistance has failed to keep pace with rising input costs and that the initial \$20,000 cap should be reviewed. I certainly support calls to increase the cap progressively from \$20,000 to \$30,000 with a plan to increase it to \$40,000 and to \$50,000 in subsequent years of drought as a staged response as conditions deteriorate. Producers should be made aware when increases in the payment caps will occur to assist in their planning.

We know that the DRAS covers freight subsidies, fodder, emergency water infrastructure rebates and costs associated with transporting livestock purchased for restocking and returning from agistment. Given the rising transport costs we need to review those transport subsidies, particularly when you look at the distances that a lot of these livestock are being transported at the present time. I have spoken to graziers who are transporting livestock many hundreds, if not thousands, of kilometres to source feed because it is becoming increasingly difficult to find properties with feed in some of those western areas.

I say to the minister that drought preparedness programs are absolutely imperative and something that I have been very passionate about in terms of giving our graziers the skills and the support they need to prepare for drought, because in those western areas of Queensland it is part of life. The more preparedness and willingness there is to undertake programs aimed at assisting them to prepare for droughts, the better off they will be.

I welcome the report of the committee. I look forward to updated recommendations and the report's implementation, particularly in consultation with industry. I think it is imperative that we consult with the right people when we update the model and bring it back before this parliament.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.51 pm): With this inquiry the Agriculture and Environment Committee reviewed the effectiveness of the Queensland government's \$74.3 million Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, administered by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, that is designed to support communities and landholders in drought-declared areas. The review considered whether the drought assistance measures are well designed, provide the best possible assistance and give good value for money to the Queensland taxpayer.

As we all know, drought assistance is critical in Queensland while we are in the grips of the worst drought on record. As Father Terrence Loth of Gracemere said in his submission to the inquiry—

I've just completed six months in the Central West. (I worked there for 17 years in the 60s, 70s & 80s).

Most of the Central Western graziers are heading into a fourth year of drought. I doubt that any are spending their own money after having severely reduced incomes for all of that time. However, they still have to face the rising costs of maintaining their properties—rent to the State Government, rates to Local Government, insurances, electricity etc.

Many, of course, can't even pay these—they're added to the increasing debt. I was told by one Local Council CEO that at least 100 properties are marked for foreclosure when the drought breaks!!

There could be a wholesale exodus of grazing families from the Central West when the drought breaks. Can Governments afford this loss??

There is a desperate need for "CASH RELIEF" for family held property owners to survive this prolonged drought which wasn't of their making, and is beyond their control.

As detailed in the report, the committee examined the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme administered by the department. The scheme has provided financial assistance to drought-affected farm businesses since 1969 and remains a key component of the Queensland government's package of assistance programs for drought-affected businesses, families and communities. The committee concluded that the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme is well administered and responsive to claimants' requests for assistance. The number of claims processed by the department has been quite extraordinary but, to their credit, departmental staff have maintained very high standards of client service. The transport subsidies for water and fodder and emergency water infrastructure rebates provided through DRAS have helped sustain livestock, which are the lifeblood of many farm businesses during times of extreme and unforgiving hardship.

The committee sought to identify opportunities to improve the scheme as part of the review. Most of the committee's recommendations sought to broaden what the scheme can be used to fund. The committee has not supported changes to the scheme that are inconsistent with the primary focus of DRAS which has been, and remains, animal welfare. The committee recommended reviews of the subsidy rates paid, the payment caps and the maximum amounts that can be claimed annually should the scheme continue past 2018.

Looking forward, the committee has recommended a process for the department to develop an updated model for drought support that is consistent with the national drought policy whilst also meeting a number of other good practice policy objectives. This process must involve close consultation with rural stakeholder groups to ensure that the assistance model will provide lasting benefits to rural and regional communities in drought-prone areas.

I would like to thank the committee secretariat, my fellow committee members past and present, as well as the submitters who took the time to make submissions to the committee. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.55 pm): I rise to make a short contribution in relation to the committee report into DRAS, the review of the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme. I understand that my contribution may be cut short today, but I will return to this House to make a more lengthy contribution to what I see as one of the most vitally important areas of policy for the agricultural industry in Queensland.

I would like to congratulate and thank the member for Burnett, who was partly responsible for the instigation of this vitally important policy review. I also acknowledge the contribution of the member for Hervey Bay and the former deputy chair, the member for Gympie. These are members who actually understand the dire circumstances in regional Queensland. I would also like to mention the point that the member for Ipswich West just addressed. Whilst the review of DRAS essentially relates to animal welfare, it is vitally important that those in this House understand that, when you are in a drought situation, animal welfare is the No. 1 concern of any landholder across this great state. I also agree with the member for Gympie's statement of reservation in the report where he says that, whilst this review into the DRAS scheme was much needed, there were issues outside the scope of the review which did not receive the attention they potentially deserved. One issue that does require attention is the revocation of drought declarations and the role of local drought committees.

Much of what DRAS is based on is whether a region is drought declared or not. While I understand that individual properties can be drought declared, there can be some concern locally about how and why drought declarations and revocations are made. This is currently a very topical issue across both the Burnett and the South Burnett. For example, I was out at the Ironpot Reef 'n' Beef the other night in my area of Burnett, and every person who spoke to me, every landholder, brought this issue up because they are in an area which has not had overland flow for years, yet the South Burnett has been lifted from the drought declaration. It was revoked on 15 April. People are concerned about that and have a right to understand why it was revoked but, more importantly, how it occurred. That is why in this House on 15 September 2016 I asked a question on notice to the then minister for agriculture about the South Burnett drought committee and how it worked. I asked—

Will the Minister provide details of the South Burnett Drought Committee, including (a) how many meetings have been held throughout 2015 and 2016, (b) how many members are on the committee, (c) how are the committee members chosen and (d) are minutes of the committee meetings available to the public?

The response noted that the details of the membership and the minutes of the meetings were confidential to protect the identities of the members, given the sensitive nature of their tasks and decisions. I can tell you right now that there were people who thought they were on that committee, but this Labor government now will not listen to their voices and will not hear from them. It is a disgusting way to run a drought committee. It does leave a lot of my primary producers in the dark about how

those decisions around drought are made. These decisions impact many, many people. They affect their daily operations, their future business decisions and, of course, their bottom line. To wake up one morning and hear that your area is no longer drought declared, or that the drought declaration has been revoked when you still have no water, is obviously frustrating, concerning and simply bewildering to many primary producers. I believe the issue of drought committees in relation to their membership, decision-making capabilities and confidentiality needs to be examined further and addressed in recommendation No. 1. There must be more transparency in this area. Most importantly, I advocate that we listen to the local producers and the people on the ground who understand. They do not live in an ivory tower in Brisbane; they are dealing with this on a daily basis.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Frecklington, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Public Transport

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (2.30 pm): I rise to call upon the new Minister for Transport and Deputy Premier to provide a more direct bus service from Noosa to the soon-to-be-opened \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital. Despite countless—and I mean countless—pleas to the minister's predecessor on this subject, Noosa remains out of service. I table for the House a copy of TransLink's 16-page community consultation report on hospital service changes.

Tabled paper: Department of Transport and Main Roads: Sunshine Coast University Hospital (SCUH) service change—Community consultation report [\[347\]](#).

Members will note from the map that the study area ends at Maroochydore, and the single fleeting mention of Noosa is on page 12. TransLink's review and report has ignored the 50 per cent of the Sunshine Coast region that is located north of the Maroochy River. While no Noosa bus routes were subject to the review—not even the one-hour meandering 620 to Maroochydore—the report's response to Noosa's call for a direct service is a 10-minute wait-time reduction at the Maroochydore station, a change TransLink claims will make travelling from Noosa to the hospital 'as seamless and efficient as possible'.

TransLink proudly reports that throughout the four-week consultation period in July and August 2016 a total of nine face-to-face information sessions were held throughout the region. Not one of them took place in Noosa. Taxpayers and public transport commuters north of the Maroochy River who live in my electorate were subject to a review that did not include them and that certainly did not benefit them.

Following this nonreview, TransLink has declared that bus services from Noosa to the new hospital are as good as they need to be. For TransLink to cite the lack of demand as a reason for not trialling a direct service from Noosa, when the service has never been offered, to a hospital that before now has never existed, is ludicrous.

Just when I thought Labor's transport and fiscal misinformation had reached an all-time low, my office received boxes of hundreds of expensive TransLink fliers announcing cuts to fares. I table a 'Get on Board with Fairer Fares' flyer promoting a reduction in off-peak fares of 20 per cent.

Tabled paper: TransLink flyer, undated, titled 'Get on Board with Fairer Fares' [\[348\]](#).

How can TransLink afford to reduce fares when it cannot afford to trial an essential service to Noosa from the new hospital? Surely the provision of safe and equitable access to the new superhospital must come before a fare reduction on services that already run at a loss, costing taxpayers even more. There is nothing stopping the Labor government from trialling a daily direct bus service to the new hospital from Noosa except bloody-mindedness. If the transport minister cannot find the money when TransLink's pot seemingly is spilling over, then the health minister must.

Dalby PCYC

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.33 pm): I recently attended the Dalby Chamber of Commerce & Industry's Business After Hours event, hosted by the Dalby PCYC. This facility is first class and a tribute to the dedication and hard work of the manager, staff, committee members and wider community. The Dalby PCYC was established in 1989 and has a current membership of over 2,000 people—the biggest in the state of Queensland. It works in conjunction with the Western Downs Regional Council, the Dalby township and the surrounding communities to offer affordable and easily accessible sporting and recreational activities that are targeted at all age groups and abilities.

The PCYC offers and delivers a range of social, welfare and cultural programs to provide young people with the opportunity to experience their community under the guidance of the police citizens youth framework. The Dalby branch currently offers a successful gymnastics program along with basketball, netball, dance, boxing, martial arts and fitness sporting programs. There are mixed, senior and junior teams from all sports offered, aimed at targeting physical fitness and social involvement within our community.

Volunteers play a large part in the success of the Dalby PCYC. Without these dedicated community members the programs offered would be unable to be delivered to the extent they are. Coaches, referees, canteen workers and supporters are all on hand to assist with ensuring that physical fitness and participation in the community are front and centre. It is wonderful to see a community work together to provide sporting and social opportunities that otherwise may not be available in rural and regional Queensland. The Dalby PCYC offers a childcare service, including before- and after-school care and vacation care, with a fully integrated program offered for the children participating in the service. This service is essential for our working families.

There is a fully equipped gymnasium that was upgraded in the last 12 months to include weights, cardio machines and fitness classes. With the emphasis on keeping fit to reduce health risks, like heart disease and stroke, having this facility is invaluable to the Dalby region.

None of these resources would be available without the support of the community and volunteers. It is a credit to the Dalby PCYC and the community that these facilities are up to date and utilised by so many people. I continue to be amazed at the strength and resilience of our rural and regional communities and the volunteers who assist in those programs.

Beeley, Ms K

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.36 pm): I had a very unusual start to the week. I was up early on Monday and heading off to the gym. I was not going to exercise but to be the judge of a world record attempt by Kate Beeley. Kate was going to attempt to do more than 1,275 burpees in one hour. For those who are not familiar with a burpee, you stand up straight, then you get down on your hands and knees, you throw your legs out straight, you bring your legs back in and you stand up straight and then jump off the ground. I challenge anyone in this House to do 20 of these. If you can do that, do 20 in a minute. If you can do that, keep going for an entire hour. That is exactly what Kate Beeley did.

A government member interjected.

Mr KELLY: No, I could not show you, I have to admit.

It was hard to watch. For the first 10 minutes Kate did 20 reps per minute. Then she upped it to 25 reps per minute for the next 10 minutes. At around the 22-minute mark she started to stall. She was struggling—she was gasping for breath—but her coach got her through this and told her to focus and work through the pain. She did this, and by the 30-minute mark she was unstoppable, smashing out 27 reps in the 60th minute to set a new world record of 1,321 burpees in an hour. This record is yet to be verified by Guinness World Records but I have no doubt that it will be.

Kate's approach to the record attempt was professional and disciplined. She has clearly had a life of setting herself goals and working towards achieving them through hard work and discipline. After a corporate career managing Palace Centro cinemas in New Farm, Kate decided to start her own business. She is now the owner and founder of MissFit training gym in Coorparoo. This business has over 250 clients, most of whom showed up to cheer on Kate's record-breaking efforts. The noise level in the room was enormous when Kate was breaking the record.

Great achievements like this do not happen by accident or in isolation. Kate has had a long career in fitness as both a trainer and competitor in fitness and natural body-building competitions. In 2014 she also broke the record for running up and down the Kangaroo Point Cliffs stairs 101 times. Kate is a great role model for young women, with high achievements in both sport and business. I have no doubt that she will inspire many young women to take up the opportunities opening up for women in sport which are welcome and long overdue.

Our fantastic Lions Women's AFL team remains undefeated. That fine team boasts Kate Deegan from the mighty Coorparoo Junior Australian Football Club. That club, as part of the Get Playing Places and Spaces program, was provided with \$61,000 by the Palaszczuk government to build facilities to get even more girls and women playing Aussie Rules. Kate shows that Coorparoo is serious about creating a pathway for girls and women to move from Auskick to the highest levels.

I also mention Mr Len Catalano and the team at the Holland Park Hawks. Len has been a strong advocate for women's sport, building the state's largest soccer club for girls and women. I was pleased that the Palaszczuk government provided \$78,000 in funding for the Hawks to put lights in Whites Hill State College to increase capacity to take even more girls and women.

I congratulate Kate. She is truly a role model. I congratulate the Coorparoo Aussie Rules and the Holland Park Hawks for what they do for women's sport. I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk government that has made all of this possible.

Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.39 pm): In my electorate of Moggill the Labor government is failing to invest in infrastructure or plan for the future. An integrated road and public transport plan is urgently need to resolve traffic congestion. An additional high school to service the residents of Karana Downs, Mount Crosby, Lake Manchester and other suburbs is absolutely needed. These suburbs also need an investment in public transport. I say this to the Palaszczuk Labor government: stop talking and start acting on infrastructure in the western suburbs of Brisbane. The Palaszczuk Labor government is incapable of bringing forward a fair legislative agenda for the benefit of all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk Labor government is hopelessly incapable of balancing economic development with sound environmental protections and conservation for all. Queensland has a do-nothing Labor government. It is a do-nothing government on the economy, with no credible vision or plan for infrastructure or strategy for Queensland. As such, inertia continues to grip the state's economy.

Cross River Rail under the Deputy Premier is absolutely stalled. It is simply not true to say, as the Deputy Premier does, that it is shovel ready. Cross River Rail under Labor is hopelessly stalled. It is off track—just like Labor's rail-fail debacle in South-East Queensland. Labor plans to slug Queenslanders with secret taxes to raise billions of dollars for its delayed Cross River Rail project. The Labor government wants a carbon tax which will increase cost-of-living pressures and harm business. Queensland's construction industry continues to endure the full impact of the Palaszczuk Labor government's anti development policies, with building approvals across Queensland in free fall. Building approvals in Queensland have decreased by 38 per cent since January 2016. We also know that private infrastructure investment fell by \$4.7 billion last year in Queensland. Major regional centres like Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton and Bundaberg are struggling with significant increases in youth unemployment and falling participation rates as a result of this government's failed jobs policies.

Cairns youth unemployment is at 24.4 per cent, Wide Bay youth unemployment is at 24.5 per cent and outback Queensland's youth unemployment is at 36.6 per cent. The LNP has a \$100 million Get Queensland Working program to fix Labor's youth unemployment crisis. This is a government of all talk and no action. It is a do-nothing government. This is also a government that is soft on crime, that empowers and will always acquiesce to criminal gangs. We have seen the Premier's hysterical past attempts to demonise the federal immigration minister, the Hon. Peter Dutton MP. Her previous attacks on him were unwarranted and unjustified and were payback by the Premier for Peter Dutton's warning about the Palaszczuk government's undermining of the national task force targeting biker gangs known as Operation Morpheus. It is time that the Palaszczuk Labor government started doing things in Queensland and not simply talking.

Surf Life Saving Queensland; Beach Safety, Crocodiles

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.42 pm): This afternoon in the House I rise to speak of the great work of our surf-lifesaving community not only in the Mackay-Whitsunday region that I proudly represent but also across the length and breadth of Queensland. A number of members would recall that earlier in the week we crossed the Brisbane River to South Bank as members of the Parliamentary Friends of Surf Life Saving Queensland to look at the summer highlights for 2016-17. It was a fantastic occasion. With regard to the year to date in terms of the great work of Surf Life Saving Queensland, 1,867 lives were saved—an amazing statistic. Thank goodness for our volunteer surf-lifesavers right across Queensland. I am very proud to serve as the co-patron of the Eimeo Surf Lifesaving Club in my own electorate of Whitsunday in the northern beaches of the great city of Mackay and also as one of the vice-patrons of the North Barrier Branch.

There are a number of ways we can enhance beach safety in North Queensland. This is something that locals have been grappling with for some time, and of course I speak of the increasing numbers of crocodile sightings in North Queensland waters. As you would know, Mr Deputy Speaker Crawford, they are in your electorate and they are in my electorate. There are people who are concerned about what is happening on our beaches. When we were kids in North Queensland—I say

this as a fifth generation local—we would hop in the water and we would be looking out for stonefish, sharks, stingrays and even something exotic that my late mother would recall—a blue-ringed octopus that she almost came to grief with on Brampton Island many moons ago.

One thing we did not have to worry about back in those days was crocodiles. They were protected for good reason because they were nearly shot out of existence, but we have seen a ballooning in numbers over the last four decades and then some. At the Eimeo Surf Lifesaving Club my constituents and people in my electorate are increasingly concerned—people like John and Gaye Galea and family, who are the other co-patrons of the Eimeo club, the Zamparutti family, the Lansbury family and on it goes. I do not want to see a free-for-all, but there needs to be a scientific based culling program of some sort for North Queensland. We do not want to see vigilantes in their tinnies at night-time having a big night out on the turps and taking matters into their own hands, but we need to protect those who come to our beaches, not only locals but of course tourists to Queensland.

My electorate of Whitsunday has lots of tourists and then some. We do not want an accident. We do not want a child, a visitor or a tourist being taken. That would do irreparable damage to our tourism industry and, to state the obvious, fancy the family having to try and pick up the pieces after something terrible happens. I dread it will happen. I think it will happen unless something is done by the Palaszczuk Labor government to ensure that human safety and community safety come first. We need a croc culling program of sorts.

Taiwan, Trade

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.45 pm): As everybody in this House knows, my electorate has a significant number of people who have migrated from Taiwan and contribute to the state economy. The good news is that, even with the alteration to the boundaries, my involvement with the Taiwanese community will still continue. I want to give the House information on how Queensland has benefited by its development of closer economic ties with Taiwan. Queensland first established a trade office in Taipei nearly 20 years ago, and it is an office that I have had the privilege of visiting on at least two occasions on my visits to Taiwan. The latest Brisbane Airport Corporation report shows a record number of travellers have passed through Brisbane Airport, with total passenger numbers increasing by approximately two per cent. That means that 447,400 people more have passed through Brisbane's international airport. Four of the top 5 growth markets for Brisbane this year come from North Asia with Japan, China, Korea and Taiwan being the ones of most note.

Taiwan is one of the major sources of Queensland's fastest growing tourism market. According to the latest Trade & Investment Queensland report, Taiwanese visitors to Queensland have increased by 21.6 per cent or 11,610 from 53,800 in 2014-15 to 65,410 tourists in 2015-16, which is approximately 47 per cent out of the total number of 139,579 Taiwanese visitors to Australia in the same year period. Currently there are two Taiwanese national carriers—China Airlines and EVA Air—operating direct flights between Brisbane and Taiwan. Since 2016, both airlines have doubled their flights to five times a week and will bring 22,800 more Taiwanese visitors to Queensland each year. Economically, Taiwan and Queensland are much closer than many would expect. Taiwan is Queensland's sixth largest trading partner and its sixth largest export market in 2016. Queensland exports to Taiwan were valued at \$1,685.9 million, representing 3.5 per cent of Queensland's total merchandise exports.

Flinders Highway

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (2.48 pm): For the second sitting in a row I rise to bring an issue to the attention of the House. No-one down here seems to be interested in this issue because they are all obsessed with train timetables, but we are experiencing train problems from Mount Isa to Townsville. It is everyone's problem all the way from Mount Isa to Townsville. It is completely dysfunctional and needs the very serious attention of the government. At present we are facing 30 road trains per day—they were not there before—but these triple road trains are now going past my office right through the middle of town getting on to the Flinders Highway. They are carting material or intermodal material that used to go on the rail line and create revenue for the government, but it is now being moved by road.

This is a huge problem presenting safety issues to drivers on that road. It is mostly a dual-lane road that for long sections, particularly from Julia Creek to Hughenden, is poorly maintained. Another 10,000 road trains a year are going to be put on the highway from Mount Isa to Townsville. Currently, there is talk of an eastern access corridor into the port at Townsville. There is no point in having that corridor if there are no trains to feed into the port. The government has to fix this.

Based on the 2015-16 figures alone, in the north-west, just out of the mining industry, there is \$1.7 billion to the state, or \$310 million in royalties, none of which are returned to the area. That is going to be compromised if the area does not have affordable transport and the system does not work. Historically, the rule of thumb was that it cost between \$90 and \$100 a tonne to transport goods by road from Mount Isa to Townsville and about \$60 a tonne by rail. Historically, road transport was always expensive, but I believe that road transport operators have sharpened their pencils and are ripping the hell out of the roads now. Taxpayers are going to have to pay to fix that road when we have a perfectly good rail line.

The CEO of Aurizon was on over \$6 million a year, but Aurizon still cut 60 jobs and has given away hundreds of thousands of tonnes, because it is just not interested in the business. That business is still there. Glencore, Incitec, Pivot and Sun Metals zinc are also responsible, because they are all putting goods on the roads. Queensland Rail and the government are also responsible. They are a very big stakeholder, as is Aurizon. There are three parties that need to sort out the situation.

I do not want to see deaths on the road. I do not want to come back into this place after there has been a death on the road caused by someone trying to overtake a triple road train. I do not want to see tourist numbers down throughout the north-west into the Northern Territory because tourists are scared to drive along the road because of these road trains. There is plenty of capacity on the rail line. The ore should be placed back on the rail and off the road.

School Nurses

 **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) (2.51 pm): Three weeks ago I was delighted to attend Loganholme State School, where I met with prep students Aalihay, Flynn and Catorina, who were very excited to introduce me to nurse Sarah, a nurse who was visiting their school as part of the Palaszczuk government's reintroduction of the school nurse program. I heard from nurse Sarah that all prep students at Loganholme State School would undergo vision testing so that they could pick up any conditions that may hinder the life and learning of our schoolchildren. I can report to the House that, after the testing at Loganholme State School, 10 children in prep were identified as having vision impairment, six being referred to an optometrist and four of them with impairment so significant that they were referred to Lady Cilento Children's Hospital for further specialised help.

The fact that after just one screening of prep students in a school in my electorate 10 children were flagged as having vision impairment shows how vital this program is and how it has the power to change children's lives for the better. Queensland kids should not be held back from learning because of conditions that, in many cases, can be fixed easily and quickly. Our school nurses can fix vision impairment in children when otherwise they would struggle to read because they are too shy to tell someone that they may have a problem. Early detection changes the course of a child's life. This \$14 million investment will change children's lives and learning for the better—not just in my local electorate but right across the state.

I know that parents in the Waterford electorate are relieved that we reintroduced this vital program, especially those parents of the 10 children at Loganholme State School, who now know that their children are learning on the same level as others, thanks to the quick, pain-free test that nurse Sarah conducted. Finally, I want to thank the health minister, Cameron Dick, and the education minister, Kate Jones, for delivering on this election commitment and making sure that schoolkids right across the state, no matter their postcode, have the best start in life. I am so proud of this wonderful Labor initiative.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Before I call the member for Callide, I inform members that we have a photographer in the chamber taking photos.

Member for Callide

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (2.54 pm): Many members have already commented on the fact that it has been a long time since they have seen me read a speech. The reason for that will become evident.

The recent redistribution has produced a number of surprises. Like many commentators, I have been surprised to see the electorate of Callide made bigger and better than it previously was, taking in a range of new towns such as Miles, Chinchilla, Jandowae and Calliope. I have been honoured to represent the interests of country towns and the country people of Central Queensland in this parliament for almost 20 years. However, as every member of this parliament who represents a regional seat

knows full well, representing a large and diversified part of regional Queensland requires a huge commitment of time and travel. Being away from home, driving 100,000 kilometres a year and working every weekend has been an accepted part of life for me and my long-suffering wife, Therese.

I believe that the expansion of the Callide electorate presents an appropriate time for me to consider a change of role and to allow one of the many young capable LNP people living in the new electorate to come forward and take over my current role in this House. Therefore, today I inform the parliament that I will not be seeking re-election at the next state election. Instead, I will be seeking to live a more normal life and pursue some opportunities that are available to me in the corporate world that may allow me to continue to make a contribution to the state of Queensland.

Hopefully, pursuing a more normal life will also allow me to aspire to be the best grandad in the world for Olivia, who is two years old, Theo, who is two months old, and Ivy, who is two weeks old. It will certainly allow me to give them more time and attention in the next 20 years that I have been able to give my own kids, Dan, Helen and Tom, in the past 20 years that I have been the member for Callide.

Until the next election, I will continue to do everything in my power to support and assist the opposition leader, Tim Nicholls, who has long since disproved the rule that you cannot have friends in politics. I have been lucky enough to experience the highs and lows of this place with the greatest mate I have ever known by my side. I will continue to ensure that there is a strong and forceful voice in this parliament for country towns and country people until the next election and there will be time enough for valedictory speeches when that is called.

Member for Callide; Mackay Electorate, Event Tourism

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.57 pm): I would like to pay tribute to the member for Callide for his contribution to the House. It would not be a surprise to anybody to know that he has many differences with this side of the House, but I think it is important that we pay tribute to the contribution that he has made and wish him all the best in his new life as grandad Jeff.

I would like to talk about tourism in North Queensland. Tourism in my area is alive and well. The Palaszczuk Labor government is doing a lot to support tourism in my area. It is vital that we see events such as Sir Elton John coming to Mackay in September for one of his two regional shows. Sir Elton John's tour is expected to bring \$7.5 million of visitor spending to the Queensland economy. This is a boost for local hotels, motels, restaurants and cafes. When Mackay turns on a big event, thousands of people from Central Queensland travel to Mackay. It is expected that there will be a minimum of 13,000 people at the concert. Mackay residents are excited about the concert. Whether people are an Elton John fan or not, we know that this is going to be good for the Mackay economy.

Last week, Mackay also hosted the AFL JLT Community Series game between the Gold Coast Suns and the Essendon Bombers—an event supported by TEQ's Its Live! in Queensland program. Four thousand tickets were presold with an additional 1,000 tickets sold on the day. The game was broadcast on Fox Sports.

The Palaszczuk government recognises the economic and social value of bringing events to the regions. Last year, Mackay also hosted the cricket Quad Series one day match of Australia v India and some qualifying matches with South Africa.

Events like these cannot happen without the support of government ensuring that the regions have quality facilities. The member for Whitsunday must have missed the Cowboys playing in Mackay a couple of weekends ago. The Mackay Cricket Association has completed a \$1.5 million upgrade of facilities that was possible with a Get Going Clubs grant of over \$734,000 from the state government. This meant that the club has been able to upgrade their coaching boxes, female dressing rooms, lighting and oval 3. Grants to the Mackay Netball Association of over \$600,000 to double the number of courts that it has and renew the existing courts will allow it to have state and regional competitions in our city.

STATE PENALTIES ENFORCEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (3.00 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994 and the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, and to amend the legislation mentioned in schedule 1, for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2017 [349].

Tabled paper: State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [350].

The Palaszczuk government is committed to improving the management of penalty debt in Queensland. The State Penalties Enforcement Registry, SPER, was established in 2000 to collect unpaid penalty debts. Since SPER's establishment there have been major changes to its operating environment and new approaches to penalty debt management. SPER currently administers debts totalling more than \$1.17 billion. This debt level that was inherited by this government was made worse by the former treasurer's decision to automatically refer all road toll fines to SPER. This was part of an effort by the then treasurer to fatten up SPER for potential outsourcing or privatisation. It was a move that reeked of the former treasurer's disastrous Strong Choices asset sales plan.

The impacts of the changes made by the former treasurer and now opposition leader were dramatic. Tolling debts registered with SPER in the first eight months of the 2014-15 financial year totalled \$92.3 million—more than triple the 2013-14 levels. Tolling debts now stand at a total of more than \$232 million. Provisions in the bill will modernise the management of penalty debt from unpaid fines or tolls with the aim of stopping large debts accumulating, introducing new options to address large debts when they do occur and lessening pressure on the SPER system and allowing it to do its job of collecting fines. Our aim is to reduce the overall SPER debt. The best way to do that, of course, is to stem the incidence of offences or ensure fines are paid on time in the first instance.

This government is implementing a new service model to enable SPER to move to a contemporary risk-based approach to debt management and recovery to ensure that SPER remains responsive to government and community needs. The new model involves moving from a one-size-fits-all debt recovery model to a contemporary risk-based approach that uses targeted strategies to enable effective debtor case management. This approach will be supported by the previously announced replacement of SPER's ageing ICT system with a Software as a Service, SaaS, solution that will be implemented in a staged approach from the second half of this year. SPER's original operating model was based on the assumption that single debts would be repaid quickly. As this has not been the experience, SPER needs more flexibility. It needs to treat 'won't pay' customers differently to those experiencing genuine hardship and at the same time make it easier for customers who are willing and able to meet their obligations.

This government acknowledges there are some in the community who are in genuine hardship and cannot pay their debts. For many of these people, the requirement to pay SPER debts compounds existing long-term hardships. Currently, there are limited non-monetary finalisation options available. This bill will establish a work and development order scheme to provide Queenslanders experiencing genuine hardship with an expansive range of non-monetary options to reduce or pay off their SPER debt. The bill provides scheme eligibility criteria, including individuals experiencing domestic and family violence, homelessness, a substance use disorder and financial hardship. Government and community based providers that already deliver support to these individuals will be approved sponsors that manage individuals' scheme participation. Approved sponsors will assess a person's eligibility for a work and development order, develop treatment plans and supervise participants' activities which can include unpaid community work, drug and alcohol treatment and undertaking financial or other counselling among other options. Queenslanders in genuine hardship will be able to access the work and development order scheme in the second half of 2017.

Fees play a valuable role in safeguarding the integrity of fines as a viable sanction. By imposing a further financial cost at key points in the debt management process, fees incentivise debtor behaviour and early payment. The bill includes a streamlined and more equitable SPER fee structure by providing that as an enforcement action is taken by SPER a fee is added to the debtor's overall balance rather than to each debt. Fees will also be applied consistently across all SPER debts and enforcement activities. The bill also removes the administrative complexity associated with current arrangements for agencies that are entitled to retain the proceeds of fines and provides these agencies with greater certainty about the cost of using SPER's services.

As I have noted, when SPER's legislation was established, it was framed to manage individual penalties on the assumption that individuals would have one or two debts at any one time. However, this has not been the case. Today many individuals have multiple debts referred to SPER and continue to offend over extended periods so that management of individual penalties is impractical. SPER's new service model will take a case management approach using a person's payment, compliance and enforcement history with SPER and their current circumstances to determine an appropriate collection strategy, rather than just managing the payment of their individual debts. The bill enables this case management approach to be implemented by introducing case level payment plans with conditions that are largely determined by a person's previous interactions with SPER and requiring debtors to discharge their debt at a case level in order to lift enforcement action.

This government believes there is significant scope to improve accountability and performance for penalty debt management. The management of penalty debt is not simply about SPER. It is also about the effectiveness of fine-issuing agencies. This is why the government is undertaking an integrated whole-of-government approach to improve penalty debt management. The collective performance of penalty debt management depends on accurate information being available 'end to end' among the agencies involved in imposing and collecting penalties. Accordingly, this bill provides for an information-sharing regime which will authorise SPER and government agencies prescribed by regulation to share relevant information for the specific purposes provided for in the bill. Benefits include an enhanced ability to find and locate debtors to achieve improved debt recovery.

People issued with infringements will also benefit by having the maximum opportunity to receive correspondence to comply with their payment obligations, reducing the occurrence of disputes about non-receipt of correspondence and having appropriate debt treatment strategies applied. The bill expands the ways that people can be contacted. As well as residential addresses, it will allow documents to be sent to postal addresses—this means that people who have post boxes will get their penalty infringement notices and other correspondence sooner—and email addresses, with the consent of the person, so they can act more quickly. The changes are designed to reach people through the best available channels and encourage them to act. This should reduce the number of disputes about not receiving notices and generally give people more time to respond to notices.

The bill streamlines the disputes process for penalty debts by providing for different review processes if a dispute relates to non-receipt or late receipt of, or inability to respond to, certain correspondence. It will streamline the existing approach to disputes management for debtors who must currently engage with both SPER and administering authorities to resolve simple disputes about not receiving or being unable to act on a penalty infringement notice. The bill provides for decisions about those matters to be determined by the administering authority. This will improve government efficiency.

For repeat defaulters who do not pay their SPER debt, this government is getting tougher. The bill includes amendments to assist SPER's enforcement functions. The bill provides that vehicles can be immobilised for up to 14 days—up from the current five days—which will allow maximum opportunity for debtors to pay their debt before further enforcement action, such as vehicle seizure and sale, occurs. The bill also provides for the issue of a fine collection notice for the payment of a single amount from accounts held by a debtor with a financial institution. Garnishing an amount from a debtor's financial institution account will be consistent with the practices of the Australian Taxation Office and other Australian enforcement agencies. Wages garnishment as an enforcement action will also be enhanced. To assist with modernisation of the act and the approach to penalty debt management, the bill also provides for technical changes, including the service of documents by electronic means and to postal addresses. This legislation provides the foundation for our state to modernise and enhance its penalty debt management approach. I commend this bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (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 Finance and Administration Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (3.09 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Finance and Administration Committee report to the House on the State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Bill by 28 April 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 14 February (see p. 56), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (3.09 pm): In rising to speak to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, I take a moment to reflect on the statement made a few minutes ago by the member for Callide, announcing that he will not be contesting the next election. The member for Callide has been a large figure in conservative politics in Queensland for the past 20-odd years. I put on the record my gratitude to him for the role he played in the term of government between 2012 and 2015. In particular, I mention the reforms that were driven by him, the member for Hinchinbrook and the then premier in the gas sector, particularly the creation of the GasFields Commission as a device to rebalance the ledger between landholders and gas companies.

I also mention the strong position that he took, at my urging and with the support of the member for Hinchinbrook and the former premier, to stop the expansion of the coal seam gas industry in the Scenic Rim. I know that he stood very strong in the face of a lot of opposition from the industry and maintained that position. It is something that my electorate and I are very grateful for. We made a call that our country people and our country towns were not the right place for the coal seam gas industry and the member for Callide stood shoulder to shoulder with us in that decision, the whole way. Therefore, I pay tribute to him. We will miss him in this place.

The Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is the saga of the lockout laws. That saga reflects everything that this government has touched: it destroys confidence, if it makes a decision it makes the wrong decision and it fails to have any real conviction or backbone. The lockout law backflip reminds me of the time when Kevin Rudd stood up and said that climate change was the greatest moral challenge of our time. He extolled the carbon tax or the emissions trading scheme, as those on the left and the greens like to call it because they do not like to admit that it is actually a tax, as the ultimate way to save the world. Of course, it was not and several months later then prime minister Kevin Rudd dumped the ETS in a fit of panic about an electoral backlash.

Similarly, about a year ago in a second reading speech, the Attorney-General and member for Redcliffe said words to the effect that in nine years in federal and state parliaments she had never seen a bill, a big portion of which was about lockouts, backed up by so much research. We were told that paper after paper supported the case for their package, including lockouts, and that we had to have lockouts. They said that the evidence was in and that the research backed it up. However, the government is now repealing the lockout laws that, just 12 months ago, they professed were such an important thing to do, backed up by research.

An opposition member: An inconvenient truth.

Mr KRAUSE: We support the repeal, but we never wanted the lockouts in the first place. We have consistently opposed that element of the law, because we knew that the evidence does not support them. We knew that the industry did want them and did not need them. We knew that a one-size-fits-all approach to managing entertainment precincts was not the way to go. We listened to precincts such as that in Cairns, which had successfully managed its own affairs in entertainment precincts for many years. They told us that it would be job destroying.

Mr Costigan: That came from the Labor councillor, Richie Bates.

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection. When we had a committee hearing in Cairns just over 12 months ago, not a single witness came to support the government, because everyone knew that it was not the right approach to take. While I am sure that many people welcome the lockout repeal, such as the Cairns safe night precinct group, why did not the government listen and save everyone the past 12 months of uncertainty, along with the waste of time, money and investment possibilities? I feel sorry for the businesses that have been affected by this. I feel sorry for the employees who have lost hours. We have heard from Cairns and other places that people have lost hours. We hear a lot from members opposite about people losing income, but we did not hear much from them when people were losing income because they were shutting down businesses. We did not hear that then.

As an honourable member just said, there is an inconvenient truth, which is that lockouts were never ever backed by research, but they had made an election commitment. Do members know who else I also feel sorry for? I feel sorry for the member for Stafford because, whilst some of his colleagues might be pretty good at performing backflips, he comes from a different profession and I am not sure

that he is very good at backflips. He has been looking very uncomfortable and sheepish about the decision being taken today, because he came into this place for lockouts. He has been done over. I also feel sorry for Professor Najman from the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol. In January 2014, Professor Najman stood with the current Premier and said that lockouts are the way to go and she said, 'That's what we are going to do'. He has been done over, too. I feel sorry for him. He has been made to look like a fool. Twelve months ago members opposite said that his research was the way to go and they have just repudiated him. One has to feel sorry for Professor Najman. The government has walked away from its election commitment. It is simply flapping in the wind. It is not truly committed to anything other than its own retention of power and its dithering backflip on this issue shows that.

There are a number of issues that I want to touch on in this debate, one of which is the changes to the temporary extended hours permits. From certain members of the government we have heard a lot about how businesses have been rotting this system. That is a load of rubbish. The government legislated a system for people to extend their trading hours. Licensees made application to the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to extend their trading hours. The OLGR approved that extension of trading hours, yet somehow that is a rot by business. That is complete bunkum. We need to put that on the record, because people are entitled to run their business in accordance with the law, which is exactly what they have done. The law might have been wrongly framed, but that is the fault of the government and not business. We see this all the time: no-one in the government ever takes responsibility for the stuff-ups that they cause in office.

We will be opposing the proposal to reduce the number of permits from 12 to six, particularly because it is retrospective. As the member for Kawana said yesterday, even though this bill has been introduced and we are now debating its second reading, the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation is still approving extended permits. Who is running the government? Clearly the Attorney-General is not getting the message through to the OLGR, because they are still doing something that she is about to abolish. From start to finish the saga of the lockout laws has been a shambles that will continue into the future, as there are other elements of the liquor legislation introduced last year that still have hairs on it. I am referring in particular to the ban on rapid intoxication drinks and the very blurry lines that have been drawn around exemptions to that ban.

I want to highlight the huge hypocrisy and backflip of the government on a couple of other issues. Throughout the debate, we have said that lockouts would put people in danger, particularly young women. A woman who is separated from friends or family and is unable to re-enter a licensed premises could be placed in danger as a result of a lockout. This concern was highlighted by the Premier. She picked up on this concern in the media earlier this year. It was printed in the *Courier-Mail*, I believe. Yet, we have been making this case for 12 months. In November I stood in this place—in fact, in the member for Chatsworth's seat—in a debate on a motion and said that this was one of the reasons the lockout laws needed to be repealed. Those opposite still voted in that debate to keep them. What has changed now?

Dr Lynham: The evidence of a six-month trial; that is what changed.

Mr KRAUSE: All that has changed is that the member for Brisbane Central and a couple of other members are getting cold feet about the electoral backlash that could be coming their way because of their poorly thought out, ill-conceived and, frankly, disastrously implemented policy.

Mr Minnikin: Flawed.

Mr KRAUSE: Flawed indeed, member for Chatsworth. It is a very flawed policy.

Dr Lynham interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: I take the member for Stafford's interjection. There is years of research from Professor Najman that those opposite held up as the gospel truth. They are repudiating it. They are withdrawing the lockouts. They are repudiating it.

The opposition has had a consistent policy in this sphere. We implemented the safe night precinct when we were in government. That is one of the reasons, in places like Cairns, Fortitude Valley and other precincts around the state, the incidence of violence and disorderly conduct has been managed in a good way. The irony is not lost on any of us that with this repeal of the lockouts today the Labor Party's policy in the liquor licensing field is almost exactly the same as that of the LNP. It has just taken them 2½ or maybe three years to come around. They have cost hundreds of jobs and thousands and thousands of dollars of lost income for businesses and lost opportunities. They have finally come around to the point where we were 2½ years ago.

I support the repeal of the lockout laws. There are other elements that we do not support. Finally, like the no-body no-parole policy that the police minister is implementing and like the dob-in-a-dealer strategy that the police minister is implementing, it is great to see the Labor Party adopting another LNP policy.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.21 pm): As I follow my colleague from Beaudesert, I, too, would like to make a very short statement about the news we just heard from the honourable member for Callide. I would like to acknowledge the contribution of Jeff Seeney MP—a true conservative warrior and a very strong advocate for the people of Callide and rural Queensland. This place will not be the same without him, but I am sure he will make his mark somewhere else.

I rise to contribute to the debate on the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee that was handed responsibility for this bill. On 14 February this year the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills introduced the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 to the House and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee was required to report back by 24 February this year—a time line of just 10 days.

Stakeholders were invited to make written submissions to this inquiry the day after the bill's introduction and were given less than three days to put together and send their views as the time line for submissions closed on 17 February. Despite the compressed time period, our committee received 25 submissions from stakeholders with many remarking on the brevity of the time frame. A public hearing was held at equally short notice on 22 February here at Parliament House.

Government members can, and no doubt will, bang on all they like about the LNP agreeing to the schedule of proceedings for this bill's time line, but, as they well known, there was not much choice due to the Palaszczuk government's ongoing incompetence to manage the affairs of Queensland and formulate good legislation. Labor has actually backflipped on their own election promise, not to mention their promise to the honourable member for Stafford, Dr Anthony Lynham.

Our committee is used to heavy workloads, but the extremely truncated time line the Palaszczuk government forced upon us and the secretariat staff for this bill to be investigated was disgraceful, especially considering the whole scenario could have been avoided if Labor had listened to stakeholders in the first place. Instead, they blindly pushed through legislation that was poorly drafted, overly complex and caused untold angst and uncertainty to thousands of Queenslanders who work in hospitality and entertainment industries.

I commend the committee secretariat for pulling out all stops to accommodate the unreasonable time lines demanded by the Palaszczuk government and for keeping committee members regularly informed of activities and progress. I also acknowledge the efforts of our chair and other committee members as we tried to bring our deliberations to a close in such a short period. I thank the witnesses and submitters for being amenable at short notice.

Labor had precious little legislation on the *Notice Paper* to fill our first sitting week of the year, with the House adjourning at unusually early hours. Yet now, due to poor planning, we are seeing bills rushed through with only 10 days from introduction to being reported on by a committee and then coming back into the House for debate.

To add further intrigue to the reasons we are debating this Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, we are told that the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016, the TAFV act, contained a section that provided for an independent review of the changes introduced by this act. This was undertaken by the Institute for Social Science Research with an interim evaluation report delivered in January this year.

This report noted that there has not been a single weekend night where all venues in the Fortitude Valley precinct have ceased the service of alcohol at 3 am since 1 July 2016. Further, the report concluded that the current research evidence suggests that the introduction of a lockout is not likely to significantly change current trends in relation to assault and injury. No surprises here: the report endorsed the use of ID scanning and banning orders as harm minimisation measures. The LNP already knew this and made these recommendations in our safe night out legislation but Labor ignored them.

Why were these changes not ironed out beforehand by listening to those in the industry? Instead we got flawed legislation from a flawed government. As the legal affairs committee report No. 48 of the 55th Parliament indicates, the committee agreed this bill should be passed. We did, however, have some reservations which I shall mention later on in this speech.

The bill's objective is to address the findings of the interim evaluation report on the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 by making the following amendments: repealing the lockout; repealing the 3 am safe night precincts model; winding back trading hours for licensees removed from an SNP due to a boundary change; tightening the temporary late-night extended hours permit regime; and extending the banning order sentencing regime to prescribed drug offences. The bill also proposes to clarify that licensees of regulated premises with approved regular extended trading hours beyond midnight must continue to scan patron IDs if serving liquor beyond their usual hours under a temporary late-night extended hours permit.

The TAFV act was born at the behest of Labor MP Dr Anthony Lynham who gave a number of impassioned speeches pleading for what was known as the lockout legislation to be honoured as a Labor election promise. It was, or so we thought. I spoke on the TAFV bill on 17 February last year and pointed out recommendation No. 1 which highlighted the need for more data. Now we have an interim report that supports that recommendation and shows there has been no significant change in injury presentations at emergency departments and that there have been downward trends even in circumstances where the lockouts were never enforced.

Where was the honourable member for Stafford when this bill was being drafted? What has he had to say about his baby being thrown out with the bathwater? He lamented in a media interview, as we have heard, 'I am not commenting. It is not my portfolio.' Honourable members, I have been in this place for a long time and I have seen a lot of backflips, but rarely one as spectacular as this.

Honourable members have heard the illuminating speech from the shadow minister, the honourable member for Kawana, which exposed the farce that was the TAFV bill. All of a sudden the Palaszczuk government has decided that that bill should be given the flick yet 12 months ago it was hand on heart and searching one's conscience to push through lockouts laws.

However, I must say that I could not help but feel some real empathy for Professor Jake Najman, the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol and the Foundation for Alcohol Research & Education. They were all taken along for a ride by this Labor government that was more than happy to trot them out for media appearances when it suited them. These advocates clearly felt a sense of betrayal as they stated they were not consulted on the bill we have before us. Our committee's report states—

Although the explanatory notes do not indicate that there was any consultation on the Bill before the committee, they advise that in drafting amendments to the Liquor Act and Liquor Regulation, the Attorney-General met with a range of stakeholders during 2015 and 2016 ...

But not 2017. It seems some prominent stakeholders are not impressed that they were not considered important enough or relevant enough to be included in this latest legislation. The honourable member for Pine Rivers asked the following of a witness Mr Brown, Chair of the Newcastle Community Drug Action Team—

Mr Brown, some people comment that lockouts or one-way-door policies may place young women at risk if they are intoxicated and become separated from their group of friends. They may arrive at a venue or step out of a venue after a one-way-door policy applies. Do you have any views or evidence on whether that has happened in Newcastle?

Remember that Newcastle was part of the basis for that first bill. Mr Brown replied—

In relation to women, there is no evidence that it has negatively impacted upon women at all.

I do note the comments from my colleague the member for Beaudesert about women at risk, but I wonder if the Premier now stands by her comments? They were not supported by Mr Brown and they were not supported by other witnesses at last week's public hearing, so where did she get them from?

The non-government members' statement of reservation refers to the anguish, pain and job losses the ill-thought-out Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 caused. I asked several witnesses at the public hearing if they had seen any negative effects of the lockout on jobs and business, as well as harm minimisation. Mr Trent Meade from the Fortitude Valley Safe Night Precinct replied—

... I do own two venues in Fortitude Valley. Certainly since the reduction of trading hours from 5 am to 3 am we have seen a double-digit reduction in our bar turnover and we have had to look at other means to make up that revenue. Certainly there have been job losses in that period of time because we cannot sell our primary product after 3 am.

When asked to quantify any of that, Mr Meade replied—

Early in the piece there were 15 to 20 per cent reductions in jobs during that period, from the reduction of trading hours from five to three.

Later in the hearing Mr Nick Braban from Our Nightlife said—

It has been a tough period for the industry, without a doubt. Having a 1 am lockout occurring in the future has significantly reduced investment and activity within not only Fortitude Valley but also our other entertainment precincts across the state. Investments have not been made in things such as booking big musical acts, renovating premises, hiring new staff and spending money on things such as marketing, because people were concerned about what the future held.

When asked about impacts and confusion that have been created by Labor's lockout policy, other witnesses had no shortage of answers. Ms Melynda Robinson from the Safe Night Broadbeach CBD Precinct told us—

There have been a lot of legislation changes. It is very, very confusing for licensees, for patrons and for the entertainment industry. It seems unfair that the casino has been monopolised in that this legislation does not apply to them ... It is really, really hurting local businesses. All of our licensees have seen a huge downturn in trade.

Mr John Lynch from the Safe Night Cairns CBD Precinct reported—

The 1 am lockout has caused huge division amongst the licensees in Cairns. On the one hand, you have the licensees who thought the 1 am lockout would involve their patrons leaving to other venues of larger size and more popularity and therefore rendering those two hours basically useless for them and basically foreclosing their business ...

Secondly, I would like to say that since the introduction of the 3 am cessation and no lockout, we have had no incidents where we have had distressed people out on the street. Being a tourist town, it is almost abhorrent to stand there on a door on the coalface and flat-out refuse someone entry who has just accidentally walked outside and is not aware of the rules. If it is two minutes past one and their friends are inside and have their keys, their wallet and everything, we have to stand there blank faced and almost act rude to them, even though they are not intoxicated ... It is a really poor look for Queensland and a really poor look for Australia, especially from the tourist point of view ...

Mr Damian Steele from the Queensland Hotels Association likened the reaction to the lockouts as 'death by a thousand cuts' and there were 'constant changes and confusion put in with the many different measures'. He went on to say that it was an 'extremely divisive process'. He said—

We attended many of those SNP meetings as observers when they were going through these deliberations and not once did I hear the word 'safety' mentioned, and that should be the objective of the act and these changes.

The bill before us proposes to make changes to the temporary late-night extended hours permit regime. Currently, the Liquor Act provides that a licensee may apply for an extended hours permit to temporarily extend liquor trading hours on a particular day from between midnight and 5 am. The commissioner may issue a maximum of 12 temporary late-night extended hours permits, for a particular licensed premises, within a one-year period.

There are a number of aspects and detailed conditions which make up these changes but, in essence, the proposals restrict the frequency in respect of which temporary late-night extended hours permits can be issued from 12 permits to six per calendar year; restrict the issue of permits to no more than one permit per month; provide that permits can only be issued for special events, such as weddings or private functions; and provide that permits cannot be issued for consecutive days or multiple times in a month unless the permit relates to a single special occasion that occurs over multiple days.

Non-government members do not support the changes to the one-off temporary extended trading hours permits as they are retrospective and complicate the process far more than it needs to be. It is almost as though the Labor government want to punish this industry out of spite for having a win with amendments to sections of the 2016 legislation that would see the repeal of the lockout and the 3 am safe night precinct model.

Whilst the scaling back of these extended trading hours permits from 12 to six in some locations is not of concern, to those in Rockhampton and on the Gold Coast the one event a month ruling was not popular or considered to be properly thought through. Mr Matthew Jones, Director of Liquor and Gaming Specialists and Secretary of the Brisbane CBD Safe Night Precinct Board, told a public hearing—

We had 100-odd 5 am traders in the state, and for the period that they had 5 am trading they had never even heard of an extended hours permit ... We have created this weird dynamic now where the hours have come back to three, yet that whole group of licensees are now saying, 'Hang on. We can have 12 a year of these permits.

He continues—

Making it six per year and subjecting it to a whole bunch of odd rules and doing it in what appears to have been a fairly rushed fashion is not really a good thing for the industry.

Queensland is a vast, decentralised state with competing interests according to specific regions. Far North Queensland destinations like Cairns rely heavily on tourism from Asia—these visitors like to watch major events involving their own countries that may be played in time zones that are different to Queensland.

Numerous witnesses and submitters took offence to the suggestion by this incompetent Labor government and others that they were 'gaming the system' with regard to extended trading hours permits. Submitters views were mixed here and little wonder—as the LNP have said all along, the TAFV legislation was so complicated and had so many bits and pieces to it that many people simply could not understand it. Yet the OLGR made the determinations as to who could hold what extended trading hours permit events and now the Labor government want to reduce them. Are they saying they do not trust decisions made by their own liquor officers?

Mr Bernie Hogan, Chief Executive of the Queensland Hotels Association, stated that his organisation cannot support the reduction in extended trading hours permits from 12 to six per calendar year, saying—

... the report acknowledged there was limited data, that it was too early to make any conclusions and subsequently made no formal recommendations, yet this is the data being relied upon to reduce the number of available extended trading hour permits not just in the SNPs but across the entire state.

QHA also had concerns with the inequity between licensed premises within an SNP where some are exempt from scanning and some are not. The example of a restaurant next to a commercial hotel was given.

Another amendment relating to winding back trading hours for licensees removed from an SNP due to a boundary change created comment from CCIQ. The bill proposes to make a technical amendment to ensure that licensed premises that are no longer located within an SNP as a result of a future boundary change will have their liquor service hours automatically wound back to 2 am. CCIQ said—

CCIQ strongly recommends that any changes to the SNP boundaries must not take place until extensive consultation with the affected businesses (both those who remain inside the SNP and those to be excluded) and for adequate justification to be provided to the public as to why the changes are proposed.

Similarly, the Broadbeach SNP did not support the proposal. They stated—

There is not enough information regarding the proposed changes to boundaries of the SNP. It is unjust to change boundaries of a precincts without consultation and forcibly remove extended trading hours from premises that are currently licensed with regular extended trading hours.

The honourable member for Pine Rivers revealed one of the great divides between Labor and the LNP when she suggested that the need to have two dedicated staff members to operate and enforce ID scanners was job creation. Mr Steele from the Queensland Hotels Association replied that he saw it more as 'cost creation' for business with ongoing wages, not job creation. Labor just do not get small business. I listened to the speech of the honourable member for Pine Rivers and I am disappointed that she is not here, because her rant about the non-government members' statement of reservation—which includes me—exposed her glass jaw and wasted literally half of her speech. If the member for Pine Rivers thinks that her government should not be reminded of the pain and the suffering—

Mrs LAUGA: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I understand that it is common courtesy in the House to not reflect on a member's absence.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Currumbin, could you not refer to members who are not in the House.

Mrs STUCKEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I am responding to what was said about me in my absence. In regard to our statement of reservation, if the honourable member thinks that her government should not be reminded of the pain and suffering they caused an entire industry then she is not only delusional but also lacking in compassion, as is obviously the member for Keppel, who is grinning away over there.

The honourable member said that she had never seen a statement of reservation in a committee report with so much vitriol. Could I suggest that she look at the chair's foreword in report No. 42 from this committee? It might not be a statement of reservation but it is full of vitriol towards innocent witnesses at a public hearing by the former chair. However, it was the response from Professor Najman that exposed this government's political pointscoring at the expense of good industry and stakeholder consultation when my colleague the honourable member for Beaudesert asked him whether the TAFV legislation implemented by the Labor government was very poor legislation in that it did not give enough clarity as to the regulations and the guidelines for the permits. Professor Najman's final responses were—

I do not think there is any question that the legislation has not achieved the desired end.

...

There is no question that it has not worked.

The LNP's safe night strategy was just that: a safe night strategy and it was working. We know because we consulted with the industry and now this Labor government is implementing much of it. It is such a pity that they put so many people through so much pain and cost so many jobs. From the comments I am hearing while I am speaking, the Labor members really do not care about jobs as they profess to. They do not care about small business. The LNP supports this legislation because we do not support lockouts.

Mrs Lauga interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: I want to put on record just how rude the member for Keppel has been throughout this speech. I hope that people in her electorate realise—

Mrs LAUGA: Mr Deputy Speaker, there have been a number of occasions on which I have taken offence and I have not raised a point of order, but I will now. I rise to a point of order. I take offence to that comment and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mrs STUCKEY: I withdraw.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (3.42 pm): I rise to speak on what is essentially the repeal of the lockout laws. In preparing for what I wanted to speak about this afternoon, I had a look at *Hansard* and my speech back on 17 February 2016 when we first had this debate. I must admit that I am incredibly amazed at my insight. The things that I predicted on 17 February 2016 have come to fruition. The lockout laws were never, ever going to work. They were a complicated mess of laws which confused people. They were wrong practically as they were wrong in principle.

I was always against these lockout laws. As a father of four children who are at the age where they are going to nightclubs, of course I am concerned about their safety. However, I disagree strongly with any laws that punish the 99.9 per cent of people who do the right thing because of the 0.1 per cent of idiots who do the wrong thing. It is wrong in principle. Prohibition has never worked anywhere in the world over previous generations and decades. It has never worked and it was never going to work this time.

These laws are totally impractical. We talked about the 12 exemptions. As I said in my speech at the time, if every licensed premises in a safe night precinct were given 12 exemptions a year, of course it would lead to these organisations being open systematically and taking turns right throughout the year. We would be faced with a situation where you would walk through town and not know whether one place was under lockout tonight or whether another place was. The casino did not come under the lockout laws. It was confusing and unworkable.

When the LNP government was in power we had this under control. Some of our ideas included ID scanners—which have now been adopted by the government—extra policing, sin bins for those who are drunk and extra chaplaincy services. Our holistic approach to tackling alcohol fuelled violence was working. The only reason the government scrapped it was that it was an LNP idea.

It was inevitable that they would come back in here and make the changes that they have made. These are the people who on principle were saying that these laws were necessary and in a very sanctimonious way were criticising anybody who opposed the laws, making out that we were not concerned about alcohol fuelled violence. That absolutely got up my nose when they started saying that, because nothing could be further from the truth. Of course we want to tackle alcohol fuelled violence, but these laws were never going to work. We are always going to have idiots, unfortunately, who do the wrong thing and that is going to happen at all hours of the night. Just because the incidence of drink-driving increases between 3 am and 5 am in the morning does not mean that we ban people from driving cars. This is basically what the lockout laws were doing. It is the same principle. I do not want to speak much longer other than to put on the record that I told you so.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. Before I do so, I want to acknowledge the member for Callide, the Hon. Jeff Seeney, for his contribution to this parliament. He is certainly an outstanding Queenslander. He has made a significant and sustainable contribution not only to our party here on this side of the House but also to public life in Queensland.

The main policy objective of the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 as outlined is to address the findings of the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 interim evaluation report by making the following amendments which I will now discuss. What is before

the parliament today is a complete backflip on Labor's policy which was implemented last year by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I would like to take the House back to 18 February 2016 when Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk gave a ministerial statement on alcohol fuelled violence and said—

Queensland finally has laws in place which the evidence shows will reduce alcohol fuelled violence. I made a commitment while in opposition to implement laws that would keep Queenslanders safer. I am proud to say that as a government we have delivered those laws.

Today we are debating a repeal of lockouts, repealing the 3 am safe night precincts model, tightening the temporary late-night extended hours permit regime and extending the banning order sentencing regime to prescribe drug offences. Clearly, this is both a major policy backflip and a broken election commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government. There has been no obvious reduction in alcohol related assaults during the period of 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016 either in safe night precincts or across Queensland. The interim evaluation report also found that there has been no significant change in injury presentations at emergency departments during high alcohol consumption periods.

I would like to at this time revisit the LNP's Safe Night Out Strategy, which was a comprehensive plan to deal with both alcohol and drug related violence. This strategy aimed to change culture, to restore responsibility and respect, and to make it clear that antisocial behaviour would not be tolerated in and around Queensland nightspots. This was a \$44.5 million comprehensive strategy with 60 initiatives. As the then president of AMA Queensland, both I and AMA Queensland gave our full support to this evidence based strategy—that is, the Safe Night Out Strategy.

I will give some historical context. No one individual has a mandate on trying to reduce alcohol fuelled violence here in Queensland. As an addiction medicine specialist myself and having been a former member of the Queensland Mental Health Commission's Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council and a member of the Australasian Professional Society on Alcohol and other Drugs, I certainly know firsthand what can happen with excessive alcohol and/or drug consumption by individuals in our community and certainly the physical, psychological and social harms which can result. Back in 2012, 2013 and 2014 in various roles that I held with the Australian Medical Association, there were multiple meetings with representatives of various organisations interested in reducing alcohol related harms. These included meeting with representatives of various professional organisations, including the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine, the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, the Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine.

I have a lot of professional respect for the member for Stafford as a medical colleague. However, the member for Stafford's zealot-like approach to lockout laws and trading hours as being the single focus to reducing alcohol misuse and abuse is not serving and has not served the community well. It has failed to deal with a much broader whole-of-government strategy which needs to be designed and led, in my view, from the office of the Premier. This would deliver a truly translational outcome for the benefit of the entire community across Queensland. Such a strategy needs to be focused on all substance misuse—from alcohol to prescription drugs and synthetic drugs—and also focused on illicit drugs, including all amphetamine type stimulants, hallucinogens and even organic compounds. A balanced approach to all alcohol and drug issues with respect to demand reduction, community education, harm minimisation, cultural change and a realistic and sustainable supply mitigation strategy is certainly needed. The LNP's Safe Night Out Strategy was a terrific beginning in this regard and should have been given additional time to work.

Perhaps the member for Ferny Grove, the Hon. Mark Furner, should have researched this prior to his last contribution on this subject last year. Those who were in the parliament at the time will remember that this Safe Night Out Strategy was the result of widespread community consultation after the then Liberal National Party government conducted an online survey to find out Queenslanders' views about possible measures to manage alcohol and drug related violence. This survey attracted over 12,342 responses from a range of Queenslanders with diverse backgrounds.

We would not be examining further legislation now had the Premier listened to the evidence last year, rather than simply trying to grab a quick headline and putting out media spin. Today is an embarrassing backdown for the Palaszczuk Labor government and for many Labor members, in particular the member for Ferny Grove and the member for Stafford. There is also a lack of commentary in the public domain from the chair of the RACS Trauma Committee or even unionist Dr Tony Sara supporting Labor's backflip. I would be interested to know what the member for Stafford thinks about that.

The retrospectivity of the process for temporary one-off late-night extended hours permits is something that this side of the House cannot support. The Liberal National Party position has been and continues to be that the Safe Night Out Strategy should have been given a chance to work—in particular, since considerable time and community consultation had taken place. It was a comprehensive strategy that took a holistic approach to addressing the dual issues of alcohol and drug related violence. I would encourage all members to read the statement of reservation in the parliamentary committee report in relation to the legislation before us today.

I am sure today is the beginning of an ongoing process whereby various pieces of legislation passed by the Palaszczuk Labor government will need ongoing review and, in some cases, will have to be repealed. The Palaszczuk Labor government's liquor laws have been a shambles from start to finish. The Labor Party's hypocrisy on liquor laws is extraordinary. The only redeeming aspect today is that Labor is now endorsing and adopting the LNP's policy.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.55 pm): It was very interesting to hear the contribution from the member for Moggill in relation to this bill. He claimed he was going to put this bill into historical context, but I do not think even the self-confessed Nostradamus, the member for Everton, who we heard from earlier could have predicted that the member for Moggill would have missed some really important historical documents when it came to putting this bill into its historical context. I want to refer to those today because the member for Moggill talked about how important it is that we put this bill in its historical context. I do agree and there are a couple of matters I want to put on the record.

Firstly, there have been numerous gratuitous attacks on the member for Stafford and his position in relation to this issue. The fact of the matter is that the member for Stafford has been consistent on this issue from long before he was elected to this place. Unfortunately, when it comes to this issue in this House, it is definitely a tale of two doctors. I wish to quote from and table a media release dated 28 November 2013 from the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol. It states—

QCAA Chair, and renowned oral and maxillo-facial surgeon, Dr Anthony Lynham, says the Queensland Government must implement a comprehensive evidence-based plan to address alcohol related harms that target the heart of the problem, the excessive availability of alcohol.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 28 November 2013, by the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol titled 'New plan to reduce alcohol toll and save lives' [\[351\]](#).

The government's reforms have done just that. The member for Stafford has been consistent on this issue but, as I said, this is a tale of two doctors. I totally agree with the member for Moggill because these issues do have to be put in their historical context. I do not profess to have the Nostradamus-like powers of the member for Everton. I do not spend a lot of time reading my own speeches like the member for Everton. Obviously, the member for Moggill has spent a lot of time reading speeches from the member for Ferny Grove, but the member for Moggill should have read his own comments from back in 2014. I would like to quote from a press release entitled 'AMA Queensland backs calls for action on alcohol'. It states—

"Alcohol is an increasing problem in every sector of our society, it fuels dangerous and irresponsible behaviour that often leads to physical and emotional injury, violence and death," Dr Rowan said.

"The Queensland Opposition's announcement—

and this press release is from 2014 so this is talking about the Labor opposition's policy—

... this week of a comprehensive policy to reduce alcohol-related harms demonstrates a thoughtful approach to changing the way alcohol is managed in Queensland.

I table that press release.

Tabled paper: Media release, undated, by the Australian Medical Association Queensland titled 'AMA Queensland backs calls for action on alcohol' [\[352\]](#).

It is very interesting that the member for Moggill sought to put this issue in historical context but he forgot what he was doing when he was the president of AMA Queensland. He forgot that press release that he issued back in 2014. Maybe he needs the member for Everton to remind him and predict the future and have a think about what he should talk about.

It gets better. When the member for Moggill came into this place, I had some very high hopes for him. I am a big supporter of doctors. Doctors make a fantastic contribution in Queensland, in Australia and around the world. I respect the medical profession but it is true that, unfortunately, doctors do have quite a chequered record when it comes to LNP representation in the electorate of Moggill. When the member for Moggill was outside of this place, he was Dr Yes and he was backing the Labor position. Then he became a locum to the parliament and he became Dr No. I predict that if he continues to take

positions like this it will be a very short locum for the member for Moggill. There has been a lot of talk about backflips from those opposite. I am not going to accuse the member for Moggill of performing a backflip on this particular issue. I do not claim to have any medical qualifications, but I would posit that someone as spineless as the member for Moggill probably would not be capable of undertaking a backflip.

Dr ROWAN: I rise to a point of order. I find those comments personally offensive and I ask the member for Stretton to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Stretton, will you withdraw?

Mr PEGG: I withdraw. The fact of the matter is that no amount of suturing can repair the mess the member for Moggill has got himself into. I think the member for Moggill has a very serious problem here.

This bill has been introduced in response to the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 interim evaluation report. The six-month evaluation of the government's tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy found that in Fortitude Valley and safe night precincts across Queensland there had been no change to the existing trends in common assaults and serious assaults during the late-night high-risk liquor service period. This bill has been introduced in response to the issues raised in the interim report findings and enhances the government's response to tackling alcohol fuelled violence. The bill achieves this by retrospectively repealing the lockout and the 3 am SNP model. It builds on the Queensland government's commitment to an evidence based approach to addressing alcohol fuelled violence in Queensland.

The bill proposes to repeal the lockout retrospectively from 1 February 2017. Without a lockout in place, there remains no practical reason to distinguish between safe night precincts and 3 am safe night precincts in the manner originally contemplated by the policy. Accordingly, the bill will retrospectively repeal the 3 am SNP model from 1 February 2017. As a result, from this date the wind back of liquor service hours to 2 am in any SNP that was not declared as a 3 am SNP commenced. To ensure consistency in the treatment of SNP licensees, licensees with an existing approval to serve liquor until 3 am could continue to do so from 1 February 2017 until the commencement of this bill.

The bill also implements the use of ID scanners for licensed premises that operate beyond midnight and serve alcohol under an extended hours permit. This bill also addresses the issues identified by the interim report findings on temporary late-night extended hours permits. This government has listened to the latest research and we are strengthening our response to alcohol fuelled violence by addressing the issues identified around the use of temporary late-night extended hours permits. The independent report found that temporary late-night extended hours permits were being used to maintain 5 am 'business as usual' service of liquor on the weekends. Currently, section 103I(1) of the Liquor Act provides that a licensee may apply for an extended hours permit, which would temporarily extend liquor trading hours on a particular day to include trading between 12 am and 5 am. Section 103J(1) provides for a maximum of 12 temporary late-night extended hours permits, for a particular licensed premises, within a one-year period.

This bill increases the rigour around the granting of temporary late-night extended hours permits and makes certain clarifying amendments. The issuing frequency for temporary late-night extended hours permits will be restricted by halving the number of temporary late-night extended hours permits, from 12 to six in a calendar year.

To further ensure rigour around the granting of permits, the bill provides that the commissioner must not grant a temporary late-night extended hours permit relating to licensed premises if it would result in an extension of a licensee's liquor service hours on: more than one day in a calendar month; and two or more consecutive days unless it relates to a single special occasion that occurs over multiple days. The maximum number of permits will be applied retrospectively for the calendar year of 2017.

The bill also inserts criteria which the commissioner must have regard to when considering an application for a permit. It is intended that these arrangements will ensure that licensees will only be able to be granted a temporary late-night extended trading hours permit to coincide with a special occasion and not as part of 'business as usual' late-night trading. The implementation of these measures around the temporary late-night extended hours permits ensures that permits are being issued in a way that supports a safe environment in and around the licensed premises.

Alcohol and drug related harm in and around licensed premises is also addressed through amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992. The bill makes an amendment to the Penalties and Sentences Act to allow a sentencing court to impose a banning order on an offender convicted of

a prescribed drug offence where the offence was committed in, or in a public place in the vicinity of, licensed premises. The banning order may be imposed if the sentencing court is satisfied that the convicted offender poses an unacceptable risk to the safety, welfare and good order of licensed premises or to the people who attend those premises and areas.

The implementation of this bill aligns with the government's aim to promote a vibrant night-time economy throughout Queensland. This government is committed to evidence based policy. We have listened to the available evidence and a range of key stakeholders, including representatives from the liquor industry, business interest groups, non-government service providers, health associations and experts in the field of alcohol related violence. It is evident from this wideranging consultation and the evidence that these reforms are necessary to ensure balanced policymaking and to support a safe and vibrant night-life.

In conclusion, I want to pay tribute to the Attorney-General and the member for Stafford for their tremendous hard work on this particular bill and this issue, which is such an important one in our community. As the member for Currumbin touched on, I also want to thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for their work in consideration of the bill. A lot of work was done by the committee members and also the secretariat, and I thank them for that. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (4.06 pm): Here we are again fixing up another dog's breakfast created by this incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government. I want to start by congratulating the non-government members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, led by the deputy chair, the member for Coomera, for their statement of reservation in the committee report. Those LNP members on that committee have really laid it out very clearly in that statement for all other members.

The Palaszczuk government could have saved everyone a lot of time, money, concern and stress if they had listened to the hospitality industry and the LNP and left the evidence based Safe Night Out policy implemented by the previous government in place. The former LNP government rolled out the Safe Night Out Strategy in August 2014 and we remain committed to that policy. The Safe Night Out Strategy was praised by a number of people who submitted to, and appeared before, the committee during its consideration of this bill including Nick Braban from Our Nightlife Queensland. In response to a question he said—

The safe night strategy was a world-leading strategy, in our opinion, developed in partnership with all stakeholders. If that had been allowed to continue, we would be in a better place than we are in today. There is no doubt about that.

The Palaszczuk government overturned the former LNP government's Safe Night Out Strategy for political reasons—plain and simple. Its intervention in the legislative and regulatory framework which applies to the hospitality industry has been clumsy and unjustified and was done mostly to satisfy the personal crusade of just one of its number: the member for Stafford. In February last year every other Labor MP either stood back and watched the Attorney-General make a mess of the legislation and the regulations under which the hospitality industry operated or joined in the debate and helped her. All Labor MPs opposite are collectively responsible for this utter state of confusion, uncertainty and administrative chaos.

As I pointed out in previous debates on this issue, there are no safe night precincts in the Hinchinbrook electorate and there are very few nightclubs of any kind. However, I want to make a contribution to this debate on behalf of those two great North Queensland cities at either end of the Hinchinbrook electorate, Cairns and Townsville. I was amazed last year when the members for Barron River, Cairns—before he had his friendly chat with the Deputy Premier—Mulgrave, Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa blindly lined up behind Labor's politically motivated amendments in the face of shocking youth unemployment figures in the two cities that they are supposed to represent. The hospitality industry is one in which a lot of young people are employed on a full-time, part-time or casual basis in a variety of roles including food and beverage services, supervisory and management positions, security and entertainment.

This is just as true in a tourism city like Cairns and a university city like Townsville as it is in Brisbane or the Gold and Sunshine Coasts. The committee report refers again to Nick Braban from Our Night-Life Queensland, who indicated that lockouts had resulted in reduced investment in areas such as the booking of musical acts, hiring of staff, renovation of premises and marketing of events. We have all heard and read about the battle our young people have faced with lost jobs, lost hours on rosters and cancelled gigs. In particular, the group representing the hospitality industry in Townsville, Safe

Night Townsville CBD Precinct Inc, made detailed and lengthy submissions to the committee which have been highlighted in its report and in the non-government members' statement of reservation. In relation to the proposal to repeal the lockout provisions, the Townsville group said—

Lock outs have come and gone in various states with never a clear evidence based conclusion if lock outs work for the reduction of offences or assaults. Time and time again the multipronged approach to include lock outs with an earlier cessation of alcohol service simply do not work and should be repealed in consideration of the Bill and to never be considered again ...

In relation to the proposal by the Palaszczuk government to tighten up the temporary late-night extended hours permit scheme, Safe Night Townsville CBD Precinct Inc commented—

The impacts of reducing the number or completely [removing] the current 'one off extensions' will negatively impact the regional areas, and will stop licensed and small businesses who genuinely use the extended hours permits for events that come to the region.

I agree with the LNP members on that committee when they point out in their statement of reservation that it is ridiculous for this government to accuse licensed premises of trying to game the system when applying for extended trading hours permits, when that system is managed by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and the same office considers and then rejects or approves every single extended hours permit issued under the current legislation.

The LNP does not support the changes to the extended trading hours permit system because such changes would be a retrospective action. We all know that retrospective legislation makes it very difficult for businesses to plan for the future and employ more Queenslanders, particularly in this case young Queenslanders, including those in regional cities like Cairns and Townsville where youth unemployment is particularly high. In a place like Townsville, part of which I represent, these extended trading hour permits will be essential for licensed premises to adequately accommodate patrons on occasions in our city where there are significant public events such as North Queensland Cowboys home games, when we host the V8 Supercars race or when there are major concerts, performances or festivals in Townsville.

When we debated the Labor government's legislation in February last year we had contributions from North Queensland members, notably the member for Barron River, who said in his contribution to that debate—

I have stood in this House a number of times and referred to my 15 years as a front-line paramedic with both the Queensland and Victorian ambulance services. I feel to date that there is no speech that I have done that is more relevant, more important and more pertinent to my background than this one.

He went on to say—

I want to commend the Attorney-General, Minister Lynham and the Premier for the stance they have taken on this. I support this 100 per cent. Governments must take the lead. We must set the bar and we must set it at a standard so that others will follow.

He concluded in this fashion—

But tonight I get to be part of something special: making a larger difference to save countless lives and prevent incalculable carnage. All I have to do is sit in my seat and vote with the government on this bill, a government which I commend for taking this bold step of change. I commend the bill.

A little bit later this afternoon the conviction of the member for Barron River is going to be tested, because he will just sit in his chair again and support the government while it implements a regime that is exactly the opposite of which he advocated. Just over 12 months ago he stood in this House and advocated for the opposite of what he will vote for later on this afternoon.

In her contribution to the debate just over 12 months ago my old friend from Townsville, the member for Mundingburra, said the following—

We need to take action, and our evidence based approach is proven to achieve decreases in assaults, ultimately saving lives and lessening the impact of this issue.

She went on to say—

This government is prepared to take action by implementing evidence based measures in order to lessen the human cost of alcohol fuelled violence. Over the past few months during public debate on the legislation, the primary contact my office has received about our legislation being unreasonable has been from club owners whose concerns are about lost revenue, but what we have seen and heard is that the safer people feel the more they go out and the more money they spend, which is good for our economy, jobs and tourism.

The member for Mundingburra concluded in this fashion—

We are confident that these measures will not only improve safety for patrons and staff of licensed premises and entertainment precincts but also ensure a thriving night-time economy.

That is what the member for Mundingburra said in this House just over 12 months ago during the debate on the Labor Party's legislation on exactly the same issue, and this afternoon the member for Mundingburra will file in here into the same seat and vote against all of the things that she passionately endorsed in her contribution to the debate just over 12 months ago. That is the way that the people of Cairns and Townsville have been treated by their local members in this regard. They have been treated very poorly by this government on this issue, and the members representing them have represented them very badly.

The impacts on local businesses, hospitality, industry workers and law-abiding patrons have been ignored in favour of some cheap and nasty politics by the Labor Party, and now it has blown up in their face.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.16 pm): What a great speech that was from the member for Hinchinbrook. It really did outline the sheer hypocrisy of those over there. It was a great pleasure as well to listen to the shadow Attorney-General in his hour-long speech in relation—

Ms Pease interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Lytton, your interjections are not being taken; please desist. I call the member for Nanango.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: If she had something decent to say I would take it, but I did not, so there you go.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, I did not ask you to make a comment. Please continue with your speech.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would like to make a very short contribution to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill lays bare the fact that this Labor Party government has absolutely no idea what it is doing. Here we are once again in this chamber debating liquor legislation that repeals the legislation that Labor only just told us would be the be-all and end-all to alcohol fuelled violence in this state. So that we are really clear, this is legislation that repeals the legislation that, sometime last year, all of those opposite said we had to have. The member for Hinchinbrook listed a couple of those members, and in particular I remember the member for Barron River because he was so passionate about this. Michael Trout, who actually lives in the area and supports the tourism industry and who understands what his local community would do, would never have voted like that member for Barron River, and that is why we need to get Michael Trout back into Barron River.

Mr Costigan: Get 'the Trout' back into the Barron!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday: we do need to get 'the Trout' back into Barron River. But I digress. To say that this is an embarrassment for the Labor government is an understatement. The Attorney-General and the member for Stafford have had to front up to the media with flip-flops and backflips, having no clue what they are doing except what they have been pushed into. On 2 January, when the Deputy Premier was Acting Premier—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Those opposite laugh about the Deputy Premier being the Acting Premier, but it is no laughing matter. Those opposite are all sitting there waiting for the Deputy Premier to slip into the shoes of the Premier. Maybe they are in the wrong faction.

On 2 January we saw the beginning of the backflip. We saw the Acting Premier dip her toes into the water. The government needed to do something because the trains were not turning up, the trains had completely stopped and the poor member for Sandgate was under pressure to resign. The Acting Premier said, 'No, no. Hang in there. We are going to test the waters on alcohol fuelled violence.' The Acting Premier said, 'These laws may not be introduced.' This rang alarm bells in the minds of every small business owner, every club owner and anyone in the hospitality industry trying to run their business in this great state. They were looking for certainty. Instead, the government, which had promised to pass these laws, backflipped and said it may not introduce them. Then the Premier came back and said, 'I know nothing about that. I might have to have another review.' I think she did—a review into something the cabinet had already decided. Then she took it back to the cabinet and said, 'Guys, hang on a minute. We have to review this again. We are only up to 164 reviews. We need 165 by the end of this week to meet the quota, so we are going to review it.' They reviewed it and then came out and said, 'Oh my God. We have to backflip.' The poor old member for Stafford and the poor Attorney-General! I have never seen two people look more embarrassed. It was an embarrassment for this government.

How was it reported? It was reported by the ABC that the government had abandoned its signature policy. It will not enforce the 1 am lockout because there was no noticeable drop in assaults. There was no evidence, so 'we need to do a backflip'. It is clear that this government is completely clueless. It is clear that it has no direction. Members opposite need to stand by the values they so loudly espoused in this House 12 months ago. It will be interesting to see where they sit.

When the 1 am lockout laws were first brought into this House, we on this side of the House spoke with common sense. As I was driving to Brisbane from Kingaroy at 5.30 one morning I caught a talkback conversation on the ABC in relation to the 1 am lockouts. A young English backpacker was interviewed—

Mr Costigan: That's right.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Did the member for Whitsunday hear it?

Mr Costigan: It is a great story. Listen in, everybody.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: This English backpacker, who had been holidaying in Cairns, was told by a friend at Heathrow Airport, 'Don't bother going to Queensland. Definitely don't go to Cairns and there is no point going to Brisbane because you cannot finish work and go out and be responsible.' Members do not need to believe me—

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The ignorance of those opposite. I know that they are embarrassed. It is embarrassing. Those opposite need to listen to the ABC podcast. You need to educate yourselves slightly before you come into this House—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Nanango, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Those opposite need to come into this House a little more educated. They should listen to the podcast of this interview, because it was really interesting. This backpacker from London—

Ms Pease: Evidence based? Peer reviewed?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That those opposite question the validity of a young British backpacker displays their arrogance. It is absolutely outstanding. Those opposite are damaging the tourism industry in Queensland by their sheer ignorance. It certainly should not surprise us at all.

The LNP had put in place the \$44.5 million Safe Night Out Strategy to combat alcohol fuelled violence. It was developed in consultation with people who knew and understood the community—something those opposite have absolutely no idea about. The LNP's Safe Night Out Strategy had 60 initiatives. Two of the key initiatives were compulsory drug and alcohol education in Queensland schools from years 7 to 12—an excellent policy that those opposite have let go by the wayside—and the establishment of 15 safe night precincts across Queensland to ensure popular nightspots had coordinated prevention and support initiatives in place to keep their patrons safe.

Labor should have given these initiatives a chance to work. Instead, it slashed and burned everything it could for political gain. In this instance it has gained nothing at all. All it has done is place a great deal of stress and angst on the industry. It has wasted a lot of people's time and effort. It has taken away from small business owners—busy people who just want to get on and run their businesses. They do not need this Labor government constantly moving the goalposts and meddling with their viability. As we in the LNP have travelled all over Queensland we have spoken to those business owners, who see right through this shallow Labor government. We understand the time they have wasted over the last two years. This bill lays bare the fact that this Labor government has absolutely no idea what it is doing. The member for Stafford is completely at a loss and the Attorney-General has no idea what she is doing.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (4.26 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 with an understanding of the importance of the tourism industry not only in my own electorate of Whitsunday, home to the iconic tourist town of Airlie Beach, but also in regional and rural tourism based economies across Queensland.

As members on this side of the House have clearly illustrated in the debate this afternoon, what we have here is a major policy backflip from the Palaszczuk Labor government and indeed a broken promise that the now Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, made to the people of Queensland before the election more than two years ago.

Mr Janetzki: A long list.

Mr COSTIGAN: It is a long list indeed. There is no doubt that the flip-flopping from the Palaszczuk Labor government is breathtaking. Forget about the Commonwealth Games next year. All government members should audition for the Australian gymnastics team for Tokyo in 2020. They have flipped and flopped and flipped and flopped. The confusion and lack of certainty that has permeated the Queensland community in relation to this very important area of public policy is quite staggering.

Mr Furner interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, if you are going to interject then you need to be in your allocated seat.

Mr COSTIGAN: That is probably a sign of things to come. I reiterate what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition reminded the House this afternoon. The LNP introduced the Safe Night Out Strategy—a \$45 million program that delivered in many respects in terms of making our communities safer without compromising jobs and the economies of regional Queensland, including in the town of Airlie Beach, where one of those 15 safe night precincts was established.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the contributions of people like Jasmin Lear and Stacy Harvey in Airlie Beach, who for a long time have been making our community a better place and making sure patrons come to Airlie Beach, whether they come from Queensland, from elsewhere in the nation or from other parts of the world. They come to Airlie Beach and have a great time but a safe time.

There is no doubt that the early results across the state were very encouraging. The initial police data indicated that overall assaults decreased by nine per cent, sexual offences by 18 per cent, property damage was down by 10 per cent and drug offences detected by the police had increased by 26 per cent across the 15 safe night precincts in 2014-15. There was good work being done in relation to driving down crime and making our communities a safer place. I also want to acknowledge the member for Hinchinbrook's contribution earlier. He gave a clear illustration of what it means for his communities between Cairns and Townsville.

Government members interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: I remind all honourable members that even Labor aligned Cairns regional councillor Richie Bates thought that the Palaszczuk Labor government got this wrong. Whilst we saw the member for Barron River—like tow trucks to a car smash—pouncing on it and thinking it was the best thing ever, as the member for Hinchinbrook has most eloquently recalled here this afternoon, we saw Richie Bates, a councillor on the Cairns Regional Council, saying that this was no good for his city. But what would the Palaszczuk Labor government know? In the House on Tuesday during question time there was a Dorothy Dixier from the member for Mackay and the Premier could not even remember the name of the mayor of Cairns!

The Palaszczuk Labor government clearly is not listening to North Queenslanders in relation to this issue and I know for a fact that people on the Esplanade in Cairns, Victoria Street in Mackay, Flinders Street in Townsville and Main Street in Airlie Beach have been worried where the government has been going. I am happy to take all members of the government to all of the nightclubs and talk to the hospitality workers who are worried and scared about losing hours. What is wrong with them finishing their shift and having a drink? We all knock off and have a drink. What about them knocking off? What about them knocking off at Magnums in Airlie Beach where Busby Marou is performing tomorrow night—and I wish them well; Rockhampton's finest at Magnums in Airlie Beach—or the Airlie Beach Hotel along the strip?

While we hear the drivel coming from the cheap seats in the chamber this afternoon, there is no doubt that the Labor MPs for North Queensland—the members for Mirani, Mackay, Townsville, Mundingburra, Thuringowa, Mulgrave and Barron River—have failed their constituencies. I am sure that the LNP candidates in those seats—people like Sam Marino in Cairns, former MP and our great friend Michael Trout from Barron River, Casie Scott in Townsville and Matt Derlagen in Mundingburra—understand the situation because they are listening to people on the ground. Michael Trout as the former member for Barron River understood exactly what was going on because he understands tourism in Far North Queensland and I am sure he will be a great member in this chamber if the people of Barron River give him that opportunity at the next state election. I am very confident that we will see a changing of the guard there, particularly when the people of Far North Queensland see what the member for Barron River had to say in relation to this issue some time ago and how he will vote this evening.

There is no doubt that this has been a flip-flop of monumental proportions, because the Premier went to the election promising 3 am last drinks with a one o'clock lockout. That changed of course to 2 am last drinks outside safe night precincts and a 3 am last drinks, with a one o'clock lockout inside the safe night precincts. Now the lockout is being scrapped as well after an interim evaluation report said that it was unlikely that a lockout would alter current trends despite the report being done before the lockout was ever started. People are so confused. The government has provided no assurances or clarity for the people of regional Queensland, particularly in the communities that I represent in places like Airlie Beach.

I remember going to a rally at the western end of Airlie Beach near the old Wanderers resort—people might remember that at the western end of Main Street of Airlie Beach—and there were young hospitality workers from the various nightclubs and nightspots. They were concerned because they felt that their livelihoods were being threatened. They are trying to put tucker on the table and pay their rent. For many people it is an opportunity to come and see a beautiful part of the world—the Whitsundays—and their dollars that were putting tucker on the table and paying the rent were being threatened. They were wondering what the heck was going on as a result of this Palaszczuk Labor government. You have to feel sorry for the member for Stafford, because he has been rolled. He has been rolled well and truly. I would love to have been a fly on the wall when he realised that his crusade was coming to an end.

I commend my colleagues on this side of the chamber—the non-government members—on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee headed by our great mate from the Gold Coast, the member for Coomera, for his work in relation to that committee and that of his colleagues, because they have done a great job. This has been a complete policy bungle—a stuff-up of epic proportions—and the retrospective tightening of those temporary late-night extended hours permits does cause concern. The Cowboys are playing their first home game of the season on Saturday night. Twelve home games, and we are going to go from 12 to six. Does it make sense? The member for Hinchinbrook rattled it off very well—the V8 Supercars, the football, you name it. The Airlie Beach music festival is coming up in November—a festival that had funding from the Queensland government, but it was hooked, it was cut, it was hacked by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Leo Sayer is coming. In the words of Leo Sayer, the government is 'living in a fantasy'.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.36 pm): With the indulgence of the House, I want to put on the record my thanks to the Leader of Opposition Business and also the Leader of the Opposition for allowing me a pair yesterday to be with my family and also for the support my colleagues have shown me today.

I want to sum up the member for Nanango with regard to this debate, and I think one of her tweets sums her up completely when she said on 10 January 2017—

Hanging @ricsbar on a hot day would be more fun if @qldlabor weren't the lockout #funpolice.

Day and lockouts: can it get any more contradictory than that?

With regard to this whole process, tough reforms are tough. They do take time and they do take consultation, much of which this government has done through the AG, especially given that after the first round of legislation the AG continued to meet with industry on 6 August 2015 in Brisbane and 10 September in Cairns to talk about ID scanners and lockouts and how they would be implemented. The member for Stafford has been consistent during this whole debate. Time and time again I have noticed the attacks from those opposite with regard to his position. I cannot remember the quote offhand, but they roll it out every week or so with regard to him not backing lockouts. We get to this point and they are saying that he has done a backflip. Which is it—is it a backflip or was he wrong from the start?

I turn to the 3 am lockout and its repeal which are the main parts of the legislation. I was involved in the legal affairs committee for both of these important pieces of legislation and time and time again we heard that there is little evidence with regard to lockouts working, but what we did hear was the effect on businesses in areas in Sydney, especially Kings Cross. We listened to the concerns of industry. I have worked for many years in the industry and have also worked in the health area. They are polar opposites when it comes to this issue, but both sides were not going to be happy. They all had to give a little bit in order to deliver this tough legislation.

I want to highlight that lack of evidence. In the consideration of the first bill at a public hearing Professor Wayne Hall stated—

There seems to be a lot of confusion with lockouts, which I think are a dumb policy because they just lock the drunks up inside to be all thrown out at the same time. It is reducing trading hours we want to do, not lockups.

During that same hearing Professor Kypri stated—

The evidence on lockouts is not strong. There are about six studies and I would say it is equivocal at best. The effective strategy is reducing alcohol consumption and that means either last drinks or closing premises.

This amending legislation reduces the number of exemptions allowing for the later hours of drinking. There is plenty of evidence to support that amendment. As I said, I was part of the consideration of both bills and I heard abundant evidence supporting the reduction of hours. During that consideration the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol stated in its submission—

QCAA has long opposed the provision of any exemptions to trading hour restrictions through one-off extended trading permits, since these undermine the legislation's intention that there be a cessation of the service of alcohol at 2am, and 3am in Safe Night Precincts. Earlier last drinks have been repeatedly shown to be the most effective measure to stop alcohol harm in these circumstances. Therefore, QCAA recommends that no permits to extend drinking should be available to licensed premises.

That highlights the difference between the two parties: big liquor and the health services that have to clean up the mess created by alcohol fuelled violence. We have to take both of their submissions to this legislation into consideration.

The last amendment that I would like to speak to relates to ID scanners, which I have seen work effectively at the Alexandra Hills Hotel when I worked there. That hotel introduced ID scanners after the unfortunate incident of a young male being stabbed to death. The ID scanners at that hotel have worked effectively. They have been great at effectively keeping a record of people who have entered the premises. I believe that has made that pub that I used to work at a safer place.

I note that, in its submission to the bill, the Townsville Safe Night CBD Precinct stated that ID scanners should be introduced after 10 pm. We have decided to have a midnight introduction of the ID scanners because we think that that strikes the right balance. We have undertaken plenty of consultation in relation to this bill. We have talked with the industry and we have talked with the health experts. We recognise that we do not want to reduce alcohol fuelled violence through reducing the number of patrons going to these establishments; we want to do it effectively whereby patrons do not drink so much that they make decisions that are not in their best interests and they hurt those around them.

I want to talk about what will hurt the industry, and that is a cut to the Sunday penalty rates and the public holiday rates of workers. This cut affects not just the hospitality workers. When I worked in the hospitality industry I reinvested whatever disposable income I had back into it. I reinvested that disposable income in good times. The federal government has extended these cuts to Sunday penalty rates and public holiday rates to the retail industry and the fast food industry. What are those workers, who are over the age of 18 and working at Hungry Jack's, Myers, or Coles, going to do on a Saturday night? Reinvest their disposable income back into the hospitality industry. The cutting of these rates affects the disposable income of these young Australian workers and that is what is going to hurt the hospitality industry the most. That is why this side of the House will stand up for workers to ensure that the hospitality industry receives that disposable income of young Australians. Those young Australians want to have a good time. They want to reinvest their disposable income in these licensed establishments.

The Attorney-General has consulted and has listened to the industry. I think that we now have the balance right. We have ensured that we are not bringing in a crowd control measure instead of a measure that is effective in reducing alcohol fuelled violence. We have gone to the heart of the issue, and that is reducing the length of hours of intake and there is plenty of evidence to support these measures. With these measures, people can still have a good night out. The industry can still move forward with certainty around the lockout provisions. We have the balance right. We have kept our night-life open and we have kept it safe.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.45 pm): The Bundaberg region is again in a policy vacuum created by indecision and flip-flopping on this very serious issue, the lockout laws. Considering the promises that were made to the electorate in 2015 regarding the safe night precincts and the lockout laws, this is a major policy backflip from Labor. The issues have been clouded ever since, leaving almost everyone scratching their heads, wondering what will be next. People in my region want leadership, not thought bubbles. Examples of a lack of leadership continue to be raised time and time again, such as the lack of leadership to deal with unemployment. One in four of the youth in Bundaberg cannot find work. Job security is not good. People are concerned about their very survival—'Can I get a job?' 'Can I afford to feed the kids and keep them at school?'

Ms Grace: So you sack them.

Mr BENNETT: I take the interjection from the member for Brisbane Central. A Fair Work Commission has made a ruling—a Labor set-up committee—and now the members opposite do not like it. Move on.

The people of Bundaberg are sick of the politics being played with very serious issues. This legislation is a complete policy bungle. Across the regions in Queensland, no wonder youth unemployment is spiralling out of control. For example, why would a business owner invest in my region when there is such policy uncertainty and instability created by those opposite? My region needs very clear messages to allow understanding and policy engagement. With all the bungling of this issue—

A government member interjected.

Mr BENNETT: Was there an interjection where a member asked about my future or past employment? I was very happy where I worked. I was engaged in the Public Service for 23 years, providing great services across Queensland. I am very proud that that agency continues to grow, providing more services to Queenslanders. It is now the best point of interest and a centre of excellence across Queensland. When you have good management, you can make things great. I thank the member who made that interjection. I am glad we can clear that up.

As a result of the bungling of this issue, the lockout is scrapped as well. Despite the interim evaluation report being done before the lockout had commenced, it said that it was unlikely that the lockouts would alter the current trends. If the members opposite had listened to the evidence given in relation to that issue last year, rather than trying to grab a cheap headline or make a cheap comment from the cheap seats, they would have saved themselves having to do this unbelievably embarrassing backdown.

The people in the regions get lumped with the indecision. Whether it thinks it does or not, we are all affected by this out-of-touch government, which is unable to make decisions. I acknowledge that these issues are not without complexity, but we did all the work in 2012 and 2013 and it should not have been that hard.

As I travel around speaking to constituents about the liquor laws, I am continually asked to simplify the process and to take a common-sense approach. The issue is also about identifying ways to ease the cost burden on the pubs, clubs and the mum-and-dad businesses while maintaining a high level of accountability in the industry.

The main objective of this bill is to address the findings of the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 interim evaluation report. That report recommended the repeal of the lockout and the 3 am safe night precincts, the winding back of trading hours, the tightening of the temporary late-night extended hours permit region, and an extension of the banning order sentencing regime to prescribed drug offences. The bill also clarifies the issue of licensees of regulated premises with approved regular extended trading hours beyond midnight.

We have heard loud and clear from those stakeholders involved that they do not support changes to the process for temporary one-off late-night extended hours permits which are being done retrospectively. How do you think the industry feels when attacked by this government with wild allegations, for apparently gaming the system, when the system was put in place by the government in the first place? It is just another bungle. What was working was the plan that should never have been attacked or politicised—the \$44.5 million comprehensive strategy with 60 initiatives that was developed in consultation with Queenslanders in 2013.

Key elements of the strategy included compulsory drug and alcohol education in Queensland—we are not even talking about kids here today and I think that is a big mistake; establishing 15 safe night precincts across Queensland, one in Bundaberg, to ensure popular nightspots have coordinated prevention and support initiatives in place to keep patrons safe; a new offence of unlawful striking causing death, which will carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and require the offender to serve 80 per cent of his or her prison sentence; increased penalties for other violent and antisocial offences such as serious assault of public officers, public nuisance, refusing to leave a licensed premises, obstructing police, failing to obey a move-on order and urinating in public; empowering police to issue banning orders and ensuring police have the resources to have a presence and the ability to respond quickly to alcohol and drug related violence—that was key to the reforms that were already in place; stronger and better coordinated action to ensure licensees provide a safe environment and comply with liquor licensing rules, including mystery shopper style tests, which were working; and an awareness campaign, including advertising, to promote clear standards of responsible behaviour for patrons, licensees and police.

Our position, and that of Queenslanders, is that the Safe Night Out Strategy should have been given a chance to work given all the time and consultation that was involved in putting it all together. It was a comprehensive strategy that took the right approach to addressing the issue of alcohol and drug related violence. The early results were very encouraging. Initial police data indicated that overall assaults had decreased by nine per cent, sexual offences by 18 per cent, property damage by 10 per cent and drug offences detected by the police had increased by 26 per cent across the 15 safe night precincts in the 2014-15 financial year. This indicates that targeted intervention and a high-visibility policing strategy is clearly improving the general safety of patrons who frequent Queensland's most popular nightspots.

Those opposite elected to trash the success, and by doing so in effect have trashed Queenslanders. For too many years politicians from all sides, but especially Labor, have spent too much time meddling in people's lives and not enough time doing their job. This is another case of reviewing, not doing. The LNP has been the only party with a consistent position on this issue. We opposed the laws because they are bad laws. Labor went to the last election promising a lot, including the 1 am statewide lockout as part of its plan to reduce trading hours to 3 am across Queensland.

The list of broken promises continues to grow. Queenslanders cannot trust Labor. The confusion continues to reign. There was a 1 am lockout in safe night precincts if traders wanted to trade to 3 am. The statewide closing time was changed to 2 am. The Premier and her Labor government could have saved everyone a lot of time, money, concern and stress if they had listened and implemented evidence based policy this time last year. We heard reports that the Safe Night Out Strategy was a world-leading strategy, developed in partnership with all stakeholders. If that had been allowed to continue we would be in a better place than we are in today. There was ample evidence that the introduction of a 1 am lockout was in no way reducing alcohol and drug related violence. There have been very mixed results in other jurisdictions as to its effectiveness.

Despite the media spin and rhetoric, there is no other way of saying that this is not only a major policy backflip but also, more importantly for Queenslanders, another broken election commitment by this government. The LNP has been consistent in its position. We introduced the Safe Night Out Strategy. Queenslanders could be forgiven for being confused if they thought that Labor's new policy looks very similar to the LNP's policy. Non-government members also fail to see how licensed premises can be blamed for gaming the system of extended trading hours permits, a system that was established and managed by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation under the current legislation, when that very same Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation provided its approval of every single extended hours permit issued under the current legislation.

Non-government members do not support the changes to the one-off temporary extended trading hours permits. These venues will have to re-evaluate their business model and forecasting because of the retrospectivity of this policy. The fact is that this legislation is full of retrospective policy decisions. Retrospective legislation makes it very difficult for business to succeed in Queensland. The opposition has maintained a very consistent view on this issue. I acknowledge that the government is finally straightening out the mess it created, but it is too late for the employees who have lost hours, too late for the venues that have lost live music acts and too late for the tradies who would have gained work on upgrading and refurbishing venues that have either shut down or decided not to proceed with renovations due to the uncertainty brought on business by this government. Attacks on business are nothing new from those opposite.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise to speak on behalf of Mermaid Beach residents on the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, now more commonly called the 'saving Grace bill'. My area of Mermaid Beach is within a kilometre of the Broadbeach nightclub precinct, which is one of the wonderful nightclub precincts on the Gold Coast. Under the Safe Night Out Strategy we have had a very successful operation in that area. The LNP allocated extra funding to the police under the Safe Night Out Strategy and those areas have been managed particularly well.

The fact that within around 12 months we are back in this House fixing up the legislation put through by the Palaszczuk Labor government is symptomatic of a government that does not know how to govern. This parliament is a very important place. To bring legislation in here that is faulty, politically motivated, totally out of touch with a solution to the problem and then within 12 months be back in here again doing a backflip to where the opposition's policy was 12 months ago is a total embarrassment for a government that does not know how to govern.

If those opposite took notice of the LNP policies in the first place they would not be in this highly embarrassing situation today. I draw an analogy with the LNP criminal bikie gang laws that were adopted by the South Australian Labor government. They worked really well. What I am seeing nightly

on the news is the fact that the ice dealers and the criminal bikie gangs are back in town on the Gold Coast. Thank you very much, Labor members! Members need to visit the Gold Coast—go and see Murray Watt—to understand the local problems that we have on the Gold Coast with these criminal gangs. It is a fertile area for them to deliver their heinous product.

Unfortunately we will be back in here winding back the criminal bikie gang laws that were working and that the police supported. Labor members, for political motivation and paying off whoever were pulling the strings in the matter, rolled over successful legislation in this House. We are seeing the same thing in this backflip of monumental proportions—in terms of degree of difficulty it is a 9.9. The minister has come in here and embarrassed the member for Stafford in terms of his *raison d'être* for entering politics in the first place, embarrassed her government and embarrassed this House by bringing in legislation and within 12 months saying, 'We have got that wrong. Let us redo it.' We might see the end of Gracie or the end of other members over there.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr STEVENS: I do not know who you are referring to there, member. They may be looking at political salvation with the realisation that the legislation that they were proposing would get a lot of young voters and people who enjoy those night-life and entertainment centres well and truly off side; on top of other matters that are raising their heads in the regions, such as vast unemployment and the outrageous levels of crime in those areas that are run by the Labor Party members in the north—Townsville in particular springs to mind.

It is a total embarrassment that this government has to prostrate itself on the floor of parliament and say, 'We got it wrong just 12 months ago'. All LNP members have highlighted the issues well, particularly the former attorney-general and member for Kawana. Today, we are operating under the Labor laws. The Labor laws that were introduced in February are now operating. If the government is not enforcing those laws, it is acting illegally. The government has laws in place and, until this bill is passed—and obviously we will support the bill, because it was our idea in the first place—and the legislation is gazetted, we are operating under the Labor laws of just 12 months ago. How embarrassing is that?

This is classic Labor. It mucked up by losing Queensland's AAA credit rating and we will have to work for a lot of years to try to get it back. In terms of running this state, the mismanagement of Labor knows no bounds. It is a total embarrassment. In my view, the election cannot come quickly enough. Dancing to the tune of their union master puppeteers, in two years all they have done is wind back good and sustainable LNP legislation. Within two years they have unwound the bikie laws and they have mucked up the liquor legislation and the industrial relations laws. In terms of operating this state, they are the absolute passion fingers as they muck up everything they touch.

When these laws are passed, at least the people of Mermaid Beach will have something that is workable. Hopefully, we will never again see the absolute aberration that is the legislation that was introduced by the Labor Party.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.02 pm): I rise to speak to this bill with a great sense of frustration. I am frustrated at the time that has been wasted because the Labor Party chose to take a political stance on such an important issue, rather than objectively gathering and assessing the evidence. No-one disputes that the issue of late night violence is closely linked to the consumption of alcohol. How we consume alcohol—where, when and even how much we drink—is a matter of individual choice. However, it is a choice that is affected by culture. Like most areas of cultural expression, the most extreme versions of that expression are performed by our young people.

As the father of three young daughters in or nearing their teenage years, that is something to which I give a lot of thought. The fact is that I am raising three young women in a culture that condones and even encourages alcohol consumption. Research shows that if they can make it through their early 20s without consuming alcohol, tobacco or illicit drugs they are unlikely to do so for their whole lives. As a father, how do I help them make it safely to their 20s, when our culture will be like a riptide in those dangerous years? You know what? I am going to use every tool and every weapon that I can lay my hands on: education, conversation, supervision and enforcement of compliance.

The LNP's Safe Night Out Strategy took a similar comprehensive approach. It instituted compulsory drug and alcohol education in all Queensland schools from years 7 to 12. You could hear parents such as my wife, Peta, and I cheering. We would have actively supported those classes through conversations at home, at the kitchen table. It introduced a new offence to explicitly address the practice of so-called 'king hitting' through unlawful striking causing death. It increased penalties for other violent and antisocial offences. It empowered police and ensured that they had the resources to enforce

compliance and it provided the safe night precincts to enable saturation policing if required. It also improved the requirements and compliance measures for licensees to provide a safe environment. The safe night precincts addressed the need of a large state such as Queensland to have a comprehensive model, rather than a one-size-fits-all model. The LNP's approach was a thoughtful robust legislative response that was painstakingly developed through extensive consultation.

When the Labor government was elected, early evidence showed that the LNP's approach was working. However, in their spite and haste to deny the LNP government any achievement, the Labor Party removed the safe night out laws and replaced them with a blunt and simple lockout laws approach. That is not evidence based policy, so it is not surprising to find that we are already being asked to pass another piece of legislation that reverses much of Labor's first go at this. Parents such as my wife, Peta, and I can only watch this bungling and pettiness with utter frustration.

I realise I am running out of time, but as a country member I want to draw special attention to the tightening of the temporary late-night extended hours permit regime. This part of the bill is necessary because the first attempt was so badly drafted. However, the way that Labor is trying to address this will have a negative impact on licensees in country Queensland. Temporary permits will be restricted to six a year and the commissioner will not be able to grant more than one day in a calendar month, or two or more consecutive days in a calendar month for a single special occasion that occurs over consecutive days. A special occasion is a special, unique or infrequent public event of local, state or national significance; or a wedding, birthday or private occasion celebrated at a function that is not open to the public.

Apart from being retrospective and extremely complicated for licensees to build a business model from, this gives no recognition to Central and Western Queensland, where the social calendar is sensibly dictated by climate. Our festivals, weddings, tourism events and race days—very importantly, our race days—are concentrated in the cooler months from Easter to spring. Our country pubs make their money in that part of the year to carry them through the hotter months such as we have seen in Western Queensland over the past three months, with 45-degree days being experienced over the Christmas period. Sometimes, country pubs are the sole venue for special occasions and may host multiple such occasions simultaneously. Keeping their businesses viable and acting as a private function venue, while also playing a key role in supporting the local tourism economy, all just got a whole lot harder, retrospective to 1 January 2017. If I were a sceptical Western Queensland member, I could almost believe there is a hidden agenda to shut down country Queensland.

I call on all sides of government, especially those opposite, to remember that Western Queensland has a very unique situation when it comes to hospitality and events. I call on everybody, including those opposite, to remember that when you are drafting legislation you need to take into account Western Queensland and the events we have there, because they are our money spinners. They are the ones that put money into the economy. They are very important to us. For example, for a small town such as Alpha, 27 July is an important day because it is race day. We must consider such events when drafting this sort of legislation.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.08 pm): I rise to support the bill. The bill aims to encourage responsible drinking practices and create a safer environment in and around licensed premises in Queensland. It is about ensuring that pub and club goers can enjoy a safe night out and return home to their families. It is based on evidence accumulated from a review of the first six months of operation of Queensland's alcohol fuelled violence laws, conducted by Deacon University's Institute for Social Science Research. I believe the measures contained in this bill are the best way to reduce the toll of alcohol fuelled violence. I place on record my condolences to the Miller family in relation to the untimely death of Cole Miller.

We know that reducing permanent liquor service hours is the best way to reduce violence and that is exactly what the Labor government has done. This is a government that listens. We have consulted and listened to the evidence. The interim evaluation report noted that enforcing lockouts would not have a significant effect on existing alcohol fuelled violence trends in Queensland. We have gathered that evidence. The Attorney-General has listened to it. Our cabinet has listened to it. In light of this, the government considers that enforcing the statutory 1 am lockout would be inconsistent with the evidence based approach.

We have heard a lot, particularly from the member for Kawana, about who has been rolled and who has not been rolled. He asks whether Minister Lynham is being rolled in cabinet. I do not know exactly what went on in cabinet in the Campbell Newman government, but I can only guess what went

on if we take the inexperience of the then attorney-general, the member for Kawana, and the manner in which he conducted himself in public. He showed arrogance and was drunk on power. The way the legal profession saw his actions was an absolute shame.

A government member interjected.

Ms GRACE: I take that interjection. If he thinks that the way that they operated is appropriate—that is picking fights with whoever they could out there such as the legal profession or anybody who stood in their way; drunk on power and away they went—then let me tell him that that is not how the Labor cabinet works. Nobody has been rolled in relation to this. We have consulted, we have listened and we have acted.

I have far too much respect for Minister Lynham to be going around in this House claiming people have been rolled. Maybe they did that when Campbell Newman was in government. Let me tell those opposite that it does not happen under us. They can ask anyone in the legal profession around Brisbane who turned on the member for Kawana about that. Make no secret in this place, we are on this side of the House because of the actions, the arrogance and the way he conducted himself when he was the attorney-general in this state. All I can say to the member for Kawana is, 'Thank you very much because we are going to be here for a long time.'

I noticed that the members from the Gold Coast, a major tourist area, have not mentioned Easter Sunday trading. The member for Currumbin and the member for Mermaid Beach have spoken. There was not a word about Easter Sunday trading. They said nothing—not a word—about it and yet they come from one of the major tourist areas in Queensland. Bring on the election because I do not know whether a lot of them are going to survive.

The speech from the member for Kawana referred to amendments I flagged yesterday to the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act to make Easter Sunday an open trading day for all non-exempt shops in South-East Queensland. Somehow the member for Kawana believes he is the only one who knew that shops do not open in the south-east corner on Easter Sunday. Let me tell the member for Kawana that I have lived in Brisbane all my life and I am well aware of what happens in terms of non-exempt shop.

Let me give him a bit of a time frame. The arrogance of the member for Kawana to believe that he was the only one who thought about this is quite astounding. Let me give those opposite a bit of a lesson. On 31 August 2016 we set up and announced the review of trading hours headed by John Mickel. On 1 September we introduced the IR bill which would make Easter Sunday a public holiday. In that speech I flagged that this is exactly what we would be doing. He thinks it was his thought bubble. That is how arrogant the member for Kawana is that he thought he was the only one who thought about this issue.

On 30 November the IR bill was debated and passed. It made Easter Sunday a public holiday, which, I might add, the LNP did not support. They did not support making Easter Sunday a public holiday. On 22 December John Mickel delivered his report to government. On 14 February the government announced its response to the review recommendations. I personally gave the member for Kawana a copy of the review. On 1 March we introduced the Trading (Allowable Hours) Amendment Bill to put in place what we started in August. He has the audacity to come into this House, as arrogant as he is—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms GRACE: He will not stop interrupting because he can dish it out but he cannot take it. He can dish it out but he cannot take it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Minister, please try not to provoke those opposite.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The minister is referring to another bill before the House.

Mr Power: It is not a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I am listening to the member for Kawana.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, respect the chair!

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister is talking about the allowable trading hours legislation that she introduced yesterday. She just mentioned it. That is actually not what we are debating today. We are debating the liquor laws, not her bill. I can understand why she might be a bit confused. That is another bill on another subject for another day.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. That was clearly not a point of order. It was an attempt to disrupt the House. He should be counselled on disrupting the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can take your seat, member for Logan. Minister, I ask you to come back to the subject of the debate.

Ms GRACE: They can dish it out but they cannot take it. The member for Kawana is the worst one at that over there. The *Hansard* from yesterday reads—

We are going to oppose the amendment on the principle that we cannot support it because it is rotten to the core in terms of how it is being introduced.

Let me remind the member for Kawana about how things happened. He stood in here and said, 'Our government never introduced things like this. We never introduced them at all.' What a short memory he has. I ask the member for Kawana to cast his mind back to 4 June 2014. Does it ring any bells, member for Kawana? I will refresh his memory—yet another bungle of the member for Kawana. The government's industrial relations changes had to be repealed because the High Court had found similar provisions in New South Wales infringed on the implied right in the Constitution of freedom of speech. That was his bungle in terms of the Industrial Relations Act. He put in place laws in this state that were unconstitutional. How could this be done members might ask? He would not take—

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are not debating the Sustainable Planning Act, which was passed in 2014. We are debating an amendment to the liquor laws 2017. The minister is referring to the sustainable planning legislation amendments that were made based on a High Court case. That was many years ago.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. I call on the minister to come back to the long title of the bill.

Ms GRACE: The member for Kawana continually references the manner in which this was brought before the House. This is completely relevant to the argument that I am making with regard to this bill. The member for Kawana did not have the courage to come in here and change that bill. He had to hide behind the member for Callide. The member for Callide came in here in the middle of the night. He whispered the amendment. Members on this side of the House who were there could hardly hear it. He was cowering behind him.

He did exactly what he is saying they never did in government. They used the Sustainable Planning (Infrastructure Charges) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to move amendments to the Industrial Relations Act. Here he was in this House last night saying that their government never did that in relation to amendments like those that we are talking about here today.

Mr HART: I rise to a point of order in terms of relevance, Mr Deputy Speaker. The long title of the bill does not talk about any of these things. The minister has completely strayed off the long title of the bill.

Mr POWER: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I think there should be some latitude because this is directly refuting an argument that has been put to the House as to why this bill should not be voted for. It is important that the minister actually respond to what the member for Kawana said earlier. She is answering it very convincingly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I understand you are trying to use examples but please stick to the long title of the bill.

Ms GRACE: I will, but they have been caught out. The member for Kawana got caught out. He did exactly the same thing, yet last night in this House he said, 'We are innocent on this. We have never done that.' He has been caught out. They can dish it out but they cannot take it.

The planning bill at the time had nothing to do with the member for Kawana's portfolio, yet they came into this House, debated it and moved that amendment. Yet they stood in here last night accusing us of doing what they have never done.

Mr WATTS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. A clear direction has been given to be relevant. This is clearly not relevant. Let's get back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Minister, you are drawing a long bow here. Could you stay relevant to the long title of the bill, please?

Ms GRACE: Even though the amendments were brought in under that bill, we supported the amendments. Yet they are saying today that they will not support the amendment to allow Easter Sunday trading in the south-east corner, even though it is available to all other regions outside of this area. Is it really their position? What has happened to the Liberal Party in this place? They will not even support amendments that bring about greater economic growth, more jobs, more hours and more tourism.

The member for Kawana clearly had a thought bubble that they were not going to support these changes. I would like to be a fly on the wall when the NRA talks to the member for Kawana because they are not very happy with that statement. Not only do they support the non-exempt shops in this state; they also support many of the small and medium sized specialty shops that open when the anchor in large shopping centres in the tourism areas open. Here is the member for Kawana representing the Sunshine Coast and he is going to oppose extending Easter Sunday trading now that it is a public holiday. They cry crocodile tears about people losing their jobs because of the liquor changes. Yet not one of them has spoken up in relation to the cut in penalty rates for the lowest paid workers in this state. They can dish it out but they cannot take it.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.20 pm): I always wondered how the ‘Mannequin Challenge’ got started—you know that silly social media phenomenon that went viral where people film themselves in a frozen state? Premier Palaszczuk and her Labor team probably could take credit for sparking this global phenomenon, except they took it to a whole new level of governing in a frozen state—and it ain’t no joke! They have been frozen at the wheel where the key feature of their time in government when they do act is to undo LNP policies without putting anything better back in their place or, as we have just found out, to bungle yet again when they muck up their legislation. They rush in amendments and throw them into another bill without them having appropriate scrutiny before the House.

This Labor government is out of its depth. It is now taking one of the policies that we had implemented out of the deep freeze. It is defrosting an LNP safety measure for patrons in entertainment areas, and that is ID scanners in safe night precincts. It is ditching its lockout laws, as they were flawed—as we warned them—and did not address the real problems of alcohol fuelled violence.

My Maroochydore safe night precinct has been asking for certainty and action since Labor came to office because so much was put on hold, put on ice, when they had already been working effectively and in an integrated way with the police, security, taxis, public transport and Liquor Licensing to try to have the best approach for addressing behaviour in that precinct. They wanted to have the ID scanners linked so that they were all on the same page with technology and they had the ability to get on with it so that those who were doing the wrong thing could be banned and thrown out of these areas to keep others safe. What did Labor do? They threw it into another review. They put it on ice. Costs increased and it caused a lot of trouble for people who were working hard at the local level to try to keep on top of these issues and keep people safe.

We want people to be able to go out safely and have a good time, to have a drink if they want and to do so without the threat of some ratbag threatening their safety. It is about time this important safety measure was available, although, as the member for Currumbin outlined—and I acknowledge her contribution—Labor has to fiddle with it and add its own twist, with more bureaucracy and red tape that is not about safety; it is just about expense in how it is administered.

Mrs Stuckey: Safety wasn’t mentioned.

Ms SIMPSON: Safety was not mentioned; it is all about bureaucracy and expense. Licensed venues need certainty and clarity so they can get on with running their business, employing people, making a profit and creating a positive environment in our hospitality industry. Local venue operators in my electorate have been waiting over two years for this do-nothing Labor government to give them clear direction about the laws on simple things such as what ID scanners they will be required to use. It has been very unfair. It has been very unfortunate that this government was so spiteful in the way that it went about undoing previous legislation simply because it did not want to admit that the LNP was on the right track.

The former LNP government had collaborated with industry and other stakeholders to put together a comprehensive plan to tackle alcohol fuelled violence. There was clear evidence that the 2014 Safe Night Out Strategy was working before the Labor government took control of the reins and left industry in limbo for two years. It was a strategy that targeted intervention and high-visibility policing. It should have been given a chance to work, given all the time and consultation that was involved in putting it all together.

The early results across the 15 safe night precincts were very encouraging, with overall assaults down by nine per cent, sexual offences down by 18 per cent and property damage down by 10 per cent in the 2014-15 financial year. The LNP government established 15 safe night precincts across Queensland and had a comprehensive plan that included compulsory drug and alcohol education in schools and tougher penalties for violent offences, including a new offence of ‘unlawful striking causing death’, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. We empowered police to issue banning

orders and gave them more resources to be able to respond quickly to alcohol and drug related violence. We were working with local stakeholders and licensees to ensure better compliance with liquor licensing rules and safer venues.

I acknowledge the members of my safe night out committee who have worked hard and have been at the forefront of trying to ensure that the confusing policy changes and backflips would not undermine the good work they have done, but it has been challenging. I applaud local licensees and the community in my electorate for the work that they have done to try to keep people safe and to allow people to have a fun night out.

In regard to lockout laws, which this do-nothing government is repealing, the Sunshine Coast is a case in point that lockout laws did not save lives in our area. We have had lockout laws for probably about 10 years, but tragically there were still deaths in our area. That is why we said that a more comprehensive approach was needed than just this headline-grabbing useless approach of this Labor government.

Addressing alcohol fuelled violence requires strong tailored local plans and quick local action to stop the rot early. There is no single solution to improving safety; it has to be an integrated approach, with strong communication that involves all stakeholders. Information sharing to stop situations spiralling is vital. Lockout laws do not save lives; they simply have people left outside venues as well as some inside venues. Ironically, we saw greater problems with people outside some of the fast-food shops that became very popular where they were hanging out, waiting for their mates to come out of the licensed premises. Anecdotally, that is where there was more trouble. Ideally, you want to get people out of these precincts when they have finished at the licensed premises as soon as possible, with efficient public transport and with good security—which I fought for—around our taxi ranks to ensure that people can safely get out of the area.

I want to mention the issue of education. Alcohol and drug abuse is a scourge in our community, but it has been around for generations, although there have been different drugs in the mix. We have to change the culture. We have talked about the law. We need the right laws, the right resources and the right people as stakeholders working together. We have to change this culture of binge drinking and ensure that the next generation does not see it as a beautiful option when they are out to celebrate or, in fact, when they are facing difficult times. It is time for all generations to acknowledge that this has been the problem. There has been a ready reach for the wrong substances to get people high or to sometimes celebrate. Let people have a good time, but they should not get smashed and they certainly should not smash up other people. We need this culture to change. We need the laws to be right. We need the resources in place, but as a community we need to support our young people when they are out having a good time, to keep them safe to make sure that they get to go home to their families.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.29 pm): At the outset I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by the member for Callide in his private member's statement and thank him for his friendship over the past five years. As the member for Callide smiles, I am sure he knows that over those five years my knowledge of country music has increased greatly. I am not sure I have succeeded in my challenge of increasing his knowledge of Adele, although I did try on Tuesday night. Much to the enjoyment and delight of the member for Kawana, I did try to tell him who Adele was.

Mr Bleijie: I'm going to the show! I know who Adele is.

Miss BARTON: No, I was talking about Jeffrey. This feels a little like *Groundhog Day* or *deja vu*, because this is the third time since I have been elected to this place that I have stood up to speak on lockout laws. Ordinarily one does not talk about the same issue twice in the same parliamentary term, so it is a little unusual that we are again in this House in this term of parliament talking about lockout laws in this state. It is great to see that finally the Labor Party have admitted they are wrong. It is great to see the Labor Party finally admit that lockout laws are not the panacea to alcohol fuelled violence in Queensland. It is great to see that finally the Labor Party have realised that the LNP in government was right. What we need is a broad regime that does not target the majority for the sins of a few. We need a broad-ranging strategy that addresses consumption of alcohol in venues and, importantly, also addresses consumption of alcohol beforehand.

When we were in government I was on the committee that considered these laws. The last time the parliament considered these laws I had the opportunity to substitute for members and sit in on a couple of public hearings. What we do know is that there is an ever-increasing problem with preloading. The reality is that, as drinks become more and more expensive, people will buy bottles of spirits and soft drinks and they will consume alcohol—

Mr Boothman: Alcopops.

Miss BARTON:—and alcopops. I take the interjection from the member for Albert. They consume alcohol before they go out. What we needed was a broad-ranging strategy. One of the great things about the LNP's plan when we were in government was the education program. It is really disappointing—and I know the member for Kawana has touched on it, as have many others including you, Mr Deputy Speaker Millar, in your contribution—that, despite the backflip that we see from the Labor Party this week, we do not have a return of the education policy because that is just so important.

When we had a change to a new transport minister, it was a little bit like everything old is new again. With the liquor laws in Queensland, it, too, is like everything old is new again. Before the Labor Party changed the laws, we had ID scanners and no lockouts. Then the Labor Party changed the laws and we had lockouts but no ID scanners. We are going back to ID scanners and no lockout laws. It is little wonder that for the past 12 to 18 months—certainly for the past two years since the election of this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government—the industry has been incredibly confused about what it is supposed to be doing or how they can plan. The member for Kawana touched on this in his contribution on the debate, as have many others who represent regions which have safe night precincts. We have seen businesses make economic decisions on the basis of decisions of this government that have been detrimental not only to them but also, importantly, detrimental to the workforce, and that is a great shame.

Consistently people on the Gold Coast and people in my community are telling me that they do not want bigger government; they want better government. What we see consistently from the Labor Party is that they roll out red tape and they roll out bigger government day in, day out. It is great to finally see the Labor Party acknowledge the mistake that they made. It is great to see finally the Labor Party flip and flop and realise that we do not need extra restrictions on people. We do not need to punish the majority for the sins of a few. What we need is a better strategy that will actually address alcohol fuelled violence.

Despite some of us, like the member for Stafford, having different points of view about how we deal with it, the reality is that every single member of this House wants to do something about alcohol fuelled violence. The problem is that, in the rush to get the member for Stafford to run for parliament in the last term of government, they committed to something that was plainly a bad idea, and the reality is that they have finally seen that. The member for Mermaid has nicknamed this bill the 'saving Grace bill'. We all know why it is called the 'saving Grace bill', because consistently traders in the employment minister's electorate have said to her that something needs to change and, finally, we see some common sense from this government. I never thought I would see the day that we saw common sense from a Labor government. I am sure it comes as no surprise to members on this side of the House that the only time we see common sense from a Labor government is when they backflip and reaffirm an LNP policy.

In the last term of government, when we were developing our Safe Night Out Strategy in consultation with the community I took the opportunity to survey residents of my electorate of Broadwater between the ages of 18 and 31. As a younger member of parliament, I believe it is really important that young people in this state have a voice. That is why I am proud to be one of the youngest members of this House. One of the reasons I surveyed those residents was that I wanted to hear from them what they wanted. Do honourable members know what they wanted? It was not lockout laws. They wanted better transport solutions so people could get in and out of entertainment and night-time entertainment precincts. They and their parents were talking about the need for education strategies. I know that the member for Maroochydore in particular this week has had the opportunity to catch up with Andy Gourley from Red Frogs. I am sure we all acknowledge the great work that they do. We also know that they go into schools in our electorates and our communities across Queensland ahead of schoolies because they appreciate the importance of education. Consistently that was the feedback that I was getting.

People thought that ID scanners were a good idea. That was one of the reasons we did it when in government. It is not about one individual venue knowing what someone is doing; it is about all venues working together to communicate to keep the precinct safe, because that protects patrons not only in that venue but also in the entire precinct. That was one of the things that was so important with our strategy.

As I said, I have been consistently told by residents in my electorate of Broadwater that they do not want bigger government; they want better government. That is what the LNP is committed to delivering for the people of Queensland. That is why we have consistently reaffirmed our commitment to scrapping lockout laws but delivering on ID scanners. That is why we introduced the policy position that we did when we were in government because we did not believe in punishing the majority for the sins of a few.

Those of us on the right side of politics do not believe in draconian red tape. We believe in the freedom of the individual to make their own decisions. I am incredibly proud to stand up in this House for the third time and say that I do not support lockout laws because I do not believe that lockout laws will achieve what it is that people say they will achieve. The evidence is there. We just need to look at what is happening in precincts right across Australia. Lockout laws do not work. The member for Maroochydore has particular experience in her community and she has spoken about that. The last parliamentary inquiry looked at what was happening in Wollongong—and I see the member for Mount Ommaney nodding—as opposed to what was happening in Newcastle. Lockout laws do not work. They are not the panacea to the problem.

We need to educate young people in our schools about the safe consumption of alcohol and about looking after their friends. That is why it is particularly disappointing in the middle of this massive backflip that they are not putting any money into educating young people about the safe consumption of alcohol and drugs before they go to schoolies, before they turn 18 and before they go into entertainment precincts and drinking precincts right across our state.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to speak to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I wish to raise some issues in relation to this bill. I want to tell a story about how it has affected some of the businesses in my electorate and explain the further effects this legislation will have on a particular family run business due to the changes to the one-off temporary extended trading hours permits. The Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 included amendments which, from 1 July 2016, reduced available liquor service hours to 2 am statewide and 3 am in Queensland's safe night precincts. It did this not only in the precincts but also in other areas. There have been very adverse effects on the Club Hotel Motel in Roma in my electorate. I wish to read to the House the correspondence I have received from Chris Van't Hof, the managing director of Club Hotel Motel Roma. It states—

Following the 'Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016' coming into effect on 1 July 2016, our hotel has been dramatically affected financially. On 29 January 2016, our hotel made application to the Office of Liquor & Gaming Regulation (OLGR) for approval to operate until 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights in order to provide musical entertainment for the residents of Roma.

The overall costs associated with this additional one (1) hour trading application until 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday made to OLGR was in the vicinity of \$35,000. The application was advertised for public comment without any objections or comments received from the local residents.

A specific acoustic sound proof room was constructed well inside the hotel premises for entertainment, had been operating for a number of years without receiving any complaints.

Even though OLGR required Crowd Controllers to be employed for late trading, the hotel has always exceeded the minimum requirement to ensure a safe and pleasant environment for the patrons and local residents.

An OLGR approved Acoustical Engineer from Brisbane prepared an Entertainment Noise Assessment to ensure that the amenity of the local residents was not affected by any patron or entertainment noise emanation from the premises.

The hotel operates forty (40) CCTV cameras inside and outside the hotel premises, as well as an "ID-Tect" scanning system (cost \$10,000) which operates on a nation-wide basis and immediately identifies any person trying to enter the premises, who has false or incorrect ID, having been banned from any other licensed premises.

This system was a proactive safety move by the hotel and has been effective on numerous occasions. The state of the art CCTV system cost \$250,000.

The hotel has far exceeded the minimum standards in providing late night entertainment for a number of years and has won every award from the local Council for safe night entertainment.

...

As previously mentioned the hotel spent in the vicinity of \$35,000 in obtaining the extended trading on Friday and Saturday nights until 3:00 am. We can apply to OLGR for twelve (12) nights per year for extended trading hours until 3:00 am and must pay a fee of \$762-00, whereas we have already paid the Annual license Fee of \$4,871-00 for trading from 12:00 am until 2:00 am.

We provided regular entertainment for the benefit of the residents in Roma, it was controlled for the safety and enjoyment of customers and there was no adverse effect on the amenity of the general area.

Due to the reduction of the hotel's trading hours, we have found it necessary to reduce staff working hours as we can only afford to operate one (1) night each week.

It is obvious that Regional Queensland has been dramatically disadvantaged in not being able to form a 'safe night precinct' and having our trading hours reduced until 2:00 am.

We have already relinquished our 1am licence from Sunday to Thursday nights, and will need to reevaluate our current 2am licence as it is now becoming unviable to open. We need that extra hour to make any profit.

Therefore, it is requested you give favorable consideration to allowing the hotel to continue to trade until 3:00 am on Friday and Saturday nights.

That is signed by Chris Van't Hof, the managing director of Club Hotel Motel. I table for the information of the House a copy of the liquor licence issued by the Palaszczuk Labor government in July 2015. This clearly shows that the Club Hotel Motel in Roma was able to trade from 10 am to 3 am Friday and Saturday. I also table a copy of the current liquor licence issued by the Palaszczuk Labor government in August 2016.

Tabled paper: Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation liquor licences issued to the Club Hotel Motel Roma [353].

This clearly shows that the Club Hotel Motel in Roma has had their trading hours unfairly and unjustly cut back to 2 am on Friday and Saturday. There was no compensation. There was no pro rata refund for the \$35,000 outlaid for acoustic reports, formal applications and consultants to liquor licensing. There was no apology and no response to the numerous letters written to the Attorney-General about this issue. Chris Van't Hof wrote to the minister's office on 21 September 2016. I wrote to the minister's office on 28 September 2016 on this matter, and again on 21 November 2016 and again on 13 January 2017. The federal member for Maranoa, David Littleproud, wrote on 22 February 2017 asking for the Attorney-General to meet with Mr Van't Hof about this matter. I table for the information of the House copies of these letters.

Tabled paper: Correspondence, various dates, regarding the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 and the Club Hotel Motel Roma [354].

To date, there has been no response to Mr Van't Hof or me or the federal member on this issue. Minister, how many other family run businesses like the Club Hotel Motel have had their trading hours cut back in Queensland? These small businesses will now have a double hit with the tightening of the temporary late-night extended hours permit regime from 12 permits back to six permits per calendar year. The legislation also restricts the issue of permits to no more than one permit per month. There goes the second permit for the picnic races; there goes the second permit for Easter for the Club Hotel Motel. They will now have to demonstrate that these are special events over multiple days. That is more red tape, more paperwork and retrospective laws costing jobs for a family run business that has already been hit hard by this Labor government.

Mr Power interjected.

Ms LEAHY: Non-government members do not support the changes to the one-off temporary extended trading hours permits—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Member for Logan, the member for Warrego is not taking your interjections. Could you cease your interjections and allow us to hear her please.

Ms LEAHY: Non-government members do not support the changes to the one-off temporary extended trading hours permits as they are retrospective and complicate the process far more than it needs to be. The fact is that this legislation is full of retrospective policy decisions. Retrospective legislation makes it very difficult for businesses to succeed and employ more Queenslanders. Furthermore, it is no way to reduce alcohol related violence.

Minister, will the government compensate the Club Hotel Motel for the \$35,000 which they invested in the application process for a 3 am licence that was issued by this government, or will the government reinstate their 3 am licence? I would like to hear a commitment in the House from the Attorney-General in this debate that the government will respond to the Club Hotel Motel's correspondence, my correspondence and the federal member for Maranoa's correspondence by the close of the debate tonight. An apology and a compensation cheque would also be appropriate. The Attorney-General has been more than tardy with her correspondence on this matter. The Palaszczuk Labor government's treatment of this family run business in my electorate and jobs in regional Queensland is absolutely appalling.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.48 pm): I know that every resident of Logan wants to see alcohol fuelled violence eradicated in Queensland. They want a government that can be strong on the issue and act firmly on the evidence to make change. Good governance is the process of being determined and strong enough to act for the public benefit. Good governments, though, should also reflect and listen to advice, new ideas and new research. Good governments should recognise that powerful, entrenched interests have their arguments but should not be afraid to listen and respond to good arguments that take a new path towards a policy goal.

The goal of the government's policy will remain the same. Our goals are to create new norms of behaviour in our drinking establishments, to make a definitive cultural change around drinking and to encourage responsible drinking practices. We on this side of the House believe that every visitor to a licenced premises should be in a safe and secure environment where they can enjoy the entertainment

or sport, talk with friends, have a meal or even have a drink if they choose. The review of the latest research has led to a change in the direction but we have kept the government's policy goals. This is a strength of this government and it was a weakness of the last government.

Those in the former Newman-Nicholls government simply could not take on new ideas. They could not reflect new research or alternative approaches. They dogmatically stuck to wrong-headed approaches even if they did not work. We all remember the failed boot camps from the former LNP attorney-general: the lack of evidence, the high cost and the helicopter rides. Nothing could move them—nothing. We saw them being told by the public they were wrong at the Redcliffe by-election. We saw them being told by the public they were wrong at the Stafford by-election. They did not listen. They ignored the very evidence of the votes coming in. They lost the Redcliffe by-election. They were still incapable of listening. They could not listen to the evidence—incapable. Then the 2015 election was, for many, simply a referendum on this style of government—the Nicholls style of government. What is so sad for the people of Queensland is that those opposite are still completely incapable of listening. We still see that they are the same: dogmatic and unable to see new evidence. If they are ever returned to government, they would be the same or worse.

Instead, the Palaszczuk government is different. We are able to absorb the research and adapt to get the best public benefit for Queenslanders. The amendments in the bill will give effect to the evidence provided from across Queensland as part of the six-month interim evaluation report. Because of this research, the government will improve the conditions around temporary late-night extended hours permits. Some licensees have been able to use the laws to continue the 5 am liquor service despite the introduction of 2 am and 3 am last drinks. The interim evaluation report made some findings that help us improve and make safer the practices of licensed establishments.

Since the reduction in the permanent liquor service hours on 1 July 2016, licensees have sought these permits to 5 am and attempted to have a 'business as usual' practice. To ensure these reforms take place as soon as possible and are consistent with the original intent of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy, future pending applications will have the new special occasion criteria applied—undoubtedly, picnic days or race days will be a special occasion—to ensure that any special permits are indeed a special occasion, not just the usual Saturday night. This shows the Palaszczuk government committed to reducing liquor service hours consistent with the commitment we made to the people of Queensland to make our licensed establishments safer.

I note the member for Kawana made a loud noise about the change to Easter Sunday trading. Today not one member, particularly the ones from the Gold Coast, has wanted to join him in his silly folly to argue that. He has been abandoned by the backbench. The Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations rubbished his claims and revealed his hypocrisy when it comes to this issue. This is all about business, jobs and tourism. No-one in the LNP, especially those members from the Gold Coast, has shown any interest in business, jobs and tourism.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! Could I ask the minister and the shadow minister to stop interjecting across the chamber? I am trying to hear the member for Logan.

Mr POWER: Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. We know that a minority of patrons can ruin a good night out with their behaviour. To monitor this minority, the government kept open the option of ID scanners and it continued to listen and consult based on evidence. Based on the interim evaluation report's endorsement of ID scanning to enforce banning orders, the government has announced that from 1 July 2017 relevant licensed premises in safe night precincts will be required to operate an approved ID scanning system from 10 pm on any day they are authorised for extended trading hours to sell liquor beyond midnight. This means that premises can better ensure the safety of their patrons.

In my own electorate of Logan we value our licensed premises. This last Sunday I went with my wife and three young kids to a Sunday lunch at the Jimboomba pub. It is an institution in the area. It was a real pleasure to share a meal with my family amongst so many other families. We cherish that and we value the safe and secure atmosphere. Although I have not drunk in pubs for many years, I regularly go to the Logan Village pub on a Friday night to sell raffle tickets supporting the Logan Village school. The pub is a warm and inviting place for young people, old people, families—they all gather. The raffle on Friday night is the meat tray from Christoffel Country Meats at Olley's Orange Country Market, which I definitely recommend. Anyone who wants a ticket can give me a ring on a Friday night to try their luck.

Brendan, the manager, is warm and welcoming but he also wants to maintain behaviour and a high standard of service. We want to support that to ensure that our licensed premises are places that are safe and alcohol fuelled violence is reduced. This bill shows that this government listens to

Queenslanders and listens to evidence that maintains the goal of reducing alcohol fuelled violence. We wanted to use the evidence to produce good policy, to improve where improvements could be made. We have heard that this opposition is incapable of listening especially to evidence. Queenslanders expect this government to listen to evidence and to take action to reduce harm caused by alcohol fuelled violence. This bill supports those objectives. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (5.54 pm): Those opposite really do not understand, do they? We heard the member for Logan say that Queenslanders want government to listen. I was at the public hearing that the member for Ferny Grove, Mark Furner, chaired on the Gold Coast. Quite clearly in that hearing they did not listen. We had the privilege of hearing from Dr Green, the Director of Gold Coast University Hospital—

Mr Furner interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister!

Mr Furner interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my feet. Minister, I would ask you not to interject. I want to hear the member for Southport.

Mr MOLHOEK: I have no idea what he was saying. I could not hear him over here.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That includes you, member for Moggill.

Mr MOLHOEK: We heard at the Gold Coast hearing from one of the longest serving directors of emergency services in Australia. In fact, Dr Green has been the head of ER at the old Southport Hospital, then Gold Coast Hospital and now the current Gold Coast University Hospital for over 30 years. He has also had crossover responsibility with the Robina-Gold Coast emergency department from time to time as well. In his own words, he says, 'I am the second longest serving ED director,' in the history of the local health service. At that hearing he said—

During that time I have been able to treat, observe, manage and look at the problem of alcohol fuelled violence within the Gold Coast community.

It is really clear to us that this is a problem that has been around for a very long time.

As someone who grew up on the Gold Coast, I can remember back in the seventies my older siblings coming home and talking about some of the challenges of going out down in Coolangatta and Surfers Paradise. I can remember an era when the government would send the riot police down every New Year's Eve. Dr Green is right; these problems have been around for a long time. The point that Dr Green made in the hearing, which the government failed to hear and listen to—because it did not suit them to take any notice of this advice—is the fact that things have changed. What has changed is not the alcohol fuelled violence but the drug fuelled behaviour. Government members on that side of the House have done their level best to wind back the laws and allow the bikies and the criminal gangs open slather on our kids and nightclubs. It is the extreme drugs that are fuelling that alcohol fuelled violence on the Gold Coast; it is not the alcohol itself. I want to read from Dr Green's evidence because he makes some interesting comments. He states—

We have noticed in the last few years that there is an increasing change in the nature and patterns of recreational drug use on the Gold Coast. The issue of alcohol alone was that alcohol would increase some impulsivity but decrease motivation.

He is saying that in the past people would drink and they may smoke a bit of pot or take some of the drugs of old, but it would actually slow down their behaviour; it would decrease their motivation. He goes on—

You basically had a sedative drug where people would have risk-taking behaviours but they may not be able to carry them through.

However, today—

In combination with stimulants such as amphetamines, alcohol and amphetamines have increased impulsivity, increased risk and increased aggression and inclination rather than demotivation that may happen with alcohol alone.

He went on to say that one of the other speakers at the hearing would also confirm that was the case. Here is the problem: on the one hand we have a government that says they are committed to dealing with alcohol fuelled violence, but in the same breath they say, 'But we're not prepared to do anything about the criminal gangs that are feeding this violence and encouraging the production and distribution of these dangerous drugs on the Gold Coast.' Dr Green further states—

What do we do about it? What do we look at? Where do we go? In terms of the issue of lockouts and closures, from a purely pharmacological point, alcohol is a socially accepted drug.

What we are dealing with here is a question of drug distribution. These words are all in *Hansard*; they are all in the transcript and are a matter of public record.

Debate, on motion of Mr Molhoek, adjourned.

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Unions



Mr BLEIJIE (Kawana—LNP) (6.00 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for being a government of the unions, by the unions and for the unions.

Looking across the room you can see exactly the point that I am trying to make: the people across the room are here because of the union movement. They are not here because they were really great in their jobs in their past lives; they are not here because they were great lawyers who represented talented people.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I was not looking at any particular lawyer or anyone across there. I was not reflecting on anyone. I think the member for Pine Rivers volunteered herself. That is right; she was a lawyer too, wasn't she? As I said, when you look across the chamber they are not here because of any great talent in the workforce. They are not here because they own small businesses. They are not here for any other reason other than they did deals with the union movement. They do dodgy deals with the union movement. They get donations from the union movement. They keep getting donations from the union movement. They keep getting donations, and they come in here and they legislate because of the donations. The royal commission into union corruption did not go far enough.

The Premier has talked about accountability and transparency. I recall that one of their election policies was to have an inquiry into political donations. I remember that an inquiry into political donations was a big election commitment to get them into government in Queensland. When people started to ask, 'Is this inquiry going to include the unions?' there was silence. Where is the inquiry into political donations?

Mr Costigan: The silence is deafening.

Mr BLEIJIE: The silence is deafening. I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. They know they cannot have an inquiry into political donations without the unions. They want to, but they know they cannot get away with it. That is why there has been no inquiry into political donations for 2½ years, because they are scared of what will be uncovered. They are scared that things like we saw in the royal commission into union corruption will be discovered. They accuse conservative politicians and conservative politics right around the country for being corrupt and taking donations from businesspeople and individuals, yet the biggest donor to political parties in Australia is the union movement.

Mr Cramp: That's a surprise!

Mr BLEIJIE: Here is another surprise for you: it is not to the conservative parties in Queensland. The unions are not donating to the conservative side of politics in Queensland. They are donating so that people like the member for Ferny Grove get elected. They are donating so that people like the member for Springwood get elected. When you are born out of the union movement you are here for the union movement, and that is all that you do when you are in here considering matters of debate. You do not have constituents in your heart and you do not have constituents on your mind: you have the puppetmasters of the union on your mind. That is all they have on their minds: union thugs. They have their speeches checked. They have everything checked. They vet everything through the union movement because they do not want to get into trouble.

We know that with the member for Springwood, who is now a minister, there were allegations of cricket bats and so forth. There are allegations that the member for Springwood was a union enforcer. Now we hear that the meeting with Evan Moorhead about the redistribution did not quite go according to plan. We heard that the member for Springwood threw a chair at Evan Moorhead. There is thuggish behaviour in the Labor Party and it is derived from the union movement. It is not good for Queensland; it is not good for Queenslanders. It is about time the media put a bigger spotlight on union donations and the relationship between the Queensland Labor Party and the Labor government. The government is not run by the unions: they are owned by the unions. They are owned by the union movement in Queensland, and we should have better inquiries into their relationship.

(Time expired)



Mr KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.05 pm): I rise to speak against this ridiculous motion—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will pause the clock and start again because I cannot hear the member for Greenslopes. He is not as loud as the member for Kawana.

Mr KELLY: You do not always need volume to be intelligent. I speak against this ridiculous motion. I will let others that I have worked with over the years decide whether I was any good as a nurse or a union official or a disability services worker. What I can tell you is not great is this motion. The team that put it together must have laboured long and hard in their thatched hut all night long—

Ms Pease: In Slovakia.

Mr KELLY: In Slovenia, I think you will find. This government is a government that listens to workers and their unions. We back workers; we do not sack them. We want them to be safe at work and, no matter what type of worker they are, we want them to get paid their penalty rates. We are a government for all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government is a government of business. When I go out into my community to talk to small business owners, they say to me, 'We want training as owners. We want training as managers of business.' That is why programs like the Accelerate Small Business Grants Program and the Small Business Digital Grants Program are extremely welcome when I talk to people about them.

The Palaszczuk government is the government of education with the advancing education action plan and robotics and coding. I have been to Mount Gravatt State School and Coorparoo Secondary College and looked at what is happening there. My own children come home and tell me about the lessons they are learning around coding. I have been to the Autism Hub and Reading Centre, which is pushing the literacy of our children even further. We are the government that has put teachers back into the classroom. This world is changing and presenting new challenges. We can respond by building walls or we can respond by educating our young people to rise to the challenges of the future. That is the government I want to be a part of, and that is the government that I am a part of.

The Palaszczuk government is the government of school support staff. We are the government that backs admin officers and grounds people, the people who care for our schools and our buildings and support our teachers in every single suburb in every single tiny town—in places where there are no towns—those are the people that we back, and they are getting pay increases thanks to this government. Some of the lowest paid workers in this state are going to be taking home more pay thanks to this Labor Palaszczuk government—a government for all Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is the government of fairer fares. I can tell you that, when I go to the Coorparoo, Greenslopes and Holland Park West bus stations and talk to commuters, they love it. What they tell me is that they not only love fairer fares but they love the concept of Cross River Rail, and they are happy that we are moving ahead to build Cross River Rail because we are the government of fairer fares. We are also the government that backs people who live in social housing. We got rid of unfair Newman government policies and we have taken action to make rents fair again. The Palaszczuk government is also the government that treats people experiencing homelessness with dignity. Dignity First is an amazing program which funds organisations like the Orange Sky Laundry and Jack Reed Barbershop, which provide basic services to people to help them build self-esteem, build their dignity and find a way out of homelessness. That is why I am working with community groups in my electorate to apply for the next round of funding.

The Palaszczuk government is a government of job creation. Skilling Queenslanders for Work is a fantastic program. When I walk across the road from my electorate office I walk into Vision Australia. Sixty per cent of working-age people who have low or no vision are unemployed. This program is putting them back to work. Let us not forget the teachers and the nurses we have put back into the schools and hospitals. As a nurse I can say that I am particularly fond of the graduate program because we have to rebuild our profession.

We are also a government for sporting clubs. The Holland Park Hawks, the Coorparoo Juniors Australian Football Club, the Holland Park Sports & Community Club, the Holland Park Junior Cricket Club, the Coorparoo Cricket Club and the HiTech Netball Club are all funded by the Palaszczuk government.

Let us not forget that we are a government of health and we are a government of nursing. The waiting list for the waiting list is gone. Last Saturday at a mobile office an elderly lady came 250 metres down the road to tell me how pleased she was to get off the waiting list for the waiting list and to have

her hip operation. To demonstrate, she walked 250 metres home and came back with a cup of tea for me. It was the best cup of tea I had ever had. When it comes to nursing there is only one thing I can say: ratios, ratios, ratios.

I have told members what sort of government the Palaszczuk government is, but I can also tell them what it will not be. It will not be the government of George, by George and for George.

(Time expired)

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (6.11 pm): I am not sure what the last speaker was trying to do; I could not hear him. I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Kawana. Since coming into this House it has always amazed me that, every time the subject of criminal activity and workplace thuggery by unions and their organisers arises, the Labor lemmings on the Left immediately jump to that old chestnut that somehow the LNP is not representing the interests of Queensland workers. That defence is certainly getting old.

Labor just does not get it. It has lost its way and it is in no way even close to being a voice for the Queensland worker—let alone, as the member for Greenslopes said, a voice for all Queenslanders. To be a voice for all Queenslanders you have to listen to their concerns, not just the concerns of the faceless union organisers who control every one of your movements and actions.

I have never seen a more inward focused, navel-gazing, egocentric, pathetic rabble than those opposite. Time and time again we see shining examples of government members willing to place the actions—including criminal actions—of union organisers before the interests of the Queensland public and Queensland workers. Not once have I heard the Premier or any of her ministers or backbenchers stand up in this chamber and condemn the criminal activity that we see again and again from organisations such as the CFMEU and the ETU and their organisers. In fact, when the Premier and her ministers do stand up to speak about the criminal activities of the union movement, it is clearly evident that they are proud of their actions, which in many cases not only break the law but also cost Queensland taxpayers millions of dollars in stoppages on Queensland work sites, and proud of the thuggery and intimidation by the union organisers and their representatives.

Australian workers are sick of having their hard-earned dollars taken in union fees spent on the political puppets opposite. Union fees should be for the sole purpose of representing union members in workplace matters—nothing more. They definitely should not go to paying hundreds of thousands of dollars to a union organiser who could not care less about the workers—

Mr Costigan: Fat cats.

Mr CRAMP: I take that interjection. They are nothing short of fat cats. Nor should millions of dollars of union members' fees be spent on political campaigning.

It is ironic that in Queensland, a truly democratic state, we see the last barrier to democracy, of choice for the people, to be in choice of workplace representation. Apparently Queensland workers can be trusted to do everything but choose who they want to represent their interests in workplace matters.

Ms Grace: Here we go!

Mr CRAMP: That is right: the minister does not like the truth. It has become very clear to the Queensland public that the sole purpose of this Labor government is to ensure the monopoly unions, who definitely do not want any change to their monopoly provisions, stay in charge of the Queensland economy.

Who does this servitude by the Palaszczuk Labor government to its union masters affect most? It affects the thousands of small to medium businesses in Queensland and the many more thousands of employees in these businesses—the very people the union movement purports to represent.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr CRAMP: I take the interjection of the member for Chatsworth. Why do they hate workers?

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRAMP: Or was it businesses or was it both? How appropriate it is that we are speaking about this today, when we see another Labor backflip to repeal its own business-crushing lockout laws. This out-of-touch government and its union masters are deciding the economic futures of Queensland employees and small business owners, leaving them to live with the consequences of the ongoing stumbling decisions, just as we have seen with the lockout laws here today.

With every one of those businesses being as different as the people who work in them, it stands to reason that it is the employees and owners of each individual business who can work out what is fair and what is not. Perhaps it is time to recognise that workers are capable of making such decisions for

themselves. It seems that only the LNP recognises this. We all know that this Labor government is not about to allow any such choice for the worker—not when the wages of its union masters and its political coffers would suffer as a result of such a decision.

This government needs to stop kowtowing to its union masters and start governing for the good of all Queenslanders. Labor has failed Queenslanders at every turn. Queenslanders want to build their lives and move forward. They want a successful business environment and to be employed. They know what is in their own best interests and they know that this Labor government only cares about its union masters' interests. This government has been a disaster right from the start, and I expect that to continue until we can get it out of here.

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (6.16 pm): Another day, another motion from the member for Kawana against workers and their representatives. It is getting tiresome. Just about every time the member for Kawana proposes a motion or speaks in this place it is either to condemn those who represent the workers of Queensland or to character-assassinate members in this place. He appears to me to have very little else to offer.

Who are the workers in this state? They are police, firemen, nurses, teachers, electricians and ambulance officers, just to name a few. I call the member's constant attack on workers' representative bodies an obsession. For the benefit of the House, I thought I would provide the meaning of the word to illustrate this. The dictionary defines 'obsession' as 'an idea or thought that continually preoccupies or intrudes on a person's mind'—tick. Some synonyms for 'obsession' are: fixation—certainly; passion—maybe not; mania—

Government members: Tick!

Mr KING: Compulsion—

Government members: Tick!

Mr KING: Preoccupation—

Government members: Tick!

Mr KING: Infatuation—

Government members: Tick!

Mr KING: Addiction?

Government members: Tick!

Mr KING: Fetish? Let us not go there! Phobia? Maybe phobia is the particular one that is relevant. Maybe this obsession is fuelled by fearing the voice of working people through the union movement.

I know that those opposite have an unexplainable opposition to unions. For the life of me I cannot understand why. Collectivism has been around since records began. As I have said in this place before, when people with a similar interest form a group to have a louder voice of representation to balance the power dynamic between parties, this is collectivism. When a group of like-minded individuals join together, pay a fee to help service their interests, elect a leadership body and have a rank-and-file membership who have a say in making decisions, I would call that body a union or something that seeks to emulate one. At least when workers do it it is called a union. When businesses do it it is called the chamber of commerce or the retail traders association. These groups' representative function is the same as a union, as far as I am concerned. The LNP makes all sorts of unwelcome and vile insinuations about unions but never bothers to look at these organisations that represent business or other groups, even though there is a recent history of one of their own members being accused of corrupt actions in regard to one of these organisations.

The union movement is a collective. The ALP was formed by workers and is certainly a collective. Once again for the record I state: the LNP also meets this criteria. Even though they came much later to the game than unions or the Labor Party, it seems quite hypocritical that those opposite seek to criticise that which they seek to imitate. The one thing that those opposite cannot imitate, however, is the great work the union movement has achieved for working conditions and workers' safety. That is because, in my opinion, they do not care about workers. I think unionism goes back a lot further than we think. I had an opportunity to see a great movie last year and the hero of the movie in my eyes was a great union leader—or union boss, as those opposite would call him. He fought against an oppressive management that treated the workers like slaves and, although this great man tried again and again to get better conditions for his workmates, his attempts fell on deaf ears. Finally in desperation he called his members to down tools and leave their work site. There was not a dry eye in the King house when

he did that. Justice was done. That movie was *Exodus: Gods and Kings* and the man in the movie was an artistic interpretation of the biblical person called Moses and I was elated to see him lead what may have been the first industrial action in history against an oppressive boss.

The union movement has done great things and will continue to do so despite the vitriolic rhetoric from those opposite. I will just list a few achievements the union movement has attained for workers: four weeks annual leave, equal pay for women, paid parental leave, personal carers leave, long service leave, paid public holidays, annual leave loading, occupational health and safety laws, superannuation, fair compensation for asbestos sufferers like Bernie Banton. The unions saved us from Work Choices and will help save us from Malcolm Turnbull and One Nation's latest attacks on workers with the ABCC and complacency over Fair Work's decision on penalty rates. It is time for those opposite to tone down the hysteria, the inflammatory language and the hubris they indulge in on a daily basis about the union movement and realise that many Queensland workers are proud trade unionists and have a right to access the services of a union at work.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (6.21 pm): I rise to wholeheartedly support the member for Kawana's motion with exhibit A: the member for Kallangur, a former ETU organiser and enforcer. Do I need to say more?

Mr KING: I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House. I was a workplace delegate and never worked for the Electrical Trades Union.

Honourable members interjected.

Mrs SMITH: I gave him a promotion that he obviously did not deserve! Can members smell that desperation in the air from the members of the Labor government, and isn't it putrid? It must be preselection time!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Mount Ommaney, unfortunately the support from your colleagues means that I cannot hear you.

Mrs SMITH: It must be preselection time. In fact, it is! We know that every one of the 42 ALP members are beholden to the unions because it is the unions that decide who keeps their jobs and who goes. Actually, I think it is the political equivalent of the TV show *Survivor*. It is the union bosses who decide who is safe and who has their political future extinguished—their little flame put out and they must leave the show. The 42 members keep the appearance up, but let us do away with the charade and let us look at the facts. They continue to meet with the likes of Michael Ravbar from the CFMEU at a time when he and his organisation are the subject of serious criminal investigations. Birds of a feather flock together. ETU reps were here during the last sitting. They were up there watching in the wings ensuring the passage of the bills. In fact, Alex Scott from the Together union is at parliament so often that I think I have seen him starting to do the tours. He is here so often that he is showing the tourists around and then he is at the gift shop at the end making some sales. It is unbelievable that he is here all the time. However, we have to look no further for the proof of union ownership of this government than how ministers are appointed, and how has that worked out for them? They have not chosen on suitability, merit or capability. Rather, in cabinet it is all about the factions being carved up, and no wonder there has been stuff-up after stuff-up from this incompetent lot! Who could forget the member for Bundamba, the former police minister? Which faction was she? Left?

An opposition member: CFMEU!

Mrs SMITH: Left faction CFMEU—that is right—but she did not last real long. What about the member for Bundaberg—a short stay? The Left faction again! We cannot forget the member for Sandgate. Remember: he was 100 per cent focused and the rail fail still continues every single day. The member for Mount Coot-tha is going from 'Miles for Mount Coot-tha' to now miles from Mount Coot-tha! His biggest campaign last time was 'Miles better for the reef'. Guess what? He is getting closer and closer and closer to the reef and I would say that the member for Mackay might be in a little bit of trouble next time. The member for Mulgrave switched and changed his factions like the member for Gladstone—switched and changed to try and—

An opposition member: It backfired on him though. It backfired.

Mrs SMITH: It did backfire. When they replaced the member for Sandgate, wasn't that a beautiful contest?

Mr Minnikin: That was special!

Mrs SMITH: It was a special contest and it was probably the only time I was going for the member for Ferny Grove! I was one of those people. What do we have?

Mr Bleijie: He was at 100 to one, but he still got it!

Mrs SMITH: I was going for the member for Ferny Grove, but when you look at the talent I do not know what is going to happen. The saddest thing is that Queenslanders who thought that they were getting an Annastacia Palaszczuk government have been duded because she is just a figurehead. The truth is that this Palaszczuk Labor government is 100 per cent owned and operated by the union bosses with, as I said, the Premier as the figurehead and of course that loyal Deputy Premier calling the shots behind the scenes. There is now hope for all of you in the Left faction because of the big black cloud hanging over the head of the Minister for Energy. Let us see what happens—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.28 pm): I rise to oppose the motion as a very proud unionist and as a very proud ex-leader and secretary of the Queensland Council of Unions—the first woman elected to that position. It was an honour to represent the working people in the state, as it is an honour to represent all Queensland in the current position that I have in the parliament. The member for Kawana said that they know why we are all over here and I think he was trying to point to the fact that it had to do with the union movement. I want to enlighten those opposite. I keep saying this but it cannot get through their heads. I will tell them why we are over here, and it is because of the member for Kawana! That is why we are over here!

The member for Kawana was one of the worst industrial relations ministers that this state has ever had and one of the worst attorney-generals this state has ever had. Members should ask any member of the legal profession about the performance of the member for Kawana as the attorney-general. I know why I won the seat of Brisbane Central. Those lawyers there were coming out in droves to vote for me so that they could get rid of the member for Kawana.

What has happened to the Liberal Party? At least we on this side of the House know what we stand for. We stand for protecting workers in this state any day. We will put our record against that of the members opposite at any time.

I am having a sense of déjà vu here. Someone mentioned groundhog day. I have lost count of the number of times the members opposite have had to scrape the barrel and bring up their union-bashing motion. The members opposite are bereft of ideas. The Leader of the Opposition asks, 'Has anybody got any ideas?' and there the member for Kawana is again saying, 'I have, I have, I have. In the top of my drawer I have one. Let's bash the unions.' It is really sad that the Leader of the Opposition gives them a go. He says, 'That's a good idea. We haven't done that one for a while. There's nothing else we can think of.'

Let me help the members opposite a bit. I will tell them what the unions think about their record when they were in government. There was not a public servant that the members opposite looked at that they did not want to sack. They sacked 14,000 of them. The members opposite ripped away the common law rights of injured workers. Recently, I received a very sad letter from the member for Coomera about one of his constituents who, because of the laws brought in by those opposite, was denied common law access. The daughter was so upset that her father had not been compensated properly that she wrote to the member for Coomera, but he failed to tell her why that was the case. I will tell the member for Coomera why now. The father is being compensated because of the changes that we brought in. I say to the members opposite to not think for one second that we do not govern for all of Queensland. We certainly do. The members opposite imposed a 16-month wage freeze on the public sector. That is the legacy of the members opposite. The members are so bereft of ideas that I will give them a few.

Mr Cramp interjected.

Ms GRACE: We have the wannabe union official from Gaven. Let me tell him that they will never have him. He can keep wishing, but he will never get a chance. Let me give the members opposite some ideas that they can move a motion on. Let us talk about the penalty rates that are being stripped from workers. There is silence over there. Let us talk about exploitation of workers by labour hire companies. There is silence over there. Let us talk about the massive increases in executive pay. There is silence over there. Let us talk about the exploitation of ordinary workers. There is silence over there. I am going to miss the member for Callide but, after that mediocre effort, I know why he is leaving.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 41:

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

NOES, 43:

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

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

Resolved in the negative.

Sitting suspended from 6.38 pm to 7.40 pm.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Email Account

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (7.40 pm): I rise to respond to matters raised in question time today regarding my private email account. I am advised by my chief of staff that the RTI applications by the *Australian* were lodged with the RTI section of my department on 19 January 2017. They were emailed to my office on 24 January 2017.

I am further advised that to ensure clarity over the scope of the inquiry, as it was relating to a private email account, my chief of staff sought advice from the department. Written advice was finalised and received by my chief of staff on 3 February 2017. My chief of staff forwarded that advice to me on that day to arrange a discussion about this matter. However, due to other pressing matters I did not open the email until the following week. My chief of staff raised the matter with me on Monday morning, 6 February 2017, which was the first time I became aware of the applications. It was during this discussion that I told my chief of staff I had deleted the email account. To the best of my recollection I deleted the account on Sunday, 5 February.

As previously stated, because I could not control who emailed me on my longstanding email account of 20 years, I deleted it to ensure there was no possibility of work related emails not going to my work email address. I reiterate my full cooperation with the investigation into this matter.

LIQUOR AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 522, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (7.42 pm), continuing: If I can take members' minds back to where we were before the dinner break and the six o'clock debate, I was relating to the House the advice of the eminent Dr Green who has been the head of ER at the Gold Coast Hospital and with the Gold Coast health service for many years. The point I was wanting to make was that the government has not listened. It is amusing because out of this failed legislation of theirs they commissioned an interim evaluation report when what they should have done is heeded the advice of Dr Green that he gave to the hearing some 14 months ago. He said—

As far as where we would want to go in the near future, we looked at our data and it is really hard to get exactly what it is. We need research assistants in that place, because even if you think it is not alcohol related sometimes when you drill down into it the person who is presenting with an injury may not disclose until I refer them to a social worker ...

On that occasion Dr Green went on to discuss in great detail the kind of research and the funding that the health services need to actually get to the bottom of some of the issues to do with alcohol fuelled violence. He also said roughly one-third of the patients that they see at ER are alcohol related presentations. They are not seeing the perpetrators of alcohol related violence; more often than not they are seeing the victims. He goes on to make this point—

They present in many and various ways. They present as victims of domestic violence. They present in patients with chronic alcohol consumption, with chronic disease. They present with trauma from vehicle related accidents through to falls through to all sorts of other things. Alcohol related trauma and alcohol fuelled violence is not just a disease of nightclubs and those precincts, although most of the cases around are. A lot of it happens in the house.

The reason I went into that is that one of the problems with the nightclub lockout laws is that it forces people back into the suburbs. We have heard evidence in the past that the alcohol fuelled violence occurs at home or out in the local communities and it actually makes it more difficult to police and often the results are more hidden and the consequences of that violence are more severe but it does not come to light. That is why it was so important and that is why I am proud to be part of a government that actually launched the Safe Night Out Strategy. This evening I attended the unveiling of Campbell Newman's portrait.

Government members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: The painter, David Hinchliffe, spoke about the need for respect amongst colleagues.

Government members interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: A colleague of those opposite actually suggested that it would be great if we mixed up the House and we sat in alternate seats so we might get to know each other and work together more collaboratively. But I digress. David Hinchliffe said about the former premier, 'Campbell was a conviction politician. He may have gone too hard too fast, but he was determined to try to fix things.' One of the things that he tried to fix and that we were very committed to, which those on the other side of the House were very quick to scrap, was our Safe Night Out Strategy. It was all about saying to our young people and visitors to the Gold Coast that we actually trust them, that a great night out is a safe night out. We did not want to shut things down, put people out of work, introduce ill-thought-out policy and short-term fixes, kowtowing to ill-informed people. We recognised that this was a reality, it was something we needed to address and deal with in our society. We need to manage it. We need to educate people. We need to provide a safe environment for people who visit the safe night precincts on the Gold Coast and here in the Valley. We need to provide places where people can go and enjoy themselves and do so knowing that there will be support services and a focus around them that will actually make sure that that environment is a safe place for them to be.

I rise tonight to express my frustration at the lack of listening by those on the other side of the House. They are quick to try to shut down licensed venues and restrict people's behaviour. The only people they do not seem to be bothered about restricting are the criminal gangs and the drug dealers who manufacture these products on the Gold Coast. They have not given the police the support they need. They have not really supported the principles of the Safe Night Out Strategy. My only hope is that the government will stick by the changes that come out of this new legislation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): The member's time has expired. Before calling the member for Toowoomba South, could I encourage people sitting on my right to be a little bit more respectful.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (7.59 pm): I may not have been in this House long, but if there is one issue that has had me more confused than any other it is the position of the Labor Party on lockout laws and alcohol fuelled violence, and that confusion continues. As a legacy, we have the LNP position. The LNP position was one of clarity and certainty. We invested \$50 million in wide consultation and created wise legislation. We sought to introduce 15 safe night precincts to centralise night-time entertainment so that the police could allocate their resources to address any antisocial behaviour. The LNP government sought to increase police powers to ban and to act. The LNP government sought to ensure that antisocial behaviour such as attacks on police and other people patronising night-time establishments would no longer be tolerated.

We saw the fruits of that. In 2014-15, assaults were down by nine per cent, property damage was down by 10 per cent and drug offences detected in the safe night precincts were up by 26 per cent, showing that the laws were working. Then the Labor government came into power. They were in search of a problem that probably did not exist. They were trying to address alcohol fuelled violence, as all of us here are trying to do, but they actually took us down a path towards mass confusion. They tried to take us to New South Wales. They pointed to Newcastle and Kings Cross as examples of the perfect safe night precinct model. However, we know that in those places there was no discernible change in crime figures or assaults, although there was a significant change in employment numbers, which dropped substantially. Had their laws persisted, the same would have happened here in Queensland.

I wish to tell the House about what the people of Toowoomba are doing. There are 15 safe night precincts across the state and a great one is located in Toowoomba. I want to spend a bit of time focusing on it, because everybody in Toowoomba is toasting it.

Mr MINNIKIN: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Before taking the point of order, I will say this: member for Capalaba, you are interjecting but not from your seat. The member for Stretton is getting close to a warning and the member for Thuringowa is not far behind him. Member for Chatsworth, what is your point of order?

Mr MINNIKIN: Mr Deputy Speaker, you have taken care of the point of order.

Mr JANETZKI: I do not think they enjoy hearing the truth. I do not think they are real keen on it. I want to focus on Toowoomba, where we are all toasting the dawning of common sense within the government. The Toowoomba Safe Night Precinct President, Brad Fitzgibbon, and his family run a great pub in Toowoomba called Fitzy's. The pub's Tapestry Bar is great. Brad Fitzgibbon has said that the precinct puts the focus back on those behaving badly. ID scanners—a great idea of the LNP, thankfully adopted by those opposite—weed out the one per cent who want to cause trouble, without nannying the 99 per cent who just want to go out and have a good time. Toowoomba has a booming night scene, with the University of Southern Queensland attracting lots of young people. We have families who want to invest in pubs and clubs. With the diminishing of these Labor laws through rolling back of lockouts, families will invest substantially in the economic future of our city.

We have plenty of theatres. The Empire Theatre is the greatest regional theatre in the state, if not the nation—

Mr Watts: In the country.

Mr JANETZKI: In the country; I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. Across the city we have theatres and music spots. We have a great environment for entertainment. Mr Deputy Speaker, I know you have spent some time in Toowoomba and I am sure you would know of the Spotted Cow. I believe the *Betoota Advocate* is launching a beer at the Spotted Cow tomorrow night.

Mr Boothman: What is the Spotted Cow?

Mr JANETZKI: I can tell the member for Albert that the Spotted Cow is the greatest pub in Toowoomba.

Mr McEachan: I thought it was Fitzy's.

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection from the member for Redlands. Fitzy's is, too. We have great pubs everywhere. The Coorey family runs the Spotted Cow and I have often spoken with Phil Coorey, as has the member for Toowoomba North. The family is investing millions of dollars into the future of the safe night precinct in Toowoomba. They are investing in the Mills Precinct, which will have a new bar and bistro called the Flour Mill. An abandoned Westpac building located in the heart of Toowoomba city, on the corner of Ruthven and Margaret streets—

Mr Watts: In Toowoomba North.

Mr JANETZKI: I will not take that interjection. We are seeing families invest in pubs and clubs in Toowoomba, all because there has been a return to common sense and sensible lawmaking. It may come as some surprise to members, but I am not often out at midnight on a Saturday night. I am not a big one for being out late on a Saturday night and I never have been. However, I went out last Saturday night. I was invited by METRO Care, which runs a street crew in Toowoomba. For a number of years now, the safe night precinct has been the centrepiece of their oversight of Toowoomba's night-life. The METRO Care street crew is led incredibly well by operations manager Matt Gregg and volunteer Helen Muller. Last Saturday night, I went out with a whole range of people from the METRO Care street crew. Sometimes they will be there just to put an arm around somebody who has had too much to drink or who may be having an emotional meltdown. They give people red frogs. METRO Care is there for the people, all because of the safe night precinct introduced because of the LNP. Those guys do an incredible job.

Last Saturday night, I was fortunate to see the police in full operation. The safe night precincts introduced by the LNP allow police to allocate their resources where they are needed rather than having everybody running off into the suburbs. The police allowed me to shadow them on Saturday night and I saw a major operation involving over 35 police. I was incredibly impressed by their professionalism and their dedication. A couple of sniffer dogs were out and about. If there was any trouble, they were on it like a seagull on a hot chip. They were all over it. I caught up with Inspector Sharee Cumming, Sergeant Jason Hopgood and their team, all of whom did an incredible job on Saturday night because they can allocate their resources where they are needed. I pay tribute to them.

I want to finish on an economic point. We know that the safe night precincts, created by the LNP, sit in central business districts throughout regional Queensland in cities such as Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Bundaberg, Ipswich and Toowoomba. We have safe night precincts that overlap central business districts. We also know that half of all new jobs created in Australia are now created in central business districts. That tells us that central business district activity leads to ever more central business district activity. Therefore, it makes good economic sense for safe night precincts to operate because it encourages investment in the safe night precincts, which leads to additional investment in central business districts. If there is one distortion in labour markets throughout Australia, it is in regional centres. Therefore, it is a very good economic argument. Tonight from a range of speakers on our side we have heard a lot about the impact that these laws have had on jobs. I believe that, by turning back these proposed lockout laws, we will have a system that will encourage investment and economic development in central business districts.

For all of those reasons, it is pleasing that the Labor government has followed the lead of the LNP and seen sense. Basically, it has seen the light. It has been a long night, but the dawn is coming. At last we have an acknowledgement that the LNP laws have worked, are working and will continue to work into the future.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.59 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. In early 2015 the Queensland Premier, then opposition leader, went to the election promising 3 am last drinks with a 1 am lockout. She then backflipped and changed her mind, suggesting instead to implement a 2 am last drinks outside safe night precincts and a 3 am last drinks with a 1 am lockout inside safe night precincts. The Premier, no surprise, has now backflipped again, deciding to scrap the lockout laws altogether after an interim evaluation report said that it was unlikely a lockout would alter current trends. Backflips and over 150 reviews—this is governance via procrastination.

Why am I not surprised? As my colleagues on this side of the chamber have mentioned, the former LNP government had a real plan to tackle alcohol fuelled violence. In 2014 the former LNP government introduced its Safe Night Out Strategy following months of detailed and thorough public consultation and discussions on the issue of alcohol and drug related violence. Let us compare and contrast for those following at home. The previous member for Brisbane Central, Mr Robert Cavalluci, did a superb job in this area of key public policy. He understood the need to engage with all key stakeholders in order to craft effective public policy.

The \$44½ million strategy included more than 60 initiatives designed to change the culture that has developed in Queensland, with a committed focus on preventing further deaths and violence. It was indeed a comprehensive plan for a complicated problem. We took the mature approach and worked to address individual responsibility rather than punishing the majority of people who do the right thing for the sins of a few. Why does this do-nothing government think the key success indicator of public policy is the quantum of money they simply throw at a problem and make blanket calls which penalise the majority of law-abiding citizens?

We need better governance, not more government. We covered a variety of issues which all contributed to the deep-seated issue growing within our culture—the issue of alcohol and drug related violence. We accepted these concerning incidents were not going away. Instead, sadly, they were becoming all too regular.

Unlike this do-nothing Labor government, our plan did not involve hitting the terminate button and killing the late-night hospitality industry in one swift move. Federal Labor almost killed the live cattle trade overnight and now this do-nothing Palaszczuk government has almost wiped out the late-night hospitality industry. The LNP had a multifaceted approach. It involved scanning and banning and harsher penalties for violence, along with education and coordinated safety initiatives. It has never been enough to simply put a bandaid on the wound when it is indeed a deep-seated injury.

The Labor government had only one simple plan—lock them out. The plan did not address the real issues—it did not address them at all—behind the violence on our streets. We have always believed that community safety must be a priority. However, as recent reporting has found, there is no hard evidence to show the introduction of a lockout would curb alcohol fuelled violence rather than simply move it.

The parliamentary committee originally raised this same concern with Labor's plan, questioning whether there was sufficient data to support this lukewarm approach and, as a result, was unable to report to parliament that this be passed. The first recommendation of the committee was to collect more

data, stating there was little support from any quarter for the 1 am lockout proposal. Most interestingly and tellingly is the report upon which this government now basis this new bill. This report was completed before the lockout ever commenced.

The LNP learned when the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Bill was debated in the House last year that the data used to justify the case was based on a Melbourne study, not a Queensland study, and was more than 15 years old. We are talking about the late 1990s. It did not specify a causal relationship between those hospitalisations listed and alcohol related violence. Essentially, the data was as relevant as an Olympian hopeful using time trials from the 2000 games to gain a position on the 2016 team.

Furthermore, Dr David Rosengren, Chair of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, confirmed at a public hearing that the data used was grossly flawed and there was a possibility that single improvements in measuring might be one contributing factor. While there were some reports on the supposed success of the Newcastle solution when the last bill was debated, many failed to acknowledge that assault rates in the Brisbane area were already 63 per cent lower than in Newcastle. Meanwhile, despite introducing severe restrictions, including a lockout in 2008, Newcastle was lagging behind the rest of New South Wales in reducing criminal assaults around licensed premises.

The early results of the LNP government's program were optimistic, with initial police data indicating that overall assaults had decreased by nine per cent. This was also coupled with sexual offences decreasing by 18 per cent, property damage decreasing by 10 per cent and drug offences detected by police decreasing by 26 per cent. This demonstrated that targeted intervention and a highly visible police presence was clearly improving the general safety of patrons who frequented Queensland's most popular nightspots.

What drives me as a politician is firstly to serve my Chatsworth community and then to assist with crafting good public policy. I acknowledge in my contribution to this debate that these were only preliminary results, with some elements of the Safe Night Out Strategy yet to commence.

As a complete package, the key elements of our strategy would have included, firstly and very importantly, compulsory drug and alcohol education in Queensland schools from years 7 to 12. Singularly, this important element would have seen our most influential Queenslanders taught about the effects of drugs and alcohol in a bid to see a cultural change flow through society. Secondly, we would have seen the establishment of 15 safe night precincts across Queensland to ensure popular nightclubs had coordinated provisions and support initiatives in place to keep patrons safe.

Thirdly, there would have been a new offence of unlawful striking causing death, which would carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and would require the offender to serve 80 per cent of his or her prison sentence. Queenslanders and visitors to our great state had to be aware that with actions there would be consequences.

Fourthly, we also looked at increasing penalties for other violent and antisocial offences. Fifthly, we looked at empowering police to issue banning orders. Sixthly, we looked at stronger and better coordinated action to ensure licensees provided a safe environment for their patrons. Finally, we looked at an awareness campaign, including advertising, to promote clear standards of responsible behaviour for patrons, licensees and police.

We believe the Safe Night Out Strategy should have been given a real chance to work given the time and consultation involved to put it together. I again congratulate the former member for Brisbane Central on the sterling work he did. Many on that side of the chamber could take a leaf out of his book. Success would not have come overnight, but as we have seen with other key public policy initiatives with attitudes towards smoking and drink-driving over time this integrated suite of policies may have had positive impacts.

Instead, we were given a bill which saw us looking at the history books for inspiration, ripped straight out of the days of prohibition. Just over two years ago the Labor Party won a protest vote and were given the precious gift of government. Why are they squandering this precious gift? The Palaszczuk government's approach to backflipping on lockout laws is another classic example. As Sir Winston Churchill once stated, 'It would be a great reform in politics if wisdom could be made to spread as easily and rapidly as folly.'

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (8.09 pm): As a trauma surgeon I saw firsthand the damage violence caused in our streets and in our homes. Be it alcohol fuelled violence, domestic violence or, indeed, violence caused by drugs, I entered this place to reduce this scourge of violence in our society. As a government,

we have fought for change, but let me assure members that I have no plans to leave this place, not until I have achieved the same reductions in violence as have been achieved in Newcastle and, indeed, in other places in Australia and around the world.

Let us be clear: this is a battle of mums and dads against an industry that is willing to expose our children to unnecessary harm. I know which side of the battle I am on. I also know which side those opposite are on. Last year we put in place many strong measures: last drinks at 3 am in our precincts and 2 am elsewhere; no rapid intoxication drinks past midnight; no further permits for bottle shops opening past 10 pm; ID scanners; extensive intervention and education; and, most importantly, independent review by some of Australia's leading universities. Nothing has changed. These interventions are still there and strong. The lockout laws were not introduced. The lockout laws were simply trialled. We found evidence through the interim report that the lockout laws are unnecessary. I will explain why later.

This is a multifaceted evidence based approach. I have remained totally consistent during this time. In September 2013 a media release stated—

AMA Queensland agrees with the views already expressed by Maxillofacial surgeon Dr Anthony Lynham who says 'the 3 am closure is a great initiative but won't work on its own.

That is why we have that raft of measures. On 28 November 2013, another media release quoted me saying—

... the Queensland Government must implement a comprehensive evidence-based plan to address alcohol related harms that target the heart of the problem, the excessive availability of alcohol.

That is what we have achieved here. The problem identified in the interim report is simply the rorting of the exemption system—12 exemptions per year at the request of industry. We allowed it in good faith but they rorted it. In fact, they always ask for more.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Member for Coomera, I suggest you go to your seat if you wish to interject; otherwise, you will be warned.

Dr LYNHAM: As I said, they always seem to want more. There were even calls for 24-hour trading on the Gold Coast. They agreed to ID scanners and now some want the ID scanners removed. They will stop at nothing. The line will simply get further and further away.

It is up to us now to stand up for the safety of our children and say enough is enough. Those opposite—their proposal, their mechanism, can be described straightforwardly—want industry control. They want industry to control what happens in our precincts. They want industry to control the nightclub and hotel industry. They want to put the fox in charge of the henhouse. In fact, the member for Hinchinbrook in his speech tonight quoted as his main quote, as evidence—a quote I have listened to—Nick Braban from Our Nightlife Queensland. That was his main source. He only has to look a bit further to someone like Justice Callinan in Sydney who stated that there are vested interests in this argument and there are those without vested interests. Those without vested interests are doctors, nurses, paramedics and police.

Why do we hear it so loudly from that side? Why have they chosen the path of industry control? Why have they done that? It is because of greed and political donations. Those opposite have form in this area. The world has known that tobacco causes cancer since the 1960s. Even Tony Abbott discovered it in 2013 when he announced that the Liberal Party would no longer accept political donations from tobacco companies. There are only two groups still skirting around this fact—tobacco companies and the National Party. The National Party to this day take donations from tobacco companies. They take brown paper bags full of money from Australians who are smoking away their lives. There are parallels here.

Mr Watts: What nonsense! Put your evidence forward.

Dr LYNHAM: It's coming. The Foundation for Alcohol Research and Education report of 2015 showed that 92 per cent of donations—92 per cent of donations—from the liquor industry went to the LNP—another brown paper bag to fund the LNP's election campaign.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I am giving you a little warning. If you are going to antagonise the opposition, you have to expect to get a bit back. Member for Toowoomba North, you are very loud. I call the minister.

Dr LYNHAM: Let me explain once again how these laws work for those opposite. I have explained it before. I will try again. Lockouts are essential in places such as Newcastle and Sydney. They have last drinks at three o'clock. The lockouts are designed to trickle people away to transport home of a night. If you have a three o'clock shut, you have a rush of people to the streets. In Sydney and Newcastle, that is what they have. They need lockouts to trickle people out. Lockouts by themselves, as I said six months ago in the *Courier-Mail* and as I continue to say, are an ineffective tool. We do not have a 3 am closure. For six months we had no lockouts; we had three o'clock last drinks. There was no rush out at 3 am. Therefore, lockouts were simply not necessary.

Mr Bleijie: It is three o'clock closure.

Dr LYNHAM: It is three o'clock last drinks. They do not even know the legislation. They have been arguing all night and they do not know the legislation—incredible. I have tried to explain to the member for Kawana and others opposite many times. It reminds me of a movie and there is a character in the movie that no matter how often you try to explain to this character it would not sink in. Nothing would get through their thick skull. It is a favourite of my children. It is the movie *Shrek* and the character is Lord Farquaad. There was no way it would sink through his skull.

We have heard much about Professor Najman in this. I quote from the committee hearing. When he was asked about the lockouts, Professor Najman said—

I am not convinced by the evidence I have seen more recently that it is actually the lockout that makes the difference. I am more persuaded that it is the hours of trading.

That is the secret. The secret is the less availability of alcohol, the less time for consumption of alcohol and the reduction in hours of alcohol consumption make all the difference. Do not get me wrong. There is much more for us to do in this House with regard to alcohol, drugs, domestic violence and child safety, but we must make a start somewhere and that start has been made by this government in spades.

As Rosie Batty states, 'Alcohol is a significant factor to all forms of violence so what we really have to do is acknowledge that and work towards some solutions,' and we are indeed working towards those solutions. I say to the people of Queensland: when you are at home with a sick child at 4 am on a Saturday morning, I want that ambulance to come to your home. I do not want that ambulance dealing with a drunk in the Valley. I want that ambulance to come to your sick child. Our laws are crafted to bring your child who goes out for a night out home safely. Their policy is designed to fund their next election campaign.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (8.20 pm): What we have just heard is a sad retreat—a hypocritical account of what has happened from a man who came into this place with one thing in mind and who throws red herrings about brown paper bags whilst quoting disclosed figures to the Electoral Commission. He is a man who clearly thinks he is still trying to do the right thing by pursuing a policy that all of his colleagues have dumped. I wonder if those working in hospitality who pay their union fees and who have contributed to these guys would wonder if they are delivered in brown paper bags.

Let us get to the guts of what is going on. I do not think there is anybody in this House who does not want to solve alcohol fuelled violence and drug fuelled violence. The question is how. I stood in this place some time ago and tried to indicate, after years of experience in an industry, that what was being proposed would not work and that the tighter you tried to grasp this the harder you would find it. It is like quicksilver running through your fingers.

The only way to do this is over an extended period of time to get a cultural shift through education, by putting in ID scanners, by making sure we have assistance for people in precincts that are well lit, well policed and well looked after. This is where we want our young people to go for their entertainment. This is where they can find themselves safe: in a venue that is hooked up to the fire brigade with a six- or seven-minute response time, where there are radio connections to the police and where there are CCTV cameras recording everything.

I told people that what would happen is there will be private parties, people will be drinking at home, takeaway alcohol will be consumed and not in standard measures. I told people that is what would happen. The evidence is clear that this policy that has been pursued is not having any effect on changing things. We all understand that restricting supply of alcohol will lead to fewer complications with alcohol, but if you go into a nightclub and pay \$10 for a spirit or you can go to a liquor barn and buy a bottle for \$15 you have to ask yourselves where you should be restricting it and whether locking people out at some ridiculous time is going to have any effect.

I told people when we debated this last time that in my precinct in and around the city of Toowoomba accidents and injuries were occurring at eight and nine o'clock. If there were to be a lockout, clearly the evidence in Toowoomba would be that you would have a lockout in the early afternoon and you would encourage people out late in the evening. The simple facts are that we see a retreat. We see a policy that was more about an election. We see something that was supposedly populist with part of the community. What has it really done? What it has done is confuse and cause distress to family businesses that provide hospitality and service to their communities.

I am going to talk about The Southern Hotel, which is not in my electorate. It is in Toowoomba South. It is a family hotel that Richard Bowly, who is now deceased, and Richard Bowly Jnr ran very well. These are men who have massive hearts. They have donated thousands of dollars to charities and to sporting clubs over many years. They are community homes where people go and have a good time. They go for a meal, they catch up with their family or they celebrate a birthday party. What we are trying to say to our young people is: go out; we can provide you with a safe environment.

The former member for Brisbane Central, Rob Cavallucci, did a great job in drafting this policy. It is world-leading policy. All of the things that everybody around the world is looking at we had in one piece of legislation. We had serious banning orders in place. We had education for year 7 students. We had restrictions on venues to make sure they were complying with safe procedures. The amount of compliance involved in running a nightclub is extreme, and the problem is that good businesspeople eventually get out if they cannot make a profit. They will go and buy themselves a McDonald's or whatever.

Then you have the real danger—and this was happening down the coast and in other places—where bikie gangs and other people were looking at these venues as an opportunity to do other things than distribute alcohol. What we want is good operators with high standards, with business credibility, with safe conditions for their venue, with CCTV cameras, with trained people, with first aid, connections to the fire brigade, communications with the police, and connections to cameras outside the venue so that people can be tracked in and out as they move. We want banning orders in place so that if someone is a goose—and there are people out there who misbehave in precincts and in other venues—we can ban them across the state. We can say, 'If you cannot act civilly, then civil society is not letting you interact with our young people and others who are out having a good time.'

The banning orders and ID scanners are the key pieces of technology that need to be in place to reduce this kind of violence and activity on the street. We know that several of the assaults that have occurred that have led to extreme outcomes including people dying have been committed by people who have not even been into a venue. They are not dressed appropriately to get into a venue. You can restrict the venues as much as you like. If a bloke puts up on his Facebook page that he is going to catch a train, head into a precinct and pick a fight with someone and then kill them, how on earth is restricting their access to a venue ever going to stop that? We need to punish the people who behave like that and we need to pursue a cultural change whilst we are doing that. The cultural change will come through education and from good examples of behaviours from adults and other people going out.

We need to make sure that our footballers, sporting personalities and other people set good standards when they go out so the heroes whom our young people look up to know the expectation is that you can go out and have a good time without causing harm to someone else. All of that is not going to happen by shutting the venue and locking people out at one o'clock. I have literally been in a situation where I am standing on the front door with a girl who cannot get to a toilet and I am being told by police that if I let her into my venue to use the toilet they will give me a ticket. What is she supposed to do? There is no other way for her to get home. Her friends are inside. There is nothing she can do. What do you think she is going to do next? She is not going to stand in the street and wet herself. The lockout laws were ridiculous from the start.

More than that, we are now in a situation where we are looking at retrospective legislation over the extended permits. It is being asked at my local safe night precinct meetings: what are the rules around an event? What is an event? What does an event look like? How can we run our business when we are doing this? Why is it only one a month? Clearly we know there are different times in the year when there will be multiple days when you might want to open, certainly within one month. Why would you say one month? Why not just say 12 a year and if people want to use them at different times that is fine. We find ourselves in a situation where overregulation, overgovernment and overburden will try to grab hold of the quicksilver, it will run through their fingers and people will have illegal parties and do all sorts of other things because they cannot find a safe place to go out and have a good time.

With regard to the policy put in place, it is lunacy to suggest that one business with a different business model should be able to vote on the opening and closing hours of another business. It is pitching long-term families and friends who need to be working together to try to solve the problems in our CBD against each other. They are having brawls about their business plan failing if they are made to close at a certain time. It is an absolutely ridiculous policy.

It was bad for business. It was bad for hospitality. It was bad for jobs. It was bad for Queensland. It has made us a laughing stock around the world as we are trying to host things like the Commonwealth Games. There are opportunities here to get this right. There are people on both sides of this parliament who want to get this right, who want to see a cultural change, who want to get a good outcome, who want to reduce alcohol fuelled violence and other incidents that cause harm to our young people.

This is not the way. Simply saying, 'You don't know what you're talking about,' and unwinding it is not the way. There are people here with experience. I accept the good doctor's experience in the emergency department, but he needs to accept mine with 25 years in this industry. I know what the solutions are. I have been working hard for them since 1994 and the first time I chaired the liquor industry group in Toowoomba. We have great results in Toowoomba. We told them that the Newcastle model would not help us in Queensland. We were right and they were wrong.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (8.30 pm): I rise here tonight to speak on the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. From the outset, I would like to thank the committee members for their deliberations on the bill and all the work which has gone in to it, especially the opposition members for their statement of reservation. I listened to the contribution from the member for Stafford, and I know that he is a man of conviction in that this is one of the issues he is very passionate about.

A few weeks ago I was down on the Gold Coast for my mother's birthday. She had a very nice birthday at George's, which is near the Broadbeach mall. I had my little kids with me and they are aged two, four and five. We left the restaurant at about 9.30 at night and headed back to the Oasis Shopping Centre car park, so we walked down the mall. We noticed a number of individuals getting dropped off who were already heavily intoxicated at 9.30 at night. As I was walking up the mall, I looked across at one of the nightclubs and saw two of the bouncers out the front actually tell a young lady that she could not enter because she was heavily intoxicated, and they were having an argument.

I say to the member for Stafford that the vast majority of these nightclubs are trying to do the right thing. They are trying to protect the other patrons in those nightclubs. They are businesspeople. They employ people. They employ workers. They require shop fit-outs which are done by my constituents. As I have said many times in this chamber, my electorate has an enormous number of tradies and some of them specialise in shop fit-outs. They are cabinet-makers.

When this matter first arose back in the previous LNP government, I remember taking a group of my constituents—including my community leaders, Neighbourhood Watch members and Crime Stoppers members—to Surfers Paradise so we could go there and talk to the police to see what was really going on. We were there on that night for quite a few hours, walking around with the police as they explained what they normally do. The vast majority of the people there were doing the right thing and they were behaving themselves. There were also individuals who were heavily intoxicated and needed a safe environment so they could recuperate and get home safely. That is why I was so supportive of the Safe Night Out Strategy. It was a common-sense approach which was developed in consultation with Queenslanders.

The strategy included: establishing 15 safe night precincts to ensure popular nightspots were kept safe for patrons; establishing the new offence of unlawful striking causing death, one punch can kill, with the maximum penalty of life; empowering police to issue banning orders to keep these violent individuals away from our safe night precincts; and coordinated action to ensure licensees provide a safe environment for their patrons. In the words of Our Nightlife Queensland—

Yes, without a doubt. The safe night strategy was a world-leading strategy, in our opinion, developed in partnership with all stakeholders. If that had been allowed to continue, we would be in a better place than we are in today. There is no doubt about that.

As the member for Chatsworth stated before, there were real results and these results were encouraging. We had an 18 per cent decrease in sexual assaults, a 10 per cent decrease in property damage and a 26 per cent increase in the detection of illegal drugs. It was making a real impact.

The member for Stafford spoke before about education. Yes, we need to educate people. We need to educate our young about the dangers of alcohol and drugs, but the problem is that they see it all the time on TV and on internet advertising and they are told, 'You shouldn't take drugs,' but they still take drugs. We tell people not to binge drink but they still binge drink. We need to get it through their heads that this is not the way to live.

When the price of alcohol was increased through the alcopops tax in 2008 under former prime minister Kevin Rudd, it did not make a single dent in alcohol injuries and admissions to hospital. I want to quote from an article on news.com.au from 17 May 2013 under the heading 'Alcopop tax fails to deter teen binge drinking, raises \$4.5 billion in revenue'. It stated—

... a new University of Queensland analysis of 87,665 alcohol-related visits to hospital emergency departments over three years has found the tax made no difference.

The article went on to say—

If teenagers are looking for a good time and find their favourite tippie of alcopops has doubled in price, they're not going to go home and have a hot mug of chocolate.

They are going to go out there and still drink. It is our role as members of parliament to create safe precincts for them to go to and have a good time.

One thing I have always disliked about governments is the nanny state philosophy. If you do the right thing in our society and if you do not harm anybody, why should you be punished? To all those people who go out on Friday and Saturday nights and do the right thing and live their lives and do not cause any harm to anybody else, good on you for doing that. Those who tend towards violence are the ones we need to punish and we need to punish them severely. Those individuals are the ones ruining it for everybody else in our society.

Violence in our society is becoming more and more prevalent and as a father of three young children it is worrying me greatly. In common with all parents, I want them to grow up in a better world than we have today. Whether it is domestic violence, fights in our local nightclub precincts, road rage or those who just go about living their lives but happen to be in the wrong place at the wrong time, violence is the true issue we need to deal with. With regard to alcohol, through education we can try to instil in the next generation that they do not need to binge drink. However, I am very disappointed to see this backflip tonight from a man who has so-called great convictions to make a difference.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (8.40 pm): I rise to speak to the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The repeal of this legislation is just another broken promise from this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government. They repealed the LNP's world-leading safe night precincts model for their highly questionable and deeply unpopular lockout laws. The Premier went to the election in 2015 promising 3 am last drinks with a 1 am lockout. That then changed to 2 am last drinks outside safe night precincts and 3 am last drinks with a 1 am lockout inside safe night precincts.

An opposition member: Flip-flop, flip-flop.

Mr CRAMP: I take that interjection. After backflip after backflip—or flip-flop—the Premier is now seeking to scrap the very lockout laws that they announced in the first place, before the laws have even commenced. The results now show that the actions of this incompetent government have done absolutely nothing to address alcohol fuelled violence. Ultimately, all Labor has achieved on this issue is to prove yet again it is clearly a do-nothing government. The LNP has consistently said that these were bad laws and bad policy, and this has now been proven correct. This Labor government could have saved Queensland a lot of time and money by accepting that the best laws and policies to tackle this issue were already in place. There was considerable evidence before these laws were put in place that a 1 am lockout would not reduce alcohol and drug related violence.

Long-time prominent Gold Coaster Toby Ralph said in 2016 that the Gold Coast would suffer a major economic fallout if the Palaszczuk government's lockout laws were implemented. He went on—

If you want to bugger the region, it's a solid way to start.

Mr Ralph went on to state that the proposed lockout laws were 'polarising and fear driven'. Of course, the Palaszczuk government did not care about that. This government ignored the experts because it thought it knew better. However, it did not.

As an ambulance officer for 14 years overseeing one of the busiest ambulance operations centres in the state during the implementation and continued operation of the LNP's Safe Night Out Strategy, I can tell honourable members that the LNP's strategy was having a tangible and visible effect on reducing the workload in the designated safe night precincts. Thanks to the LNP's tough stance on increased penalties for other violent and antisocial offences, such as serious assault of public officers, public nuisance, refusing to leave a licensed premises, obstructing police, failing to obey a move-on order and urinating in public—and that does sound like Labor caucus, as someone said earlier in the evening—and empowering police to issue banning orders and ensuring police had the resources to have a presence and ability to respond quickly to alcohol and drug related violence, these precincts

and communities as a whole right across Queensland became safer for ambulance officers to operate in. The LNP Safe Night Out Strategy was safer for the community and, very importantly, it was safer for the front-line officers who work in and care for the community.

The LNP has consistently maintained its position on this issue. It does not support retrospective tightening of temporary late-night extended hours permits. The government, however, has changed its mind over and over again, finally coming to the decision that it always does, and that is to do nothing. The Attorney-General has once again bungled the administration of the law, which in itself is another shining example of the ability of this government. If the Safe Night Out Strategy had been given more of a chance, considering the time and consultation that went into putting it together, then perhaps Queenslanders would have seen more real and effective change. The early results showed improvements in almost every area: overall assaults dropped by nine per cent, sexual offences dropped by 18 per cent and property damage dropped by 18 per cent. Apparently, all of the positive results are not proof enough for the Palaszczuk Labor government.

This government has failed to punish those committing these crimes and has instead set its sights on those just trying to make a living: the average Queenslander who has fewer hours or the venue owner who cannot book a music act because of the lockout laws. This government has again proved to be directionless and ultimately unable to achieve anything.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (8.44 pm): I rise to speak on the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. This legislation represents both a major policy backflip and a broken election commitment by the Premier. It is a glaring illustration of the incompetency of this government. That is because the election commitment was like many others of the Premier—all about getting votes. The Labor Party cynically went to the last election with commitments which were not based on good policy; which were not based on wise and prudent spending of taxpayers' money; which were not based on quality evidence based data and analysis; which were not based on understanding how people live, work and act when confronted with issues which are adversely impacting their daily lives. They were based on pure cynicism and garnering as many votes as possible. The Labor Party has operated on the rule 'say what you want as long as you get the votes'. It has operated on the rule 'we will worry about it after we get in government'. The sad result is that Queensland taxpayers, workers, businesses and families are paying the price for the Labor Party's cynicism.

The main objective of this bill is to address the findings of the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Legislation Amendment Act 2016 interim evaluation report by making a number of significant amendments. Those amendments represent a major policy backflip. During the 2015 election campaign the Premier promised 3 am last drinks with a 1 am lockout. That then changed to 2 am last drinks outside safe night precincts and 3 am last drinks with a 1 am lockout inside safe night precincts. Now the lockout is being scrapped as well. The interim evaluation report said that it was unlikely that a lockout would alter current trends. That is despite the report being done before the lockout ever commenced. In effect what we have is confirmation of the selective deafness of the Premier and the government to compelling evidence. If they had bothered to listen to the evidence last year, this embarrassing backdown would have been avoided.

I was part of the committee which investigated the original liquor legislation. When we were examining that legislation I warned the government that there was no reliable data on which to base the legislation—so much so that the committee recommended that the government start collecting data. Still, the government missed that light bulb moment. In neon lights it was being advised to start collecting data, meaning in effect that the legislation was not based on adequate data and evidence. The figures presented to the committee did not come from Queensland. They did not reflect our unique position as a decentralised state. In many cases the figures were quite old. They were not able to establish the relationship between people arriving at emergency departments and alcohol related violence.

When we visited New South Wales the committee was advised by George Souris, the minister who introduced the New South Wales laws, that their laws were specifically targeted at the Kings Cross and Newcastle experiences. They were targeted at only certain areas. He pointed out that it was not a statewide approach and cautioned us against implementing a statewide approach in Queensland. Different communities have different needs, expectations, demographics and conditions.

The government used widely unsubstantiated claims to support its position. It claimed that alcohol was related to around 3,000 deaths and 65,000 hospitalisations each year Australia-wide, yet the Attorney-General's own department reluctantly acknowledged that those figures were from a

Melbourne study that was more than 15 years old and that nowhere did those figures specify the relationship between those hospitalisations and alcohol related violence. Dr David Rosengren, the Chair of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, Queensland faculty, told us—

... there is an absolute lack of clear and definite data around many of the arguments that have been put forward ... It is close to impossible for us to truly quantify the impact of alcohol on the community simply because we do not have any mechanisms, certainly in the health system in Queensland, to actually record it or document it with any certainty. Therefore, to rely on arguments of absolute evidence for and against is significantly challenging, as is often the case with many of our public community health and safety initiatives that we have tackled as complex problems in the past.

All the government did was use questionable data to justify its approach. It was worried about the politics and not the policy. The LNP has been consistent on this issue throughout. We opposed the laws because they were bad laws. We introduced a Safe Night Out policy in 2014. Queenslanders can be forgiven for being confused if they think the government's new policy looks very similar to our policy. Policymakers owe it to Queenslanders to be very honest when assessing evidence and not cherry-pick to suit the causes of individuals, no matter how worthy their sentiment. This is where the government constantly gets it wrong. There was no convincing evidence that last year's laws could achieve anything near what the government promised. Once again the government came up with a narrow one-dimensional proposal that was designed purely to appease the wishes of the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines.

If the government truly wanted to tackle the alcohol fuelled violence that is evidenced in our night precincts, it would have embraced a multifaceted approach. That multifaceted approach was being realised under the Safe Night Out Strategy. Our strategy followed months of consultation and discussion about the issue of alcohol and drug related violence. The \$44.5 million strategy was a comprehensive plan that included more than 60 initiatives which were designed to challenge the culture that was developed in Queensland. It also focused on individual responsibility. It did not seek to punish the majority of people who do the right thing for the sins of the few. In my own experience as a councillor on the Gympie Regional Council I saw the success of liquor accords. It did not require nanny state lockout laws. The liquor accords were developed with clear and detailed input from local hoteliers, owners of licensed premises, the police and council to achieve local solutions to real or potential issues.

It is a farce that we are here debating this issue yet again. It is a farce that once again we have to amend legislation which has been found not to work. The government was warned that this legislation would not work, but the government chose to ignore the warnings. This government spends all its time pandering to special interest groups and making policy which is not founded in an understanding of how people act or in substantial evidence or analysis. Many times this government ignores what is blindingly obvious just so it can push through an agenda that appeases its sectional interests. This government indulges in paternalism, nanny state regulations and bureaucratic red tape as an alternative to evidence based policy.

The LNP has consistently maintained that the government's policy in this area was flawed. While it is pleasing that the government is finally straightening out the mess it created, it is too late for the employees who have lost work hours, too late for the venues that have lost live music acts and too late for the tradies who would have gained work upgrading or refurbishing venues that have either shut down or decided not to proceed with renovations due to the uncertainty imposed on business by this hapless, directionless, incompetent government.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (8.52 pm), in reply: I thank the honourable members for their contributions to the debate on the Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy is one of the most comprehensive frameworks implemented in Australia to reduce alcohol related violence. The policy is based on national and international research which demonstrates that reducing late-night liquor service reduces harm. Following the recent release of the six-month interim evaluation report by the researchers, the government has acted quickly to introduce a bill into parliament that will address the report's findings and ensure that our policy continues to reflect the key evidence based measures that demonstrably reduce alcohol related harm.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that reduced liquor service hours are the single most important measure to effect change and reduce harm. That is why on 1 July 2016 we reduced liquor service hours to 2 am across the state and 3 am in safe night precincts. It is imperative that we take action to safeguard the integrity of these reduced liquor service hours in order to reduce harm. We want Queenslanders to enjoy themselves on a night out in a safe environment. It is for these reasons that we are making amendments to the Liquor Act to tighten the temporary late-night extended hours permit framework to require that permits are only issued for infrequent special occasions and to limit the number able to be issued.

After careful consideration of the interim evaluation report and evidence available, the government has decided not to implement the 1 am lockout provisions. We want to allow the new regime of 3 am last drinks in safe night precincts and 2 am last drinks outside of them to be implemented as intended. I also note the amendments that this bill makes to the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 with regard to banning orders for prescribed drug offences. These amendments recognise the harm that this cohort of drug offenders can present to persons in and around licensed premises.

I will now address some of the matters raised by the honourable members during the course of this debate. I have noted the comments made by other members of the opposition, including that the permit system was introduced as part of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy. In fact, that is incorrect. I am advised that the maximum 12 late-night extended hours permits that can be issued particularly for premises in a one-year period was originally inserted into the Liquor Act on 1 January 2009. It is important to realise that these permits have been operating for some time but in a moderate, sensible way. It was only from 1 July last year that we saw a change in behaviour of licensed venues in the way these permits have been issued. We have heard much from those on the other side that the system has allowed this to happen, and it is true to say there was not any specific proscription in the legislation. The OLGR always talked about the permits being for special occasions, and up until 1 July that is the way licensed venues used them, but they saw an opportunity and they grabbed it and it is extremely important to ensure—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: The figures say it all: 1,500 applications in just six months. There have been ongoing applications weekend after weekend after weekend. Were they for special events? Not at all. Were they for business as usual to trade until 5 am? Absolutely. I did not hear much from the other side about the 2 am and 3 am liquor service hours and the evidence that backs the reduction of hours. If you are going to have legislation that says that liquor service hours are 2 am and 3 am across the state, then it has to be legitimate. It has to be genuine and it has to be implemented. You cannot have a system that allows for those laws and for those hours to be circumvented by using permits on a regular basis. They are not temporary extended hours; that is a regular extension of existing trading hours. That is what it is, that is what it becomes and that is what it has become. The report shows that over the six months in the safe night precinct of the Valley there was not one weekend in six months where there was not a pub or club open until five o'clock in the morning.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: We have to give this a chance. The evidence shows that for every hour we reduce liquor hours we can make a difference in assaults. It is worth giving it a go, but we need the licensed venues to work with us. That is why we need to ensure that the permits are used for the reason for which they were originally intended, which is special occasions and special events in the particular areas.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I hear, 'What about casinos?' The reality is that although the opposition talks about its Safe Night Out policy and how great it is, it exempted casinos as well. It had casinos exempt the whole time.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, member for Toowoomba North. It is getting late. There is more work to be done. I would urge you to allow the Attorney-General to finish, we will go to the vote and then we will move on.

Mrs D'ATH: It is an important debate, and I understand that those on the other side have had their fun, their jokes and their criticisms about bringing this bill before the parliament. Why? Because we had independent research. Why? Because we took note of that independent research. We publicly released that independent research. It is not a report that we hid and said, 'Trust us. We're doing this because there's a report that you haven't seen that says we should.' We released it. We showed what the report says, and the report says that we have not seen a marked decrease in assaults. That is because we have not been able to properly assess the 2 am and 3 am liquor service hours because of the way the permit system works.

Some members on the other side talked about how jobs have already been lost, venues have already shut and live music venues have already had to cut back on live music. I have met with representatives of the live music industry over and over again on this issue. Every one of them will tell you that when they have a live musician in their performance has finished by midnight. They are not playing at three o'clock in the morning.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the interjection of the member for Warrego, who said, 'Rubbish.' She should talk to those representing the live music industry. The DJs might be playing at that time, but live bands and musicians—big headline acts—are not playing at three o'clock in the morning. We have not heard the name of one venue that has allegedly been shut down as a consequence of the first few months of these provisions.

The member for Kawana made the claim that ID scanners were due to start in June 2015. That might have been the intention of the opposition when in government, but the reality is that when we came to government a start date for ID scanners had not been proclaimed. When I became the minister and asked where things were at in relation to ID scanners, I was told they were not ready. The industry was promised that there would be at least two providers so that there would be competition in relation to the scanners in order to reduce cost. Two providers were not available so they were not ready to go.

The industry was raising genuine concerns about privacy issues and so on. I wanted to work through those issues. I conducted a round table with every stakeholder that wanted to be there. We had providers in the room. We had police in the room. I asked how the scanners work. We had great dialogue across the room on issues such as how we ensure that when a young female's driver's licence is scanned a security guard or other person working on the door cannot retrieve that data later on. The providers were able to say how the systems work. The moment it is scanned it is encrypted. The venue cannot pull that data back. It is held off-site in a database that is matched to police and court records. It cannot be pulled back. That is really important when it comes to the safety of patrons going into those venues.

To clarify the record, I am advised that the commencement date for the provision in section 74 of the Liquor Act, the provision that gave effect to the requirements for relevant licensees to operate ID-scanning equipment, was not proclaimed under the former government. The then government had announced that ID-scanning provisions would be in force from 1 July 2017. That is what we will do.

With regard to permit changes, the new conditions will ensure that applications for extended trading hours are appropriately linked to special events of real community significance. I remind members that the changes introduced as part of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy effectively decouple hours from gaming and opening hours, allowing premises to stay open. I know that a number of venues are doing that.

I note comments about the importance of education and cultural change in tackling alcohol fuelled violence. We heard some members on the other side saying that none of that has happened. Members would recall that a number of campaigns have been rolled out for consumption across the state. These campaigns are aimed at increasing awareness of responsible drinking behaviour, impacts of alcohol fuelled violence, changes to alcohol service times and increased enforcement of regulations. This has been ongoing since 2015 under our government's policy. Similarly, the alcohol and other drugs education program for Queensland students continues to be available for years 9 to 12 across Queensland.

Members would also be aware that over \$8 million has been made available under the safe night precinct grant funding program for safe night precinct boards to pursue, although I heard at least one member on the other side saying that we had scrapped all of that. We have not scrapped safe night precincts or the funding that supports them. This includes initiatives to educate and support patrons and licensees. We will continue to encourage licensees and other members of the community to work collaboratively to minimise harm.

I have heard that by removing the lockout we are simply now following LNP policy and nothing more. I want to point out the key differences. There is a reduction in liquor service hours to 2 am and 3 am. This is the most important initiative in reforming behaviour in relation to alcohol fuelled violence and is backed by international evidence. There is also a ban in relation to high-alcohol, rapid consumption drinks. Both initiatives were implemented on 1 July last year. An initiative we brought in on 1 July last year saw no new bottle shop trading hours beyond 10 pm. With this bill there will be a reduction in the number of permits and the banning of drugs. I am really disappointed that no members on the other side talked about the extension of the court ordered banning orders to drugs. I remember all of the talk in the debate last year about it being just as important to tackle drugs in our licensed venues and precincts, yet no-one talked about this and said, 'We back it. It's good.' It is and we should.

Mr Watts: I didn't have time to congratulate the minister.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. I will take that congratulations now.

I do want to concentrate on the reduction in liquor service hours to 2 am and 3 am, because it is critical. The initiative, brought in on 1 July last year, is one that the member for Stafford has talked about a number of times. I know that the opposition has foreshadowed amendments and intends to oppose the reduction and the changes to the permits. The reality is that in doing so those opposite are saying that they back a continuation of liquor service hours to 5 am.

Mr Bleijie: No, we back your current law. You put it in.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the interjection. We did not put the 12 permits in our bill this year. It was not in the most recent legislation in this term of government. If we are to genuinely have 2 am and 3 am last drinks in this state, those opposite cannot back the ongoing use of these 12 permits in the way they are being used now, which is having venues constantly operating until 5 am.

Mr Bleijie: You did this.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the interjection. We reduced the hours—absolutely—and we are proud of it. It is the one thing the opposition just did not tackle. The former attorney-general put together an expert panel. That expert panel recommended reducing liquor service hours. That report was never released publicly. What did those opposite do? Not only did they not take that recommendation and reduce liquor service hours; they lifted the moratorium and allowed more applications for licensed venues to trade past midnight. They went directly against the recommendation of the expert panel that they put together to tackle alcohol fuelled violence.

When we talk about transparency, reviews, criticism, reports and evidence, the LNP need to look at their own record. They had an expert panel. They had a report. They had recommendations. They did not act on those recommendations and they never released the report. I call on members to support the changes to these permits. We should have some responsible practice in relation to liquor service hours in this state. We should give the reduction in liquor service hours to 2 am and 3 am the opportunity to properly work.

Earlier the member for Warrego tabled some letters. Considering the hour at which I received them, my department is still checking on these letters. I understand that last year my chief of staff did respond to the venue directly, but I am following up on that for the member for Warrego. I am happy to make sure a detailed response from me is provided to the member for Warrego. I say to the member for Warrego: this issue does not go to the detail that is in the bill. These letters go to the 2 am service of alcohol, which was in the bill on 1 July last year. It does not go to anything in this bill. I am happy to follow it up for the member for Warrego, but it does not go to what is before the House right now.

I thank government members for their contributions to the debate. We as a government have resolved to meet community expectations—that is, to do what we can using the best evidence available to reduce the toll of alcohol fuelled violence. I thank members on this side of the chamber for their contribution. I mention particularly the members for Pine Rivers and Stafford, because they specifically spoke to the integrity of Professors Miller and Najman and their career-long commitments to reducing alcohol related harm. It was disappointing to hear how Professor Najman was referred to in the selective quoting of his evidence before the parliamentary committee.

Lastly, I refer quickly to the additional amendment that I will be moving tonight relating to trading hours that the Minister for Industrial Relations has already spoken to. This amendment seeks to ensure that non-exempt shops in South-East Queensland will have the opportunity to trade on Easter Sunday in 2017. If this amendment does not pass, those non-exempt shops in South-East Queensland will continue to be closed despite many other shops around the state in the regions already having the opportunity to trade. If the opposition opposes that, the opposition is opposing those businesses having the opportunity to open and trade on that day. The government will continue to work for a vibrant, safe night-life for all Queenslanders. In conclusion, I once again thank all honourable members for their contributions during the debate. I once again thank the parliamentary committee and the secretariat for their hard work and their ongoing work not just on this bill but all of the bills that are referred to them. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to.

Clause 8—

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (9.10 pm): Clause 8 deals with the repeal of lockouts in Queensland. It is probable that on 1 July last year clause 8 introduced lockouts in Queensland, so of course we will be supporting clause 8 because it is LNP policy. The LNP policy is not to have lockouts in the state of Queensland. The Labor Party went to an election to introduce lockouts and had the member for Stafford hand on heart say that the reason he got elected into parliament was to ensure that these laws got through. Even in his contribution tonight, he got up and talked about how great lockouts are working in Newcastle, but apparently they are not going to work in Queensland! Lockouts are so great in Newcastle. They were going to be so great in Queensland, but tonight those opposite are repealing lockouts because they are terrible! I am glad the member for Stafford has finally taken the advice of the LNP. I am glad he supports our policies that lockouts will not work. I am glad he supports the LNP contribution to a debate over 2½ years that lockouts do not work.

We support the clause going forward. This is an embarrassment for the Attorney-General. She went to the election on it. They had it in their policy documents. She relied on evidence to introduce lockouts. She is relying on the same evidence evidently to get rid of lockouts. I do not know how that works. 'It's all evidence based,' the Attorney said. The evidence supported lockouts; now the same evidence says to get rid of lockouts. All that has happened is six months have elapsed, so I am not quite sure what is going on. In fact, when they reduced the trading hours on 1 July last year, the lockouts actually did not apply for six months and did we have the scenes that they said we would have of violence on our streets, drugs on our streets, alcohol fuelled violence, mayhem and chaos? No, because the lockouts were never going to work. It is a political fix for the member for Brisbane Central. The member for Stafford was rolled in cabinet. We all know it. They deny it, but we know that is what happened. It is a political fix to save the member for South Brisbane's and the member for Brisbane Central's careers.

Clause 8, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 9 to 14, as read, agreed to.

Clause 15—

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (9.13 pm): This clause goes to the heart of an issue in this bill that I talked about in my contribution to the second reading debate, and of course clause 15 deals with the extended trading permits going from 12 to six. The Attorney-General and the member for Stafford particularly when he jumped on his feet were blaming businesses for misusing and abusing the permit system—the very permit system the Labor Party set up last year, the very permit system that licensees have to apply to the government for, the very permit system for which they fill out a government application—a government form—for an extended trading permit that goes to the office of liquor licensing which goes to the commissioner for liquor, and the commissioner for liquor approves or disapproves the extended application permit. The businesses ask for permission. That is the permit system.

For instance, in the electorate of the member for Cairns there is the Cairns Amateurs. I was in Cairns a couple of weeks ago and the night-life in Cairns is thriving, and it will thrive even more because we are getting rid of lockouts tonight. If the businesses in Cairns cannot apply for their 12 extended trading permits a year, then the Cairns tourist district will be no more. If they have 12 applications, it does not mean they utilise the 12 applications. It does not mean they are approved, because they have to apply for them and the Attorney-General's department has to approve them. Not only does the Attorney-General's department have to approve them; the Attorney-General's department through liquor licensing can put different and more restrictions on the permit system. A licence attached to their premises or their business can be restricted and can have different restrictions and different warnings put on by the commissioner for liquor. I can tell the member for Cairns that when I was in his electorate a couple of weeks ago the government gave his constituents 12 permits last year. Twelve extended permits were given to his constituent hospitality industry last year. The government is taking six of those away tonight, and I am saying to his constituents and to the licensees in Cairns that they did nothing wrong. If they utilised the 12 licences, that is because the government said they could. That is because they were within the law. They were within the law to utilise them—the very laws the Attorney set up that businesses were utilising—and now she is saying that they are abusing them. They are abusing the very laws she put in place and she approved in the first place. We oppose clause 15.

Mrs D'ATH: As I said before, it is interesting that the member for Kawana uses collective figures of 12 in a precinct. Remember that it is six per venue—six per venue—that they can use to apply. There is nothing wrong with a government ensuring that when there is an application process there is a criteria that goes along with that, and the reality is that that is what is lacking here. The member for Kawana talks about the restrictions that can be put around licensing—absolutely—but there are no restrictions and no criteria in relation to the 12 permits currently. It was working fine for many years, but the reality is that come 1 July they all changed their behaviour and their practices.

Mr Bleijie: You don't have to approve them.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you have made your submission. I would ask you to allow the Attorney-General to respond.

Mrs D'ATH: The question here is very simple: do we support having 2 am last drinks in this state in the suburbs and 3 am last drinks in our safe night precincts based on national and international evidence that sees a reduction in alcohol fuelled violence but still ensuring that there are permits there for special occasions and special public events, or do we believe that there should be a system that on paper is 2 am and 3 am but the system can be abused such that it is business as usual and you can keep trading at 5 am on a regular basis throughout the year?

An opposition member: How?

Mrs D'ATH: The member asks, 'How?' It is happening right now. They are sharing it around the venues. They are sharing it across their own multiple venues. The fact is it is happening. If the member asks how, read the evaluation report; if the member is asking how, it means they have not read it. Read the evaluation report to see how it is being used now. This is a reasonable proposition. I have consulted with stakeholders and the stakeholders in the safe night precincts are saying that this is manageable.

Mr Bleijie: Rubbish!

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Kawana can say 'rubbish', but the stakeholders I have met with have said—

Mr Bleijie: I've spoken to them. I know what they said about what you told them. I know what they said.

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

Mrs D'ATH: As I was saying, the question is clear. You either allow these venues to continue on a regular basis to trade until five am or you set up a system to make sure that the regular liquor service hours are properly maintained.

Division: Question put—That clause 15, as read, stand part of the bill.

AYES, 45:

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

PHON, 1—Dickson.

INDEPENDENT, 2—Gordon, Pyne.

NOES, 41:

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

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 15, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 16 to 21, as read, agreed to.

Clause 22—

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (9.26 pm): In light of the clause not being defeated, I withdraw the amendments circulated in my name.

Clause 22, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 23 to 28, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Hon. YM D'ATH (9.27 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

Mrs D'ATH: I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 28

Page 21, after line 16—

insert—

Part 5 Amendment of Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990

29 Act amended

This part amends the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*.

30 Amendment of s 31B (Industrial commission order amended)

- (1) Section 31B(8), definitions *Brisbane statistical division, existing Sunshine Coast area* and *south-east Queensland area*—
omit.
- (2) Section 31B(8)—
insert—
south-east Queensland area means the South-East Queensland Area within the meaning of the trading hours order.
- (3) Section 31B(8), definition *closed day*, paragraph (b)—
omit.

31 Insertion of new s 31BA

Part 5A—

insert—

31BA Amendment of other orders—trading on Easter Sunday in south-east Queensland area

- (1) This section applies to an order, other than the trading hours order, made by the industrial commission under section 21 that—
 - (a) applies to a non-exempt shop in the south-east Queensland area; and
 - (b) does not permit the shop to trade on a Sunday or public holiday.
- (2) To the extent the order applies to a non-exempt shop mentioned in subsection (1)(a), the order is taken to prescribe the following permissible trading hours for Easter Sunday—
 - (a) opening time—9a.m.; and
 - (b) closing time—6p.m.
- (3) Subsection (2) applies despite any provision of the order that is in force immediately before the commencement.
- (4) Despite subsection (2), the order as affected by that subsection is taken to be an order of the industrial commission for the purposes of the future application of section 21.
- (5) However, the industrial commission must not make an order prescribing for the south-east Queensland area an opening time later than 9a.m., or a closing time earlier than 6p.m., on Easter Sunday.
- (6) In this section—
south-east Queensland area see section 31B.
trading hours order see section 31B.

32 Amendment of s 36A (Protection for current employees)

Section 36A(3), definition *south-east Queensland area*—
omit, insert—

south-east Queensland area has the meaning given by section 31B as it was in force on 1 August 2002.

33 Insertion of new s 36AA

Part 7—

insert—

36AA Protection for employees—Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017

- (1) An employer must not require an employee to work during extended hours unless the employee has freely elected to work during extended hours.
Maximum penalty—
 - (a) for a first offence—16 penalty units; or
 - (b) for a second or later offence—20 penalty units.

- (2) However, subsection (1) does not apply in relation to an employee if an industrial instrument provides arrangements under which the employee may refuse or agree to work during extended hours.
- (3) For subsection (1), an employee has not freely elected to work during extended hours—
- if the employee elects to work during extended hours because the employee has been coerced, harassed, threatened or intimidated by or for the employer; or
 - only because the employee is rostered, or required under an industrial instrument, to work during those hours.
- (4) In this section—
- elect** means agree in writing for a stated or indefinite period.
- employer** means an employer of an employee in a non-exempt shop in the south-east Queensland area.
- extended hours** means the permitted trading hours under this Act on Easter Sunday for a non-exempt shop in the south-east Queensland area.
- industrial instrument** means any of the following within the meaning of the *Industrial Relations Act 2016*—
- a modern award, bargaining award or certified agreement;
 - a federal industrial instrument.
- south-east Queensland area** see section 31B.

34 Insertion of new pt 8, div 5

Part 8—

insert—

Division 5 Transitional provision for Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017

54 Application of amended s 31B—Easter Sunday

Section 31B(2), as it applies on the commencement, has effect despite any provision of the trading hours order in force immediately before the commencement.

Note—

The *Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017*, section 30 amended section 31B of this Act to provide that Easter Sunday is not a closed day for the south-east Queensland area.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Liquor and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [\[355\]](#).

I have already spoken to this amendment, as has the Minister for Industrial Relations. This amendment is to make sure that non-exempt shops in South-East Queensland will have the opportunity to trade on Easter Sunday in 2017.

Mr BLEIJIE: The Attorney-General is moving this amendment on behalf of the Minister for Industrial Relations, because the Minister for Industrial Relations forgot to put it in legislation that she introduced last year. The Minister for Industrial Relations also forgot to introduce the industrial relations bill at the last sitting. Therefore, the public holiday and the trading on Easter Sunday has to be included in this liquor bill to ensure that trading on Easter Sunday, as a public holiday, is allowed. We have all known that the date for Easter has been set for some time.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. We have known when Easter Sunday occurs for over 2,000 years. The Minister for Industrial Relations came in here and said, 'Member for Kawana, when you were the attorney-general the deputy premier, Jeff Seeney, had to move an amendment for you.' That situation was a little different. That amendment was based on a little decision in the High Court that said, 'You have to change your law.' It was not that we forgot anything, or that we forgot to introduce the legislation; it was because of a thing that we have in Canberra called the High Court. From time to time the High Court makes decisions and then parliaments have to react to those decisions, which occurred in that case.

This amendment is purely because the Minister for Industrial Relations forgot. The Minister for Industrial Relations is incompetent. It is an embarrassment. I would forgive the Minister for Industrial Relations if no-one had said anything about the need for this amendment but, last year, when we debated the industrial relations bill I rose in the parliament and said, 'A little thing, you have made Easter Sunday a public holiday but you have forgotten to amend the allowable hours trading legislation so that businesses could open on the day.' At the sitting last week, no amendments were moved. Yesterday, allowable trading hours legislation was introduced. Did it include this amendment? No. Now, we are debating the liquor bill.

The LNP will allow this to go through because businesses are relying on the commitments the government made in terms of the public holiday, but we will not let the Attorney-General and the industrial relations minister forget that she bungled this. You forgot to put it in your bill! You are a disgrace! You are incompetent!

Mr SPEAKER: I think that is enough, quite frankly.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No. We have had enough. I have had enough.

Mr Crandon: She stuffed it up!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are warned under standing order 253A. Those comments are inappropriate and disorderly. If you persist I will take the appropriate action. It may be 252 as well.

Amendment agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.33 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) (9.33 pm): I move the following amendment—

2 Long title

Long title, 'and the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*'—

omit, insert—

, the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992* and the *Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*

Amendment agreed to.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.33 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mental Health Review Tribunal, Membership; BreastScreen Queensland, Online Booking System

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.33 pm): I rise to make a ministerial statement in relation to a question asked of the Premier by the member for Surfers Paradise earlier today in question time in relation to the Mental Health Review Tribunal. Earlier this week the parliament passed legislative amendments to the Mental Health Act to validate the appointment of a legal member of the tribunal who was not fully qualified to serve in that role. I can advise the House that the Department of Health has confirmed that an extensive search has found that all current and former legal members of the Mental Health Review Tribunal, other than the member I have referred to, were legally qualified to perform those roles. The checks on appointments focused firstly on the member in question and then on current members and members proposed for appointment to ensure the operation of the tribunal was not compromised. This was followed by searches in relation to historical legal members, including searches of records held by the Department of Justice, including the Supreme Court of Queensland.

In addition, earlier today the member for Mudgeeraba also asked a question of the Premier regarding BreastScreen Queensland's online booking system. I can advise the House that BreastScreen's online booking system commenced operation on 5 December 2016 and is working well, giving more Queensland women access to breast screen services. I am advised there has been a greater than expected response from Queensland women to this initiative with more than 9,000 women making their booking online since it commenced. I am advised by the Department of Health that the implementation date for the online booking system was initially planned for 30 June 2016, however, issues arose during the testing phase which needed to be resolved. I am further advised that the Department of Health is currently preparing an update to its entry on the whole-of-government ICT dashboard regarding the online booking system.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, those comments are unnecessary. We are trying to listen to the minister.

Mr DICK: The ICT project update relating to the online breast screen project is from June 2016 and is based on initial expenditure based on a market sounding process in 2014. Until the procurement process was finalised earlier in 2016, a definitive cost was not available. I am advised that the initial estimate was \$3.1 million, which was then revised to \$4 million. The revised cost was confirmed following the tender process and the total price, including the tender, recurrent costs and GST on 30 June is \$4 million.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.36 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 21 March 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.36 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Questions on Notice

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.36 pm): During the last sitting of the Queensland parliament in 2016 I asked three separate questions on notice to the Premier in relation to a related matter of public expenditure across a number of government, public, corporate and statutory entities, namely questions on notice Nos 2197, 2254 and 2332. The matter in question was the total cost of fees and expenses paid to elders or representatives of traditional owners for welcomes to country or acknowledgements of native title holders for various financial years across ministerial offices, government departments, courts of law and tribunals, the Queensland parliament, the Office of the Governor, GOCs, commissions and statutory authorities.

When the answers to these questions on notice were tabled on 3 January 2017 the Premier's response to each of them was identical. The Premier asserted that it would be neither practical nor reasonable to divert resources to identify the information requested over the years concerned. The information request was indeed over a number of financial years. I am sure that most members would agree that questions are fundamental to holding the government to account. The failure to make any genuine attempt to answer questions on notice is not indicative of accountability or transparency on the part of the executive. It also impinges on the rights of members and the House generally and is therefore, I submit, a matter affecting the privileges of the House.

It is my understanding that the purpose of written questions on notice is to enable members to ask questions that require some detail in the answer. This opportunity is provided because members may need to ask detailed questions that a member could not reasonably expect the Premier or a minister to be able to provide in response to a question without notice during question time.

It is clear that no reasonable attempt whatsoever has been made to answer these three questions on notice even for the most recent financial years. I have taken some time to reflect on the Premier's answers to my questions on notice and have concluded that they are, in my opinion, clearly

unsatisfactory as they represent a reasonable request for information that is in the public interest. If taxpayers' money is used to meet the fees and expenses paid to elders or representatives of traditional owners for welcomes to country or acknowledgements of native title holders, this public expenditure should reasonably be expected to be the subject of parliamentary scrutiny in the same way that any other public expenditure is subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

I have today written to the Speaker to request that he rule that these three questions have not been answered by the Premier, that they remain outstanding and they must be answered. In this regard I would note that, upon his election as Speaker in March 2015, the Speaker made a point of stating that when questions are asked and answers are given they will be relevant. I hope that the Speaker will ensure that they comply with all aspects of the standing rules and orders.

Medical Registration

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.39 pm): When the people of Stafford elected me to this parliament I said I would represent them strongly and enthusiastically. With their support I plan to continue to do this after the next election. When I stood in 2014 I left a long medical career, patients I had to refer to other colleagues and an outstanding hospital trauma team. I did that knowing that when the time came I could return to my calling as a doctor under the rule around maintaining my registration. Those rules have now changed. The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority has put in place new recency of practice standards. This means that I must perform 450 hours of practice over three years in my field to maintain my medical registration.

Other members of this chamber continue to work in their professional fields or have the opportunity to return to it later, and I support that wholeheartedly. After careful consideration and consultation with the Premier, the Integrity Commissioner and medical and government colleagues, I propose to continue as the member for Stafford, as a cabinet minister and as a doctor. I make this clear: I will stand at the next election and I will also seek to maintain my registration requirements. I believe I can incorporate the number of hours required into my ministerial and electorate schedule without reducing the level of service to constituents, stakeholders and the people of Queensland. At its simplest, it is about three hours a week, year round. The people who will be affected are my friends and family, and I thank them for their ongoing support and patience.

Motorised Scooters

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (9.41 pm): I rise to express my dire concerns about the reckless use of motorised scooters on the boardwalk in Surfers Paradise. As the member for Surfers Paradise, there is nothing more important to me than the safety of my constituents and those who visit my electorate. The Esplanade boardwalk, which stretches from central Surfers Paradise to Narrowneck, is a popular walking destination for families, the elderly and everyone in between. With views of our golden beaches, it is no wonder that my electorate is the second most instagrammed place in Australia. #ourgoldcoast is the Gold Coast city's own hashtag. Unfortunately, the popular boardwalk is plagued by people riding motorised scooters and weaving through the crowds. All too often, I hear of or witness near misses involving children, people being clipped and elderly residents being knocked to the ground. Scooter hire businesses boast that they do not require a licence, there are no age restrictions and hirers do not need registration or CTP insurance. They are silent and they run amok on our streets.

As it stands, the current legislation allows people to ride a motorised bicycle on all footpaths, except where bicycles are prohibited. The Department of Transport and Main Roads website states that a legalised motorised bicycle must be either—

1. A bicycle with an electric motor capable of generating no more than 200 watts of power.
2. A 'pedalec'—a bicycle with an electric motor capable of generating up to 250 watts of power, but the motor cuts out at 25km/h and the pedals must be used to keep the motor operating.

In his response to my emails, the Minister for Main Roads advised that the Office of Fair Trading was investigating the compliance with legislation of these motorised scooters in Surfers Paradise, but the point is that those scooters, in whatever form they take, do not belong on footpaths. I table correspondence between the Mayor of the Gold Coast, Tom Tate, and the Premier regarding this issue.

Tabled paper: Correspondence between the Mayor, Gold Coast City Council, Mr Tom Tate, and the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding electric scooters and bikes driven on footpaths and roads [\[356\]](#).

Mayor Tate is certainly right in asking for a review into the current legislation. That move will ultimately prevent a potentially fatal or near-fatal accident on our paths and provide some certainty, consistency and clarity for those operating a business renting motorised scooters. This issue is not just

limited to Surfers Paradise. As it currently stands, police are expected to be johnny-on-the-spot to catch people riding recklessly on our footpaths. That is not sustainable and our police have better things to do.

My constituents rightly expect to be safe when they are out on our streets, whether it be on the Esplanade or Cavill Mall and all the way to Narrowneck. Recently I received an email from a constituent saying that he and his wife were almost hit by six motorised scooters as they left their home on Sunday, 12 February. He was extremely concerned about the fact that many of his friends, including seniors, are anxious about travelling along the footpath because of motorised scooters. The Friends of Federation Walk contacted me to say that motorised scooters are wreaking havoc all the way to The Spit. I know that I have the backing of Mayor Tom Tate, the Surfers Paradise Alliance, Division Seven Councillor Gary Baildon and my constituents in calling for this legislation to be reviewed, so that we can get motorised scooters off our footpaths.

DigiCon Hackathon

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (9.44 pm): There is always something interesting happening in Ipswich and tonight I would like to share with the House a particularly exciting and unique opportunity that has arisen, thanks to local Ipswich start-up Fire Station 101, called the DigiCon Hackathon. This idea was spearheaded by the community manager at Fire Station 101, Chad Renando. DigiCon, short for digital conservation, is a concept designed to connect entrepreneurs, developers and environmentalists with the unique opportunity to create a digital solution connecting the community of Ipswich with the local environment. The hackathon will be a competition open to any individuals or groups who believe that they have the next big idea in the environmental sphere. With a grand prize of up to \$30,000 available to winners in product development funding, this could be the start of a revolution. For me, it is incredibly exciting to see technology creating practical solutions to community challenges and I am really looking forward to seeing the solutions that our local entrepreneurs and future entrepreneurs come up with.

Recently, Chad Renando returned from a Northern American innovation tour, which was a three-week intensive tour during which he visited two countries, five states and more than 50 innovation hubs. Chad was able to undertake this trip as one of the 10 members of the Startup Community Leaders' Mission to Colorado and California's Silicon Valley. Funding for the program was provided through the Palaszczuk government's \$405 million whole-of-government Advance Queensland initiative, which is delivering real results for Queenslanders. It does not take much imagination to understand how valuable that trip was and the benefits Chad's experiences will return to the Ipswich community, such as sharing with our thriving start-up sector new ideas to help support jobs and grow regional economies.

Ipswich was recently listed, for the second time, in the top seven smartest cities in the world. It is easy to see why, when we learn about initiatives such as Fire Station 101 and programs such as DigiCon. Ipswich is a city on the move. In fact, it is Queensland's fastest growing city, which means a lot of strain will be placed on our environment. It takes courage to stand up and fight for the environment, more so when the approach is something that few have attempted. The efforts that Fire Station 101 and the Ipswich City Council have put into this challenge are commendable and are representative of a shift in how we use technology. Seeing the enthusiastic acceptance of DigiCon is evidence of how beneficial programs such as Advance Queensland are. Technology will always be changing and, with it, our interactions with our environments and societies. I am proud that there are people, not just in our state and country but also in our own backyards, who, rather than running away, have embraced this and have given us something truly special.

Southport Electorate

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (9.47 pm): Today I rise to speak about the sensational electorate of Southport. Last week, I was privileged to be the first guest speaker of the year at the Southport State High School Business Alliance Breakfast. The alliance is an initiative started at the Southport State High School two years ago as part of their commitment to ensuring every student achieves their potential by building meaningful alliances and relationships with like-minded businesspeople from the local community and developing a collaboration between the business community so that both the school and the local business environment continue to thrive.

At the breakfast, I decided that I would run a mini hypotheticals. I invited all of the assembled guests to be sworn in as honorary members of the Queensland parliament. I suggested to them that there was a significant difference between being able to discuss things in this forum and having to stand up and vote yes or no on an issue. We ran 10 contentious issues past the group and they had to vote

yes or no. It was a show of hands, so there was no hiding under the tables. We had a fascinating half-hour dialogue. I was a little mischievous in that I put the issues very simply and then, after they had voted yes or no, I pointed out some of the unintended consequences of their decisions. From all accounts, people enjoyed the exchange. Certainly it was a great experience for some of the young student leaders.

I am particularly proud of what has occurred in Southport since my election as the local member. It has been amazing to see the transition of Southport. One of my commitments was to lead and fight for the revitalisation of Southport as an excellent centre of business, education and health. As part of my presentation at the school last week I thought I would write out a scratch list of all the things that have occurred and put a dollar value to them. I was extremely surprised when the first round of scratchings came to something like \$7½ billion. That is what has been spent through private investment and government investment over the last five years. We have seen some significant money spent on Smith Street and Olsen Avenue—some \$400 million on roads—the games village and the expansion of the university.

I am also excited because this Saturday night I will be attending the second significant celebration at the Southport Olympic pool. The first time I was there for a celebration it was their 50th celebrations and I was just learning to swim. This Saturday night they celebrate their centenary. I am very excited to be their guest of honour. I congratulate the Southport Olympic Swimming Club for 100 years of service and 100 years of teaching kids how to swim.

Springwood Electorate

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (9.50 pm): I decided to put up my hand as a representative of the residents of Springwood because I wanted to make sure that families in my neighbourhood have good schools and hospitals, that they have access to more teachers and nurses and that the state's growing economy is good for everyone, not just a few.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Chatsworth, those comments are not necessary. If you want to make comments you can leave the chamber. Minister, do you want to start again?

Mr de BRENNI: No, I am happy to continue. After the chaos of the previous government I wanted to play a role in revitalising front-line services and restoring fairness. I was not about to let the state be run by someone like the member for Clayfield.

I see my job as making sure that government delivers what our community deserves. The Palaszczuk government is delivering for the people of Queensland. We have delivered 1,990 more teachers so our kids get a better education and 2,390 more nurses so every family can rely on a decent health system.

The proposed redistribution released last week has shifted the southern and northern boundaries of the electorate I am honoured to represent. It will be a shame to no longer be able to represent those areas that will be moved as part of the redistribution, but I will continue to fight for those people. I have strong relationships with people in those neighbourhoods. They are my friends whose kids go to Shailer Park State School and Kimberley College, who play golf at Riverlakes and run their businesses out of the Chetwynd Street industrial area.

Redistributions are an important part of our democratic system. Making sure that we have a system that reflects one vote, one value, determined by an independent umpire, is a strength of our democracy. My father taught me many important things, but mostly that when you do a job, you roll up your sleeves and you work hard. I am looking forward to working hard with the people of Sheldon and Mount Cotton to help build a better state.

This work is already happening. Last week I hosted a construction industry meeting at Fitzy's Loganholme, with over 150 attendees, most of whom are small business owners who will be in the new parts of the Springwood electorate. Families in Sheldon and Mount Cotton want the same things as families in Shailer Park or Rochedale South. They want to know that I and this government will listen to them and stand up for them. They want to know that we will deliver reforms that mean they will not get ripped off and they do not have to wait months to be paid.

I am determined to bring security to families through our security of payment reforms. I am also absolutely focussed on delivering a housing strategy that makes renting fairer and finding an affordable home easier. I am a passionate advocate for making sport accessible for families, regardless of their

ability, their location or how much they earn. I am still dedicated, 100 per cent, to great schools with lots of great teachers, quality health care backed in by tremendous health professionals and services that we can all rely on. I look forward to getting to know the new constituents of Springwood and working hard, as I always have, to earn their votes.

Hervey Bay Electorate

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.53 pm): I rise tonight to set the record straight with regard to conversations about my relationship with the local newspaper on the Fraser Coast. The *Fraser Coast Chronicle* can barely get anything right most of the time. I table an article titled 'End of the scallop industry'.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle's* Facebook page regarding the Queensland electoral redistribution [\[357\]](#).

That is all fake news; it really is. The end of the scallops—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I want to hear the member for Hervey Bay.

Mr SORENSEN: On their Facebook page it says, 'No change to electoral boundaries on the Fraser Coast'. Yes, there are changes. That is more fake news. I will table that as well.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, dated 27 February 2017, titled 'End to scallop industry' [\[358\]](#).

I would like all members and also the Deputy Premier to know about this. For the information of members, the *Chronicle* wanted to have a sitdown interview with me. That was great. Let us do it. Matthew McInerney, a journalist from the *Chronicle*, and I spent three hours together on 21 February. We talked about Hervey Bay and its growth and what is needed in the future. I thought about all the things that the LNP has done in Hervey Bay.

We hopped in the car and we went for a drive around my electorate. I drove up to Hervey Bay State High School, where an indoor sport centre and 16 classrooms have been built. Then we went to the health centre and had a look at the dental clinic that was built when we were in government. We also saw the cancer clinic that we built when we were in government. I showed him the hospital where \$44 million is going to be spent upgrading that facility. I showed him St Stephen's Hospital which is one of the most advanced hospitals in Australia in terms of its computerisation. I also took him out to Urraween Road to see the missing link. We want to upgrade the road between Urraween Road and Boundary Road. Then we went to the airport. I have done a lot over the years to upgrade that airport and make sure we have jets coming straight from Sydney. That is something that the other towns around my area do not have.

I then took him out to River Heads and showed him where I would like to see a small marina built and a new boat ramp constructed. What about a helipad on Fraser Island for the ambulance station at Happy Valley? The community association wants to build it for them, CASA has done the design for it and guess what? This government will not allow them to do it.

Toorbul Marine

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (9.56 pm): I rise to speak regarding the plight of a working couple from Toorbul. Recently, I met with Douglas and Heather Cuthbert. Heather is the owner of Toorbul Marine, along with Doug, who does the day-to-day work on the slipway. This slipway has existed since 1965. Heather decided to purchase the business and settlement proceeded without any major issues in April 2002.

On 10 September 2007, the Moreton Bay Regional Council advised Mr and Mrs Cuthbert that they had carried out a review of the current development approval, environmental authority and registration certificate. Council claims that as a result of this review it was revealed that council had issued the environmental authority and registration certificate in error with respect to this particular slipway. I must highlight that this so-called review occurred 5½ years after settlement.

Years on, there are still proceedings underway and obviously they must run their course. However, it is my understanding that nowhere else in Queensland have the operators of a slipway of this type been subjected to such close scrutiny and action by a local authority. It is also my understanding that there is no action being taken by any other authority such as the Environmental Protection Agency or the Department of Natural Resources and Mines with respect to this particular slipway.

It appears that the Moreton Bay Regional Council has abused its powers. The council seems intent on victimising Mr and Mrs Cuthbert to the point of closing down their business. In fact, I am advised that the Cuthberts have been ruined financially over this pursuit by the council. In fact, the conduct of the council is so reprehensible in regard to this matter that an independent inquiry should be undertaken to examine the council's conduct, the motives and any other factors at play which might have been, and continue to be, behind such conduct.

One can only imagine why the Moreton Bay Regional Council could be so intent on closing down a successful family business that has existed for more than 50 years. I am certain that operators of similar businesses within the Moreton Bay local government area—and, indeed, all fair-minded Queenslanders—would be very interested to learn the motives behind the council's actions.

I call on the Premier and the Deputy Premier to investigate this matter. This is the sort of thing that should not happen in Queensland. I believe a fair-minded government, a reasonable government, should look into this matter and take responsibility. I bring this matter to the attention of the House tonight because these are ordinary Queenslanders who may have had the wrong thing done by them. When it forces people into financial ruin, something is going wrong in this state.

Ikin, Ms N

 **Mr GORDON** (Cook—Ind) (9.59 pm): The date of 11 February this year marks a sad day for far-north western Queensland with the passing of Noeline Ikin. Noeline Ikin was the federal LNP candidate for Kennedy in 2013. She unfortunately succumbed to brain cancer on 11 February this year.

Hearing last year that Noeline had become ill saddened me greatly. Although Noeline comes from the other side of politics and was active in the 2015 campaign for my opponent, she was somebody that I have always respected and admired. She was someone who loved the bush and stood up for the bush. She took great pride in bringing the issues of the bush to the attention of many who do not live in the bush and she appreciated how hard it is for people out in places like Georgetown, Almaden and Einasleigh—places where my father worked on the railway and where we lived on and off throughout my upbringing.

Tonight I wanted to recognise this huge loss and recognise her huge achievement in 2013 in taking on what many thought was an impossible task. There was a massive 15 per cent swing to her and the LNP at that election. It was something that we all were surprised about. I think those who knew Noeline—her family and her close friends—were not really surprised by that outcome. Tonight, like I said, I wanted to acknowledge that and acknowledge Noeline. The world is a lot less bright because Noeline is no longer with us.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Access Migrant and Refugee Health Strategy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.01 pm): Australia has a long and proud tradition of multiculturalism and can list among its proudest achievements the fact that our nation is a safe haven for people from all around the world. The electorate of Woodridge and the City of Logan are home to refugees and migrants from more than 200 nations across the globe, and our community is richer for it. That is why I was so pleased to join CEO Gail Ker from Access Group International, Logan City Council Deputy Mayor Cherie Dalley and her fellow councillors Jon Raven and Russell Lutton to launch the Access Migrant and Refugee Health Strategy in Logan last month.

Access is an outstanding organisation, working tirelessly to provide assistance and support for our newest Queenslanders through settlement, employment, training, housing and social enterprise opportunities. The not-for-profit group has helped develop the Queensland Health statewide Refugee Health and Wellbeing: A strategic framework for Queensland, which I launched in March last year.

Many migrants and, in particular, refugees have survived torture, endured conflict zones and have lived in refugee camps for very long periods of time before settling in Logan. This new strategy recognises the barriers to accessing health services and supports, including cultural barriers such as language, traditional roles and cultural norms. Indeed, connecting health care is one of the four directions under Advancing Health 2026—our vision that by 2026 Queenslanders will be among the healthiest people in the world. This strategy means a great deal to me as both the Minister for Health and the member for Woodridge.

Logan is one of the most multicultural cities in Australia. Our community is built upon Australia's catch-cry of 'a fair go for all'. It is upon that ideal that we have built a country that is the envy of the world. Regrettably, the rise of One Nation puts that reputation at real risk. The One Nation party is fond of wrapping itself in the flag, yet the agenda it pursues will fundamentally change what that flag represents. We must stand united against the corrosive politics of intolerance and division that works to undermine our social cohesion and which seeks to exploit fear and anxiety. It is about time the Queensland Liberal National Party considered this as they seek to strike a dirty deal with One Nation for preferences and votes.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.04 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams