



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## THURSDAY, 11 MAY 2017

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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)—

[698](#) Strategic Review of the Office of the Information Commissioner, 26 April 2017

[699](#) Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009—Annual Report 2015-16

#### MEMBERS' PAPERS

The following members' papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Broadwater (Miss Barton)—

[700](#) Nonconforming petition regarding abatement of nuisance noise at certain units at Nankeen Avenue, Paradise Point.

Member for Cairns (Mr Pyne)—

[701](#) Letter, dated 8 March 2017, from the Cairns Agricultural, Pastoral and Mining Association, to the member for Cairns, Mr Rob Pyne MP, regarding the lease extension of grounds from Cairns Regional Council for the Cairns Show.

### MINISTERIAL PAPER

#### Revocation of Protected Areas



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (9.31 am): I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal.

*Tabled paper:* Revocation of State Areas: Proposal under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* and a brief explanation of the proposal, relating to Curtain Fig National Park, Great Sandy National Park, Jardine River National Park, Millstream Falls National Park, Wooroonooran National Park, Eumundi Conservation Park, Heathlands Resources Reserve and Jardine River Resources Reserve [\[702\]](#).

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### Revocation of Protected Areas



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (9.32 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 28 days as provided in the Nature Conservation Act 1992, I shall move—

- (1) That this House requests the Governor in Council, in accordance with section 32 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, revoke by regulation the dedication of parts of the protected area estate as set out in the proposals tabled by me in the House today viz—

#### Description of areas to be revoked

Curtain Fig National Park	An area of 0.3678 hectares described as lot 5 on SP280087, as illustrated on the attached "Curtain Fig National Park: sketch A".
Great Sandy National Park	An area of 0.9281 hectares described as lot 2 on SP265488, as illustrated on the attached "Great Sandy National Park: sketch B".

**Description of areas to be revoked**

Jardine River National Park	An area of about 37.8105 hectares described as lot 100 on AP23103, lots 6 to 10 on SP269695 and lot 4 on SP292288, as illustrated on the attached "Jardine River National Park: sketch C".
Millstream Falls National Park	An area of 3.08 hectares described as lot 2 on SP282409, as illustrated on the attached "Millstream Falls National Park: sketch D".
Wooroonooran National Park	An area of about 0.3633 hectares described as lots 2 to 4 on SP261140, as illustrated on the attached "Wooroonooran National Park: sketch E".
Eumundi Conservation Park	An area of 1.6214 hectares described as lots 1 to 3 on SP278635, as illustrated on the attached "Eumundi Conservation Park: sketch F".
Heathlands Resources Reserve	An area of about 34,370.37 hectares described as lots 9 and 10 on AP22756, lot 11 on AP22758, lot 7 on AP23098, lot 8 on AP23100, lot 6 on AP23101, lots 1 to 6 on AP23102, lot 7 on AP23104, lots 1 to 3 on AP23105 and lots 1 and 2 on AP23107, as illustrated on the attached "Heathlands Resources Reserve: sketch G".
Jardine River Resources Reserve	An area of about 6,760.6 hectares described as lot 1 and 2 on AP23106, as illustrated on the attached "Jardine River Resources Reserve: sketch H".

- (2) That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef for submission to the Governor in Council.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS****Tropical Cyclone Debbie, NDRRA**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am): Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements are funded by the Commonwealth and state governments to assist individuals, families, local councils, primary producers and small businesses bounce back. NDRRA assistance had been activated in 35 local government areas of Queensland. The NDRRA arrangements provide for additional funding to be provided when the natural disaster is deemed as exceptional. This is known as category D.

I am seeking from the federal government a category D package for communities impacted by Tropical Cyclone Debbie. This package will build on the good work and generosity of so many Queenslanders during the immediate response and recovery from Debbie and its severe flooding. This package will help Queensland communities bounce back sooner and stronger. I am seeking Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's support for a \$220 million package, with costs to be shared by the Commonwealth and my government. As the federal budget papers noted on Tuesday night—

Cyclone Debbie, which affected NSW and Queensland in March and April 2017, is expected to result in significant, but as yet unquantified, costs to the Commonwealth under the NDRRA.

The package that we are putting forward is in four parts. As part of the package, we are proposing a \$135 million local council infrastructure fund, including the South Rockhampton flood levee with the Rockhampton Regional Council, the Airlie Beach foreshore revitalisation and the Shute Harbour Marina revitalisation with the Whitsunday Regional Council—

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—and the Bluewater Trail and Queens Park redevelopment with the Mackay Regional Council. The Deputy Premier will provide detail on the additional elements of the package shortly.

In the wake of Tropical Cyclone Marcia, Prime Minister Tony Abbott and I agreed to share the costs of a \$27.75 million category D package. It included \$20 million for an infrastructure Betterment Fund to rebuild damaged local government assets to a more resilient standard. In February, the Deputy Premier and I inspected progress on the \$11 million upgrade of the section of the Scenic Highway at Statue Bay between Yeppoon and Rosslyn Bay to protect it against future natural disasters. I am confident that we can work with the federal government to support these very worthy projects to help rebuild Queensland.

### **Four Corners, 'Moonlight State'**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.35 am): Thirty years ago tonight, serious allegations about police corruption and misconduct were brought into the homes of ordinary Queenslanders. ABC's *Four Corners* broadcast the landmark 'Moonlight State', compiled by investigative journalist Chris Masters. The following day the then acting premier, Bill Gunn, announced there would be an inquiry—the Commission of Inquiry into Possible Illegal Activities and Associated Police Misconduct. As Commissioner Tony Fitzgerald stated in his final report two years later, the program—

... suggested that something was badly amiss with the policing of gambling, organized prostitution and drug trafficking in Brisbane, particularly in Fortitude Valley. The 'Moonlight State' suggested the Police Force had been ignoring and perhaps condoning significant criminal activity for a long time.

On behalf of Queenslanders, I pay tribute to those honest serving and former police men and women who resisted the temptation of corruption and had the courage to speak up before and to the Fitzgerald inquiry. I acknowledge the role of the media—including of course Chris Masters and Phil Dickie—and members of the wider community for bringing these allegations to light. This was a dark chapter in Queensland's history. The Fitzgerald inquiry and the ensuing reforms must serve as a reminder of the vigilance needed to ensure our public institutions and those who work within them serve the interests of all Queenslanders, not a select or privileged few.

### **Action on Ice, Rockhampton Summit and Townsville Round Table**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.37 am): My government is tackling the ice scourge that is devastating individuals, families and communities across the state. Last month, I convened Queensland's first Ice Regional Community Engagement Summit in Rockhampton, which was attended by more than 150 people. I would like to pay tribute to the members for Rockhampton and Keppel for their participation and the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services and the Minister for Communities for their contribution. The summit brought together community leaders and government and non-government service providers to seek their views on what is working, what is not working and what more can be done. Importantly, we heard directly from a number of people whose lives have been gripped by ice, as former users themselves or as family members trying to support a loved one.

The summit considered the 65 actions outlined in the government's draft action plan to tackle ice, *Action on ice*. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to this problem and our action plan recognises that. My government will continue to consult and listen broadly across Queensland prior to finalising the plan.

I intend to hold a further ice round table in Townsville on 17 May, next week. I will be joined by Minister Coralee O'Rourke, the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa. This is such an important issue for local communities. The Townsville round table will be followed by a number of other ice round tables across the state chaired by ministers whose agencies have primary service delivery responsibilities for leading the fight against ice. My government is determined to work with all levels of government, service providers and the community to break the hold that this drug has over individuals, families and communities.

### **Historical Homosexual Sexual Activity Convictions**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): Later today, the Attorney-General will introduce legislation into this parliament to right a wrong decades in the making that had a devastating impact on the lives of hundreds of Queenslanders. As this parliament moves to expunge historical convictions for homosexual offences, I will be making an apology on behalf of this House to the individuals, families and friends of those who bore the brunt of this injustice.

### Tropical Cyclone Debbie, Recovery

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.39 am): As the Premier has announced, the Palaszczuk government has today submitted our request to the federal government for category D funding assistance following the devastating effects of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. Queensland communities have been severely impacted by this event, which cut a destructive path from North Queensland to the Tweed border, destroying homes, farmland and businesses as well as tragically taking lives. It was an extraordinary event and it is clear that extraordinary measures are needed to ensure communities can recover, rebuild and be more resilient for the future.

This government is committed to providing that extraordinary assistance, and today the Premier has written to the Prime Minister asking him to do the same. The scale and the intensity of the physical, environmental and human impacts from Tropical Cyclone Debbie on communities across almost half of Queensland's local government areas are well beyond the scope of assistance traditionally provided under NDRRA categories A, B and C. Furthermore, many of these communities have been impacted multiple times in recent years. This category D assistance package has been developed by Queensland to further support communities as they recover from the exceptional nature of this event. In the past, category D has been used to fund important rebuilding projects like Brisbane's CityCat terminals and the Riverwalk, the restoration of the Cardwell foreshore on the Cassowary Coast and the Gowrie Creek flood mitigation in Toowoomba. Our category D application is proposing a \$220 million package focused on community needs and addresses four key areas.

The first area is a \$135 million local council package investing in iconic projects in the hardest hit local government areas to generate employment, boost the local economy, drive community recovery and build resilience. As the Premier has just informed the House, this includes funding for the South Rockhampton flood levee with the Rockhampton Regional Council; the Airlie Beach foreshore revitalisation and the Shute Harbour Marina revitalisation with the Whitsunday Regional Council; and the Bluewater Trail and Queens Park redevelopment with the Mackay Regional Council. The second is \$60 million for betterment to enable important infrastructure damage by Tropical Cyclone Debbie to be rebuilt to a stronger and more disaster resilient state. This includes upgrading existing or building new evacuation routes and cyclone centres; establishing a Queensland betterment fund to provide funding to support existing restoration of public assets to build assets back better; and providing essential equipment to improve resilience such as sandbagging machines. I know some communities would really look forward to having those sandbagging machines.

The third is a \$15 million environmental package to ensure the recovery of impacted environmental areas, recognising the important contribution our unique environment makes to the Queensland and Australian tourism industry. This will help remove debris, restore mangroves and other coastal vegetation and restore beaches as well as green waste. Finally, there is a \$10 million economic package to support the recovery of industry and businesses in and around impacted areas that experienced significant disruption and damage. This includes a grants program to support local and industry-led economic recovery and resilience-building activities and more support for primary industries recovery.

Our people on the ground have reached out to local governments and communities to assess their damage, understand their impacts and truly appreciate what they need in order to recover. This application for category D funding under the NDRRA is the result of local governments and their communities telling us what matters most to them: what will get them back on their feet, provide employment and restore their economies. On behalf of the communities impacted by severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie, I hope the Turnbull government is listening.

### Trade & Investment Queensland

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.43 am): I am pleased to inform the House that last month I launched the new *Advancing trade and investment: Queensland trade and investment strategy 2017-2022*. I table a copy for the information of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government: Advancing Trade and Investment: Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy 2017-2022 [703].

I would like to thank the dedicated TIQ staff for their hard work in finalising the strategy and acknowledge that a lot of this work commenced during the time when the Deputy Premier had charge of the portfolio. Our new strategy allocates \$35 million over the next five years to deliver 22 initiatives. These initiatives are designed to cement Queensland's position as the most innovative and dynamic trading economy in Australia.

Queensland has always been a trading state and we are setting export records. After hitting a record annual total of \$54.1 billion in 2016, the value of Queensland's merchandise exports totalled \$15.8 billion in just the first three months of 2017. This is an increase of 49 per cent, or \$5.2 billion, on the first three months of last year.

The strength of Queensland's export sector is driving economic growth in Queensland and is underpinning the Australian growth story. The Palaszczuk government and I are motivated to drive the success of this exciting new agenda and we are already seeing results. Last month I signed a statement of intent with the President of the LGAQ, Mayor Mark Jamieson. This is the first step towards developing a memorandum of understanding for promoting and coordinating trade and investment opportunities for businesses in all of Queensland's regions and recognition of the important role that local governments play in terms of exports and local businesses getting into markets.

The strategy was launched in Brisbane with key stakeholders. Given the strong regional focus of this strategy, I also held events with Queensland exporters in Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Townsville and Cairns. This strategy supports Queensland businesses to improve their engagement with existing overseas markets and also to enter new markets which will in turn encourage more trading opportunities, create jobs and help revitalise surrounding regional centres. To do this we need to build on and innovate in our traditional industries like mining, agriculture, tourism and international education.

I have to say that our enterprising local exporters are grabbing new opportunities with both hands as business and consumer confidence rebound in Queensland under this Labor government. As we speak, five of Queensland's most pioneering mining technology companies are showcasing their innovative mining equipment, technology and services—METS—at a major global mining exhibition in Argentina. Arminera is an event that attracts the world's main mining leaders for three days of exhibitions showcasing the latest technological developments in mining machinery, tools, accessories, services and logistics. Argentina has recently implemented new policies to attract increased foreign investment, which means now there are more opportunities for Queensland's METS companies. Earlier this year I welcomed a delegation from Argentina, including Argentina's mining secretary, which was attended by five of the businesses going to the exhibition. These Queensland companies have not missed a beat in heading straight to the heart of the action.

I look forward to strengthening Queensland's strategic relationships with Argentina and other key trading partners from around the world at the Heads of Mission visit to Cairns this weekend. Around 80 ambassadors and high commissioners from around the world will be touring Cairns and Far North Queensland this weekend as part of the Canberra Diplomatic Corps familiarisation tour.

Also underway right now is Hofex in Hong Kong, Asia's premier food and hospitality trade show. More than 20 Queensland businesses are attending this year's event. I would like to make special mention of Cairns chef Clinton Fang Yuen, who is responsible for giving us the increasingly popular Fang's Chilli Sauce. It is chilli sauce with bite. Clinton will give a special cooking demonstration at the Taste of Queensland networking luncheon to showcase the versatility of products available at Queensland's stall. When Hofex wraps up in Hong Kong later today, 11 of the 22 delegates will continue on to Taiwan for the second leg of the trade mission.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Brisbane based technology company Real Serious Games on sealing three agreements with organisations in the United Arab Emirates to enter the UAE market for the first time. They have won contracts to develop a comprehensive training program for Etihad Rail DB. Queensland Trade Commissioner to the Middle East Donna Massie has predicted the company will change training platforms in the region and provide a leading-edge solution globally.

It is clear that wherever in the world we look Queensland exporters are making inroads. As trade minister, I want to help them grow and prosper. This is a very exciting time to be in Queensland post the LNP economic recovery.

### International Nurses Day

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.47 am): Tomorrow is International Nurses Day, a day when Queenslanders can pay tribute to nurses across the state. It will also be the first anniversary of the passage of the Palaszczuk Labor government's groundbreaking nurse-to-patient ratio legislation. These ratios set a benchmark for patient safety and embed in law the workforce conditions detailed in our business planning framework. This government understands that if we want to improve health outcomes for Queenslanders, we invest in nurses, and that is what we have done.

We all recall the dark days of the previous government when 1,800 nurses and midwives were sacked. Our government has taken a different approach. We have restored confidence in our health system by rebuilding the front line including, I am proud to say, through the employment of an additional 3,948 nurses since we came to government. Another of our important initiatives has involved the implementation of our election commitment to appoint 400 nurse navigators over four years to assist patients with chronic conditions and to break the home-to-hospital nexus by finding the centre of care most appropriate to their needs. I am delighted to report to the House that this program is proving to be a great success, delivering real benefits that are changing the lives of thousands of our fellow Queenslanders.

Paul from the Sunshine Coast, who suffers from complex chronic disease, said, 'I was in a desperate state. No-one could help me and I was seeing many different doctors—45 appointments in eight months. Now I have more confidence in managing my own illnesses and getting the right care. I have a hope for a better outcome. Someone is listening to me at last.' Juan from north Brisbane, who also suffers from complex chronic disease, said, 'My wife used to spend five days a week driving me to different appointments. Since Nikia started with us she has improved our care and our quality of life. She has become an integral part of our health care. Our family now has another member.' We have invested \$110 million over four years to make sure that up to 4,000 of our nurse graduates get a kickstart to their careers. Through our school-age nursing initiative we are delivering universal vision screening to prep students for the first time.

We call nursing a caring profession not in a glib or offhand way but out of deep respect for the humanity inherent in the work that nurses do. International Nurses Day presents us with a fresh opportunity to express our gratitude to nurses for the extraordinary contribution they make to our Queensland community each and every day.

### **Early Childhood Education and Care, National Quality Standards; Morayfield East State School**

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (9.50 am): The latest snapshot of Australia's early childhood education and care centres shows that we are continuing to improve quality across Queensland. The data for this quarter shows that Queensland has the highest number of ECEC services rated as excellent, which is more than New South Wales or Victoria. The Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority's national assessment and rating system helps parents make informed choices about early childhood education and care for their children. Our government is committed to working with providers to improve access to high-quality early childhood education and care and to ensure that Queensland children achieve the best possible outcomes in their early years of learning. At the end of March, 92 per cent of Queensland's almost 2,900 approved services have received a national quality standard rating above the national average of 88 per cent.

I also want to take this opportunity to advise the House that, sadly, overnight a fire has destroyed two classrooms at Morayfield East State School. Two year 5 classes will be relocated to spare classrooms. I want to thank the principal, Julianne Wilson, and the team at Morayfield East State School who have been working really hard to support students and put in place alternative arrangements. I also want to acknowledge the member for Morayfield, who has reached out to the school, as well as our regional office. Counselling is going to be made available for students. We have also entered into alternative arrangements when it comes to NAPLAN. The year 5 students there will be sitting their NAPLAN numeracy test tomorrow instead of today.

### **Yellow Ribbon National Road Safety Week; United Nations Global Road Safety Week**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (9.52 am): This week marks two very important events in our road safety calendar: Yellow Ribbon National Road Safety Week and the United Nations Global Road Safety Week. Tragically, there has been some sad news overnight: a fatality following a two-vehicle crash on the Brisbane Valley Highway south of Esk. My thoughts—and I am sure the thoughts of everyone in this House—are with the man's family and friends. There has also been a serious crash on the Steve Irwin Way this morning. This is why it is so vitally important to highlight road safety. We still have much to do.

The Brisbane City Hall, Story Bridge and Gateway Bridge are being lit up yellow this week, joining iconic landmarks across the country to promote road safety. Each year 1,200 Australians are killed and 30,000 injured on our roads across the country; 251 people were killed on Queensland roads last year. The impact of road trauma on our community is enormous. Every serious crash has ongoing and devastating effects for families and communities.

Yellow Ribbon National Road Safety Week is an initiative of Safer Australian Roads and Highways—or SARA— a not-for-profit organisation that aims to improve Australian road safety by raising awareness and asking us to drive so that others survive. SARA was established after the death of Sarah Frazer, who was killed along with an NRMA patrolman who was attending to her broken-down car on the Hume Highway in February 2012. I will be meeting with Sarah's father Peter and the police minister following question time to highlight the road safety message further.

To coincide with National Road Safety Week the Palaszczuk government is today launching the Queensland Speed Conversation, which is a document to boost public engagement and encourage conversations about speeding. Speeding kills or seriously injures about 19 people a week in our state. It is avoidable, which is why the Queensland Speed Conversation challenges people to change the way we look at speed. It outlines 21 actions to reduce speed related crashes and can be used by community organisations, schools, universities and the public to start conversations about speeding, the role it plays in road safety, and the responsibility we all have to make safe decisions about our travelling speeds. Speeding is not just about driving above the signed limit: it is also, of course, about driving to road conditions and the weather. That means slowing down to protect vulnerable road users like pedestrians, motorcycle riders and bicycle riders—I note that it is also Bike Week this week, and I acknowledge all the hard work that everyone has put into Bike Week and all the MPs who attended the Brisbane event this morning—as well as giving emergency crews and road workers plenty of space on our roadsides. After all, road safety is everyone's responsibility.

### Drought Declarations, Revocation

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (9.55 am): There is no doubt that parts of Queensland remain in the grip of an ongoing drought despite some normal seasonal rain and the late-season arrival of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, which resulted in widespread rainfall and flooding in parts of the state. Overall, Queensland has endured a harsh summer with well-above-average rainfall and above-average temperatures in some areas and no rainfall in others. As a result of these conditions, in March I asked the local drought committees to meet in some areas. Based on their recommendations, I announced that at that time a record 87.47 per cent of Queensland was drought declared. However, today there is some better news.

I will be revoking drought declarations in nine shires and two part shires. This reduces the drought-declared areas of Queensland to 69.75 per cent. The revoked areas are: Southern Downs, Mount Isa, Burke, Carpentaria, Croydon, Etheridge, Doomadgee, Kowanyama, Pormpuraaw local government areas, the declared section of the Cook local government area and the declared section of the Mareeba local government area. Producers in these areas who are still experiencing drought conditions can apply, as always, for an Individually Droughted Property declaration. Those Individually Droughted Property declarations will ensure that they can continue to access the same government drought assistance as an area declaration.

I would also like to advise that the local drought committees in the south-east and Central Highlands local government areas are meeting to discuss pasture conditions in the wake of rainfall received from Tropical Cyclone Debbie. These committees will review conditions and see if there is enough pasture to get them through to the next wet season. I expect to receive their recommendations in the coming weeks.

This government is doing all that it can to support farmers through this drought. We have the Queensland Drought Assistance Package, where drought-declared producers can access measures such as fodder and water freight subsidies, water infrastructure rebates, relief from electricity charges and access to a number of community and mental health programs. The largest program, the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, provides up to \$20,000 per year or \$40,000 per year in freight subsidies and water infrastructure rebates for those producers who have a drought management plan and are in their third or subsequent years of drought. We will continue to monitor conditions and help our producers get through this drought.

## Minerals Exploration

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.58 am): As I said in this chamber earlier in the week, the Palaszczuk government is committed to the growth and development of the resources and mining sectors of Queensland, and that commitment is absolute. That is why I am pleased to advise the House that we will be releasing land for exploration for rare earth minerals in our 2017-18 annual exploration program. Rare earth minerals are the metals of the 21st century and beyond. They could be Queensland's next frontier of resource exploration and investment. The Diamantina Minerals Province, as it is known, could be our next frontier for this development not just in geographic terms but also in market terms.

Rare earth minerals are pivotal in the shift from a carbon based economy to the new 21st century electron economy, and Queensland could easily become a leading world supplier. This discovery was made as part of the Department of Natural Resources and Mines geoscience work. Experts from the department and the University of Queensland have found geological pipe structures which are extremely rich in precious minerals such as platinum as well as rare earth minerals. The next stage will be to release prospective land for further exploration.

This breakthrough underpins the importance of good scientific data, a subject close to my heart as a researcher. That is why I am dumbfounded by the Turnbull government's idea that building a gas pipeline from Western Australia to South Australia will stack up as any kind of solution to the east coast's gas supply issues. They are really digging deep for ideas. This was one of Rex Connor's ideas from the Whitlam era. The industry agrees with me. Experts estimate that the gas would cost more than \$13 a gigajoule. Even better, it would be much cheaper to transport that gas by ship from Western Australia to South Australia rather than send it through a pipeline. It makes no sense at all. That is some economic genius from the Turnbull government! Here is a better idea: expand the northern gas pipeline that is coming to Mount Isa from the Northern Territory.

I suggest that the Turnbull government talk to the industry, as I have, and ask how it could help to increase supply. I can tell it what they are telling me: a pipeline to get the gas that is available in the Galilee Basin to the customers on the east coast is one of the answers. Here is my message to Mr Turnbull: put your money where it will work—that is, invest your dollars wisely here in Queensland.

## Financial Management and Payroll Services

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (10.01 am): It gives me great pleasure to update the House on the delivery of financial management and payroll services and solutions to Queensland government agencies. The Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation, through its business area Queensland Shared Services, known as QSS, is responsible for this important service delivery. Each week QSS provides finance and HR services to 25 customer agencies. QSS supports millions of successful transactions every year, thanks to the dedication of its staff. To assist community recovery efforts from Cyclone Debbie, QSS processed over 56,000 additional payments, putting over \$23 million in the hands of people affected by this natural disaster.

QSS has a successful track record of project delivery, and the Palaszczuk government has invested in this capability. Since 2015 QSS has upgraded finance systems for eight agencies as well as four payroll systems. For public safety agencies, the transition from Lattice, an out-of-date payroll system, is well and truly underway. As part of the Human Resource Information System, HRIS, one agency—Inspector-General Emergency Management—has already successfully moved on to the new Aurion system, and transition for Queensland Corrective Services is near completion. Another two agencies are due to come online by the end of next year. The transition for corrective services officers follows an independent assessment by a team of experts who delivered seven findings, all giving the go-ahead for the new payroll system to proceed.

Let us be clear on this: funding—all \$100 million for the HRIS—was approved by the Newman-Nicholls LNP government in 2012. The former government's appetite for outsourcing was, as we all know, huge. Those opposite completely mismanaged the rollout of this payroll program from day one. Not only did they allocate the \$100 million for the HRIS system; they also subsequently poured more than \$18.5 million into it—more than half the total spend to date—all without ever actually signing a contract to deliver it.

We will not be taking any shortcuts. We are on track and on budget. I take this opportunity to thank all of the incredibly hardworking public servants in my department who are transitioning what is a complex system. We are applying due diligence to ensure security continues around payments to public servants.

### Townsville Enterprise

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (10.04 am): Last night we welcomed more than 300 people to Parliament House for Townsville Enterprise's first-ever networking, 'Taking Townsville North Queensland to George Street'. When I spoke to TEL CEO Trish O'Callaghan a few months ago, she floated the idea of showcasing Townsville in Brisbane and asked me to partner with them to organise. I did not think twice about agreeing to sponsor it. It was a fantastic idea to showcase Townsville and show Brisbane just what we have to offer. What a fantastic night it was.

In Townsville we have some of the most engaged, ambitious and enthusiastic minds. Last week a number of them were brought together for the Townsville Enterprise North Queensland Emerging Leaders event. The objective of the day was for the emerging leaders to gain a more informed or different understanding of politics and how they could become more engaged, aware and supportive. The event opened up so many questions of how they can create a better future for Townsville and how they could be more involved in that success. They were hungry for the opportunity and wanted to find out more about how they could not only work with government but also work with the community and each other to achieve their own goals as well as mutual goals.

It was a really good opportunity to share so many different ideas, thoughts and opinions and to come together in a mutual understanding of collaboration. I have to say: I have never experienced anything like it. In front of me I truly saw the next generation of leaders getting ready to drive Townsville forward. I saw eager individuals who will go on to board positions, into politics, to become CEOs and CFOs. They will strive to be humanitarians and perhaps even philanthropists. They will drive change and become leaders. They were passionate, driven and really wanted to grasp every opportunity with both hands and to hit the ground running.

I believe that the energy of the Emerging Leaders group and the energy in the room last night is the energy that is returning to Townsville. After feeling forgotten and secondary to our neighbours for such a long time, we are rebuilding our confidence, brick by brick, to rocket forward as state leaders. We might be 1,400 kilometres away from Brisbane, but I can absolutely say that we are front and centre of every single decision made right here.

With the support of organisations such as TEL and the investment from the Palaszczuk government, I can say with confidence that Townsville's future is looking very bright. I look forward to updating the House on all the work we are doing to achieve that future.

### Waltzing Matilda Centre

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.07 am): I recently had the absolute privilege of being in Winton to turn the first sod with local mayor 'Butch' Lenton for the reconstruction of a Queensland icon. In 2015 the Waltzing Matilda Centre burned to the ground. The Waltzing Matilda Centre was Winton's tribute to Banjo Paterson's famous bush ballad written in 1895 at nearby Dagwood Station. *Waltzing Matilda*, with the help of a billy tea advertisement, went on to become an unofficial national anthem.

The Waltzing Matilda Centre was quintessentially outback Queensland. Winton's loss of the Waltzing Matilda Centre was a bitter blow for a community already struggling with severe drought. The Waltzing Matilda Centre, along with the spectacular outdoor Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum, was a significant contributor to the region's economy.

We know that bush communities are made from stern stuff. They are resilient. I am pleased to inform the House that work is now underway to see the Waltzing Matilda Centre mark 2 rise from the ashes. The \$22 million rebirth of the Waltzing Matilda Centre stands as a symbol of partnerships and the cooperation of all three levels of government. The Palaszczuk government's Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program has invested \$1.2 million in cutting-edge architectural design featuring over 2,250 square metres of open spaces to bring to life Winton's world-famous bush ballad. It will deliver jobs. I am informed by the construction contractor that the Waltzing Matilda Centre will support up to 200 jobs.

While in Winton I announced, on behalf of the Minister for Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, \$2.25 million to pave and reseal seven kilometres of road to the Australian Age of Dinosaurs museum as part of the Transport and Tourism Connections program. It will help drive tourism to the museum, coupled with the rebirth of the Waltzing Matilda Centre.

Mayor 'Butch' Lenton is extremely positive about the prospects of Winton and Western Queensland. Construction is expected to be completed by April to encourage Commonwealth Games visitors to Winton for a truly unique Queensland outback experience. I know the Premier shares my interest in Winton after naming her dog after the town itself. I for one cannot wait to come 'a-waltzing Matilda' with Winton once again.

### **Tropical Cyclone Debbie, National Parks**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (10.09 am): In the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, an army of volunteers came from across the state to assist Queensland Parks and Wildlife rangers with the recovery effort in our national parks. As we know, the Whitsunday region's national parks and the iconic Whitehaven Beach were among the worst hit areas. Thanks to the tireless work of staff and volunteers, the tourism industry and others who rely on our national parks have now begun to get back on their feet.

This dedicated recovery effort has enabled businesses to reopen their doors sooner and kept locals employed when they needed it most. The iconic Hill Inlet track and lookout on Tongue Point was open to visitors just eight days after Debbie had stripped and felled almost all of the trees. Less than two weeks after Debbie crossed the coast, Parks and Wildlife staff also had 90 per cent of camping grounds and 30 per cent of walking tracks up and running—just in time for the Easter weekend. This was a magnificent achievement. They had the colossal task of stabilising and recreating 350 metres of beach at Whitehaven to make it safe for visitors and return what Debbie had taken. Due to the short time frames and the constraint of having to work at low tides, crews worked in shifts around the clock to get the job done. Some 10,000 cubic metres of eroded sand was pushed back up the beach. The most badly damaged trees had to be mulched.

Meanwhile, the Whitsunday Islands' fringing reefs were also inspected. Teams were deployed to undertake reef health impact assessments at popular snorkelling locations. Information on the condition of the surviving coral was collected and feedback provided to dive operators. Most of the 90 public moorings were repaired within two weeks to ensure structural integrity post cyclone. In the three-week period after the storm, the clean-up operation involved a virtual army of people and machinery—six departmental vessels, two chartered vessels, 26 Airlie Beach marine and terrestrial staff, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority officers and 42 staff from northern and central regions, some from as far away as Cooktown and Mossman. They all pitched in. I want to acknowledge the hard work of staff and volunteers and the visitors who continue to visit the Whitsundays whose efforts are supporting the communities impacted by Tropical Cyclone Debbie.

### **Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.12 am): May is Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month. It is all about raising awareness of the violence that goes on behind too many closed doors right across Australia and bringing discussion about it into the open. It is also about sending a very clear message that domestic and family violence will not be tolerated. Ending domestic and family violence is one of the government's highest priorities and we are spending a record \$200 million to do this and have implemented or commenced action on every recommendation in the *Not now, not ever* report, but we cannot do this alone. We need individuals, businesses and community groups to all come together and deliver our zero tolerance message and to support those who are affected by domestic and family violence.

That is why I was proud the Palaszczuk government joined forces with the Gold Coast Suns and the Queensland Police Service to launch Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month last Monday at Metricon Stadium. I was also pleased to join the Suns again on Saturday night at their game against Geelong for their domestic violence prevention round. By dedicating their round 7 game to domestic and family violence prevention, the Suns issued a strong declaration that they will stand up, speak out and act to prevent violence against women. The Suns also made a very symbolic gesture that footy fans in this House will recognise the significance of. Normally the pregame banner for an AFL team is witty and meant to be broken as the teams run out through the banner, but on Saturday night the players

proudly raised a banner that read 'One woman is killed every week by a current or former partner. Domestic violence is not acceptable—not now, not ever', and they did not run through the banner but ran around the banner as a sign of respect. Football is a particularly powerful vehicle to help drive the not now, not ever message. The influence of players showing respect for women and girls and speaking out against violence cannot be underestimated. The amount of \$1 from every ticket sold for Saturday night's game went to local domestic and family violence organisations.

Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month is an opportunity for all Queenslanders to be part of the not now, not ever campaign. As part of the campaign, the Palaszczuk Labor government has provided more than \$186,000 in funding to support 50 community events across the state designed to drive home our message: not now, not ever. Stopping domestic and family violence in Queensland will take commitment from every corner of our state. These community owned and locally driven events are a chance to show that everyday Queenslanders are taking a stand and saying clearly that domestic and family violence is not acceptable—not now, not ever.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

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

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders for today's sitting:

- (a) at 2.30 pm today the Premier to move a motion asking the House to adopt an apology acknowledging the wrongs inflicted by the past criminalisation of homosexual sexual activity between consenting adults is to take precedence;
- (b) debate of the motion will be limited to the Premier as mover and the Leader of the Opposition or nominee;
- (c) the motion be followed by the introduction of a government bill; and
- (d) the order of business for the day shall then resume, commencing with private members' statements.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Infrastructure

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

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government's do-nothing approach to delivering infrastructure for Queensland.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.16 am): This week we have been taken inside and shown the hollow shell that is the Labor government—the Palaszczuk do-nothing government here in Queensland. We have had two days and a litany of excuses of why things cannot be done, why it cannot do it by itself, why it goes cap in hand—begging bowl in hand—to Canberra to fund its promises to deliver the infrastructure that it has failed to deliver.

We have also seen that not only is this a do-nothing government but this is a know-nothing government—a know-nothing government that is dragging Queensland down and deliberately seeks to keep Queenslanders in the dark on matters that are important to them—whether it is about the job losses that we are seeing in this state under a do-nothing Labor government; whether this is a do-nothing, know-nothing Labor government that cannot deliver train services, with a transport minister who not only did nothing about the loss of train services but he knew nothing about it either; whether it is the failures across the youth justice system, again, by an Attorney-General who did not know what was going on and then when she did do something, which was not very much, actually covered up the report that came out; or whether it is the child safety minister, who does not know what is going on in

her own department and washes her own data to try and clean it up and still hides report after report. Department after department is in crisis, not delivering the services that Queenslanders want, and this government's incompetence and inaction is leading the way.

When we asked the Premier this week about the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources deleting ministerial record emails, what did she say? 'I don't know'—just the same answer we got with the member for Pumicestone. What did she say? 'I don't know.' When the member for Bundaberg could not pay her rates, what did she say? 'I don't know.' What did the member for Yeerongpilly—the 'mangocube' from out there—say? 'I don't know.' Then with her own director-general and the business contacts he had, what did she say? 'I don't know.' This is a Premier whose stock answer to all the hard questions is either, 'I'm furious,' or 'I'm angry,' or 'I don't know,' and then 'I don't know how to fix it up either. I'll refer it off.' When we asked the Premier and the minister for IT if they knew of other ministers who might be deleting their emails—and there is an unanswered question, too—what did they say? 'I don't know.'

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the Minister for Health, I am informed that we have school leaders of the Faith Lutheran College of Plainland in the electorate of Lockyer observing our proceedings. Welcome.

### Liberal National Party, Health Services

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.20 am): One of the least inspiring sights in Australian politics—other than the leadership of the member for Clayfield—has been the slow and inexorable decline of the LNP across the nation. But there is one thing that binds them altogether—one last ideal, one final frontier, one last policy prescription that is the glue that keeps the whole ramshackle group together, one grand project that they can all agree on—and that is health cuts.

Who will ever forget in our state the gleeful exuberance with which the Leader of the Opposition swung his axe across the health system when he was the treasurer? Last night, we saw the audacity of the member for Surfers Paradise in getting up in this House and saying that the LNP were 'health friends'—4,400 health workers were sacked, including 1,800 nursers and midwives. Under the LNP, the waiting list for the waiting list blew out to 104,000 Queenslanders. NGOs were defunded and gagged. Sexual health was confined to the scrap heap. There was open warfare with doctors. Mental health services were underfunded. The Barrett Adolescent Centre was closed without replacement. With friends like that, who needs enemies?

Of course, not to be outdone, successive federal coalition governments have doubled down on health cuts. No area has been spared—dental care, mental health, aged care—on top of the \$10 billion cut from Queensland's share of growth funding promised under the National Health Reform Agreement. In that glorious tradition comes the next chapter in the miserable saga of the LNP's antihealth campaign and that is Scott Morrison's budget. In his speech, the federal Treasurer made it clear that the only reason he was abandoning the devastating cuts of the 2014 Hockey budget was that he could not get them through the Senate. In other words, they are not dead, they are not buried, they are not cremated; they are in the crypt waiting to see the light of day again. It will be the dawn of the undead LNP cuts.

The LNP is and always has been ideologically opposed to Medicare, public hospitals and the concept of free and universal health care. How do we know that? Last week, we were reminded of that when Prime Minister 'Trumbull'—sorry, Turnbull—congratulated President Trump on his decision to scrap health care for millions of Americans. A leopard cannot change its spots and any claims that the LNP is now 'health friends' is seriously as contrived as the member for Clayfield having a beer in a rural pub.

### Emergency and Corrective Services, Payroll System

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (10.23 am): Yesterday, I tabled the PwC report into Labor's latest failed IT payroll project—and what a damning report it is! We are seeing emerging from this government a cloak of cover-up and secrecy.

I can understand why this government would not want anyone to see this report, because it confirms that this is a do-nothing government that is beholden to crisis management and reviews. The report also confirms clearly that everything that this government touches becomes a spectacular bungle

or failure. The situation is so bad that the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services was sidelined and stripped of anything to do with getting this project back on track.

Yesterday, when the minister said that he was unaware of any issues with this project, he showed his complete ignorance of the project and his responsibility as a minister. He said—

I was never told that this matter was behind schedule or over budget, because it is not. The advice that I have received from the Queensland Corrective Services commissioner is that the new payroll system for Queensland Corrective Services is on time and on budget.

This morning, we heard the minister for IT saying that all is rosy with the IT department and payrolls. Let us have a look at what the PwC report told us. The executive summary might give members a bit of a clue. It states that there is 'low confidence that the program will be successful without significant intervention'. The author has made some other observations—roles and responsibilities were ambiguous; indecisive decision-making practices are ineffective; there remains uncertainty, an inadequate approach, inconsistent risk management, ineffective reporting practices, inefficient resource usage, inadequate collaboration and inadequate financial management controls. That is what the document says.

We have one minister in the dark and we have one minister in denial. This document completely sums up this Labor government. The Palaszczuk government specialises in reviews and crisis management. While they are in the dark and in denial, it is the Queensland people who pay the price.

### Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (10.26 am): What an extraordinary contribution from the now Leader of the Opposition! He comes in here and tries to attack our government about what was known and what was not known. It took Campbell Newman, the former member for Ashgrove, to call on him to say, 'Stand up and take responsibility for the decisions that you made.' Tim Nicholls is the Shaggy of the Queensland parliament—'It wasn't me.' His government was known for promising one thing before the election to public servants, then cutting thousands of jobs. It was about saying, 'We'll protect front-line services,' and then cutting nurses and midwives from our hospitals and our teachers from our schools.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I take those interjections from those opposite. When the member for Clayfield came out and said limply, 'Oh, I'm sorry I broke my promises,' he still did not rule out the fact that the LNP would sell assets if it came back into government. Queenslanders will judge the LNP members on their record. Queenslanders know the minute the LNP members step back into the Treasury coffers, the first thing that would go is our public assets.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I am having difficulty hearing the minister and I know Hansard is as well.

**Ms JONES:** We know that the LNP members say one thing before an election and then they say another thing after the election when they are in government. We have seen the member for Clayfield caught out again. He has had the opportunity and, to date, he has still not said whether he would sell assets if the LNP were re-elected.

When it comes to our \$200 million infrastructure investment in building school halls and upgrading halls across this state, we have seen complete hypocrisy from the LNP. I thank the Deputy Premier for her support for this project that is delivering real jobs right across Queensland. In terms of our 'do-nothing' \$200 million investment program of building school halls right across Queensland, the shadow minister for education is criticising it, saying that she does not like it. But not all of the members opposite think that. Mark Robinson is saying, 'I'm pleased to be able to deliver this long-awaited project.' The last time I checked, that member was sitting opposite. It is our money, Labor's money, our investment in state schools that is delivering these halls—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have had a pretty good going this morning. I am in your hands as to whether your name goes on the sheet.

**Ms JONES:** It was our budget decisions that decided that we will build the halls that Queenslanders want right across this state, including in the honourable member for Nanango's electorate. I am the education minister that is delivering the Kingaroy State High School hall. In the electorate of the member for Mansfield, Ian Walker, we are delivering a \$6 million hall for Mansfield State High School. In the member for Toowoomba North's electorate, the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering a new hall for Wilsonton State High School.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Everton, I am informed that we have students from the Brisbane Independent School—Kenmore—in the electorate of Moggill observing our proceedings. Welcome.

### **Criminal Motorcycle Gangs**

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.30 am): Under this soft-on-crime Annastacia Palaszczuk government the bikies are back! Why should we not be surprised that they would be back after this government weakened laws that worked, weakened laws that drove the bikies out of the state and weakened laws that the police welcomed.

Last night we heard disturbing media reports that confirmed that the bikies are back. The Comancheros, that notorious gang that was in the middle of the Milperra massacre, are back on the coast and strengthening their numbers. The Bandidos and the Rebels are reported to be having turf wars at Beenleigh. Even more disturbing are the reports that the Bandidos have infiltrated the tow truck industry. These are things that could not have happened under the previous government's very tough laws.

When we were in government the media reports were about the bikies fleeing the state, not strengthening their numbers on the coast. The bikies have returned and they have become more brazen.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. I now call the member for Everton.

**Mr MANDER:** These explosive reports last night even had quotes from bikies. One of them said—

It will be harder to catch us under the new consorting laws here. They didn't work in New South Wales. Members are already getting around the laws by using businesses to keep associating with other members they have been warned not to contact.

While this government focuses on what the bikies are wearing, we focused on what they were doing and we stopped it from happening. Another bokie said this about their fashion laws, 'If anything it is escalating now because the gangs have become more anonymous. They are not wearing colours. It's harder to identify us.' This is the consequence of the ridiculous weakening of the bokie laws that this government has brought in. They were warned about this. The CCC warned them in its submission to the Wilson report that the evidence was mounting that with the change of government the bikies would become more brazen and would start to re-establish themselves on the coast. That is what the CCC said. We are unapologetic about the tough laws that we brought into this state. Our tough laws stopped the bikies from claiming that they were running the Gold Coast. They fled the Gold Coast. Under this government, under this Premier, the bikies are back!

**Mr SPEAKER:** We will now proceed to question time. Question time will finish at 11.33 am.

## **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

### **Criminal Motorcycle Gangs**

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (10.34 am): My question without notice is to the Premier. As far back as 2015 the CCC warned the government about its soft new outlaw gang laws.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, we have an understanding. I made it pretty clear we are to hear the person who is asking the question in silence. Would you like to repeat the question, Leader of the Opposition?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you. My question is to the Premier. As far back as 2015 the CCC warned the government about its soft new outlaw gang laws, saying, 'It is clear from recent developments that several clubs have been actively recruiting new members on the Gold Coast.' Given the explosive report on the news last night that outlaw gangs are expanding their operations and a turf war may have broken out, isn't this proof that the CCC was on the mark and her government recklessly rejected its advice?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. We went to the last state election very clearly saying that we would repeal and replace the laws that were rushed through this parliament when the LNP were in government. That is what we said we would do and that is what the public voted for.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Thank you.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The serious organised crime legislation that went through this parliament, tackling all forms of serious crime—not just one element—was thorough. It went through a parliamentary process which I am incredibly proud of. We do not come in here to this parliament and do what those opposite did in the dark of the night and rush through volumes and volumes of law without going through the proper parliamentary process.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I apologise, Premier. I am going to continue pausing the clock, and I do not care how much time it takes, if members continue to try to speak over the top of the person who is answering the question. I do not mind reasonable interjections, but I draw the line at the standard that I think members are aware of.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We have taken a very tough stance when it comes to combating all forms of serious organised crime, including outlaw motorcycle gangs, including illicit drugs and including child sexual exploitation. I make no apologies for taking this tough stance in tackling all of those issues. As I said today, we are actually tackling another very important issue of concern to the community which is the impact ice is having across communities. We want to catch those people who are distributing ice and causing such damage to families across the state. I thank the member for Surfers Paradise. I omitted to acknowledge that he came to the Ice Summit last month. I thank him for coming along and listening to the views that people have in relation to this issue. Are we tackling the big issues? Yes, we are. I do not see anything on that side of the House.

**Mr Pitt:** Bereft of ideas.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There are no ideas. I am aware of those reports that aired last night. What they also showed is that people are being presented with those consorting orders, as they should be. That is what it found. The consorting laws are not just in Queensland; they are also in New South Wales. If I had my way I would like to have our laws uniform across the nation tackling all forms of organised crime, not just one part.

My government has given the police all the resources that they need. When it comes to operational matters I will rely on the Police Commissioner to undertake what he needs to do and if they need it we will give the police more resources. That is what my budget and my government has done since we have come into office. We have delivered record police budgets, backing the police who are on the ground doing the hard work.

### **Criminal Motorcycle Gangs**

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My second question is to the Premier. I again refer to the explosive media reports last night and in particular this quote from one former gang member—

It will be harder to catch us under the new consorting laws here. They didn't work in New South Wales. Members are already getting around the laws by using businesses to keep associating with other members they have been warned not to contact.

Despite the Premier's protests, have Labor's soft new laws allowed outlaw gangs to get back in business in Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said, my government is serious about tackling all forms of serious organised crime in this state and that is exactly the legislation that went through this House. I am proud of that legislation. That legislation is working. In fact, the police minister has recently announced that

since the commencement of the legislation in December 2016 nine offenders have been charged with possession of prohibited items in a public place and 107 consorting warnings have been issued since March 2017. These laws are working.

I am further advised that this morning the Acting Police Commissioner, Steve Gollschewski, provided a detailed brief to the police minister on this matter. As part of that brief, the police minister was advised that under the LNP there were around 1,100 known outlaw motorcycle criminal gang members in Queensland. That was under the LNP.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Members should wait for it. They wanted the answer and they will get it. I am further advised by the Acting Police Commissioner that that number is now around 600 and is going down. Our laws are tougher and the Acting Police Commissioner has said that.

We will support the police men and women of this state. As I said this morning, it is a timely reminder about what happened in the past. It is a stark reminder that 30 years ago today *The Moonlight State* aired on *Four Corners*, highlighting what was happening in this state. That led to the Fitzgerald inquiry. It was a very dark chapter in Queensland's history that sent former National Party government ministers to jail. Tony Fitzgerald cleaned up the state. What have those on the opposite side of the House done? They have criticised him and dragged his name through the mud.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am happy to adjourn the sitting and not come back until members allow the speaker to answer without the continual rabble that we are having.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Under three years of the Newman-led government, we saw a dreadful campaign—

**Mr Watts:** Bikies leaving for New South Wales.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned standing order 253A. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They tried to drag his name and good character through the mud. Today Queensland is a better place for what Tony Fitzgerald did and for what he uncovered. We are a better, stronger state because we have fought against corruption.

*(Time expired)*

### Diversity in Government

**Ms FARMER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline the government's efforts to build diversity in the provision of government front-line services and outline any alternative approaches that she is aware of?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Bulimba for that very important question. I am a firm believer in diversity, which is a sentiment that starts at the top. Ours is the first Queensland government to have a female Premier and a female Deputy Premier, as well as the first female Indigenous woman, Leeanne Enoch, serving in the cabinet. I am incredibly proud of that. Our cabinet is 50 per cent women, which is great to see. It is something that I did not think I would see in my lifetime. It is wonderful to see how many women we are continuing to promote through Labor Party ranks.

In 2015 we set a target of having women comprise 50 per cent of all new board appointees to Queensland government bodies by 2020. We are well on track, with the proportion of women on government boards rising from 31 per cent in mid-2015 to 40 per cent in September 2016. In the Public Service we have high targets for diversity recruitment: an agreed 50 per cent women at senior officer level and above, three per cent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, eight per cent people with disability and 10 per cent people from non-English-speaking backgrounds by 2022.

However, those targets are a bit too ambitious for the LNP. They want 50 per cent of women in senior leadership positions in 10 years, not five years. Of course, I go back to their *Public service of excellence* brochure, even though we cannot believe anything that is written on this piece of paper because we know what the LNP thinks of the Public Service. They say one thing before an election and another afterwards.

**Ms Trad:** They want it to be flexible.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. The statement reads—

There is a significant gap between men and women in senior leadership roles and employment of people from other equal opportunity groups is trending downwards.

I think it is ironic that they want to set those benchmarks for the Public Service when they do not set benchmarks for themselves. As I glance across at those opposite I see a few women, but I think there should be more. I understand that on the weekend the LNP preselected a few new people. In Nicklin, they preselected a man; in Buderim, they preselected a man; in Hill, they preselected another man. They are not doing too well with their recruitment. What have they done to support women? The member for Broadwater is under attack. They want her gone. A little birdie told me that 27 May is the date. Is the Leader of the Opposition—

*(Time expired)*

### **Criminal Motorcycle Gangs**

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to explosive media reports that the outlaw Comanchero motorcycle gang is re-establishing in Queensland by patching over Bandidos outlaw gang members.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I am in your hands. We can sit here as you chatter across the table, but we will not proceed with question time until the chamber is silent and ready. If you want to continue, I am in your hands. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, please repeat your question so that we can hear it in silence.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to explosive media reports that the outlaw Comanchero motorcycle gang is re-establishing in Queensland by patching over Bandidos outlaw gang members. Given the government's softly-softly approach to crime, how can the Premier guarantee our community's safety?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I rise to a point of order. There is an imputation contained within the member's question. We have heard it a couple of times, but, Mr Speaker, I want to draw it to your attention and ask you to give guidance to members on the issue of suggesting that the government is soft on crime. I ask you to look at that and provide guidance to members on framing their questions.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am reminded I have made previous rulings in relation to imputations. There is no point of order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I went through this at length previously. As I said, we will continue to give the police all the resources that they need to combat all forms of serious organised crime right across the state. That is exactly what the legislation that we passed sets out to do and the legislation is working. In fact, I draw the attention of the House to the fact that the first arrest made for wearing a prohibited item was in December and that that arrest was actually made at Hamilton, in the electorate of the Leader of the Opposition. These laws are working and not just on the Gold Coast; they are working across the state. I reiterate to the House that I will be raising this issue at COAG. I want uniform laws combatting all forms of serious organised crime on the agenda when COAG meets next month. It is very important that we have uniform laws and national consistency, so that people do not cherry-pick.

If those opposite have concerns with these laws, then I hope they are raising them with the New South Wales Premier as well because the last time I looked she was from the LNP. When we went down to New South Wales and met with Mike Baird and their police they were praising their laws. Those opposite cannot come in here and criticise Queensland and not criticise New South Wales. What I am trying to get is consistency of legislation down the east coast and consistency of legislation across the nation.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Townsville for his question, I indicate that the members for Everton and Redlands are both now warned under standing order 253A. The member for Hinchinbrook has already been warned. Member for Hinchinbrook, given your continual interjections and the fact that you have continued to be disorderly and have already been warned under standing order 253A I order you to withdraw from the chamber for one hour. Those views apply to both sides of the chamber.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Hinchinbrook withdrew from the chamber at 10.51 am.*

### Works for Queensland Program

**Mr STEWART:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government's commitment to infrastructure through the Works for Queensland program is progressing and whether this commitment has been matched by the federal government?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the honourable member for Townsville for that question.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have not been warned yet. You are now warned under standing order 253A. If you persist you will follow the lead of the member for Hinchinbrook.

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the honourable member for Townsville for that question. He knows full well the impact of the Works for Queensland program in his local community and also in the member for Mundingburra's community and the member for Thuringowa's community. Some 51 projects are being funded in the Townsville region. That is more than \$21 million worth of projects supporting more than 300 local jobs.

Across the state the \$200 million Works for Queensland program is supporting over 723 jobs throughout 65 councils. I am very pleased to report to the House that as of 30 April this year 582 projects out of the 723 projects have actually started and we are seeing people working away on these critical local government infrastructure projects.

This is a clear demonstration of our commitment to infrastructure here in Queensland every day through programs like Works for Queensland. We are doing the heavy lifting alone because the Turnbull government's Sydney-centric attitude is letting Queensland down and means that we are missing out on our fair share in Queensland. Not only are we missing out on our fair share, but the federal government's commitment to infrastructure spending has actually fallen off a cliff.

Infrastructure Partnerships Australia put out a press release after the Turnbull government's budget on Tuesday night. They said that the Turnbull government's budget 'cuts real infrastructure by \$7.4 billion compared to the 10-year average and sees Commonwealth funding at its lowest level since the early 2000s'. I table the press release for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 9 May 2017, by Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, titled 'Federal Budget Cuts Real Infrastructure Funding by \$7.4 billion' [\[704\]](#).

The Turnbull government is trying to delay investment in Cross River Rail to hide the fact that their investment in Australia's infrastructure is actually plummeting. It also means that communities in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Bundaberg and Maryborough all miss out. Respected finance and economics commentator Michael Pascoe said—

Morrison has got away with rehashing Hockey's infrastructure PR trick—think of a big number and just keep adding years until you reach it.

He also went on to ask, 'Who actually fell for the big infrastructure con job?' Quite a number of people on the opposite side of this House fell for the con job.

Does anyone remember yesterday someone saying that this was 'an unprecedented infrastructure budget'? That was the member for Nanango. What about the member for Indooroopilly? What did he say? He said, 'Better days ahead thanks to the coalition budget.' What about the Leader of the Opposition? What did he say? He said, 'This is a fair and responsible pragmatic budget.' That just sums up how much they are prepared to fight for Queensland if they are the lines they are prepared to run.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Surfers Paradise, in relation to the issues about questions, I refer to my previous rulings and remind members that in the parliamentary sense Speakers will generally not intervene where the imputation is directed to philosophy, viewpoint or policy, but are likely to intervene where the imputation is a phrase imputing, attributing, ascribing or charging someone with a personal motive, crime, misconduct, negligence or other fault. Again, in the parliamentary sense, Speakers will generally not intervene where the matters relate to philosophy, viewpoint or policy, but are likely to intervene where the inference is about personal motives, adverse action, crime, misconduct, negligence or other fault.

### Criminal Motorcycle Gangs

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to last night's media report that outlaw gangs such as the Lone Wolves are actively recruiting and expanding their presence and ask: how can Gold Coast residents feel safe when brawls and bashings are occurring in broad daylight with thugs with links to outlaw gangs?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. As I have said very clearly, the advice that I have received is that the number of known outlaw motorcycle criminal gang members has decreased under my government. They are the facts that have been provided to the police minister by the acting commissioner. Once again let me say that the police have all the resources they need. We give them the powers that they need to enforce those laws. As of 31 March there were 851 police officers on the Gold Coast. My government has continued to support the police in the work that they do. Whether it is to do with serious organised crime, whether it is to do with counterterrorism, we will give them the funds they need.

As I have said, the consorting laws are working. They are not just working on the Gold Coast. I am further advised that officers have attended the homes of members of the Rebels and Bandidos outlaw motorcycle gangs in Townsville and Cairns and issued a total of 29 consorting notices, which means organised crime members are being disrupted from communicating or associating with each other. They are working statewide.

**Mr WALKER:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The Premier appears to be reading from a briefing note. I ask that she table that briefing note.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am more than happy to table the joint news release of the Hon. Mark Ryan and the Acting Police Commissioner Steve Gollschewski. I am more than happy to table a copy of it.

Can I suggest to the honourable member that he might want to subscribe to ministerial media statements and he will actually get the press releases and he too can share in the information. Anyone can subscribe to them—not just ministers, not just government members, but members of the public and the LNP. Perhaps they are just too lazy to do that. They are just a little bit lazy.

We know who called the Leader of the Opposition lazy, do we not? He is a senator now, is he not? He said he was a little bit mediocre and a little bit lazy. Would the member like me to read the whole press release to him? Would he be happy with that?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Premier, could you direct your comments through the chair without provoking the opposition.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am just offering to help them even more.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Do you have anything further you want to add, Premier?

**Mr Langbroek** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The numbers are decreasing.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Do you have anything further to add, Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will table the press release.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 11 May 2017, by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, and Acting Commissioner Steve Gollschewski, Queensland Police Service, titled 'Consorting laws hitting organised crime' [\[705\]](#).

### Housing Affordability

**Mr PEGG:** My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. I refer to the Turnbull government's attempt to improve housing affordability in the federal budget and I ask: does the Treasurer have alternative initiatives to improve housing affordability in Queensland?

**Mr PITT:** I thank the member for Stretton for his question. What we have seen this week is that the federal budget has missed an opportunity to support housing affordability and also to look at the generational reform that may be needed. We have seen some very good policies that have been put forward by the federal Labor opposition—ones that get to the heart of some of those issues, such as dealing with capital gains tax and dealing with negative gearing. They have really missed an opportunity to take some of the heat out of the market in places like Sydney and Melbourne, which, as we know, has a flow-on effect to what happens here in Queensland.

More direct and more effective measures would have been to look at tax changes, but that has not been what we have seen. However, we recognise—and have since we came to office—that we need to do what we can and we have had a very strong focus on our first home owners. First home owners are a very important group of people who need to come into the marketplace. As members would be aware, we have had a First Home Owners' Grant boost from the last budget—from \$15,000 to \$20,000 for dwellings up to the value of \$750,000. That is important obviously in getting people into their first home and it is important support for our building and housing construction industry, an important jobs generator in this state. It is important that people are aware that this is due to run out on 30 June, so we certainly want people to join the thousands of Queenslanders who have applied and received funding. This fund has been so popular that it looks as though we may even get to the point where it is oversubscribed. That is a great result. That means that people are aware of it. People are getting in to ensure that they do not miss out on that opportunity.

We know the difference between regional Queensland and South-East Queensland is not only in terms of house prices but also in terms of income. We know there are still housing affordability stresses in regional Queensland that we have to work on. I want to take the opportunity to congratulate the housing minister for the work he has been doing up hill and down dale right across Queensland consulting widely on what is really needed. We should not limit ourselves with housing affordability to purchases of new homes. It is not just about home owners. It is also about rental affordability. It is about making sure that people can get housing in this state the way that they need to.

We are looking forward to releasing that strategy in the future. That strategy will reiterate the importance that we place on people having affordable housing in our state. It is a shame that we are not seeing the same response from the federal government. They really need to start taking a very good look at this. I said yesterday that it is not a 'Labor-lite' budget because there are so many things wrong with it. One thing that they could be doing is listening to federal Labor and looking at some of those changes which would make a significant difference.

### **Criminal Motorcycle Gangs**

**Ms BATES:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to explosive media reports that the outlaw motorcycle gang the Bandidos recently arranged a fundraiser event at Mount Tamborine. Can the Premier guarantee that outlaw gang clubhouses have not reopened after Labor scrapped the LNP's laws that shut down the outlaw gangs' operation bases?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. If she has any information, she should pass that on to authorities and let the police do their job. My understanding is that under previous legislation the clubhouses still could retain—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—the premises could retain what was inside, the materials inside. Under our laws that cannot happen. As I have said, this is a very serious issue.

**Mrs Smith** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Mount Ommaney, you are warned under standing order 253A. You know the procedure. If you proceed, I will take the appropriate action.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If the member has any further advice or information, she should pass that on to authorities. We will continue to tackle all forms of serious organised crime, including tackling issues to deal with outlaw motorcycle gangs. That is exactly what the legislation is there for and that is what the powers are there for: so the police can do everything they possibly can to catch these people. No-one wants to see criminal behaviour happening in our state. That is why we are putting on more and more police officers. That is why we are giving them the powers that they need and also the pay that they deserve.

**Mr Ryan:** They wanted to take their holidays away.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. The opposition when they were in government wanted to take their holiday leave away. The 2016 budget for the Police Service is \$2.16 billion. The number of officers in 2014-15 increased from 11,583 to 11,877 in 2015-16. There are 94 officers to be sworn in this year.

We take all of these issues very seriously. I am also concerned about child sexual exploitation. I am also concerned about the number of people whom I have heard personal stories about who are involved with the use of ice. Those opposite would have us not even address those issues in this state. They just want to narrow down on one particular aspect.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under standing order 253A. If you proceed with your actions, I will take the appropriate action. Premier, is there anything further you would like to add?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In conclusion, our laws are there. Our laws are strong laws. They are workable laws and they will stand up to a High Court challenge. They are effective laws and they went through the parliament in the right way. That is what the public expected. That is what I took to the last election and said I would do and I have delivered.

### **Mental Health Services**

**Ms LINARD:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister advise the House how the government is improving mental health services for young people in Queensland and of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Nudgee for her question. Members will be aware that the Barrett commission of inquiry recommended the construction of a new statewide adolescent extended treatment facility. We are taking our planning for this facility across the state with a series of forums in regional Queensland. I know that the members for Rockhampton and Keppel are well aware that the next regional forum in Central Queensland will be held in Rockhampton tomorrow.

I understand that at the Sunshine Coast forum on 4 May Queensland Health was pleased to welcome the federal LNP member for Fairfax, Mr Ted O'Brien MP. I do not agree on every issue with Mr O'Brien but I congratulate him for having the decency to listen about mental health. Unfortunately, this willingness to listen about mental health is not shared by the members of the state LNP because the Leader of the Opposition would not listen when he was treasurer and he demanded between \$100 million and \$120 million in savings from the Queensland health system in three months. One of the consequences of that was that the long planned replacement of the Barrett Adolescent Centre was cancelled, and he has never apologised to the people of Queensland and the families affected for his role in that catastrophe.

The opposition leader would not listen when he slashed nearly \$50 million from the mental health budget—the single largest cut to mental health spending ever recorded by any state or territory government—and he has never apologised for that cut. The opposition leader would not listen when he reduced mental health staffing to the worst in Australia as independently reported by the Productivity Commission. He has never apologised for that. The LNP would not listen when they were given a report that said the Barrett centre should not be closed without a replacement. They would not listen when young patients begged them personally not to close the facility without replacement. The LNP will not listen now as they attack the legal system supporting mental health treatment in our state—a system they supported in government, a system they supported when they introduced two bills into this House in government and in opposition, a system they voted for when the government bill came before the House, a system they voted for unanimously at various stages.

We all know that mental health is a difficult area. In recent days the opposition has talked about a single report into a single incident. When the LNP was in power there were many other significant events—none of which were reviewed by the LNP. That is why on 8 May 2015 I commissioned a sentinel events review. That review examined 24 homicides and five fatalities resulting from police use of force that occurred in the period 1 January 2013 to 30 April 2015 when those members were in government, as well as periods when we were in government. I tabled that report in this House on 14 September 2016 and we are implementing those recommendations. These reports are not about apportioning blame; they are about improving the mental health system in our state, and that is exactly what our government will continue to do.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Everton, I am informed that we have students from the Siena Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Kawana observing our proceedings. Welcome.

### **Tow Truck Industry**

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Premier. Premier, I refer to explosive media reports from last night that exposed outlaw gangs infiltrating the tow truck industry, and I ask: will the government's review of the tow truck industry include the impact of Labor's softening of the licensing requirements that may have allowed outlaw gang members and affiliates to infiltrate the tow truck industry?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I reject the imputation that the member has made in relation to his question. As I have said previously, we have strong laws in this state to combat all forms of serious organised crime. Secondly, in relation to the tow truck industry, I am happy for the minister to canvass any options in relation to reforms that will benefit consumers in this state. If the member has an idea, there is a hotline. I am more than happy for him to call the hotline and make a suggestion. We are more than happy for him to pick up the phone and speak to the minister who is undertaking this review. This is the way a good member of parliament would operate. If you have an idea which you want incorporated into law, pick up the phone and have a chat to the minister.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the member for Everton that you have already been warned. You asked the question. The Premier's answer was relevant. You were then continuing to interject.

### Queen's Wharf, Jobs

**Mr MADDEN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for State Development. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the Queen's Wharf Brisbane project and what this means for local jobs?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Ipswich West. I know that he must be looking towards 2022 when Queen's Wharf opens. Just think of the jobs it will create in your electorate and the produce that will be coming from places such as Lowood and Fernvale into Brisbane for that wonderful Queen's Wharf project.

I am pleased to provide the House with an update on the progress of the Queen's Wharf project. As the member is aware, this is a truly transformational project—2,000 construction jobs and 8,000 ongoing jobs. Probuild, the company contracted for the demolition works—and we can witness it just outside—already has 150 workers on site right now. Scaffolding is progressing around the Neville Bonner Building and 88 George Street, and scaffolding of the former Executive Building will soon be complete. Full-length banners will be hung on all four sides of the Executive Building to chart the progress of the demolition. We can clearly see the temporary bracing going up on our wonderful and valuable heritage buildings.

The great news is that there will be about \$2 billion worth of building contracts available next year—\$2 billion worth of contracts. It is forecast to attract an additional 1.4 million visitors to Queensland, all of them buying goods and services that will continue to create jobs and building opportunities here in our state. I cannot fathom the irresponsible activities of the Queensland Greens political party in relation to this job-generating project that will benefit thousands of Queenslanders.

Last week a deliberately misleading party political flyer was handed out to public servants and others leaving and entering 1 William Street. The flyer encourages government employees to provide information to Senator Larissa Waters about the Queen's Wharf project. The flyer details three options for sending information: email, in person and by posting electronic or physical documents to the senator's office address. My advice is that this is calling on government employees to engage in a possible criminal offence and corrupt conduct. My Department of State Development has serious concerns with such a call and has referred this matter to the CCC. The CCC is currently assessing this matter and has provided advice and assistance to my department about managing risks associated with this matter. I will leave that to the CCC.

This government works with the Public Service to serve the people of Queensland. This is an insult to the professionalism and integrity of government employees that we value. Queen's Wharf is a job-creating project for Queensland, and I encourage everyone to keep themselves informed by visiting the project website and subscribing to the project's newsletters.

### Youth Detention

**Mr WALKER:** My question is to the Premier. The McMillan report was unable to conclude that there was capacity in either of our youth detention centres to accommodate 17-year-olds. Can the Premier confirm that her government remains on track to move 17-year-olds into youth detention in November this year?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. It is a very legitimate question, because it is a commitment that we made on this side of the House to remove 17-year-olds from adult correctional facilities in this state. It had been put in the too-hard basket by governments in the past, but we made that decision in the best interests of those young people. The Attorney-General has been convening a subcommittee of cabinet with a number of ministers, and the key focus is that transition.

That transition is on track. We are working with stakeholders to ensure that we get this right. We took that step because it was the best thing to do. Unfortunately, those opposite did not support this move. It is very disappointing that it could have been—

**Mrs D'Ath:** The question is what would they do in government? Will they reverse it?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They did nothing when they were in government when it came to dealing with young people. In fact, they refused to release a report. The Attorney General is working with other government agencies. She has been keeping me regularly updated about this issue. Everything is on track to meet our time line in November. This is a historic reform—one that all members of this House who voted on this should be incredibly proud of. It is something that for many, many decades has just been too hard for people to do.

### Queensland Small Business Week

**Mr KING:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business. Will the minister please update the House on the work underway to make this year's Queensland Small Business Week bigger than ever?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for Kallangur for his question. I know he is very passionate about small business in his area. I know that many members on this side of the House participated in a small business reception at Parliament House on Tuesday night which was incredibly energetic and exciting. It was great to see everybody here. Out of the spectre of job cuts under those opposite, the Queensland small business landscape continues to grow under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Statewide there are now more than 414,000 small businesses contributing around \$100 billion to the state's economy. One in three of these businesses are in regional Queensland. To support continued growth, this government is partnering with Vodafone and Australia Post to celebrate Queensland Small Business Week from next Monday, 15 May. More than 5,000 people are expected to participate in events and activities being held right across the state.

The Palaszczuk government is supporting Queensland small business owners and operators in their efforts to engage with the digital economy, because we know it provides huge opportunities for them to not only compete in the global marketplace but also meet the expectations of customers and clients right here at home. However, ensuring Queensland small businesses are prepared to grasp the opportunities of the digital economy is just the start. They must also have access to reliable digital infrastructure. That is why as part of the State Infrastructure Plan released by the Deputy Premier last year digital infrastructure was included for the first time, because on this side of the House we recognised the opportunities it provides our economy now and into the future.

Sadly, Queenslanders, particularly those in regional and remote areas, are still being let down by the federal government when it comes to access to fast, reliable internet. Through his second-rate National Broadband Network rollout, the Prime Minister is failing to provide opportunities for Queenslanders to innovate, compete in global markets, grow their businesses and create jobs. The question to those opposite is: where are the calls to their federal colleagues seeking to ensure all Queenslanders have access to fast, reliable internet at a price that is fair and competitive? The LNP might consider the NBN a luxury, but tell that to the tourism operators in regional Queensland who are looking to lure more visitors to our state and compete on global markets, or explain it to farmers who want to harness new sensor technologies to improve their yields.

This is access to services that would have huge benefits for regional Queensland, which is a constituency the LNP claim to strongly represent. It is the Labor government here in Queensland which is supporting small businesses right across Queensland, no matter where they reside. We are supporting them through our Advance Queensland initiative, and we will continue to do so not just now but into the future.

### Atherton Tablelands, Navua Sedge

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. After the Treasurer's visit to the Atherton Tablelands where he witnessed firsthand the impact Navua sedge has on the agricultural industry, can the minister advise what action the minister has taken to help control this destructive weed?

**Mr PITT:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I think it was March when I visited the shores of Lake Tinaroo at the request of the member for Dalrymple. We also had with us the mayor of the Tablelands Regional Council, Joe Paronella, and Councillor Anthony Ball. This is an issue that has

been raised on numerous occasions. The member would be aware that my role in this process is really as the Treasurer and looking at funding streams. In some respects, the question is probably more appropriately directed to the Minister for Agriculture, Bill Byrne. We have also had conversations about this very invasive pest.

This weed has the potential to do significant damage to the industries that require our full support on the Atherton Tablelands, as that area is one of the important food bowls. The agricultural contribution to the economy of the Tablelands is around \$552 million, and it supports more than 1,400 jobs. This is not just a case of a few farmers wanting to get this issue fixed and eradication work done; this is something that will have significant economic developments and something that will hurt rural economies.

In the first instance, I thank the member for raising the question with me in the House. As I said, there is an operational element to this potentially going forward, and that would be something that would be in the purview of the Minister for Agriculture. However, representations have been made by the member, by the Tablelands Regional Council and also by the mayor of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, John Kremastos. This is not isolated to the Tablelands but we would like to see it isolated.

I will recount for the House an interesting story. When we visited the Atherton Tablelands to inspect what was meant to be a very, very large demonstration of Navua sedge, it was quite ironic that very diligent council workers had mowed the shores of Lake Tinaroo the day before we went and had essentially wiped out almost any visible trace of Navua sedge. It was not lost on any of us because we were all expecting to see it more prevalently than we did. That is one of the concerns as well, because this invasive weed is spread when you mow it and when cattle consume and pass it. Whilst there was a humorous side to this in terms of what we could not see, that is one of the issues. This is going to be a continuing problem. We will consider what actions may be required. The member for Dalrymple has raised this issue with me and with the agriculture minister, and we have had representations from councils. We will give it some consideration going forward and into the budget, and I thank the member for the question.

### Foster Carers

**Mr RUSSO:** My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister update the House on the latest efforts to boost the number of foster carers in Queensland and what the public response to those efforts has been?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. Last month I was very proud to stand with foster carers Sophiann, Chris and Sarah, along with Bryan Smith from Foster Care Queensland, to launch our new foster care recruitment campaign. Already, more than 5,000 families have opened their hearts and their homes to some of our most vulnerable children, but we always need more. With our campaign, we hope to recruit an extra 1,000 foster families to play their part in keeping children safe. Not only are the stories of real carers motivating people to put their hands up, the Palaszczuk government's commitment to \$15 million earlier this year to help cover the out-of-pocket expenses for childcare and kindy fees for foster families is having a great effect. Following these announcements, Foster Care Queensland has already reported a doubling of foster care inquiries for March 2017 compared to the same time last year.

With this wonderful campaign that has the support of foster carers right across the state, it beggars belief that anyone could oppose these initiatives, but of course the member for Mudgeeraba, our own Negative Nancy, has found a way to oppose these initiatives. First, the member for Mudgeeraba came out and bagged the increase of \$15 million. She said, 'More funding for child care won't help,' proving that she has not listened to a word of what our dedicated foster and kinship carers are saying. Then we had the Leader of the Opposition outright reject our recruitment campaign with Foster Care Queensland, dismissing it as just 'glossy advertising' and suggesting that the money be spent elsewhere. This is the first time any Queensland opposition has refused to back a recruitment campaign for foster carers in this state. This is a new low, even for those opposite. In fact, it has moved Foster Care Queensland to write directly to the Leader of the Opposition seeking a change of heart. I table this letter from Foster Care Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 8 May 2017, from Mr Bryan Smith, Executive Director, Foster Care Queensland, to the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls MP in relation to comments made concerning the foster carer recruitment campaign [706].

In that letter, Bryan Smith, the executive director of Foster Care Queensland, said—

Mr Nicholls, FCQ is of the belief that the statements made by you and Ros Bates do not serve to either encourage or enhance Foster and Kinship Care. We support the Departments recruitment strategy and increases to payments of child care gap fees ...

The member for Mudgeeraba and the Leader of the Opposition need to immediately retract their comments. They are attacking foster carers and undermining our ability to attract more wonderful foster and kinship carers in this state. They are the least caring opposition we have ever seen.

*(Time expired)*

### **Queensland Rail, Timetable**

**Mr POWELL:** My question without notice is to the Premier. The Deputy Premier told the parliament via a letter from Phillip Strachan that his stress test of the Queensland Rail timetable would be finished in April. When will the Premier release this secret report that could see more services cut from Queensland Rail's timetable?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. As I said earlier this week I think, there is a new CEO in place and we have the new chair, and the Deputy Premier is working with both of those gentlemen to ensure that we get this right. Let me make it very clear. A new CEO has been appointed. The new CEO, working with the chair and the Deputy Premier, will release that stress test when they are ready and when they have it right. It would be unacceptable for the public if they released it when all three parties were not satisfied. The work is underway. A lot of work is underway. People are doing that work and it will be released when that work is complete.

### **Mine Rehabilitation, Jobs**

**Mr WHITING:** My question is to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef. Will the minister inform the House what the government is doing to create resource industry jobs rehabilitating land after mining has concluded?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Murrumba for his question. Last week, the Palaszczuk government proposed a new package of reforms that will protect the environment and encourage a new industry in Queensland. There are thousands of abandoned mines across the state, but there is also great potential to create a new industry and thousands of jobs cleaning these sites up. At the same time, we can position Queensland and Queensland operators as the leading suppliers of rehabilitation services globally.

These reforms will mean that, from day one, mines will be required to plan for rehabilitating their land, bringing Queensland into line with best practice mining regulation. There will be a month-long public consultation on the *Better mine rehabilitation for Queensland* discussion paper. Currently, less than 10 per cent of disturbed mining land has been rehabilitated. By 2021 if we do nothing, it is predicted that the gap between the two will widen. We may end up with 12 times more disturbed land than the area under rehabilitation. This is not acceptable and I do not believe it is acceptable to Queenslanders. At the same time, industry said to us that to rehabilitate more land, they needed more certainty—more certainty over the requirements of the land to be rehabilitated and also the standards to which it must be rehabilitated before it can be handed back.

These new reforms will be a catalyst for progressive mine rehabilitation right across Queensland. Once rehabilitated, mine sites will be available for another land use post mining. Companies will be required to report their self-assessments publicly and have regular checks as well as submit to audits every three to five years. Life-of-mine plans will set out clear, enforceable completion requirements and will give Queenslanders confidence that rehabilitation requirements will be met.

This government will not leave mine rehabilitation in the too-hard basket. It is time for strong, effective action to tackle this problem. I thank the Treasurer and the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines for working with me on these important reforms.

The reforms outlined in the rehabilitation discussion paper directly respond to community concerns about the lack of rehabilitation at mine sites. I encourage everyone to have their say on the paper and help us leave a better legacy for our children and for future generations of Queenslanders.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport**

**Mr HART:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I ask: will the Premier today reveal the final Commonwealth Games transport operation plan, which on 25 May 2016 the Premier promised would be released in September 2016?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Minister for the Commonwealth Games and the Minister for Main Roads talked extensively when they went down and talked about the transport plan for the Commonwealth Games. The Minister for the Commonwealth Games has advised me that the comprehensive plan will be released by June.

**Ms Jones:** With the Gold Coast City Council.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** With the Gold Coast City Council.

### North Queensland, Job Creation

**Ms DONALDSON:** My question is of the Minister for Industrial Relations. I ask: will the minister update the House on the government's efforts to promote job creation in North Queensland and other regional areas of the state?

**Mr SPEAKER:** One minute.

**Ms GRACE:** The Turnbull government's recent budget may have turned its back on working families in Queensland, but a Palaszczuk Labor government never will. Our Back to Work program is going gangbusters with well over 3,200 workers now in jobs and a further 1,700 additional applications in the pipeline. In fact, it has been so successful that we have had to put on extra staff and resources just to clear the backlog. I thank those employers for their patience so that we can pay them as soon as possible.

We do not stop there. We are having jobs first forums right around Queensland. We had one in Townsville last week, which was a huge success. I say thank you to the local members. There is one in Bundaberg on agriculture and one coming up in Cairns on tourism. Jobs are our No. 1 priority. This government will deliver. It is a shame that Malcolm Turnbull does not do the same.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The time for questions has expired.

## EDUCATION, TOURISM, INNOVATION AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note



**Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (11.34 am): I move—

That the House takes note of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee report No. 30 titled *Early childhood education: implementation of the recommendations in the Auditor-General's report No. 19 2015-16* tabled on 24 March 2017.

It gives me great pleasure to stand in this House and speak about something I am very passionate about. I think there is only one thing I am more passionate about than education and that is Townsville. We had great successes last night with Townsville Enterprise, and I thank them for their work. In speaking to this report, I doubt there is a single person in this House who has not been to a local school and spent some time in a classroom. Every single person in this House appreciates the importance of education.

**Ms Jones:** Hear, hear!

**Mr STEWART:** There is no more important component of education than early childhood education because it really sets those foundation stones. I particularly take the interjections and the mad and profuse nodding by the Minister for Education—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Townsville, could I ask you to move the motion before you proceed please?

**Mr STEWART:** I did, but I am happy to do it all again.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am sorry. We were having some discussion here and we thought you had not. I beg your pardon.

**Ms Jones:** You're all over it, aren't you?

**Mr STEWART:** I am right on top of it, and the minister will certainly agree with me that the cornerstone of great education is the work that is done in early childhood education, particularly knowing that this week is NAPLAN testing week. It is a very important week. A number of students would certainly be very stressed this week. There are a number of parents on both sides of the House who

would certainly understand the stresses that kids go through. However, we should bear in mind that NAPLAN testing is purely looking at where the gaps are in students' learning so that appropriate actions can be taken.

When it comes to early childhood education we know that 70 per cent of what children learn is learnt in the first five years of their life. It is absolutely critical that we get the early childhood education component right.

**Ms Boyd:** Hear, hear!

**Mr STEWART:** I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers behind me. The work that our teachers do in early childhood education is absolutely critical. They do an outstanding job every single day. I take my hat off to them. I have worked with a number of them across our state and they are absolutely brilliant in the work that they do. I cannot speak highly enough of them.

The background to this report is that the National Partnership Agreement on Early Childhood Education was agreed to by the Commonwealth and state and territory governments in February 2009. The outcomes that were designed based on the partnership agreement are that all children have access to an affordable, quality early childhood education in the years before they start formal schooling. One of the other critical components here is that all Indigenous four-year-olds in remote Indigenous communities will have access to a quality early childhood education program.

Queensland received \$388 million from the national partnership agreement between 2009-10 and 2014-15. Unfortunately, we heard in this week's federal budget that the Turnbull government does not have the same consideration for education. While they boast and beat their chest loudly about how much money they are putting into education, it was not backed up. When that surface is scratched away, we are actually going to be receiving less. Yesterday the Minister for Education highlighted in her speech to parliament that all Queensland schools will receive \$300 million less right across our state over the next 10 years because of the cuts to education. That is absolutely appalling when we know that early childhood education is critical, critical, critical.

**Ms Boyd:** It is vitally important.

**Mr STEWART:** I take the interjection. It is absolutely critical and vital to make sure we get those foundation steps. The Auditor-General's findings were that in 2015 Queensland's kindergarten participation rate for early childhood education was 96.4 per cent for all four-year-olds, and that is in fact greater than the national target of 95 per cent. That is 2.5 times more than the participation rate in 2010. I commend the report to the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.40 am): I rise to speak to the motion. This inquiry process has been very enlightening for me because, as someone who does not have young children, it was fantastic to hear from the department about what they have done over many years to encourage more young children and their families to take advantage of early childhood education. It is great to see that both sides of politics are committed to making sure that early childhood education is the best that it can possibly be. I think we can all agree that, if we get the foundation stones right and we give young children the best possible start in their education, then the opportunities they will have are really endless.

One of the things we need to highlight—and it has been acknowledged by the department—is that there is still a significant amount of work that needs to be done to ensure we are hitting the targets when it comes to Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander children accessing kindergarten and early childhood education. I know that the shadow minister for education, the member for Aspley, and the shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, the member for Chatsworth, are committed to making sure that we can hit the targets and that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have the same access to quality early childhood education.

It is so important we make sure that we get this right because children's brains are just like sponges. I know that my experiences in kindergarten were very important, both when I was first in kindergarten at Paradise Point and when I was in kindergarten at West End with Jane Bourne, who is known to many through her work with the Lady Gowrie centre, so that I was able to read before I went to school. That really was a great stepping stone for me and my education. I particularly want to make sure that we give all Queenslanders the same opportunities that I had.

One of the other things that I think we need to focus on as well is making sure that kids from rural and regional Queensland have access to quality early childhood education. We know that particularly for those who live in remote areas that can sometimes be a challenge. In 2012 the Queensland department of education pioneered eKindy through the Brisbane School of Distance Education. Just the other day I met with representatives from the Isolated Children's Parents' Association with the member for Burnett, the member for Aspley and the Leader of the Opposition. They were really quite positive about the change and the positive effect this has had. For children who live on stations in remote regions of Queensland and do their schooling through distance education, I think that access to eKindy services is fantastic and something that was pioneered by the department in 2012.

In the time that I have remaining, the only other thing that is worth mentioning from the Auditor-General's report is that there was some concern about whether the subsidy was being passed on appropriately to parents. I think both sides of the House would want to make sure that, wherever there is a subsidy being provided to parents so that their children can access quality early childhood education, that subsidy is being appropriately passed on and managed. From my recollection of our briefings from the department they are working to make sure that there is no fraud in that area. From the committee's point of view, we were satisfied that the department of education is working to address all of the issues that were raised by the Auditor-General or had already done so.

As I said, this is really about us making sure that the next generation of leaders has access to the best quality education and the best possible start. We all know that getting early childhood education is so important, and I commend the report to the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): I would like to acknowledge in the gallery students from Siena Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Kawana.

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (11.44 am): I rise to speak to the motion in relation to the Auditor-General's report. I will speak to the recommendations directly. Recommendation 1 relates to evidence based guidance to help children successfully transition to school. The success is apparent, with attendance numbers up to 96.4 per cent. That is above the national standard and benchmark of 95 per cent. The most exciting achievement is for four-year-old Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. There are 3.3 times more Indigenous children participating with a participation rate of 77.8 per cent. The Palaszczuk government is leading the way with its investment of \$43 million and building Queensland's future with a commitment to quality kindergarten for children no matter where they live.

Recommendation 2 is that the department uses a broad range of internally and externally available data sources to lift Queensland above all other states with regard to resources. Recommendation 3 addressed compliance issues and the department's fraud and corruption control framework. This test was applied to 151 providers. It discovered that 315 ineligible three-year-olds were involved in the program. This lent itself back to staff training rather than any fraudulent practice and has been corrected. Some providers were treating the NPA funding as a pooled resource rather than an individual support. Increased site and desk audits will continue and raise efficiency and effectiveness across-the-board. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (11.47 am): I too rise to make a short contribution to the committee's response to Auditor-General's report No. 19 titled *Early childhood education*. I would like to follow on from my fellow committee colleagues, the member for Broadwater and the member for Townsville, and thank our early childhood teaching staff for their hard work. It is critically important that we get this right because a large percentage of learning is done in the early years. I would again like to profusely thank the early childhood teachers in my local area for their dedication and the work they do with our children. I have a young son who is 'living the dream' in kindergarten at the moment, and I must say that he is very excited every time he comes home and tells me what he has been up to and what he has learned that day. He certainly brings home some weird and wonderful creations.

As other people have mentioned, I would like to emphasise the section of the report which concerns distance education. I am reminded of my visit quite a few years ago to the Charters Towers School of Distance Education with the then member for Burdekin, Rosemary Menkens. We met with the principal, John Clark, who is a very proactive individual. We were astounded by the dedication of him and his team to get information out there to small remote communities. One thing about being in South-East Queensland is that we are lucky because we can very quickly go down to local convenience stores and shopping centres. People who live in more remote areas do without a lot, so ensuring that they have access to quality education is critically important. That was highlighted in the report, which states—

In 2012 Queensland pioneered the introduction of eKindy through the Brisbane School of Distance Education to 'ensure children in rural and remote areas did not miss out'.

Kindergarten is a critically important first step on the education pathway. An attendance rate of 96.4 per cent is a credit to the system. It highlights that parents realise the critical importance of early learning. Those on all sides of politics should keep pushing forward with this as we live in a global environment. No longer are we competing against just the person next door; we are also competing against citizens from other countries. As the world becomes a more high-tech place, that will be more evident in the years to come. As a result, we need to make sure our young minds have the best start possible and learn the three R's—reading, writing and arithmetic—at an early stage in life.

My daughter attended kindy only a couple of years ago. A lot of her learning was play based, yet we were astounded that she was becoming very adept at counting and understanding words. She would sit down and try to read a book to her mum and me. As a parent I can say that that was wonderful.

The report shows that we have seen dramatic increases in the rate of Indigenous participation in early childhood education and care—from 25.5 per cent in 2008 to 85.6 per cent in 2015. That is a credit to all involved.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.51 am): I rise to speak to the report titled *Early childhood education: implementation of the recommendations in the Auditor-General's report 19: 2015-16*. At the outset I thank all of the staff who work in early childhood education centres around this great state as they do a fantastic job. Their centres represent the start of a child's education career. The staff in these centres set the standard and the way forward for the children in this state in terms of education. We all know that without education people go nowhere. The lifting of living standards right throughout the community comes through education, so those centres play a very important part in the introduction of children to education.

I also thank the director-general of Education and the crew that briefed the committee. It was a very good briefing. You learn a lot as you get older. My youngest child is now approaching 30, so—

**Mr Butcher:** You're old!

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection: I feel old some days. You do lose touch a bit. I thank the department heads and the staff of the department who gave us a very good briefing to ensure we were across the issues.

The building blocks of education include early childhood education. The federal budget cut \$300 million from schools and education in Queensland. You have to shake your head in disbelief at that, because education is where it starts for future industry leaders, doctors, politicians and others in this great state.

We in Queensland are fortunate to have a very good education minister, the member for Ashgrove. I take this opportunity to thank her for the great work she is doing for Queensland schools. When I visit schools and talk to teachers—I know quite a few teachers—I hear that they are very happy with how the Palaszczuk government is going. The education minister is making education a priority and is getting the funding. That is as it should be.

The report shows that since 2010 an additional 148 kindergarten services have been established across Queensland. In 2016, funding from the Disability Inclusion Support for Queensland Kindergartens program supported 733 children with a disability to be included in kindergarten programs. That is fantastic. We are giving children with disabilities a chance to kick in to education at the very start.

This great report highlights the many good things being done by the education department. For example, in 2016 a remote kindergarten pilot was commenced in 11 state schools across the state. That was expanded in 2017, with 36 schools now participating and approximately 100 children involved. That gives the children who live in remote areas a chance in education. Those who live in remote areas of Queensland—I grew up in remote Queensland—know that education should be spread right across the state. I am very proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that is delivering that, with a great education minister. No matter where people in Queensland live, under this government everyone has a chance to be educated. I am very proud to say that I am part of a government that is looking after the children.

I commend the report to the House. Once again, I thank all educators across this state for making sure our children start off on the right path.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Order of Business



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.56 am): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 1 to 6 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Revocation of State Forest Areas



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (11.56 am): I move—

- (1) That this House requests the Governor in Council, in accordance with section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959, revoke by regulation the setting apart and declaration as State forest the area as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz—

#### Description of the area to be revoked

Beerwah State Forest	An area of 7.358 hectares described as lot 100 on SP235756 as illustrated on the attached "Beerwah State Forest revocation: sketch A".
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- (2) That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef for submission to the Governor in Council.

Queensland has around three million hectares of state forest and timber reserves, and the Palaszczuk government strongly supports initiatives to deliver a viable, profitable and sustainable Queensland timber and forest industry. This government continues to work with the community so that state forests are afforded appropriate levels of protection and management. With such a large and dispersed forest estate there is the occasional need to revoke the declaration of small forestry areas for purposes including conversion from one tenure to another; to rectify errors in how land has been described, gazetted or used; to allow for the upgrade or expansion of public infrastructure such as roads and railways; and for commercial or private purposes.

The revocation of land from the forest estate will only be supported where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposed use is in the broader public interest and there is no reasonable practical alternative. Careful consideration has been given to the proposal, with consultation occurring with affected stakeholders and state and local government agencies. Native title matters have also been considered in relation to the proposal and it has been determined that the action may proceed.

I will now outline the background for the proposal and compensation arrangement that has been agreed to for the loss of the state's asset. This proposal is for the revocation of the setting apart and declaration of 7.358 hectares from Beerwah State Forest, which is located about 13 kilometres west of Caloundra. This proposal is of significant community benefit, revoking part of Beerwah State Forest, thereby guaranteeing tenure for the Sunshine Coast Regional Council works depot and the co-locating of the Beerwah & District Rural Fire Brigade. Financial compensation has been provided for the loss or reduction of the inherent natural, environmental, social or cultural values associated with the area being revoked as well as the loss of an asset to the state and commercial attributes of the area.

This revocation demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to a balanced approach to forestry management and community benefit. I commend the motion to the House.



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (11.59 am): The Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, the Hon. Dr Steven Miles, has nominated a proposal under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 requesting the Governor in Council to make a revocation by regulation of the setting apart and declaration as state forest of an area of Beerwah State Forest as described as lot 100 and containing an area of about 7.358 hectares. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council is seeking the area for public works, including a council depot, and for community—that is, rural fire brigade services. The state forest is in part a declared state plantation forest subject to a plantation licence. In 2007 the Sunshine Coast Regional Council identified the old Beerwah Forest Station as an appropriate site for its new council works depot by replacing its existing depot at Landsborough and commenced negotiations to acquire the site with Forest Products Queensland, the then owner of the station.

In 2010 Forest Products Queensland sold its interests in the station to HQPlantations. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council entered into a commercial arrangement with HQPlantations in 2011 to acquire the land for \$1,250,000, with an additional payment of \$200,000 to offset HQPlantations's relocation of its seed drying and extraction shed. In accordance with the relevant natural resource management policy, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council was eligible for a 50 per cent discount to address native title. The Sunshine Coast Regional Council holds an occupational permit for a works depot on the site. The permit is subject to a deed of variation that specifies that the permit termination will take effect the day before the revocation is made by the Governor in Council.

Following finalisation of compensation arrangements with the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, HQPlantations applied to surrender its interests in the station. On 20 August 2016 the then minister for agriculture and fisheries approved HQPlantations's partial surrender of its plantation licence. Section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 stipulates that the setting apart and declaration of land as state forest may be revoked in whole or in part after a proposal tabled by the Governor in Council is passed by the Legislative Assembly of Queensland. It should be noted that the Sunshine Coast Regional Council via the Department of Natural Resources and Mines has paid the Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing \$750,000 for the loss and reduction of the inherent natural, environmental, social and cultural values associated with the area being revoked as well as the loss of an asset to the state. The LNP will not be opposing the proposal under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 with respect to the proposed revocation.

Given the importance of rural fire brigades, I want to take this opportunity to recognise them one and all. Queensland's rural fire brigades are comprised of more than 1,400 and there are over 36,000 volunteers, including both firefighters and support members. There are also approximately 2,600 rural fire wardens who are an integral and highly valued part of the rural firefighting movement. Some 93 per cent of Queensland's geographical area is served by volunteer rural firefighters. I specifically want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the Brookfield Rural Fire Brigade and its volunteers in my electorate of Moggill. In addition to dealing with fires, it is an invaluable resource providing advice on bushfire preparedness, developing bushfire action plans, assisting with fire permits and educating the community about home fire safety.

It is the Liberal National Party that has led the way and shown leadership in the 55th Queensland Parliament by introducing supportive and ethical legislation with respect to workers compensation and rehabilitation to protect all firefighters, no matter what colour fire truck they drive. I want to acknowledge the member for Kawana, Jarrod Bleijie MP, for his outstanding work in this area and also with respect to domestic smoke alarms along with the member for Everton, Tim Mander MP.

Finally, I know that the environment minister has been somewhat focused on this partial revocation and a number of other recent revocations, but I think his real attention has been on the revocation of his own state seat of Mount Coot-tha by the Electoral Commission of Queensland. There is no doubt that Labor and its members always cut and run when it comes to standing on principle. This is a do-nothing Labor government failing on job creation, failing on infrastructure investment and failing on crocodile management. It is a government being held to ransom by extremist third-party agendas.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I just point out to the member for Moggill that the words you are using must be relevant to the motion please.

**Dr ROWAN:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. The LNP will not be opposing the proposal under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 requesting the Governor in Council to make a revocation by regulation of the setting apart and declaration of the relevant areas outlined today.

**Ms DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (12.03 pm): I rise to second the motion to revoke the setting apart and declaration of land as state forest under section 26(2) of the Forestry Act 1959. The revocation of 7.358 hectares from Beerwah State Forest, known locally as the old forest station, will be for significant community benefit. The Public Safety Business Agency, on behalf of the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, holds a subservient occupation permit for the Beerwah and District Rural Fire Brigade for part of the site. In the spirit of community cooperation, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, the current occupation permit holder that will own the site long term, will continue to allow the Beerwah and District Rural Fire Brigade to occupy part of the site under a lease agreement. As the area possesses no conservation or commercial value justifying its ongoing declaration as a state forest, revocation of this land is proposed. Consultation has occurred with the affected stakeholders and state and local government agencies, with all parties agreeing to the revocation. Financial compensation has been provided for the loss of the state's asset. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.05 pm): I, too, rise in support of the revocation of this part of Beerwah State Forest. I think the minister would acknowledge that at times ministers for environment do have to come into this House and present, for very sensible and obvious reasons, revocations of parts of our protected estate. This is yet another example in a long line of such revocations and, pleasingly, is one that again continues to achieve bipartisan support. The part of Beerwah State Forest that is being revoked is in my neighbouring member for Caloundra's electorate, but it is on Roys Road which connects Steve Irwin Way with the Bruce Highway and services both the electorates of Caloundra and Glass House.

I want to pick up on the point made by the member for Bundaberg that this site actually has very little conservation value. The history of it is that it was the workshops, the nurseries and the administrative centre for what was Forestry Plantations Queensland when it was government owned and, subsequent to the sale by the then Anna Bligh Labor government, became part of Hancock's operations in the Beerburrum-Beerwah area. It is worth pointing out that contrary to the promises made by the Anna Bligh Labor government that the sale would not see a deleterious effect on employment opportunities in that part of the Sunshine Coast—with all due respect to the operations of Hancock, which continues to operate that forestry plantation—we have seen a lessening of employment opportunities in and around Beerwah, Glass House Mountains and Beerburrum. We have seen a contraction of some of the operations up towards the Maryborough-Gympie area and out towards Rainbow Beach, so there has been a significant negative impact on local employment opportunities in the area.

However, I do want to acknowledge that Hancock is a great neighbour of many of the constituents in the electorate of Glass House and is doing a fantastic job, particularly around addressing the illegal dumping issues that have been occurring in its part of the world as well as illegal four-wheel driving. It is quite accommodating and working with a number of four-wheel-driving clubs to allow them to use its plantation areas safely and responsibly while also continuing to work with the local police around illegal motorbike use and a number of other things.

This site has always had workshops and has always been fenced off from the surrounding forestry area. Again, with regard to the conservation value of the Beerwah State Forest, we are talking about a pine plantation. It is not native vegetation; it is literally a pine plantation, and a very important one at that for the products that it provides to South-East Queensland and beyond. It is very sensible for us to be considering this revocation given the ownership of the property is going to be transferred to the Sunshine Coast Regional Council to establish its southern depot in an area that is growing. Caloundra South has already started across the highway. Beerwah East has now been included in the draft SEQ Regional Plan using Roys Road as the southern boundary. The rail corridor around the towns of Elimbah, Beerburrum, Glass House Mountains, Beerwah, Landsborough and Mooloolah continues to grow, as we would expect and want it to given the proximity to the railway line and the ability to get into the city in just over an hour—hopefully quicker once we get the duplication done. The site of this southern depot by the Sunshine Coast Regional Council makes a lot of sense.

With the work that the LNP governments, both state and federal, have been able to achieve at the Roys Road and Bells Creek Road interchange, we now have fast access via Roys Road to the east on to the Bruce Highway and further beyond or back down Roys Road to Steve Irwin Way and you can distribute across the length and breadth of division 1 and up into division 5 of the Sunshine Coast Council.

It is eminently sensible for this revocation to occur. It is eminently sensible that this area be transferred to the Sunshine Coast Council. I acknowledge that the council will also be supporting the ongoing siting of the Beerwah and District Rural Fire Brigade there. Again, although it is not in the electorate of Glass House, this brigade services Glass House and is one of more than 20 rural fire brigades that do so. In a week where we have been acknowledging our volunteers, I want to put on the record my sincere appreciation for all that our rural fire brigades do, not only in Beerwah and its district but also across the length and breadth of the Glass House electorate. I support the revocation.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (12.10 pm): As stated by the shadow minister, the LNP supports the revocation of this area, in particular where it is located in my electorate, as one of the goals of this revocation is to enlarge the area to be used by the Beerwah and District Rural Fire Brigade. As such, it is important to acknowledge the work of the RFBs not just in Beerwah but throughout this state. We know that in Queensland many men and women undertake hazardous work—and they all need to be acknowledged for their endeavours—yet one of the most dangerous endeavours must be firefighting. We have all burnt ourselves on the stove or the iron and can understand the pain that that can inflict. Some members in this House may have even been burnt by way of a fire. Irrespective of

how it has happened, we have taken steps to avoid that happening again—that is, we avoid putting ourselves in a dangerous situation. Yet firefighters, such as RFB members, deliberately put themselves at significant risk by standing between us and, on occasions, mountains of flame and smoke, either of which can be deadly. Although the RFB members are highly trained, the risk is still there and, sadly, officers get burnt badly and, on occasions, die defending both us and our property.

The *Rural fire bulletin* of March 2017 reports the results of the 2016 QFES Volunteer Survey. It states that, out of the over 5,000 volunteers who completed the survey, 62 per cent—or almost 3,250 respondents—were RFS volunteers. Across the volunteer base, including the RFS, 79 per cent of respondents were satisfied with their experience and 88 per cent of respondents said that they would continue to volunteer. Eight-two percent of volunteers said that they had a good reputation in the community. I correct that figure: in my opinion, 100 per cent of the men and women who are RFS volunteers are supported by our communities across the state.

Not only do the RFS volunteers become involved in fires but also they assist in search and rescue and in flood situations. In the magazine that I referred to there is an article about the Coolum fires, which erupted in January this year and which required a large response from firefighters. Two children, Sam and Connor Buxton, whose home was saved, wrote two letters and their mother baked shortbread biscuits as a thankyou and they were given to the firefighters who were on the scene. I table those two letters that appeared in that magazine, which showed the Buxtons' appreciation for what the Rural Fire Service volunteers had done to save their property.

*Tabled paper:* Letters thanking firefighters [707].

The volunteers from the Maroochy RFB and the Doonan RFB were touched, with one first officer commenting that it means more than they will ever know to him and makes the hard work and sacrifice of long hours worthwhile. The innocent tone of a thankyou from a child is always the most sincere and cuts through to the heart. I believe that the actions of Sam and Connor reflect the regard that these men and women are held within the community. If this revocation allows for the growth of the Rural Fire Service in Beerwah, where the community is growing itself, hopefully, the happy outcome of Sam and Connor's experience, although in dangerous and sad circumstances, will be repeated. I support the revocation.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (12.13 pm): I do not often stand in this House and give accolades to anybody in particular, but in this particular instance the minister has done a pretty good job. A revocation is not the easiest thing in the world to do, because we do not get a great deal of respect from the community for doing it. They think that the government is taking something from them. But let me assure the people of Queensland, and particularly the people of the Sunshine Coast, that there is a very good reason for this revocation.

Other members have spoken about the rural fire brigade. A number of years ago I was a member of the rural fire brigade in Montville. I know how important it is for a rural fire brigade to have a home and how much hard work the rural fire brigade volunteers do for free. That is the salient point: these are volunteers in our community and for the government to see fit to give them this land and these structures I think is absolutely outstanding.

This revocation also plans for the future in that it allows for the relocation of the council depot. It is an example of a local council working hand in glove with a state government to deliver an outcome that is absolutely essential. We know that the existing facility has to be relocated.

I also ask the minister to take on board that the people of my area are still looking for a place for motorcycle enthusiasts. We have to find some land somewhere in the region, because they are riding in our national parks and forests. I ask the minister to take that on board. Maybe we can work together at some stage on this issue. I would really love to see a suitable outcome. I thank the minister and I thank the government for this revocation. It is the right thing to do.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (12.15 pm): I rise to speak in support of the revocation motion. I also echo the comments made by the member for Glass House, who talked about the growth of the area. The member also talked about the need for increased rail infrastructure. If he is asking for that increased rail infrastructure there, he can certainly support Cross River Rail. Cross River Rail will take nine minutes off the average train journey for people travelling from his area to the city. Cross River Rail is a very important component to cope with the growth in his area.

The growth in that area means that we need some more infrastructure. This revocation is going to facilitate some very welcome infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast. As we have heard, this site is part of the state forest portfolio, but it is a unique part of it. In 1929, this site was set up to trial the

planting of exotic pines from the USA. In 1931, the site became a nursery and, until 1958, it was the forestry headquarters. Some of those buildings are used for drying out cones to produce seeds. A lot of the buildings are old and rundown. There are a couple of houses on the site that are also fairly rundown. The Coochin Creek Rural Fire Brigade is also located on that site with a purpose-built shed.

It is good that we are helping the council to create a facility so that the Coochin Creek Rural Fire Brigade can stay on the site, but it is clear that this site can do a lot more for the local community. I welcome the move by the Sunshine Coast Council to redevelop the site with new buildings, new roads and new car parks. Currently, there is a master plan for the site. To advance that plan, the council needs to have tenure of the site. By looking at this master plan, it is very clear that the council can build a better base for the rural fire brigade and perhaps also for the local SES, which is flagged in the master plan. This seven-hectare site would be a great site for a council depot, but I think that integrating it with those emergency services—the rural fire brigade and the local SES—could work really well. The local SES in my area is co-located at the council depot at Deception Bay. That co-location works really well. Those services can utilise each other's equipment to help deal with emergencies. If the council redevelops that site, I think that it would be a great opportunity for the Coochin Creek Rural Fire Brigade.

At this point, I pay tribute to the great work of the rural fire brigades that this revocation will help so much. They have 36,000 volunteers across Queensland. There are 1,415 volunteer based rural fire brigades in Queensland and 439 of them have stations. The Palaszczuk government is really proud to fund those rural fire brigades with \$42.9 million annually. Aside from its traditional role of fighting fires, the RFS will be playing a greater role in preventing fires in the future. That will be one of the things that will be happening from this site. That rural fire brigade will be educating the community, it will be preparing bushfire ground before the fire season and it will be focusing on mitigating bushfire risk to property and life.

For rural fire brigades to keep serving their communities, they need help and that is what we are doing. The RFS has a growing fleet. It has 1,080 vehicles of all sizes. One hundred and one of those vehicles were purchased by the brigades and 979 vehicles were supplied by the Rural Fire Service. Some of these vehicles are quite old. The average age of these vehicles is 12 years. The brigades have permission to operate vehicles that are 30 years old with safety checks. I know that the rural fire brigades love their old fire trucks. They may not be the newest or most flash of vehicles, but the rural fire brigades look after their vehicles in such a loving fashion.

The Palaszczuk government is helping them maintain their vehicles. We commenced the Fuel and Vehicle Maintenance Funding Initiative on 12 July 2016 to help fire brigades exactly like the Coochin Creek Rural Fire Brigade. Under this initiative the QFES provides up to \$3.8 million to support registered vehicles through fuel and maintenance funding. The funding also pays for annual safety inspections and repairs. What is more, the Palaszczuk government is increasing their budget to assist with the funding of the replacement of some of these vehicles. We are looking after our Rural Fire Service brigades, making sure that they have the funds they need. I look forward to seeing the great facilities at this site. I commend the rural fire brigades throughout Queensland for the great work that they do.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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

Resumed from 29 November 2016 (see p. 4599).

### **Second Reading**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (12.20 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Firstly, I take this opportunity to thank the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee for its thorough examination of this bill, an important bill to better protect our children. The committee received submissions from Protect All Children Today, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties and the Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland and I commend those organisations for contributing to the development and examination of this bill.

The committee's report was tabled on 7 March and includes eight recommendations. I am pleased to say that the government has considered all those recommendations and supports every one of them. I table the government's response to the committee report.

*Tabled paper:* Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 28—Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, government response [\[708\]](#).

Before I address the committee's recommendations, I also take this opportunity to commend the Crime and Corruption Commission for its extensive review of the operation of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008. The committee has recommended that the bill be passed and I thank all members for supporting this important piece of work because, as I am sure all members of this House will agree, nothing is more important than the safety of our children.

I intend to propose a number of technical amendments during consideration in detail of the bill. They relate to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 and do not alter the intent of this bill or the recommendations of the Crime and Corruption Commission. Some of these technical amendments will clarify when a person stops being a reportable offender, extend current information-sharing provisions as they relate to Queensland Health and extend the definition of 'protected witness' to include an alleged victim of the offence who was under 16 years when the offence occurred, irrespective of the victim's age when giving evidence. These amendments have been circulated in my name and are accompanied by explanatory notes.

This bill gives effect to the recommendations by the Crime and Corruption Commission and reflects the Palaszczuk government's strong commitment to child protection. The bill has a clear focus on early intervention, disruption and the prevention of recidivist child sex offending. To effectively achieve this we need to arm our police with the tools they need to swiftly respond to any risk associated with the activities or behaviours of convicted child sex offenders in our community. This bill provides our police with those tools. Police will have the capacity to request access to electronic devices such as computers, laptops and mobile phones where there is a reasonable suspicion that a reportable offender has committed an offence under the offender reporting legislation. By reportable offender, I am talking about a person who has been convicted of a sexual or serious crime against children. That is the definition of a reportable offender—one of the worst types of offenders. Police will also be able to inspect any device in the possession of a reportable offender within three months of their release from prison or their sentence to a supervision order and where an offender has been convicted of an offence which involves child exploitation material. Offenders who present an increased risk of reoffending against a child will also be liable to have their devices inspected where an order is made by a court authorising the inspection.

Protective mechanisms for all victims of child sexual abuse have been strengthened in this legislation. The government has empowered the judiciary to declare a person a reportable offender where the court is satisfied that the facts and circumstances of a matter before the court constitute elements of a reportable offence. No longer will these people escape the classification of reportable offender simply because they pleaded guilty to a lesser offence or the charge did not particularise that the person committed, attempted or intended to commit a sexual offence against a child. Our government remains committed to holding perpetrators of these heinous crimes to account for their actions. Empowering the judiciary in this regard meets that commitment.

There are other protective mechanisms for victims of child sexual abuse. This bill will put a stop to the practice that allows perpetrators of sexual and other serious offences against children to personally cross-examine their victims during civil proceedings. It is abhorrent to think that these offenders have, in the past, been allowed to cross-examine their victims under the guise of self-representation. I am sure all members of this House would agree that we do not want child victims of sexual assault to go through any further trauma. Yes, this bill is tough, but it is only tough on those in our community who continue to prey on the most vulnerable members of our community—our children.

This bill reduces the time frames associated with travelling into and outside of Queensland for those offenders. Allowing reportable offenders to enter and leave Queensland undetected for up to seven days is unacceptable. This bill reduces that timeline to 48 hours because there is no excuse for convicted child sex offenders to be absent and unaccounted for. Nor is there any excuse for convicted child sex offenders not to report the details of any children that they are travelling with or fail to report any contact they have had with children who live outside Queensland. Reporting these details is vital to preventing and disrupting recidivist sexual offending against children. Offenders will be required to

report when any of their personal particulars change and allow police to photograph anything that is required to be reported under the offender reporting legislation, such as tattoos, a new vehicle or a change in their appearance.

Amendments to the civil processes relating to offender prohibition orders will give courts more flexibility in making an order when any conduct of concern has occurred. This will help police closely monitor the behaviour and activities of offenders in the community. The bill allows civil applications for offender prohibition orders to be heard at the same time as any associated criminal matter. Adjourning applications for offender prohibition orders until the conclusion of associated criminal matters puts children at risk. This is clearly an unacceptable and draconian policy.

This bill is tough, but it is fair. It recognises that some reportable offenders are not able to meet their reporting obligations because of mental health issues or are not able to consent to prohibition orders because of a cognitive or other disability. Reportable offenders who are unable to meet their reporting obligations for these reasons are able to be suspended from their reporting obligations for a period of time, but let us be clear—and this is important—only when those people do not pose a risk to the safety of children. This suspension can be swiftly revoked if there is any indication of risk to children. There are some reportable offenders who are not able to give informed consent, and this must also be taken into consideration. Offenders who have a cognitive impairment or a significant mental illness may not understand the ramifications of consenting to an offender prohibition order. In that case a magistrate can conduct a hearing about an application if there are any concerns that an offender does not have the capacity to consent to an offender prohibition order.

Early intervention is vital to disrupting and preventing recidivist child sexual offending. An important tool in early intervention is information sharing. This bill introduces an information-sharing framework. This will ensure that everyone who requires information to manage reportable offenders in the community has that information. This includes non-government entities that provide housing and other services to convicted child sex offenders. The Police Commissioner may provide the offender's name and date of birth, the term of any order, any conduct prohibited or anything that is reasonably considered necessary to identify an offender to protect the safety of a child in the agency's care. In turn, those agencies will be empowered to provide information to the Police Commissioner that may disrupt the offending cycle. It also enables the Police Commissioner to share information with government entities such as Queensland Health and the hospital and health services that may be involved in the care or treatment of a child.

The bill amalgamates two very important pieces of legislation into one distinct act. It streamlines processes so that important policing resources can be directed to managing the compliance of reportable offenders in the community. This bill is all about protecting our children and keeping them safe. I commend the bill to the House and I encourage all members to support it.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! Before I call the member for Everton, I welcome to the gallery another group of students from Siena Catholic Primary School, in the electorate of Kawana.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.30 pm): I rise to address the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, which was introduced by the police minister late last year. I think this is the first bit of legislation that the new minister introduced. I am not sure if I should be congratulating him or showing him some sympathy, considering that his predecessor may have set him up given some of the things in this bill. I note that following its review of the bill the committee strongly condemned the explanatory notes that were provided with the bill. In fact, they recommended that they be completely replaced. A specific recommendation in the committee report states—

The committee recommends that accurate, clear, precise and comprehensive explanatory notes for the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 be tabled as a priority. The replacement explanatory notes should satisfy the requirements of section 23 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

The committee went on to state—

The committee does not consider that the explanatory notes were sufficiently clear to comply with section 23 of the *Legislative Standards Act 1992*.

In a Bill which proposes to amalgamate two Acts and simultaneously proposes an array of amendments to the offender reporting framework, clear and precise explanatory notes are essential. The explanatory notes should contain sufficient detail for readers to understand the purpose and intended operation of all aspects of the Bill, and should not contain descriptions of amendments that are not actually in the Bill. Accurate, clear and precise explanatory notes would greatly assist the committee, Members of Parliament, the courts and other stakeholders to understand the legislation.

I have to say that that is an extraordinary recommendation. It is the first time that I have seen that in my five years as a member of this House. It is joint government and opposition condemnation of a previous minister's shoddy work, particularly when dealing with such an important and sensitive subject as the protection of our children against serious sexual predators. I am not sure if the police minister was set up by his predecessor or his three Labor comrades on the committee, the members for Townsville, Maryborough and Pumicestone. However, I digress. I turn to the substance of the bill.

From the outset, I should advise members that the LNP will not be opposing these changes, particularly given that they emanated from an LNP commissioned review by the Crime and Corruption Commission, which started in 2013 and was finalised in 2014. I start by saying that as a government we were strongly committed to protecting vulnerable Queenslanders, particularly our most vulnerable, that is, our children, in our aim to make Queensland the safest place to live, work and raise a family. The LNP has a strong record of standing up for children and strengthening the laws against child sex offenders. We introduced mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders, with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years. We increased penalties for child exploitation material offences and other child sex offences and inserted a new offence of grooming into the Criminal Code. We introduced a mandatory sentence of one year imprisonment for a sex offender who tampers with or removes a GPS monitoring bracelet. We introduced amendments to ensure the maximum penalty for procuring a child or a person with mental impairment for prostitution is increased from 14 years to 20 years. We introduced amendments to allow the court to list a predator convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender. We enforced more stringent reporting conditions for offenders under changes to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004. We remain strongly committed to that position. We will always stand for strong regulation and law reform that protects children from serious sexual predators in our community.

As outlined in the explanatory notes, the bill before the House implements its key objectives by introducing new powers to allow police to require access to information on electronic devices, for example passwords, where there is a reasonable suspicion that the reportable offender has committed an offence under the offender reporting legislation; introducing powers for police to take fingerprints to enrol a reportable offender in an automated reporting system and take photographs at a location other than a police station; streamlining, simplifying and strengthening processes for offender prohibition orders; extending the information-sharing network to allow government and non-government agencies to give and receive information and protect information, such as the name of the respondent or the victim; extending protection from liability for members of the community who provide information about a reportable offender to the Police Commissioner; and reducing the time frames for reporting travel into and out of Queensland by a reportable offender to clarify that reportable contact with a child extends outside Queensland, including online contact with a child from another jurisdiction.

As I referred to earlier, the genesis of this bill was a review tabled by the Crime and Corruption Commission in late 2014 under the hand of the late former chairman, Dr Ken Levy. As we debate this legislation today we should pay tribute to him, because these changes are part of his great legacy to this state. His review made a number of findings. The CCC found that over the five years the act has been in force 48 prohibition orders were made in response to concerning conduct. The number of orders is comparable to that of similar orders in other Australian jurisdictions. Offenders who received those OPOs engaged in a higher volume of and more serious concerning conduct than other reportable offenders. Collectively, those 21 offenders were convicted of over 100 sexual or other serious crimes against children in Queensland. Of those 21 offenders, seven breached their OPO and were charged with failing to comply with at least one condition of their order. The penalty imposed was usually a term of imprisonment. One offender was known to have committed a new offence against a child while an OPO was in effect.

The time taken to obtain an OPO varied from nine days to just under three years, with the police application process tending to take longer than the court process. Although delays could have put children at risk, when there was an immediate risk to a child that process occurred far more quickly. Several applications for OPOs were based solely on legal concerning conduct, for example, being in a place where children congregate, suggesting that police viewed such behaviour as possible precursor conduct. The remaining applications were based on both legal and illegal conduct, indicating that even when an offender had committed a criminal offence the police would also apply for an OPO alongside the criminal charges to prohibit subsequent legal conduct that might be a precursor to a future offence.

Overall, the CCC found that police were using the act to prohibit conduct that could be a precursor to the commission of a new offence and the OPOs were being made for offenders with a high risk of reoffending. In numerical terms, the data obtained for this review showed that the use of OPOs as a

response tool was limited, with 21 offenders receiving an OPO. This might simply indicate that police were opting to use a tool other than an OPO to respond to concerning conduct. The review also found that there were some substantial delays in the OPO process, particularly at the police application stage.

Key changes put forward in this bill include merging the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 into the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 to create one act dealing with reportable sex offenders; streamlining, simplifying and strengthening offender prohibition order processes, as recommended by the Crime and Corruption Commission review; amending civil court processes to prohibit a self-represented offender from cross-examining a child witness or a person who was a child when the alleged offence occurred, as recommended by the CCC review; and amending the definition of 'concerning conduct' to ensure that police can better identify when conduct is concerning, to more appropriately align with the risk the offender poses to the lives and safety of children in the community, as recommended by the CCC review.

Other key changes in the bill include: introducing an extended information-sharing framework designed to allow government and non-government agencies to give and receive information relative to a reportable offender—safeguards are in place to ensure the protection of identifying information by increasing the penalty where the information is used to harass or intimidate respondents; broadening the scope for offenders to be considered as reportable offenders; reducing the time that reportable offenders can travel into and out of Queensland without needing to notify the relevant agencies; and introducing new powers which will allow police to require access information to electronic devices or to information which is able to be accessed through electronic devices in circumstances where there is a reasonable suspicion that the reportable offender has committed an offence and to allow police to inspect electronic devices in the possession of those reportable offenders who pose the greatest risk of reoffending. These new powers will allow police to intervene prior to the commission of an offence and to disrupt the offending cycle.

It is also worth noting that the committee which reviewed this bill made a total of eight recommendations to improve and clarify its operation. I want to thank the committee members for their thorough analysis of this bill and these important changes. We should always look at what we can do to strengthen our laws to protect our children against the worst of the worst kind of criminal—that is, sex offenders who prey on our most vulnerable Queenslanders.

I also want to thank and acknowledge those organisations that provided submissions to the committee, particularly Protect All Children Today, PACT—a not-for-profit organisation which is dedicated to enhancing the child protection system in Queensland by reducing the trauma experienced by all children and young people who are required to give evidence within the Queensland criminal justice system as victims or witnesses. As I mentioned earlier, we will not be opposing these changes.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.41 pm): I rise to speak to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset, I particularly make a point of acknowledging Detective Superintendent Cheryl Scanlon, Detective Inspector George Marchesini and their team—those hardworking men and women at Task Force Argos who do a fantastic job of keeping Queensland children safe. It is not an enviable job. I shudder to think what they picture when they go to bed at night and the images that they see. It takes strong men and women to stand up to these people. They do a fantastic job day in and day out to protect some of the most vulnerable children in Queensland. I think that they wholeheartedly deserve our recognition, acknowledgement and thanks.

We all know that children are some of the most vulnerable people in our society, and particularly children who have had horrible things done to them. I am so blessed that I have never experienced it and, to my knowledge, do not know anyone who has. However, we do know of the devastating effects that it can have on children.

I am so pleased that I am part of a team that when in government really did make some magnificent strides towards making our children safer. As has been indicated by the shadow minister for police and emergency services, there is indeed bipartisan support for this bill in the House today. We believe we should do anything and everything to ensure that children in our community are safer. As I said, I am proud to have been a member of a government that had a strong track record in this regard. As has been highlighted by the member for Everton, this legislation has come out of a Crime and Corruption Commission review that was started under our government. Clearly what we are seeing today through the government taking up the recommendations from the review that we started and us not opposing this bill is an ability for both sides of the House to work together on this issue.

This legislation gives powers to the police to be able to seize electronic devices—mobile phones, computers and tablets—so that they can make sure that reportable offenders do not have anything inappropriate on their devices. Key to the ability to do that is for the Queensland Police Service to be able to work well and in conjunction with Corrective Services. It was affirmed to the committee in a private briefing that the QPS and Corrective Services do work very closely together. Ultimately, we all have the same desire in terms of outcome—that is, to keep children safe.

When we consider granting more power to police officers it should never be done lightly. We as a parliament should consider whether or not it is appropriate that we give more power to police. Those things have been considered in the past. Our committee has considered that a fair bit recently with changes to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act that will come before the House in coming weeks. We also have to make a judgement call about whether or not it is appropriate in certain circumstances to give that extra power. I think this is one of those areas where it is entirely justified. We cannot expect police to keep our children safe if we do not give them the power and the resources to be able to do so. I was proud to be part of a government that did that. I am proud to be part of a parliament that is continuing to do that.

We know that when the LNP was in government we strengthened the laws against child sex offenders. We honestly believe and I know the members of my community of Broadwater honestly believe that we need to do all that we can to keep vulnerable children safe. We introduced amendments to allow the court to list a predator who is convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender. We increased the penalties for child exploitation material offences and other child sex offences and we inserted a new offence of grooming into the Criminal Code. We introduced a mandatory sentence of one year imprisonment for a sex offender who tampers with or removes their GPS monitoring bracelet. I know that a future Nicholls LNP government will continue the LNP's strong track record of protecting vulnerable Queenslanders. I know that Tim Mander and Ian Walker, the members for Everton and Mansfield respectively, are wholeheartedly and absolutely committed to doing that.

I would like to touch on the committee's processes and inquiries. As has been highlighted, eight recommendations were put forward by the committee. I thank the government for agreeing to and supporting those recommendations. Recommendation 2 is one that I am very passionate about. For members who have not had a chance to have a look at the recommendations I point out that that recommendation will mean that where an accused is self-representing they do not have the ability to cross-examine the victim if that person was under 16 at the time of the offence. I think that that is critically important because what we do know is that, unfortunately, in some of these circumstances accused persons and offenders use their position of power. If through this recommendation we can take a little bit of that power away from the person accused of offending then I think that is a great thing. I thank the committee for unanimously putting forward that recommendation and also acknowledge the government for accepting that recommendation.

The member for Everton has touched on recommendation 8 so I will not go into too much detail on that. That is the one that pertains to the explanatory notes. For the benefit of the House, I point out that the original explanatory notes that we were provided with were some 47 pages long, which ordinarily would be considered quite comprehensive explanatory notes. As the committee proceeded through its inquiry we realised that we, the parliament and potentially the courts needed some more detail. I acknowledge that the minister has already responded to recommendation 8 of the inquiry and has tabled updated explanatory notes, which are some 73 pages long. I thank the minister for making sure the parliament has been provided with comprehensive detail on the legislation we are considering today.

The only other point I want to touch on before I hand over to the chair of the committee, the member for Townsville, is that this is going to be an ongoing challenge with the advent of new technology. I am somewhat of a Luddite myself. I still like to use pen and paper. I think that is a good way of remembering things, but we do know that teenagers and young children these days are using tablets and smart phones more and more. The advent of new technology and the internet allows predators and offenders not only to touch base with those children and those teenagers but also to transmit what is, quite frankly, abhorrent material. Regardless of what persuasion the government is, it will be an ongoing challenge.

Certainly we want to ensure that the technology that the police have is the right technology so that we can empower them to do the job that they need to do. There is no point in giving police these additional powers if we do not give them the technology they need to be able to catch these people and also particularly in these circumstances to be able to monitor those who are reportable offenders.

As has been highlighted by the shadow minister, the member for Everton, and no doubt by my colleagues on the education committee, we will not be opposing this bill. In closing, I thank and acknowledge my colleagues on the education committee and the secretariat for the work that they have done in helping us prepare and present this report.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (12.50 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak in support of this bill, which is all about tougher laws to protect our children. That is certainly the role that we have in this parliament. I have heard several times from members on both sides already about being proud of this particular legislation. My previous life before coming to politics is no secret, particularly the work that I have done with children. I feel very proud and privileged to stand in this House today to be part of this legislation that takes the next step in keeping our children protected and protecting their innocence.

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the members of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee for their work on the bill and also the work of the secretariat staff for their work and support throughout this inquiry into the bill. More importantly, I would like to acknowledge and thank those who were consulted and the submitters to the bill whose voices we have heard many times and whose voices will never be silenced for as long as perpetrators take advantage of our kids. Those voices include: Bravehearts, Protect All Children Today, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties and the Queensland Law Society, just to name a few.

Make no mistake: this bill is purely about taking further steps—further steps as our technology develops at astounding rates, further steps to make sure that we keep our kids safe from rock arachnids who prey on our young people. What we know is that these predators use a range of digital devices like computers and smart phones. Giving our hardworking police increased abilities to stop those atrocities before they start is exactly what we are trying to do today.

A person charged with and convicted of sexual or other serious crimes against children, known as a reportable offender, may be sentenced in a number of ways. They may be fined, sentenced to a community based order, sentenced to imprisonment or receive a suspended sentence. Regardless of the penalty, almost all reportable offenders will again live in our community at some stage. To address concerns about the risk posed by reportable offenders living in the community, Queensland has laws to monitor, control and limit their behaviour.

Two acts currently govern Queensland's system for monitoring people who offend against children and for regulating their behaviour: the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004, the offender reporting act; and the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008, the prohibition order act. In effect, the offender reporting act provides a reporting system to monitor reportable offenders and obtain information about possible concerning behaviour, and the prohibition order act provides a response mechanism to prevent the person from engaging in that behaviour.

The prohibition order act regulates the day-to-day conduct of reportable offenders, reducing the risk to children by allowing police to intervene early in an effort to prevent rather than respond to new offences against children. Police may apply to the court for an offender prohibition order if they become aware that a reportable offender is engaging in concerning conduct that poses a risk to our children. The prohibition order will prohibit the reportable offender from engaging in conduct that is viewed as a precursor to them committing a further offence.

This bill proposes to give police new powers under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. This legislation will also act as an adjunct to those currently available to police under section 21A—'Power to enter for Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004'. This new section 21B will give police the power to inspect or seize any device capable of storing electronic data if in the last three months the reportable offender has been released from government detention or sentenced to a supervision order or convicted of a prescribed internet offence or a magistrate makes a device inspection order.

The powers are accompanied by a requirement to provide access information to any device, including cloud storage. This means that reportable offenders will be required to provide pin numbers and passwords to police during such incidents. A person who fails to comply with a direction to provide access information will be liable for a maximum penalty of 300 penalty units or five years imprisonment. The increase in penalty is necessary as the current penalty provides insufficient disincentive for offenders. The current penalty associated with the offence of hinder police carries a maximum of 60 penalty units or only 12 months imprisonment. Under this bill the maximum penalty will now rise to 300 penalty units or five years imprisonment.

The Palaszczuk government is serious about protecting our Queensland children. That is what this bill will do. The powers will enable police to keep pace with the ever-evolving range of internet based sexual offences against children, including the possession or distribution of child exploitation material, the production of child exploitation material, online grooming and solicitation of children. This bill gives our police the powers to monitor and manage the risk posed by reportable offenders. This is the legislative authority to access information which is stored on devices. This is important. Having access to electronic devices will assist forensic examiners who are inspecting devices to decode any encrypted information which may not otherwise be accessed.

There are also safeguards within this bill. One such safeguard includes limiting the number of inspections that can be carried out in each 12-month period and includes judicial oversight in the making of device inspection orders. Another is that the use of these new powers will be limited to those police officers who are responsible for the management of reportable offenders in the community or have been authorised by the Police Commissioner. Given the work of this parliament to protect victims of domestic violence, this bill will also protect the most vulnerable in our community—our children. It is our responsibility—our responsibility—as legislators to do what we can, everything we can, to keep our children safe.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the extensive and unfortunately never-ending work of the Task Force Argos team of the Queensland Police Service. This team will do some of the most difficult work of monitoring websites, blog sites and Facebook posts to intercept online adult predators lurking behind the veil of a digital screen in their quest to lure unsuspecting children into unspeakable sexual acts that forever more will change their lives for the worse.

I would also like to acknowledge the extensive work of Detective Inspector George Marchesini from the Child Safety and Sexual Crime Group and Detective Superintendent Cheryl Scanlon also from the Child Safety and Sexual Crime Group. I am especially proud of Detective Superintendent Cheryl Scanlon as she is a former student of Townsville State High School—where I was a principal—who has made a significant impact upon our state. While Cheryl had left the school perhaps only a few years before I got there, we are extremely proud of what she has achieved from the education she received at our state school. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Stewart, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

## MOTION

### **Criminalisation of Homosexual Sexual Activity, Apology**



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.30 pm): by leave, without notice: I move—

That the apology for those affected by historical homosexual convictions circulated earlier today be adopted by the House.

I table the apology.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 11 May 2017, titled 'Apology: For those affected by historical homosexual convictions' [\[709\]](#).

Today I rise in the House to make a belated apology on behalf of the people of Queensland and the Legislative Assembly to those Queenslanders who have suffered because of the past criminalisation of homosexual sexual activity between consenting adults. I say 'belated' because Queensland had laws that enshrined discrimination and prejudice until 1990. Queensland was, in fact, the second last state or territory to change our laws to end this form of discrimination. Although belated, this apology is nonetheless sincere and heartfelt, and I acknowledge the pain, the hurt and the suffering experienced by so many Queenslanders for so long.

I also acknowledge the bravery of so many—those who published their stories, who spoke about their experiences and who marched so defiantly and with quiet dignity to end the discrimination. These discriminatory laws led to prejudice, violence, harassment and vilification, and it took courage for someone to stand up and be counted. Greg Weir is one such person. In 1976 Greg was a student at what was then the Kelvin Grove Teachers' College. He advertised in the student newspaper that he was starting a gay group on campus. When Greg graduated, he was bonded, as all graduates were at that time, to the Queensland government. However, the Queensland government refused to employ Greg as a teacher in Queensland. These laws, and the prejudice and discrimination they engendered and justified, made criminals out of ordinary men throughout Queensland.

In August 1989 five men were arrested in Roma after admitting to police that they were homosexual. This was reported on the front page of the *Sunday Mail* and it led to hundreds of people marching courageously and protesting here at Parliament House for the laws to be changed. Research conducted shortly after the laws were changed using the resources of the Queensland State Archives found that over the period of 95 years there had been 464 people convicted under these laws.

Today I attended a small function and spoke to people who have been affected by these laws. I was deeply moved by their tales of loss, heartache, pain and hurt. I was even told stories of many people who suffered at home in silence and in agony. Equally, I have been impressed by their courage and steely defiance against something they knew to be wrong and their determination to change it.

With great pride, I today offer this apology on behalf of the people of Queensland and of the Legislative Assembly. I will now read the apology that has been tabled—

Today this Legislative Assembly acknowledges the harm that has been inflicted by past convictions for homosexual activity between consenting adults in Queensland. We acknowledge those whose lives were affected, not only those burdened with criminal convictions, but also their partners, their mothers and fathers, their brothers and sisters, their children and all their families and friends.

This House is the repository of legislative power in this State. It is the symbol of our democracy. As Members of this House, we have a duty, an obligation, to make laws for the betterment of our society, and for the benefit of its citizens. In criminalising homosexual sexual activity between consenting adults, the Legislative Assembly of this State dishonoured its citizens and institutionalised prejudice and discrimination.

It was this institutionalised prejudice that affected not only those who were convicted of offences, but everyone else who was made to feel that their sexuality was wrong, and they were not accepted by their community. To those people we are also sorry. You were denied the opportunity to openly declare your love for another, to celebrate that love, and to enjoy all that a loving relationship can give.

To those persons who faced the ignominy of being charged by police, of appearing before the courts and being punished for merely expressing their sexuality, we say sorry. We regret the humiliation that you have endured and the violence and vilification that were perpetrated upon you. We know that for many of you this has caused immeasurable pain.

We acknowledge that this experience has impacted significantly on your lives. Many of you have been forced to disclose your convictions repeatedly; when you applied for a job, when you wanted to travel overseas, when you spoke to your families and friends. You have been maligned and shamed, and for that we say sorry and express our deep regret for the trauma that many of you have suffered.

We recognise the hurt and shame that have been felt by friends and family members and to them we are sorry. We acknowledge also the partners, children and others who have supported their loved ones over the years in coping and dealing with what they have experienced.

This Legislative Assembly offers its unreserved and sincere apology to all those persons who suffered from prejudice as a result of the discriminatory laws passed by this House, and we acknowledge that your pain and suffering continues. We acknowledge the shame, guilt and secrecy carried by too many for too long.

Today, in this Legislative Assembly, we place on the record for future generations our deep regret and say to all those affected, we are sorry that the laws of this state, your State, have let you down. To all those affected we say sorry.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I note the presence in the gallery today of many people who have been instrumental in this momentous occasion. I thank each and every one of you for honouring us with your presence here today. I am pleased to be able to share this occasion with you as Premier of this state. I also pay tribute to my Attorney-General, Yvette D'Ath, my cabinet, my government and all members of this House. Today is a truly historic day. I commend the motion to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## CRIMINAL LAW (HISTORICAL HOMOSEXUAL CONVICTIONS EXPUNGEMENT) BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.37 pm): I present a bill for an act to provide for the expungement of particular historical homosexual convictions or charges and to amend this act, the Child Protection Act 1999 and the Family Responsibilities Commission Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017 [\[710\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017, explanatory notes [\[711\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017. I acknowledge every one of those people in the gallery today—the individuals who have been personally impacted, their partners, their family and their friends. For all of the advocates and organisations who have advocated for so long for these laws and this scheme to be brought in, I thank you. For those who cannot be here, who are no longer with us but who lived with this shame for far too long and who unfortunately passed before they ever got to see this scheme brought in, today this is for you.

Consensual adult male homosexual activity was decriminalised in this state on 19 January 1991 with the commencement of the reforms contained in the Criminal Code and Another Act Amendment Act 1990. What that law reform did not address is the stigma, shame and embarrassment suffered by individuals whose criminal histories still contained records of charges or convictions incurred prior to decriminalisation.

I want to thank the Premier for her leadership on this issue and I associate myself with her words of apology today. We know that this is a deeply hurtful and deeply personal issue for many Queenslanders forced to live with the impact of discriminatory laws for far too long. We know that past convictions have meant there are various circumstances in which convictions or charges for criminal offences have been required to be disclosed.

Forcing the repeated disclosure of those convictions and charges to potential employers, public administrators and others has caused people inconvenience and embarrassment and, worst of all, has forced them to continually relive the trauma associated with their arrest, charge and conviction. This has inhibited people from pursuing employment opportunities, volunteering in their communities and fully participating in civic life right up until today. It hurt those individuals, affected their friends and family, and prevented their full involvement in, and contribution to, our community. In doing so, it not only impacted individuals; it lessened our community more broadly.

In developing this important law reform, I have been reflecting on those historic changes in 1991 that finally brought Queensland out of the dark ages. I would like to pay tribute to former premier Wayne Goss, as I did in this House after his all-too-soon passing. This bill and this issue provides us with a window into the past and shows, yet again, that Queensland is a fundamentally different place to the Queensland that existed prior to 2 December 1989. Nor is this chamber the same as it was when homosexuality was decriminalised. Reading some of the *Hansard* from the 1990 debate is nothing short of revolting. The debate displayed signs of pure discrimination. It was full of hate. It was outright bigotry. It reflected the former regime that existed in this state and the pain inflicted on members of the LGBTI community.

As this parliament apologises this afternoon, we should never forget that this abuse, this discrimination and this hatred was within our lifetime, and it was done in our name. We have seen important law reform since that time, over many years, in many stages. That includes significant reforms passed in the current Palaszczuk government, some with bipartisan support. Despite these important legislative changes, the pain and anguish caused by that earlier discrimination has never been removed for those affected Queenslanders. I am very proud to be a Labor Attorney-General finishing the important work that the Goss government started, and I am determined to get it right.

This bill creates a scheme which will provide some of these individuals with an opportunity to legally decide not to disclose ever again certain types of convictions and charges. During the 2015 general state election, this government expressed in principle support for a scheme to allow for the expungement of convictions and charges for historical homosexual offences and committed to referring the issue to the Queensland Law Reform Commission for consideration and report. I thank the members of the QLRC for their significant body of work. I tabled the QLRC's final report entitled *Expunging criminal convictions for historical gay sex offences* in this Legislative Assembly on 29 November 2016.

This bill largely implements the recommendations of the QLRC report but also takes into account feedback provided by stakeholders during consultation on a draft bill. The bill allows a person who has been convicted of, or charged with, an 'eligible offence' to apply to the Director-General of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, as the decision-maker, for the expungement of that conviction or charge from relevant public records. To be eligible for expungement under the proposed scheme, charges and convictions must relate to conduct that occurred before 19 January 1991 and that conduct must have involved homosexual activity.

The scheme proposed in the bill divides eligible offences into two main types. The first type of eligible offences are referred to as 'Criminal Code male homosexual offences'. These are repealed sections 208(1), 208(3) and 209 of the Criminal Code, which were concerned with anal intercourse,

and section 211 of the Criminal Code, which was concerned with indecent acts. The second type of eligible offences are referred to as public morality offences. These are repealed sections 5(1)(b) and 7(e) of the repealed vagrants and other offences act 1931 and section 227 of the Criminal Code, which relate to offences such as soliciting for an immoral purpose or behaving in an indecent or offensive manner in a public place.

The QLRC did not recommend that the public morality offences should be included as eligible offences in this scheme because those offences are still on the statute books. However, the government felt strongly that public morality offences should be included in this scheme in order to appropriately reflect the discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex persons in the policing practices of these kind of offences before 19 January 1991. In doing so, the bill reflects that, while the offences themselves might still be in the Criminal Code, the behaviour on which these charges were historically centred would not be considered grounds for such a charge by modern standards.

The bill provides that other offences can later be prescribed as eligible offences by way of regulation. This provides the scheme with appropriate flexibility should other appropriate eligible offences be identified with the passage of time. An eligible offence can only be prescribed by regulation to the extent that it happened before 19 January 1991 and it involved sexual activity of a homosexual nature. The decision-maker's criteria of assessment for expungement applications under the proposed scheme differs slightly depending on whether the relevant offence is a Criminal Code male homosexual offence or a public morality offence. The criteria for each type of offence takes into account the different nature of the two different types of offences.

In deciding an application for a Criminal Code male homosexual offence, the decision-maker must be satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the other person involved in the conduct relevant to the offence consented to the conduct, was 18 years old or older when the conduct occurred, and that the conduct would not constitute an offence under the laws of Queensland at the date the application is made. The QLRC recommended that the criteria for expunging Criminal Code male homosexual offences should have regard to the age of consent at the date of the commencement of the legislation. The age of consent for anal intercourse from 19 January 1991 was 18 years.

The commencement of the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016 on 23 September 2016 standardised the age of consent so that, for all forms of sexual intercourse, the age of consent is 16 years. In a departure from the QLRC recommendation, the criteria for the expungement of a Criminal Code male homosexual offence in the bill has regard to the age of consent at the date of decriminalisation on 19 January 1991—that is, 18 years. This retains the expungement scheme's nexus with the decriminalisation of consensual adult homosexual activity and confirms that the scheme is only applicable to historical charges and convictions. It also ensures that there is no discrimination between people charged or convicted with offences between 1991 and 2016 or people charged before the age of consent for sexual activity other than anal intercourse was changed in Queensland in 1976 from 17 years to 16 years.

The criteria for the expungement of a Criminal Code male homosexual offence contains another departure from the recommendations of the QLRC in that it does not require the decision-maker to be satisfied that an offence was not committed or alleged to have been committed in a place to which the public are permitted access. Instead, the bill simply provides that the decision-maker must be satisfied that the act or omission constituting the offence, if done at the time of the application, would not constitute an offence under the laws of Queensland. In deciding an application for a public morality offence, the decision-maker must be satisfied on the balance of probabilities that the conduct relevant to the offence involved homosexual activity and that the conduct would not constitute an offence under the laws of Queensland at the date the application is made.

The bill provides that an application is required to be in an approved form and must contain some basic information about the applicant and the charge or conviction that is the subject of the application. The decision-maker under the proposed scheme can request further information from an applicant and require an applicant to verify information by way of statutory declaration. The scheme proposed under the bill is purely administrative and expressly excludes the possibility of oral hearings. If an applicant is successful in having their charge or conviction expunged under the proposed scheme, the bill provides that the person can lawfully choose not to disclose the charge or conviction.

For those individuals it means they can lawfully, whether under oath or otherwise, say that they were not convicted of, or charged with, that offence. The bill provides that relevant public records will be annotated to record the fact that the charge or conviction has been expunged. To guard against reckless or malicious disclosure of expunged charges or convictions, the bill creates two new criminal

offences relating to: disclosing information about expunged charges or convictions; or dishonestly obtaining such information. The bill expressly provides that there is no entitlement to compensation of any kind for a person who has a charge or conviction expunged under the scheme. The scheme proposed in the bill ensures fairness to applicants by providing that if an application for expungement is refused, there is a right to review that decision in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

The bill contains safeguards for the integrity of our criminal justice system by providing that an expunged charge or conviction can be revived if in the future the decision-maker is satisfied that the expungement was granted on the basis of false or misleading information. The bill also creates a further new criminal offence of providing false and misleading information to the decision-maker.

The expungement scheme proposed in this bill should properly be seen as extraordinary. It cannot be the case that every time the law changes a scheme for the expungement of charges or convictions will follow. The scheme in this bill is closely aligned to the specific reforms initiated in this Legislative Assembly in the Criminal Code and Another Act Amendment Act 1990. It was the commencement of that legislation in 1991 that marked a cultural shift in attitudes in this state.

As the Premier outlined in her apology today, the discriminatory nature of the archaic laws that existed in this state prior to 1991 institutionalised ignorance and legitimised prejudice towards people for merely expressing their sexuality. That prejudice and ignorance permeated our institutions and our communities. The scheme in this bill could not possibly address every different circumstance in which a person may have had an unjust or unreasonable encounter with the criminal justice system because of their sexual preferences prior to 19 January 1991. What this bill is intended to do is to continue the spirit and intention of the law reform begun in the 1990 amendment act by recognising that private, consensual adult sexual activity should never have been the concern of this Legislative Assembly or the criminal law.

The scheme in this bill provides a balanced framework that attempts to provide a measure of restorative justice to as many people as possible who suffered unfairly whilst still safeguarding integrity, equality and certainty in our criminal justice system. I wish to take this opportunity to once again thank all of those individuals and organisations that have advocated for so long for this scheme, some of whom are here today. I also want to acknowledge the tremendous effort of the staff at the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for their hard work in developing this framework and this bill, as well as the stakeholders who worked with the government to deliver on this important reform. I am very proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government and I am extremely proud to commend this bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.52 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

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

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

### Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (2.53 pm, by leave, without notice): I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017 by 14 July 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.53 pm): The Brisbane-centric Palaszczuk Labor government has let down many of our most vulnerable population and those tasked to look after them time and time again. Whether it is our mental health system or our public health system, Queenslanders know that the only thing Labor has delivered during their term in government is a toxic culture of failures and furphies. I want to refer to one of those furphies today.

On numerous occasions the health minister has misled the parliament by claiming that the previous government sacked nurses. The Premier as opposition leader said the same thing about teachers. In Ethics Committee report No. 154 it is stated at page 13 that members have a responsibility to refrain from acting recklessly by making unqualified statements and that members have a duty to ensure that their statements in the House are accurate and clear. The member for Inala subsequently was directed to make a brief statement clarifying statements that she had made.

In Health let me make it very clear: the advice given to me is that we offered redundancies or redeployments. I will be writing to Mr Speaker to outline my concerns about what we have seen from the minister today. We have also seen concerns and reports of a hazardous mould outbreak in the ICU—intensive care unit—at Ipswich Hospital which resulted in four patients being transferred out of the ICU and two to other hospitals. I table an article from the ABC.

Tabled paper: Article from *ABC News online*, titled 'Mould outbreak forces shutdown of Ipswich Hospital intensive care unit' [\[712\]](#).

In it infection specialist Rashmi Dixit said that an engineering report indicated that the mould outbreak had reached a level that was potentially hazardous to people with weakened immune systems like patients 'on chemotherapy for cancer, patients with organ or bone marrow transplants or patients with untreated HIV'.

It appears that this issue is not limited to Ipswich Hospital. On 4 May the *Sunshine Coast Daily* published an article revealing that Bundaberg's intensive care services will be relocated within the hospital for 10 days for upgrades and maintenance to address the growth of mould in the hospital. The Palaszczuk government is yet to come clean on claims that hazardous mould outbreaks have been plaguing hospitals across the state. How can we have confidence in our health system when patients and Queenslanders have to learn about these serious health hazards by headline? The government needs to stop sweeping these serious issues under the carpet.

On the Gold Coast we saw strong words in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* on 27 April, which reflects the dire concern that Gold Coast residents have for the safety of our emergency services staff. I table the article, which states the 'state government continues to back away from its responsibilities' and that 'the government cannot keep looking the other way and hope for the best'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, undated, titled 'Send paramedic thugs to jail' [\[713\]](#).

We have had up to a third of our Police Service stripped, which has led to triple 0 calls going unanswered. We have also seen the Labor government reject outright stiffer sentencing for those who assault our paramedics. We have had the effects of ambulance ramping on 17 April. What we are seeing is that the only thing Labor has achieved in their term so far is washing their hands of all responsibilities affecting Queenslanders and their future.

### Advancing Queensland Schools

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.56 pm): Several weeks ago I was privileged to visit the offices of the Building and Asset Services division of the Department of Housing and Public Works in my local suburb of Cannon Hill to speak on behalf of the minister about the tenders opening for our \$200 million Advancing Queensland Schools initiative. It was the first of a series of statewide business information sessions aimed at helping building and construction businesses learn about the opportunities available as a result of the initiative. Those sessions were then being rolled out to Kingaroy, Townsville, Maryborough, Chinchilla, Toowoomba, Mackay, Cairns and Rockhampton.

I was absolutely delighted to take on this task as this initiative is something about which I am passionate. I feel that way not only because it provides massive benefits to school communities across Queensland and, most importantly to me, to the wonderful Balmoral State High School in my electorate of Bulimba but also because it is a massive boost for jobs across this state. I mean local jobs: jobs for mums and dads, jobs for kids—real and positive outcomes for local economies across the state. If the

sign of trades of every variety one could possibly imagine—plumbers, electricians, carpenters; you name it, they were there ensuring that meeting room was bursting at the seams—is not enough to prove those opportunities were there, I do not know what is.

We estimate that the pipeline of work arising from this initiative will support over 500 jobs for local contractors, involving more than 90 school infrastructure projects, and improvement of school halls is a priority. The program will include special education facilities in 10 schools being upgraded; nine schools will have administration building upgrades and shade structures; and covered learning areas are planned at 25 schools. Of course, among that list is the \$3 million new multipurpose school hall at the mighty Balmoral State High School. I know how excited the principal, the teachers, the students and the whole school community are about the opportunities that that is going to present. The program is going out to tender this month. I want to congratulate the many public servants who are involved in the program who were all there at the information session on the day that I was there. They have got a mighty task ahead of them. They were clearly excited about the challenge of rolling that out and getting those facilities to our schoolchildren as fast as possible.

This initiative shows that the Palaszczuk Labor government is serious about education. Unfortunately, we know that the federal LNP government is not serious about education. We know that the members opposite who could have lobbied for education in Queensland on behalf of Queensland children are not serious about it at all, because not a word was said about the \$300 million less that is available for all Queensland schools over 10 years because the federal government cut the education index from 4.7 per cent.

Before I conclude I want to also say how proud I am to have been here for the apology today to expunge homosexuality convictions.

### Queen's Wharf Redevelopment

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (3.00 pm): This morning the member for Stafford made a ministerial statement in the House regarding Queens Wharf, most of which I agree with, relating to the need to maintain community support for what is the redevelopment of a major part of the Brisbane CBD. But the minister, and most of the government, continue to try and take credit for this project, which is stretching the bounds of credibility to quite extraordinary lengths.

This project began when I announced that we would proceed with the redevelopment of the government precinct in May 2012. The redevelopment of that precinct had been planned since 1974. A number of Labor government propositions had failed spectacularly, foremost of which was the infamous North Bank proposal. In May 2012 we announced that we would proceed with the redevelopment of the precinct. In August 2012 we called for expressions of interest for 1 William Street, which was the catalyst to allow the project to proceed. Their nonsensical rubbish and cheap political bleatings about 1 William Street are demonstrably ludicrous to anyone who understands what needed to be done to develop Queens Wharf. On the one hand, they want to milk 1 William Street for political points; on the other hand, they want to take credit for the jobs that are being created by Queens Wharf. I know that the people of Brisbane will see through that falseness and stupidity.

On 14 August 2013, almost 12 months later, we called for expressions of interest for the integrated resort development that later came to be known as Queens Wharf. For those 12 months I had a team of people in my department engaging with stakeholders in the centre of Brisbane and, indeed, with the entire Brisbane community. It was the single biggest community engagement project that had been undertaken in Brisbane in anyone's memory. We did that to ensure that there was community support and to ensure that all of the stakeholders affected by the Queens Wharf development were part of the process. That is why we have got to this point in the process without any major disruptions or any major community opposition.

In November 2014 I declared the priority development area to allow the planning to proceed. It was a PDA concept that we developed and the Deputy Premier criticised but a PDA concept that allows this project to proceed. In November 2014 we completed negotiations with two shortlisted projects. The project was then delayed for six months when this lot came to power, and then in July—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Crawford): Member for Callide, your time has expired.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, you have been in this House well and truly long enough to know that you cannot go for an extra 10 seconds.

**Mr Seeney** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Callide, take your seat.

### **Derrick, Mrs J; Public Transport; Cross River Rail**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.04 pm): I would like to start by paying tribute to one of my constituents, Mrs June Derrick. June was a great unionist who fought all her life for workers' rights. She was a union delegate and now, 30 years or so after she retired, she is still out there fighting for her community. She recently saw a need in our community. June decided that she needed a go card reading machine closer to her house so she mobilised her community. She sat at the local shops with a petition for weeks—in fact, months on end—and gathered thousands and thousands of signatures. One night when I was there doing my shopping June gathered me to her petition and to her cause. I am so pleased that she brought me into her fight, because we were able to deliver that go card machine. I would like to thank the Deputy Premier for her assistance in achieving that. I know that June is very happy with the outcome, and I know that many of the people who signed the petition have contacted my office and thanked us for the machine that is now there.

It speaks to the broader achievements of the Palaszczuk Labor government in relation to public and active transport. I have been a user of public transport for 30 years, and I have seen significant improvements—in fact, a revolution—in public transport here in Brisbane in that time. In my electorate I am very proud of our achievements over the last few years such as safer pedestrian access to schools and colleges like Loreto College and improved facilities for people with disabilities, with increased disability parking spaces at busways in Holland Park West. When I go down to the end of my street I see thousands and thousands of people cycling, and they are cycling along a space that within a few months will become Veloway 1. When I ask those cyclists why they cycle they say, 'Because it's fun, it's free, it's easy, it's safe and it's environmentally healthy.' The best thing they say to me—and the thing that I am most happy about on the day before International Nurses Day—is that it is healthy. When Veloway 1 is finished it will be free, easy, safe, fun, environmentally friendly and healthy, and a lot easier to get into town and a lot easier to get to work and study. The Fairer Fares project is another project that people in my electorate have welcomed, but there is much, much more to do.

Cross River Rail has been identified as the No. 1 infrastructure project by Infrastructure Australia. This is an important project. The people in my electorate are certainly very supportive of it. You can imagine the disappointment amongst my constituents when Tuesday night's federal budget had nothing in it at all for the Cross River Rail project. The constituents in my electorate understand that this is important not just for our electorate but for our entire state. I am going to take my inspiration from June Derrick. I am going to listen to my community and work with my community, and we are going to fight for this vital piece of infrastructure for the people of my electorate, for the entire state and for our future.

### **Menefy, Mr J**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.07 pm): I rise to acknowledge a real hero of the Mermaid Beach area—Mr Jayke Menefy, a member of the Mermaid Beach Surf Lifesaving Club. I am proud to have two great surf-lifesaving clubs in my area, Mermaid Beach and Nobbys Beach, and I hope that in the future Miami and North Burleigh will come under my watch as well. Jayke Menefy's family live in Mermaid Beach and he is one of the Ripper Nippers at the Mermaid Beach Surf Lifesaving Club. Jayke was recently on holidays on the north coast and he was surfing at the Sunshine Coast. On Easter Sunday he was returning from his surfing exploits when he noticed a group of people in distress in the water. There was quite a commotion out there, and Jayke's nippers training immediately kicked in. That is why we sponsor and support our nippers clubs. The Mermaid Beach club has just had its fundraiser and Nobbys Beach is having its tomorrow, and we support them at every opportunity. Jayke was on an unpatrolled beach at the time this commotion began. A 38-year-old man was in deep trouble when he became caught in a rip. Without hesitation Jayke grabbed his surfboard and paddled out to the largish 100-kilogram gentleman—Jayke is a 42-kilogram schoolboy—and hauled the man onto his board and waited until help arrived, assuring him and using all of the skills that he had gained through his time as a nipper at the Mermaid Beach Surf Lifesaving Club. I cannot recommend that activity highly enough, because there is great family interaction in the club and they are a wonderful example of what is great about being in Australia and being in a wonderful sport such as surf-lifesaving.

Jayke was one day off his 13th birthday when he undertook this selfless act of bravery, and undoubtedly the skills and confidence that the surf-lifesaving nippers program teaches young people were invaluable in this situation. I would certainly like to offer my congratulations, the congratulations of this House and all of the people of the Mermaid Beach community to Jayke and wish him well in his future surf-lifesaving career, because he has done a great job. He will be forever remembered throughout his life as a rolled gold fair dinkum lifesaver. He is a lifesaver, and that is what nippers and surf-lifesaving is all about. Wherever you can and at every opportunity, I ask all members to please support the surf-lifesaving movement.

### **Redlands, Crab Industry**

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (3.09 pm): I rise to shine a bit of light on the situation that Redlands professional crabbers find themselves in. There is no doubt that white spot disease has had a devastating impact on the prawn farmers of the Logan River in the Coomera electorate. I believe that all of us in this place feel for the families and employees who have had their world turned upside down. However, what is largely unknown is the impact on the professional crabbers of Redlands. These are small, generational, family-run businesses—businesses that rely on the Logan River for the majority of their catch.

These are hardworking people like Gary Mussig, Lionel Riesenweber, Sean Lothian and the grandfather of pro crabbing in the Redlands, Tony. Since the outbreak of white spot, these hardworking men have been shut out of their primary fishing grounds in Logan. Their lucrative Sydney market has been closed to them. Other national markets have been closed, too. The reputation of their product—the mighty Moreton Bay mud crab and delectable blue swimmers—has been trashed. What should have been a solid Christmas and Easter season has been a disaster. With the cooler weather arriving, the crabs have gone quiet until summer returns.

I spoke with Lionel this morning. He probably will not mind me saying that he sounded pretty beat up. He has been working to the point of exhaustion to try to stay in the black. This event has cost him up to \$100,000. Credit has to go to Lionel, though: he is more worried for Sean—a young man with a young family who is just starting out.

Gary is on Macleay Island, one of the beautiful southern Moreton Bay islands in my electorate. The locals of Macleay have his back, and it makes me proud to be part of this community, but these men and their families need our help. They need help from the fisheries minister. Let us put aside the partisan battles and give them a fair go. I implore Minister Byrne to revisit their plight. I invite him to come and meet with them, share a beer—or, if you are lucky, a rum from Tony—and listen to what they have to say. It is in the minister's capacity to help these Redlands families.

I have to ask the question: how is it fair that prawn farmers are receiving assistance and these pro crabbers are not? How is it fair that one sector of the primary fishing industry is helped when the other is left to fend for itself? I am happy to take up the argument with Canberra, too. It is right and proper that we help the prawn farmers, but let us not stop there. Let us help these good people—Gary, Lionel, Sean, Tony and their families—in their hour of need.

### **Tropical Cyclone Debbie**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.12 pm): Much has been said during this sitting week with regard to the outstanding response across Queensland to Tropical Cyclone Debbie. I concur with all fellow members who have spoken of the incredible and outstanding efforts of our state's volunteers, state government agencies and 35 councils that were affected pre and post Cyclone Debbie.

In the days before 28 March and Debbie's eventual crossing of the coast in the Whitsundays, our Townsville local disaster management group stood up as the very real threat of Cyclone Debbie posed a significant risk to the city of Townsville. We dodged a bullet. Of course, many communities suffered as a result of Cyclone Debbie and the subsequent immense flooding.

I acknowledge some of the people I observed in the many briefings until the threat had passed: our Mayor, Jenny Hill, and in particular Mr Wayne Preedy, who had literally just started—day one—in his new role with Townsville council as team manager for emergency management. He comes with years of experience as emergency management coordinator at Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Our LDMG had all of the relevant agencies working together ensuring our city was prepared, with all plans in place.

I was also most impressed with our ADF. We are blessed to have the nation's largest army base in Townsville, led by an outstanding leader, Brigadier Chris Field, who leads the 3rd Brigade at Lavarack Barracks. Who better to lead the state's recovery operations than Brigadier Field? I also acknowledge our Premier for her leadership in working with the Australian government to have the brigadier released to lead Queensland's recovery.

Brigadier Field led Joint Task Force 661, JTF 661, which was part of a whole-of-government response to assist North Queensland's natural disaster response to Cyclone Debbie to enable recovery within the capacity of local and state governments. JTF 661 was a purpose-built Navy, Army and Air Force team, with headquarters at Lavarack Barracks. Team members were drawn from 45 units across our ADF and totalled 1,504 people. Fixed wing, rotary wing and naval—through HMAS *Choules* and *Melville*—assets were deployed extensively in and around North Queensland to inform government on situational awareness and to confirm safety of isolated people in communities.

I will give a quick snapshot of their operations. They delivered 165,000 litres of water to affected communities, cleared roots for civilian access, cleared significant storm surge and cyclone debris, conducted partnered works with SES and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, cleared public places, assisted with the evacuated 535 personnel from the Whitsunday area, transported medical supplies and flood barriers, and assisted with the removal of flood levees.

Queensland owes every ADF man and woman involved, including retired veterans from Team Rubicon, a great debt of thanks. I think fellow members will join me in commending each and every one of them.

### ***Game of Mates***

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (3.15 pm): I would like to talk about the new book *Game of Mates: How favours bleed the nation* by economists Cameron Murray and Paul Frijters. It is the story of how Australia became one of the most unequal societies in the Western world while merely a generation ago it was one of the most equal. It is the story of how a group of mates have come to dominate our corporate and political sectors and have managed to rob us, the Australian majority, of half our wealth.

To understand how the game of mates is played and to disrupt it, we must see Australia through the eyes of our villain, whom we call James. This book is about how the Jameses of this country play their game of mates. It is about how much their game costs us and it is about what we can do to stop them.

The villain, James, swings no sword. He instead swings his power in the halls of parliament, in the media and in the complex bureaucracies of government and large corporate enterprises. James now robs you of a hefty part of your superannuation. He dodges tax so you pay more. You pay higher interest rates on your mortgage, higher transport costs and higher medical costs, because James and his mates take a cut.

Economist and social scientist Mancur Olson described the process of social decay resulting from what we call the game of mates as 'institutional sclerosis'. He observed that over time all institutions succumb to the power of special interest groups that impose great economic cost on the community as they reallocate wealth towards themselves.

If any country can rise up and fight the Jameses, it is ours. The authors hope that this book can help in this fight by providing alternatives. Just one alternative is to establish a public competitor to supply the products James sells to reduce his collusive power; set up a state superannuation fund, like other countries do, to compete with the private ones; or set up a state bank. James thrives on the lack of competition, so let us give him some.

James will protest, as the authors personally discovered. He will play dirty. Journalists who wanted to report their research in the areas of property development and infrastructure projects had their jobs threatened. James will tell bald-faced lies. One favourite is that there is already intense competition between superannuation firms and banks. When pushed, James will enact reforms but twist them again in his favour to ensure any change is superficial, or he may introduce more bureaucratic rules, for land rezoning for example—something only he knows how to navigate, while others do not. The authors argue that James's gain impoverishes our media, as James's opinion buys airtime—

*(Time expired)*

### Paradise Point Bowls Men's Club

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.18 pm): I am incredibly proud to be the patron of the Paradise Point Bowls Men's Club. Last Saturday I had the great privilege of attending their annual President's Day. It was fantastic to see not only so many bowlers from across the men's club at Paradise Point but also visiting bowlers from as far afield as Redlands who had come down to celebrate and share in the day.

I am incredibly proud to be patron of this amazing club because whenever I go there—whether it is for President's Day, whether it is for special bowling competitions or whether it is on Anzac Day—I really feel like I am part of the family. I want to pay tribute to President Cliff Jones on what has been another fantastic year and his executive and his committee. His executive and committee are vice-presidents Graham Pastoors and Lance Kumnick, who also has the added role of being the games director—not an easy job in a very busy and popular club; secretary, Les Jackson; treasurer, Tom Denny; and committee members David Mantell, Graeme Coxshall and former president Jim Heron. I also acknowledge and pay tribute to Brett Eade, the chairman of the board, and Greg Nunn, the general manager of the bowls club, for the great work that they do alongside their colleagues and fellow board members in ensuring that both the men's club and the women's club are able to operate as they do and be all about fun and have all of the special events and the competitions that they do, because, as we know, that is so important.

Given that the vast membership of the Paradise Point Bowls Club are retired, it is fantastic to see the bowls club organise so many social events and competitions for them. The Paradise Point Bowls Club is well described as the 'friendliest club in paradise' and that is proven by the plans that it has this weekend to hold a fundraiser for those who have been terribly affected by Tropical Cyclone Debbie. I look forward to being able to go along this Saturday afternoon and show my support for the work that it is doing to ensure that we can support those who have been affected not only in the south-east around my good friend the member for Albert's electorate but also up north around the members for Burdekin and Whitsunday's electorates. To that end I pay tribute to Mick McGrath, a board member and a real club institution, for the work that he has done in ensuring that this Saturday's fundraiser has been put together so we can support Queenslanders who are in desperate need at this time.

### Welch, Ms E; Mackay Electorate, Tropical Cyclone Debbie

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.21 pm): I start by sending my best wishes to Eileen Welch, a resident of Mackay, for her recent 105th birthday. Eileen is a very spritely and active woman and she is one of Queensland's true treasures. Happy birthday, Eileen!

The eye of Tropical Cyclone Debbie crossed the coast just north of my electorate in the Whitsundays. Mackay was in the band of gale-force winds on Monday night and all through Tuesday. As members have all heard, the cyclone gave us an additional belting as it moved south and west to us as a severe tropical storm and dropped torrential rain, causing severe flash flooding on Wednesday afternoon and throughout Wednesday evening. The regions to the south and west of Mackay were smashed by this flash flooding. I want to place on record my sincere thanks to the Mackay Local Disaster Management Group under the leadership of chairperson, Mayor Greg Williamson. Under the leadership of this group, the Mackay region was ready to respond to the disaster as it unfolded. Although there was severe damage to property and agriculture throughout the region, there were no lives lost.

The Palaszczuk government readied the region for a swift response to make repairs after the cyclone. It brought in teams of builders and electrical workers before the cyclone so that they were ready to respond as soon as the weather was safe. In fact, there were over 400 electrical workers brought into the region from across the state and northern New South Wales. This cyclone brought out a lot of heroes and genuine good people. One of them was an Energex worker. Mick chose to stay in Mackay and assist with the cyclone response, even when his home in Gympie came under threat from the floodwaters that were dumped on the south-east corner by Debbie. There were nurses and doctors working at the Mackay Base Hospital who, without being asked, packed up clothes for a couple of days in case the hospital would be cut off by flooding after the cyclone, and indeed this was the case. The staff at the hospital readied and prepared meals and kept the laundry going, even if that was not their normal job.

Category D is much needed for our communities to get infrastructure and the environment repaired. The Premier has written to the Prime Minister seeking a \$250 million package with a fifty-fifty split. I call on the member for Dawson to stand up for Mackay and the surrounding region in Canberra to get this funding approved. The Premier and the ministers who have visited the region know we desperately need this money and we look forward to having it approved.

*(Time expired)*

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

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1163, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (3.25 pm): I rise today to make a contribution to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Firstly, as always, I want to thank my fellow committee members, the committee chair, the deputy chair and the secretariat staff who enabled us to work so well on this very important bill. I also want to thank all the stakeholders who contributed to this bill—Bravehearts, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service Queensland, the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, the Office of the Public Guardian, Protect All Children Today, the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland, the Office of the Information Commissioner and the Queensland Police Service. This was always going to be an emotionally charged bill. As a father of three, you want to do everything you can to protect children and make sure that they are kept as safe as possible.

In Queensland an individual charged with and convicted of sexual or other serious crimes against children may be sentenced in a number of different ways. This ranges from imprisonment, suspended prison sentences, community orders or fines. Most of these individuals will eventually return to the community at some point. Currently in Queensland we rely on two acts that address the risk of reportable offenders living in our community—the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 and the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004. The first act governs the day-to-day conduct of reportable offenders. It is designed to reduce the risk of harm to a child through prevention by prohibiting the individual in conducting actions that would be deemed as high risk. The second act regulates the obligations of the offender to report their whereabouts to reduce the likelihood of offending.

During the previous LNP government we introduced mandatory life imprisonment with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years for repeat sex offenders. In addition, we inserted a new offence of grooming into the Criminal Code and listed those individuals as dangerous offenders. Furthermore, the LNP implemented mandatory sentencing of one-year imprisonment for sex offenders who tamper with or remove their GPS monitoring bracelets. The implementation of maximum penalties for procuring a child with mental impairment for a sexual nature increased from 14 to 20 years. We also placed more stringent reporting conditions for offenders in the Child Protection Act. These amendments further highlight the LNP's strong record for standing up and protecting children in our state against those who would mean to do them harm.

The Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 focuses on introducing powers to allow police to access information on electronic devices such as mobile phones where there is reasonable suspicion that a reported offender has committed an offence. Mobile technology has become instrumental in our society and these devices have a high degree of security. Therefore, we need to give the police the powers to access this information on the phone to prevent the spread of illegal material and child exploitation. In a news article on the SBS website dated 2 January 2015, it was reported that mobile phone accounts outnumbered the Australian population. It is estimated that 31.01 million mobile phone accounts were active in Australia, equal to, on average, 1.31 accounts per resident.

Since 2011, the overall global population of people using the internet has increased by 60 per cent—from two billion internet users to more than 3.4 billion internet users in 2016. An article in *TechSpot* dated 20 March 2013 states that nearly 640 terabytes of IP data is transferred globally every 60 seconds. With the dramatic increase in the number of internet users, certainly, that number will only climb.

**Mr Rickuss:** How many pages is that?

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Just think of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* a few thousand times every split second. More than ever, our law enforcement agencies need the general public to be vigilant to help them deal with these individuals who exploit our children. Our Police Service needs the tools with which to combat people's ever-increasing reliance on mobile technology and the dangers that brings. A failure to meet that challenge will place our law enforcement agencies at a major disadvantage. As I have stated, technology is continuing to change and we must prepare our law enforcement agencies for the technology of tomorrow.

Another key aspect of this bill is the merger of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 and the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2014 into a single act. The Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will streamline and simplify offender prohibition orders, as recommended by the CCC. Changing the definition of 'concerning conduct' will give the police the ability to better identify the risk that offenders may pose to children in our community. That was another recommendation by the CCC.

The civil court process will also be amended to prohibit offenders who represent themselves from cross-examining a child witness or a person who was a child when the alleged offence occurred. That will take away an enormous amount of stress and anxiety for the victim, therefore, increasing the rights of the victim, not the perpetrator. We can only imagine the pain and heartache that is caused when an individual cross-examines someone who was taken advantage of.

As I have stated previously, the key aspect of this legislation is to give the police the powers to access information on electronic devices where there is a reasonable suspicion that a reportable offender has committed an offence. It will also allow the police to inspect an electronic device in the possession of a reported offender who is deemed a great risk to our community. The police need this tool to keep pace with the ever-changing technological advances in our modern society. I would like to pass on my thanks to the officers of the Queensland Police Service for their hard work in protecting our children throughout the state and working with other law enforcement agencies around the world to protect all children.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.33 pm): I would like to make a contribution to the debate on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I start, I would like to thank the other committee members for welcoming me to the committee. I became a member of the committee about halfway through its examination of this bill. When the police gave the committee a briefing on this bill, I then realised how difficult it is for police to be able to operate in this technological world. That briefing really opened my eyes to what really goes on around the world—not just in Australia, or in Queensland. Nowadays, people anywhere can be groomed. It is quite frightening.

The explanatory notes state—

This cohort of offenders represent the greatest risk of sexually re-offending against children. QCS has provided data showing that approximately 40% of reportable offenders released from detention, re-offended within the first three months of their release. Furthermore, information held on the National Child Offender System indicates that over 30% of reportable offenders in 2015/16 were convicted of internet based offences against children. Internet based offences include, using the internet to procure a child under 16 years, using a carriage service for sexual activity with a person under 16, possessing, controlling, producing, supplying or obtaining child pornography material for use through a carriage service, etc. A number of these offenders were also convicted of contact offences simultaneous to the internet offences.

I believe that governments everywhere are trying to catch up with technological advances. We have to work a little bit faster to make sure that the police can use these technological advances to catch these predators who use the internet.

I am proud to be a part of an LNP team that recognised the need for strong action to tighten the laws for repeat child offenders. When the LNP was in power, it did that. The amendments contained in this bill are a legacy of the late Dr Ken Levy and the work that he did while he was the chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission. This bill is his legacy and I am sure his family is very proud of him today. This bill implements the recommendations of the CCC report. The LNP started that process in 2013. The report was finalised in late 2014, but since then it has sat dormant.

The committee recommended that the bill be passed. It also made eight recommendations to improve the operations of the bill. Under this bill, the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 and the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 are merged to create one act to deal with reportable sex offenders. The bill also amends the civil court process to make the process much easier for child witnesses. The bill also amends the definition of 'concerning conduct'.

When the LNP was in government it introduced measures such as mandatory life imprisonment for repeated child sex offenders with a minimum parole period of 20 years. It was the two-strikes policy. When it was in government the LNP also introduced one-year mandatory sentences for people who tampered with GPS monitoring bracelets. When we look at how many people reoffend within a three-month period, we realise that it is important that people wear these bracelets and they do not interfere with them. If people wear these bracelets we can track them anywhere, even if they leave the state and go to New South Wales. We should be able to track such people no matter where they go.

I remember in my early days as a member there was one of these guys in Hervey Bay. What happened was quite astonishing. One of my constituents came up to me and asked, 'Do we have a bloody paedophile in our area?' I asked, 'Why is that?' He said, 'My wife does the washing and my little girl's knickers keep disappearing from the line.' He did not last long around the place. He ended up back in jail.

These offenders do reoffend. They cost a lot when they are out in the community. They had a 24-hour watch on this particular offender. The women who were watching him actually sat outside all night. He managed to get out over the back fence and do whatever he wanted to do. With these bracelets we could track them anywhere. I have had some interesting experiences when it comes to these matters.

We also increased the penalty for child exploitation and put a new offence of grooming in the Criminal Code. Children can be groomed over the internet. Parents do not know who their children are talking to. Parents need to be educated about this. Some children are a lot better at technology than their parents and know how to keep things away from their parents. Parents have to emphasise to their children that they have to know what they are doing on the internet. We need to take care of our children because what happens out there is amazing.

There was also an increase in the penalty for procuring a child or a person with an intellectual impairment for prostitution. It went from 14 years to 20 years. We have made sure that there are more reporting conditions for offenders. We introduced amendments that would allow the courts to list a predator convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender. GPS tracking has been proven to reduce the criminal activities of those offenders who have them. One of the most important things is that they do know they are being tracked. We need to make sure that they do not interfere with the tracking devices. We could probably go a lot further. There is a security business in my electorate that is working hard to develop a mobile phone focused on personal security to protect victims of crime. A person can press two buttons and get all the support they need. If you are in danger, when you press one of these buttons it identifies where you are. It would be good to have devices such as this out there. It would be interesting to introduce the man responsible for this technology to the minister. He showed me that you can press the button in a 000 situation and it identifies where you are and you can be located. In the future that technology would be great for children and to ensure that offenders do not reoffend.

I thank all the witnesses who came along to the hearing, especially the police. They have a huge job trying to track these people down. What they do in our community is amazing. I would like to thank the police for what they do. I do not think it would be nice to see these children who have been dealt with by these paedophiles. Lastly, I would like to thank the committee for making me welcome. Thank you.

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.43 pm): I rise in support of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I wish to thank the minister, my fellow members of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee, the secretariat and Hansard for their diligence in the examination of this bill. I also want to thank the police and other witnesses who came forward. The information they provided was invaluable.

This amendment resulted from the statutory review of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 and recommendations by the Crime and Corruption Commission, supported by the Palaszczuk Labor government, which amalgamated the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 and the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008. The combining of these acts will remove discord identified by the Crime and Corruption Commission review.

This bill confirms the Palaszczuk government's commitment to protecting our most vulnerable members of society—our children—by providing police, who I might add have been screaming out for it, with real-time powers to prevent sexual offending against children. Early intervention, activity disruption and prevention are key themes of this amendment bill: being able to intervene and act quickly on suspicion that an offence has been committed. Police will also have authority to inspect electronic devices such as mobile phones and computers and to require access information such as passwords

to those devices. This new power was recommended by the Crime and Corruption Commission following its review, which recognised that police until now have had limited powers to manage the in-home and online behaviours of reportable offenders. This will be a very controlled environment. Only those police who are authorised by the Police Commissioner may exercise the inspection power, and those inspections will be limited to four times in each 12-month period of a device in the possession of a convicted reportable offender. Further inspections would require approval by a magistrate. An offender who fails to provide access information, such as a password et cetera, will commit an offence and will be liable to a penalty of up to 300 penalty units or five years imprisonment. There is no provision for self-incrimination for failing to comply with a requirement to provide access information. Every inspection will be recorded in an enforcement acts register, including the number of inspections undertaken and the result of those inspections. A report will be tabled in this parliament each year.

The bill also provides police with additional opportunities to take fingerprints and photographs in the field and to expedite the preventative provisions. The bill also strengthens the obligations placed on reportable offenders in relation to travel outside of Queensland and further requirements, including online contact, telephone contact, written contact or physical contact. The time frames for reporting travel have been reduced from seven days to 48 hours. The bill will also require reportable offenders to report the sale of a motor vehicle or house and any personal particulars. This will ensure that the information held on the National Child Offender System is accurate.

This bill protects child witnesses by prohibiting a self-represented respondent or a reportable offender from personally cross-examining a child witness. This amendment recognises the additional trauma that may be caused when a child witness is cross-examined by a person who may be their perpetrator. The landmark, tough stance taken by the Palaszczuk government is necessary to protect our children. Sexual abuse and trauma costs the Australian community \$6.8 billion annually—the cost is much higher to the victims. This bill establishes a strong and robust framework that will help keep Queensland children safe into the future, being mindful of changing technology.

Finally, those opposite were working on this in 2013. At that time, I believe they referred to having a four-pillar economy. I think it turned out to be four pillows, maybe to sleep on, because this bill should have been in place while those opposite were in government. However, it is best that it was left for the Palaszczuk government to produce this bill. I am hopeful that the Turnbull government's cuts will not cause us to cut back on some of the things that we want to achieve. I recommend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.50 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill confirms once again that it is the LNP that is protecting children in this state, because the bill was introduced as a result of recommendations made by a review established by the LNP during our time in government. Unlike those opposite, on this side of the House we can be proud of our record on child safety. We increased penalties for child exploitation materials. We inserted grooming into the Criminal Code. We cracked down on sex offenders who tamper with or remove their GPS tracking bracelets through the introduction of mandatory sentences. We increased maximum penalties for procuring a child for prostitution. We allowed courts to list predators as dangerous offenders. We enforced more stringent reporting conditions for offenders under changes to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act.

Let us not forget that it was the LNP that established the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry after 20 years of child safety failures under successive Labor governments and it was the LNP that established the Crime and Corruption Commission review in 2013, which was finalised in 2014. Today's bill is being debated in this House because child safety was a priority for the former LNP government.

The CCC review found some very concerning trends had been allowed to occur in the half a decade the act had been in force. In the five years that the act has been in place, 48 offender prohibition orders were made in response to concerning conduct. The review found that offenders who received OPOs engaged in a high volume of instances of concerning conduct and more serious concerning conduct than any other reportable offenders. Collectively, those 21 offenders were convicted of over 100 sexual or other serious crimes against Queensland children. Seven of those offenders breached their OPOs and usually faced time in prison. Shockingly, even with an OPO in effect, one offender was known to have been able to commit a new offence against a child.

Amongst its findings, the CCC noted a concerning lack of consistency in the administration of OPOs. In the five years up to 2013, obtaining an OPO could have taken anywhere from nine days to just under three years. That largely varied as a result of the police application process as well as court processes. That was an unacceptable delay that put children at risk.

During the review process, some suggestions were raised that police may have viewed concerning behaviour near places where children congregate as possible precursor conduct to more serious offences. As a result, several applications for OPOs were based solely on concerning conduct. The rest of the applications were based on both legal and illegal conduct. This indicated that, even when an offender had committed a criminal offence, police would also apply for an OPO alongside the criminal charges. That was done with a view to prohibiting any further legal conduct that might be a precursor to a future offence. Overall, the CCC found that police were generally using the act to prohibit conduct that could be a precursor to the commission of a new offence. They also found OPOs had been made for offenders with a high risk of reoffending. In numerical terms, the data obtained for this review showed that OPOs were not often used as a response tool, with only 21 offenders having received an OPO. That might simply indicate that the police were opting to use a tool other than an OPO to respond to concerning conduct.

In line with the 17 recommendations of our review, the bill makes changes to the act to streamline processes and keep kids safe. These reforms streamline procedures around offender prohibition orders, amend the definition of 'concerning conduct' to allow better identification by police and improve information sharing. They also broaden the scope for offenders to be considered as reportable offenders and reduce the time reportable offenders can travel in and out of Queensland without reporting back to our government agencies. They introduce new police powers related to electronic devices, through which we know grooming commonly occurs.

While the LNP's record on child safety is clear, this bill raises significant concerns surrounding Labor's commitment to child safety. Why did it take those opposite two years to implement these important reforms? Why did the CCC's recommendations sit on the minister's desk for 24 months, collecting dust when Labor knew there was a problem? Yet again, we see Labor failing to implement road maps that have been laid out for it by the LNP and that would keep Queenslanders safe. Our children deserve better than a do-nothing Labor government that, even with the solutions laid out in front of it by the LNP, sits on its hands while our children remain at risk.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (3.55 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. The purpose of the bill is to act on recommendations made by the Crime and Corruption Commission in its review of the operation of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008. As a result of the CCC review, 17 recommendations were made and, as I have mentioned, this bill primarily implements those recommendations.

It is important to understand the gravity of the CCC's review findings, which considered the five years that the act has been in force. These statistics are confronting to say the least. Offenders who received offender prohibition orders or OPOs engaged in a higher volume of instances of concerning conduct and more serious concerning conduct than other reportable offenders. Collectively, 21 offenders were convicted of over 100 sexual or other serious crimes against children in Queensland. Of those 21 offenders, seven breached their OPOs and were charged with failing to comply with at least one condition of their order. The penalty imposed was usually a term of imprisonment. One offender was known to have committed a new offence against a child while an OPO was in effect.

Our children are Queensland's future and their safety and protection must be paramount. As a former minister for child safety and minister for youth, for me among the most tragic experiences was meeting young people who had been subjected to sexual offences. The trauma that they faced when young was carried through to adulthood. I have never understood why people want to hurt children—ever. Anything that means that offenders are held to account should be supported.

It is very disappointing that, in such an important policy area that seeks to protect our children, the committee was critical of the detail that was provided in the initial explanatory notes. However, I note that the minister has tabled new explanatory notes that are much broader in their scope.

The bill builds on the LNP's strong record of standing up for Queensland children and strengthening laws against child sex offenders. I am very proud to say that I was a member of the former LNP government that saw real protections added for the safety of our children. We introduced the two-strikes policy, which saw mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years. We increased the penalties for child exploitation material offences and other child sex offences, and we ensured that a new offence of grooming was added to the Criminal Code. We introduced a mandatory sentence of one year imprisonment for a sex offender who tampers with or removes their GPS monitoring bracelet. We introduced amendments to ensure the

maximum penalty for procuring a child or a person with a mental impairment for prostitution has increased from 14 years to 20 years. We introduced amendments to allow the court to list a predator convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender, amongst other things.

If there is one thing we know about crime and, importantly, crime prevention it is that information and communication are key. When it comes to information gathering this bill will allow for new powers for police so that they can gain access information for electronic devices, such as passwords, where there is a reasonable suspicion that a reportable offender has committed an offence under the offender reporting legislation. Furthermore, police will now have powers to take fingerprints so that a reportable offender is enrolled in an automated reporting system as well as be able to take photographs at a location other than a police station. Not only does this modernise policing, it is good common sense to have these powers.

As for information sharing, I note that the bill will enable government and non-government agencies to give and receive information while maintaining protections such as the name of the respondent or victim. The bill changes the reporting requirements when a reportable offender travels. Time frames for reporting travel into and out of Queensland by a reportable offender will now be reduced to 48 hours where it was previously seven days.

In addition to changing these reporting requirements, this bill clarifies that reportable contact with a child extends outside Queensland, including contact with a child from another jurisdiction online. That is a very important feature in this bill. We hope that these amendments lessen opportunities for reportable offenders to either meet children interstate or take children interstate for the sinister purposes of committing a sexual or other serious offence against those children.

I would like to thank the committee for their work on reviewing this bill, during which process it made eight recommendations to improve the operation of the bill, which we are supporting today. I particularly thank my colleagues the members for Broadwater, Albert and Hervey Bay for their commitment to supporting the safety and protection of children in Queensland. I thank the other committee members. I also thank those who made submissions during the committee's deliberations.

This bill will apply a more stringent system for reportable offenders in Queensland and it could not come soon enough for me as a mother and as a grandmother. I know the minister, as a new parent, would want to see the strongest reporting regime to make sure that these offenders need to comply in a scenario that makes our community safer for our children.

Again, I acknowledge that the bill was born from a statutory review undertaken of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 by the Crime and Corruption Commission under the former LNP government. We will continue our commitment to making stronger laws in Queensland to protect the community and, in particular, protect our children.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (4.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I would like to acknowledge the good work of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee on this bill and the related report, report No. 28 of the 55th Parliament. The committee was briefed by officials from the Queensland Police Service. We took submissions from interested stakeholders. At the conclusion of our deliberations we made a number of recommendations in our report.

There is no more important recommendation than recommendation No. 1, which states that this bill should be passed. I agree with the member for Broadwater that when we consider giving police extra powers we as a parliament should scrutinise them very carefully. It was good to work with the committee and you, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, on this bill. The committee learned a lot of things.

We talked to the police. We must take our hats off to the police who work day to day in the area of child exploitation. The things they must see are mind-boggling and horrific. We were fully briefed. Congratulations once again to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, and the secretariat. It opened my eyes to a lot of things that I did not realise went on behind the scenes and the great work that the Queensland Police are doing to stamp this out.

This bill came about as a result of a CCC inquiry. It is a good bill because the police should have these powers. In my opinion, if a person has been convicted of a crime against a child then they should lose rights. The police should have the powers to go in and check the cloud and the devices that these criminals have access to. It was great to speak to police officers and have them tell us what these powers would mean. These powers are not going to be used against ordinary citizens, which is something some people were concerned about. The powers are going to be used against people who have been convicted of offences against young children.

As a father I stand here and think that this bill should have come in a lot earlier. I am glad the Palaszczuk government has taken on board the recommendations of the CCC in its report. I am glad we have brought in these changes to the legislation to give the police more powers to make not only our streets safer but also our children safer. When we think about the damage that is done to young people by these offenders and the ongoing effect it has on their lives and on society, it is little things like this that we can do that will change lives and enable the police to keep a better eye on these offenders.

The police who look after this particular area of crime do a magnificent job. On behalf of my electorate, I thank them for the great job they do. I do not think they get paid enough. They are keeping our society safe, our children safe and our grandchildren safe. On behalf of my electorate, I say thank you for the great job they are doing in making sure that children have a child's life and grow up to be the good young adults we want to see in our state.

I thank the police minister and his department for pushing ahead with this. Being politicians is about making sure we are looking after the young ones in our society who cannot look after themselves, we have to keep abreast of the way technology is going and the way things are changing.

It was unnerving for the committee to find out that police cannot access some devices. That is not correct in this day and age. If a person offends, is convicted and sent away by their peers they should lose a lot of rights in society. It is especially the case when the crime is offending against children.

I would like to see more done in that field to help the police as we progress through this parliament and even into the next parliament. I think there should be more powers given to police in terms of crimes like this. They need to have the necessary powers, equipment and money to make sure that we keep these people locked up behind bars or monitored. We know that we cannot keep them locked up forever. When they are released we have to make sure they are monitored very closely.

In talking to people who have been affected by these types of offences, I know that it really impacts their life. In my electorate I have had a couple of constituents tell me what happened to them as young people. It is pretty distressing. One lady is in her 50s now and what happened is still having a major impact on her life and affects her life with her grandchildren.

It was good to work on the committee. We were all in agreement and all worked very well. I thank the members of the opposition on the committee who stood with us and worked hard to make sure we reached the right outcome for young people and the police to make sure they keep these criminals in check. I commend the bill to the House and thank the police minister for the great job he and his department have done.

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (4.08 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. We know that the community do not like people who do not pay their bills. We know that the community do not take kindly to people who are rogue operators, be it in the tow truck industry using intimidation and bullying tactics or in other industries. We certainly know that the community do not support men who do not pay their child support or people who are drink drivers. The one area which repulses the community—the most heinous of crimes—is sex offences against children.

The LNP has a very proud record of being tough on crime and makes no apologies for strengthening laws against child sex offenders. I will always support legislation that protects children and the vulnerable in our society. I will briefly reiterate what my colleagues have said in regard to the LNP's record. We introduced mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years under the two-strikes policy. We increased penalties for child exploitation material offences and other child sex offences and inserted a new offence of 'grooming' into the Criminal Code, which I think is so important now in this day and age with the internet and the access that that brings.

We introduced a mandatory sentence of one year imprisonment for a sex offender who tampers with or removes their GPS monetary bracelet. We introduced amendments to ensure that the maximum penalty for procuring a child or a person with a mental impairment for prostitution is increased from 14 to 20 years. We introduced amendments to allow the court to list a predator convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender. We enforced more stringent reporting conditions for offenders under changes to the Child Protection (Offending Reporting) Act 2004.

The government's bill implements a CCC report that was started by the LNP and finished under the LNP but which has sat dormant since late 2014. As we have said, we will not be opposing this bill. These reforms should also be attributed to the late Dr Ken Levy for his review and the work that he did while he was the chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission. I think this is his legacy.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.11 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. They say imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and how flattered we are on this side of the chamber. We consistently see bills introduced in this chamber which so closely reflect the bills the LNP once introduced or bills which come from recommendations from reviews set in motion by the LNP. That being said, I wish to formally start by saying that the LNP does not oppose this bill as in many ways the changes in this bill come primarily from the recommendations of a review that was set up by the LNP back in 2013 and finalised in late 2014.

The key changes in the bill, which have been referred to by other speakers, will see the merging of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 with the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 to create an act dealing with reportable offenders, also known as sex offenders. It will streamline, simplify and strengthen offender prohibition order processes, as recommended by the CCC review.

Civil court processes will be amended to prohibit a self-represented offender from cross-examining a witness who is a child or was a child when the alleged offence occurred. It will amend the definition of 'concerning conduct' to ensure police can more easily align conduct with the risk the offender poses.

The bill will introduce an extended information-sharing framework designed to allow government and non-government agencies to give and receive information relative to a reportable offender. Safeguards are in place to ensure the protection of identifying information by increasing the penalty where the information is used to harass or intimidate respondents, as recommended again by the CCC review. This also includes safeguards to ensure the protection of identifying information.

The bill will broaden the scope for offenders to be considered as reportable offenders and thereby reduce the time in which a reportable offender can travel interstate. Finally, it will introduce new police powers to require access to electronic devices where there is reasonable suspicion that a reportable offender has committed an offence under the offender reporting legislation.

These changes all came about from the CCC review which found that, over the five years the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 was in force, 48 offender prohibition orders, or OPOs, were made in response to concerning conduct. The 21 offenders who received those OPOs were convicted of more than 100 sexual or other serious crimes against children in Queensland. Of those, seven breached their OPO and were charged with failing to comply with at least one condition of their order. Incredibly, the time taken to obtain an OPO varied from nine days to, unbelievably, three years. In addition, it was found that police were using the act as a precursor rather than as a response tool, as it suggested that police were opting to use other tools to respond to concerning conduct.

Whilst I welcome wholeheartedly this bill being debated in the House this afternoon, I am a little concerned at the time it has taken the Labor government to do anything about the issues it is now trying to address. Let me state the chronology. The review was completed in late 2014 and has sat dormant for around 2½ years. That is concerning in itself—but, as they say, better late than never.

The LNP has a great track record of being tough on crime and very serious about child safety. The member for Mudgeeraba did a great job in covering that in her contribution to this debate. We are known to stand up for children and for strengthening the laws against child sexual offenders. We introduced the two-strikes policy, which saw mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders with a minimum non-parole of 20 years.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I will not take the interjection from the member over there. I think he has other issues that he will need to concentrate on with his career.

We increased penalties for child exploitation material and other child sex offences, as well as inserting a new offence of 'grooming' into the Criminal Code. We introduced a mandatory sentence of one year imprisonment for a sex offender who tampers with or removes their GPS monetary bracelet. Furthermore, we introduced amendments to ensure the maximum penalty for procuring a child or a

person with a mental impairment for prostitution was increased from 14 years to 20 years. Furthermore, we introduced amendments to allow the court to list a predator convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender. We also enforced more stringent reporting conditions for offenders under changes to the Child Protection (Offending Reporting) Act 2004.

In my time in this place I do not think I have seen a more graphic example of the severity of this crime as a scourge in society in general than I did when I was a member of the PCCC. I have to be very careful and temper my comments in this debate because I was a former member of the PCCC and, as every member here knows, what goes on in the PCCC stays in the PCCC. However, there was an opportunity for us to visit CCC headquarters at Fortitude Valley—and this I can share with the chamber. As part of our familiarisation as new PCCC members, we were given literally a bit of an open house tour. We met representatives in relation to fraud, boiler rooms et cetera. We were then given what I consider to be the most sobering example of just how prevalent paedophilia and sexual offenders are in society.

What happened was this: on the big screen a Google image of Brisbane popped up. The officer, who was very professional, said to the assembled PCCC members as part of our fact-finding and look-see tour, 'We will make sure that this slide is actually slowed down.' We did not really know why. He then rolled the tape, as they say, and the first little pinprick appeared on that Google image map of greater Brisbane. Then the next pinprick appeared et cetera. Before we knew it, pretty much it looked like Brisbane had indeed a contagion of measles. It absolutely sickened me. In my five years as a member of parliament, I do not think I have had a more gut-churning incident as I did seeing that. All it was was a visual representation—a geographical information, a spatial representation—of the prevalence of this scourge in society. To all members in this chamber and to the committee members: I applaud your efforts in bringing this bipartisan bill to the chamber this afternoon. It is moments like this where occasionally we get to contribute to a debate which I know—having sons of my own, kids in the street and from going to schools—will result in children being protected at all costs from this scourge in society. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to support this bill.

Before I finish my contribution, it would be really remiss of me not to acknowledge and thank Task Force Argos and all the dedicated police officials and officers who undertake this harrowing but vital work. Is it any wonder that they have to be rotated through—and I stand to be corrected—about every six months due to the work they have to do? My level of respect for them knows no bounds. I do not know how they do it, but thank goodness someone is doing the job they are doing. Our children are undoubtedly our most precious and vulnerable members of society. We need to give our police and all the relevant authorities updated powers and tools to protect them. I am very proud to support this bill.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.20 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. One of the most valuable assets in our community are our children. As is so often said, children are the leaders of the future. Whether that entails them becoming scientists, teachers, doctors, premiers or prime ministers, it is our duty to care for and nurture their development. It is the responsibility of all of us here today to ensure that they are given the best opportunities to succeed in any life that they choose to lead. It also entails us treating their safety as paramount.

I take this opportunity to commend the Palaszczuk government and the Minister for Police on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In Queensland, we separate offender reporting legislation into two distinct yet intrinsically linked acts—the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 and the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008. The CP(OR)A places an obligation on offenders who commit sexual or other particularly serious offences against children to report their personal details and whereabouts for a period of time after their release from government detention to the appropriate officials. The CP(OPO)A, on the other hand, provides for the protection of the lives and sexual safety of children by regulating the day-to-day conduct of relevant sexual offenders through the issue of offender prohibition orders, or OPOs.

The list of relevant sexual offenders are reportable offenders, previous reportable offenders and offenders who would have been reportable offenders had their sentences not been completed prior to the introduction of the offender reporting legislation. These are two very important bills, and provide guidance and assurance that we as a government are placing the highest consideration on our children's safety. While these bills have been of great use, we now seek to amalgamate them, merging the CP(OPO)A with the CP(OR)A, integrating the processes and prohibitions associated with OPOs with the monitoring process used by police to manage reportable offenders under the CP(OR)A.

This is an important step for our state to take. We must guarantee that reported offenders are held to certain levels of community expectation, and that their readmission to the community will not come at the expense of our children or their family's safety. Streamlining the administration of the offender reporting legislation to enhance current protective mechanisms for children in our community will provide the assurance parents and families desire.

I would like to highlight first the expanded police powers that will be provided for under this bill. One of these is that police will now be able to demand that a reportable offender provide access to information, such as passwords and other forms of encryption, to any electronic device or to any information that can be accessed through an electronic device where there is a reasonable suspicion that a reportable offender has committed an offence under the offender reporting legislation.

A reportable offender who fails to provide access will commit an offence and be liable to a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment or 300 penalty units. This will be beneficial to police investigations and will provide a much needed deterrent for repeat offending. In the aspiration of keeping our children and their families safe, we cannot allow these individuals to maintain secret files and databases that may incriminate them in unspeakable acts.

It is imperative when there is reasonable suspicion from police that one of these individuals has committed an offence that they be granted immediate and thorough access to any and all of these types of files. This ties directly into our duty of ensuring that our children are kept safe from such machinations, and I heartily support any proposal that will enhance their security.

Police cannot just walk into a reportable offender's home and force them to provide access, which would be a violation of their privacy. For an officer to access this information, they are required to make an application for a post approval order to a magistrate. If this post approval order is not provided, the reportable offender is not required to provide access.

It is not only police powers that were increased through this process. Previously, reportable offenders were able to spend up to seven days outside of Queensland undetected. However, the amendment has seen this time be restricted to 48 hours outside of the state. The objective of this recommendation is simple: to restrict the capacity for reportable offenders to travel outside of Queensland undetected for short periods of time. This not only means that it will be easier for these people to be located in the event that they are wanted by police; it also provides assurance to our neighbours that no persons from Queensland who could pose a risk to their children will be able to stay for extended periods of time undocumented in their state.

Finally, I would like to mention that there have been changes to reportable offences and court processes. This bill allows a court to make an offender reporting order where it is satisfied that an offence, for which an offender has been found guilty, contains elements of a reportable offence. In addition, where a court does not make an offender reporting order, a police officer will be able to make an application to a court for an offender reporting order to be made. This will enable the court, if a person's indicted offence does not or is not able to reflect the reportable offence committed or where the offender has pleaded guilty to a lesser offence, to level an appropriate offender reporting order. This will ensure that people who are potentially a risk to our children are not given free rein in the community, facilitating police to keep a more watchful eye on their activities.

The member for Mount Ommaney and I recently had the privilege of attending an international CPA conference on national security in London. We had briefings from numerous high-level organisations and we heard some very disturbing things about child exploitation worldwide. We were both very proud to hear the Queensland Police Service's Operation Argos spoken of as a world leader when it comes to tackling child exploitation. The Task Force Argos team was awarded the International Law Enforcement Cybercrime Award 2011, which is a gold award, by the Society for the Policing of Cyberspace, a Canadian based organisation committed to enhancing partnerships in order to prevent and combat crimes in cyberspace. This is yet another example of Queensland leading the way. I really take my hat off to Operation Argos and to all the police in the Ipswich area, led so ably by Ipswich's first female district superintendent of police, Charysse Pond.

As I have stated, the safety of our children is of paramount concern. It is the duty of not just us but also the courts, the police, and the community to provide basic assurances and safeguards to parents, guardians and carers that the children in their care will be protected. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to contribute to this debate on the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. As the member for Gaven, which is an incredibly family focused electorate, and as the father of three beautiful children, it is important to me and the people I represent that this parliament recognises that any risk to the sexual safety of children is wholly unacceptable. To create a safe and secure community, it is incumbent upon us to amend legislation that does not protect the community adequately. The low-life individuals who commit these most heinous crimes against children deserve to have their whereabouts known by police.

The changes to this bill are due to a review that was established by the former LNP government in 2013 under the former CCC chair, the late Dr Ken Levy. It is this side of the chamber that has a strong record of standing up for children and, importantly, strengthening the laws against child sexual offenders. It is the LNP which introduced mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years. It is the LNP which increased penalties for child exploitation material offences and other child sex offences, and inserted the new offence of grooming into the Criminal Code.

This bill will give police the power to access information on electronic devices where there is a reasonable suspicion that a reportable offender has committed an offence under reporting legislation. It will extend the information-sharing network to allow government and non-government agencies to give and receive information but to protect the name of the respondent as well as the victim. It will also extend protection from liability for members of the community who provide information about a reportable offender to the Police Commissioner.

The CCC found that, over the five years the act has been in place, 48 offender prohibition orders were made in response to concerning conduct, comparable to other jurisdictions in Australia, and that offenders who received offender prohibition orders engaged in a higher volume of more serious and concerning conduct than other reportable offenders. Also, collectively 21 offenders were convicted of over 100 sexual or other serious crimes against children in Queensland.

The key changes in this bill are: streamlining, simplifying and strengthening offender prohibition order processes; broadening the scope for offenders to be considered reportable offenders; and reducing the time that a reportable offender can travel in and out of Queensland without needing to notify relevant agencies. These are all recommendations from the CCC review, and all can and will only increase safety in Queensland. Make no mistake, this is LNP led policy bettering Queensland, and the Labor government will have to do a lot more if it wants to convince Queenslanders otherwise.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.30 pm): I rise today to speak to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I am pleased to see legislation like this before the House, as child safety is one of the many important reasons that led me to stand in this House as an elected member today. As the House is well aware, I have fought alongside undoubtedly Australia's greatest child safety advocate, Hetty Johnston, for over a decade with the goal to make Australia the safest place to raise a child. Although sometimes it certainly feels like an uphill battle, I am proud of everything that Hetty and the Bravehearts team has achieved and I am truly honoured to continue to serve on the Bravehearts board.

I am especially pleased to see that Bravehearts had played an important role in the consultation of this bill. I would like to place on record comments provided by Hetty and our research director, Carol Ronken. They said—

Bravehearts is pleased to provide feedback in relation to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016.

We congratulate the Crime and Corruption Commission on its work on the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 and give our support for the recommendations made.

We would like to note in particular the proposed amendment around information sharing, 6. Amend the CPOPOA to improve information sharing between the Queensland Police Service and relevant agencies, and between the Queensland Police Service and members of the public.

This was recommendation No. 11 of the Crime and Corruption Commission. They continued—

We have been following the trial and subsequent roll out of Sarah's Law in the United Kingdom since 2008. As you may be aware, this law allows members of the public to ask the police whether an individual (e.g. a neighbour or family friend) is a convicted sex offender, and a form of this law has been incorporated in the Western Australia under the Community Protection Disclosure Scheme.

We wonder if this is the intention of this CCC recommendation, and we would certainly support this. It is our position that parents or carers of children do have a right to be informed on whether or not an individual who may have regular contact with their child or children is a reportable offender.

I absolutely believe that cracking down on sexual offenders, especially those who commit crimes against children, is an absolute priority for this House. The LNP has a longstanding record of standing up for children and strengthening the laws against child sexual offenders from our time in government. The most important measures included: the introduction of mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years; increased penalties for child exploitation material offences and other child sex offences; and the introduction of the new offence of 'grooming' into the Criminal Code. We also moved further amendments to allow the court to list a predator convicted of child grooming as a dangerous offender.

I believe this bill complements the strong stance the LNP took in protecting Queensland kids. The introduction of new powers to allow police to require access to information on electronic devices is vital to fighting this scourge on our society in an electronic era where, I am sure members would agree, much of our lives are dependent on our phones and computers as a primary source of communication.

Furthermore, the extension of the information-sharing network to allow government and non-government agencies to give and receive information, and protect information such as the name of the respondent or the victim, is a common-sense approach which, as Hetty and Carol raised during consultation, could potentially lead to a larger long-term information-sharing program. I am pleased to speak in support of this bill as it strengthens the protection of our children and is another important step forward in making the Bravehearts' vision of making Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child a reality.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Few areas of policy and legislation evoke stronger emotions than those related to the management of people convicted of sexual or other crimes against children. It is a deeply troubling area of policy and legislation. I am sure that, sadly, there are others in this House, like me through my own family, who know the deep wounds that are left by offences of this nature or, reciprocally, have felt the deep anger and disbelief when someone known to them is charged and convicted of such heinous offences, as has been my unfortunate experience just this past month.

We have to get this right. We must do everything within our power to protect the most innocent and vulnerable members of our society—our children. In Queensland, as has already been clearly articulated in this debate, there are several pieces of legislation that work together to monitor, control and limit the conduct of those who have been convicted of offences against children and who at some stage will return to live in the community.

Section 60 of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2008 requires the Crime and Corruption Commission to review the operation of the act five years after commencement, which was completed in December 2014. The commission's review of the act included an examination of the offender prohibition order act; particular aspects of the offender reporting act; policy and training documents; official data from the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Corrective Services and Queensland courts; interviews with key stakeholders, and public submissions.

The Crime and Corruption Commission made 17 recommendations as part of its review of the act aimed at improving the way offender prohibition orders are used to protect children from people who are the subject of the aforementioned acts. The review found that the way the prohibition order act works in conjunction with the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act may complicate the system for managing relevant offenders. It found further that Queensland's legal provisions as they currently stand, located in separate acts, contrast with the approach taken in a number of other Australian jurisdictions—I believe it is four jurisdictions—where both sets of provisions are found in a single act. The commission thus recommended that the two acts be combined. Other recommendations contained in the 2014 review included improved training, resources and powers available to police to monitor offenders and secure offender prohibition orders where deemed appropriate.

The bill before the House gives effect to the recommendations for legislative change recommended by the Crime and Corruption Commission review—amalgamating the two acts. By doing so, it better integrates the processes associated with monitoring and managing reportable offenders. The bill also contains important amendments to reporting obligations and the offender prohibition order application process, the introduction of an extended information-sharing framework and additional police powers.

In regard to what constitutes a reportable offence, clause 7 of the bill provides that a person will be a reportable offender if the court makes a declaration that it is satisfied the facts and circumstances surrounding the offence constitute elements of a reportable offence. Hence, the bill recognises the importance of identifying and monitoring a person who is found guilty of committing, attempting to commit or intending to commit a sexual or other particular serious offence against a child. This will effectively prevent a person charged with a reportable offence who pleads guilty to a lesser charge from avoiding categorisation as a reportable offender and hence a requirement to comply with more stringent reporting obligations under the act.

The bill provides police with additional powers under the PPRA to seize and/or inspect any device capable of storing electronic data if, in the last three months, the reportable offender has been released from detention, sentenced to a supervision order or convicted of a prescribed internet offence or if a magistrate makes a device inspection order. If such conditions are met, police will be able to access information on electronic devices, including the search history of websites, social networking sites, instant messaging and chat rooms a reportable offender may have accessed. The software is also capable of identifying image files on the device, including child exploitation material.

The proposed powers under section 21B of the PPRA, consistent with recommendation 13 of the Crime and Corruption Commission review, include a requirement to provide access information, such as PIN numbers and passwords to any device including cloud storage, to police. There will be an accompanying increase in the maximum penalty for an offence of hinder police, which will be increased from a maximum of 60 penalty units, or 12 months imprisonment, to a maximum penalty of 300 penalty units, or five years imprisonment.

These powers are significant and the increase in penalties for contravention of the proposed amendments is significant. Let us not be under any illusions. This is about the disruption and prevention of recidivist sexual offending against children. Too often police are frustrated from accessing evidence and materials in relation to internet based sexual offences against children including the possession, production or distribution of child exploitation material, online grooming and solicitation of children by the perpetrators of such offences who for the most part will do anything to avoid getting caught. I believe the additional powers proposed in this bill are proportionate and warranted.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee and particularly the committee chair, the member for Townsville, who considered the bill. I also acknowledge the Minister for Police, the member for Morayfield, who has brought these important improvements before the House. I also acknowledge the tremendous work undertaken by Task Force Argos and officers of the Queensland Police Service. I recall the minister in his introductory speech provided an estimate that the cost of sexual abuse and trauma to the Australian community is in the order of \$6.8 billion annually. However, we all know that the true cost, the human cost, is immeasurable. We must do everything within our power to protect the most innocent and vulnerable members of our society: our children. Accordingly, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (4.41 pm): I rise to speak briefly to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. On top of the organised crime bill, which was passed earlier in this parliament and allows us to identify the networks of child exploitation, this is another piece in the jigsaw in our fight against the appalling people who take advantage of our children. Whereas that bill allowed us to identify those insidious networks, this bill allows us to monitor and interfere with, where necessary, any activities after an offender is released.

Before I make a few comments on behalf of the parents of the Bulimba electorate, I have to say that it is getting so tedious when talking about these bills in the House to have to listen to what the members from the other side are saying in their speeches. It is like it is a competition about who loves children the most. I actually find it offensive. They are trying to claim credit for a review which was in fact a statutory review. It is not like they jumped up and thought about it themselves; it was a statutory review that was required.

It was the other side who sacked 225 full-time Child Safety officers and then did not renew the contracts of 160 temporary ones. We are not even talking about that stuff, but let us not claim the high moral ground. For once could we talk about a really important issue like this, which we all care about—could we just talk about that without them trying to be the best in the schoolyard? Every member on this side and the other has spoken about the absolute abhorrence that we all hold for child sex offenders. Anyone who compromises the safety of our children is just a bad person; I think we agree about that. However, anyone who commits sexual offences against children is committing an unspeakable crime. All of us want to make sure that those people are stopped from doing such things.

This is an issue that occupies the mind of almost every parent in my electorate to whom I speak at some point. I am speaking on their behalf today to actually say thank you to all of the members of the parliament who are going to support this bill tonight. Most parents are very aware of the threat which is posed by the cyber world in which so many of our children—and unfortunately it is increasingly younger children—are engaged. I remember in the first 12 months after I was first elected as a member of parliament in 2009 one of the things I became conscious of was just how ill equipped parents felt when dealing with the cyber world. In fact, it was the reason that I started up my parent forum series, and the first parent forum was actually on cyber safety. I remember at that time speaking to our wonderful Task Force Argos people and feeling shock when I was confronted with what was really going on in the cyber world and I realised how little I knew. This is one of the fears that parents have: that they do not know what they do not know. Since then every single time I have worked with the Child Protection Unit at our local Morningside police, when a local school or a local family reports to me some concern they have and they fill me in on how the cyber world has developed even more and how even greater the risk is to our children, I become more and more fearful.

In a couple of weeks time I will be having another parent forum on cyber safety, again with the help of our wonderful Task Force Argos people and the cyber safety unit, which is now operating in the education department. I realise that the issues have evolved even more and have become so much more sophisticated and the risk is so much greater. The member for Ipswich referred to a Commonwealth Parliamentary Association cybersecurity forum that she attended in the UK. I was very fortunate to attend one of those here and was quite confronted to learn what I did not know about how widespread this threat actually is. All of this—these fears and the information that we become increasingly aware of in terms of the risk to our children—makes us even more grateful that both sides of this House are actually supporting a bill such as this, that we are equipping our law enforcement officers with the wherewithal to actually keep these people in check.

I want to thank the new Minister for Police, the member for Morayfield, and acknowledge the work of the previous police minister, the member for Rockhampton. I acknowledge the committee. I want to particularly acknowledge the work of Task Force Argos, which is a world leader—and I think we can be so proud of that—my own Child Protection Unit people at the Morningside Police Station and all of the police officers in general who are working in what must be an enormously confronting world.

I want to also acknowledge the front-line workers who are working with children who have been damaged under these circumstances for the resilience that they have; they keep on doing it. It is wonderful and this is to be greatly admired. As the member for Maryborough said, recommendation 1 from the committee is that this bill should be passed. I wholeheartedly commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (4.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the bill before the House and note that the member for Bulimba stood in the House and chastised this side of the House for making cheap political points and then launched immediately into a cheap political attack, tearing down her own argument in the process. She made the comment that the report was brought about by statute. That is the case, but the issue is it is over two years old and Labor has been dragging the chain in relation to getting this report developed into a bill, into a committee and into a debate. That is the issue that we are raising.

Honourable members can compare that with another bill before the House—and I will not discuss the content of the bill—the parole bill. That arose out of a very sad event that occurred in July 2016. Less than 12 months later that is now a bill before the House. There is no way in the world that I am saying that that bill is less worthy than this bill. However, is this bill less worthy than the parole bill? Why does two years have to transpire before this bill hits debate in the House, yet a bill instigated by the government is presented less than 12 months after the event occurred? That is the issue we have. It again goes to prove how weak this government is in relation to not just law and order but protecting the children of this state, the grandchildren of this state and the grandchildren of people who actually work in this House as members.

There is no doubt that this bill derives from the work of the LNP. In December 2014 this bill was ready to transition to a debate in the House, and the ALP government squibbed it. For over two years they sat back and did nothing. The election comprised a four-week cycle that concluded in January 2015, so I think there is a gap between that and today's date of May 2017 yet to be answered for by the Labor Party except that they are weak in relation to child sexual offences and crime. The bill in fact deals with the power contained within the report of December 2014 which made 17 recommendations. Consultation in relation to the content of the bill was wide and ranged across a number of stakeholders including Bravehearts, the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association of Queensland and the Office

of the Public Guardian. The committee made 17 recommendations, the first of which was to have the bill passed by the House. The purposes of the bill are contained on page 7 of the committee report and of course within the greens accompanying the bill. It is not my intent to go through them in any great detail.

Suffice it to say that the protection of our children and grandchildren is one of the most important actions to be undertaken by this House. Protecting their innocence and ensuring they develop as best they can into the citizens we wish them to be, following their own dreams and ambitions and making a contribution to our society, is paramount in relation to bills of this nature. The experiences of children, both bad and good, live with them for years. They are the foundation stones of later life and in many ways the building blocks of what our society will become in the future. I often hear people speak of children being our most important asset. I find the use of that term repugnant in relation to children. An asset is a thing that you can do something with, dispose of or sell. A child is not an asset: a child is a human being. Our children are the most important human beings on the planet because within them repose our aspirations for the future. There would not be a parent in this House who has not looked at their children and wished for them more than they have or, at the very least, a happy, balanced life whilst making a further contribution to future society. That is what is at the heart of this bill: protecting children from those in our society who, for whatever reason, prey upon them, manipulate them, abuse them and, sadly, inflict horrendous physical and psychological damage upon them, sometimes with catastrophic damages. This is what is at the heart of the debate tonight.

We in this House know exactly how the people of Queensland feel about people who are convicted of child sexual offences. We know the penalty that many people would like to mete out to them. Child abuse is an area where, sadly, there will be no end to amending legislation. The fact of the internet, the fact that we in this state—in this House—cannot control the internet, the fact that sources of pornography and child exploitation derive from overseas, means continual vigilance. I am certain that people in this chamber can readily recall many news items—sadly, too frequently—where someone has been caught with hundreds of photographs on their computer or grooming a young child. The least we must do is monitor the activities of those who have been convicted to try and understand what actions they may take; intervene before those actions occur; and engage with police and law enforcement agencies across the globe and other organisations such as Bravehearts to make sure that we keep, if not one step ahead, then certainly level-pegging with perpetrators.

As other members of the House have stated, I also join in the accolades to Task Force Argos and the police, not just in relation to the matter of child exploitation and child sexualisation but also with regard to the great job they do across our society. The police are often criticised for what they do, but I can tell you now that I would not want their job for all the money in the world. I would not want to be in their shoes knocking on a door when, on a number of occasions in recent years, we have seen officers killed in the execution of what we would call the simple task of serving a warrant or search warrant. Hopefully, this bill will be one more plank in achieving a safer environment for our children and grandchildren but, as I said earlier, sadly this is one area where the need to amend legislation will occur over and over again.

 **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) (4.54 pm): I rise in support of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 which was introduced last year by the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. This bill will protect the most vulnerable in our community and tighten our supervision and control over offenders, particularly child sexual offenders. The bill also streamlines how agencies interact and share information, including extending the scope of information sharing between government and non-government agencies. This is an amendment that I wholeheartedly support.

Many in this place will remember that in February of this year the Premier and I announced a \$6 million IT overhaul to allow faster information sharing between agencies about vulnerable children. It has been a strong focus of this government to roll out integrated whole-of-government approaches to child safety matters, and this bill builds on that. This bill will give power to the Police Commissioner to obtain vital information from different agencies, and in return it will allow agencies access to relevant information from the police. I also note that due to this increase in information sharing the minister has made sure that anyone unlawfully disclosing this information for the purpose of intimidating or harassing a respondent will face tough penalties, with a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment or 300 penalty units. These harsher penalties show how seriously we take the sharing of information and how it must not be corrupted or compromised.

I also strongly support the amendment which protects children from being cross-examined by an offender during any proceeding if the offender decides to represent himself. Being 16 years or younger and delving into the legal world to prove that something so hideous has happened to you would be terrifying. In fact, it is unimaginable. We want kids to speak out against anyone who violates their trust, and the possibility of being cross-examined by their accuser is an impediment to this brave decision. Protect All Children Today—or PACT, as they are known—has also commended this amendment. In a letter to the committee on 10 January 2017 they state—

PACT are extremely supportive of the amendments to preclude the cross-examination of a child.

...

In PACT's experience children and young people are extremely fearful of coming into contact with the accused throughout the court process, so any steps to minimise this from occurring should be implemented as a matter of priority.

PACT also commended the bill as a whole and informed the committee—

PACT support the policy objectives being achieved by amending the CPORA and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 (PPRA) to give effect to the recommendations made by the CCC ...

...

We concur that combining the Acts will streamline the legislation and the five year review period will enable any identified issues to be amended in a timely manner.

Finally, I want to highlight two other measures which will keep young people safe from offenders and their predatory behaviour. The first is the reduction in the reporting time frame for offenders travelling into and outside Queensland from seven days to 48 hours. This will keep a tighter control on the whereabouts of offenders in the community and will help keep kids safe. Secondly, I want to highlight and commend the amendment which will monitor offenders' online activity and force them to disclose to the police any passwords where police have a reasonable suspicion. Once police have gone through the appropriate checks and approvals, they will now have the power to attach software to offenders' computers which will monitor chat room activity, browsing history, images and instant messaging.

We know that as technology evolves and more children have in their possession devices connected to the internet, they are also unknowingly opening up a portal to the darker side of the web and our society. It is every parent's worst nightmare. This amendment will increase police powers over offenders' technology and keep our kids safe. I thank the committee for their work on the bill, the stakeholders who have thrown their support behind this and Minister Ryan for its passage through the House. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (4.59 pm): I rise to speak to the child protection bill. This bill takes into account recommendations made by the Crime and Corruption Commission following a review of the operation of the Child Protection (Offender Prohibition Order) Act.

Other amendments contained in this bill streamline the administration of the offender reporting legislation and enhance the current protections for children. In civil processes, a self-represented offender will be prohibited from cross-examining a child witness or a person who was a child when the alleged offence occurred. That is entirely appropriate.

Courts will have the capacity to make an offender prohibition order with the consent of the relevant sex offender, although I note that where the interests of justice are not satisfied the court will be required to conduct a hearing on the OPO application. Courts will be armed with more criteria to determine whether the person before it is able to consent to the order. This could include, for example, whether the offender has a cognitive disability, a mental illness, an addiction or another illness which impedes the person's capacity to consent, although at this point I think the broader community is fed up with offenders using the addiction excuse as a means to mitigate the consequence of their actions.

Of particular importance is that the current time frames for reporting travel into and out of Queensland are reduced very significantly. These time frames have been reduced from several days to 48 hours. This will reduce the opportunity for reportable offenders to travel outside of Queensland for short periods of time undetected.

Reportable offenders will also be required to report the details of any children they are travelling with or any children they intend or expect to have reportable contact with while travelling. The bill will also clarify that reportable contact with a child extends outside of Queensland. Reportable contact can occur when a reportable offender visits another jurisdiction or when the offender engages with a child from another jurisdiction online. The amendment recognises that sexual offending against children is evolving alongside the development of information technology systems.

Police powers have also been enhanced within this bill. There are new powers which will allow the police to require access information to electronic devices, or to information which is able to be accessed through electronic devices, in circumstances where there is a reasonable suspicion that the reportable offender has committed an offence under the offender reporting legislation and to allow police to inspect electronic devices in the possession of those reportable offenders who pose the greatest risk of reoffending. The new powers will allow police to intervene prior to the commission of an offence and disrupt the offending cycle.

Police will be able to take fingerprints to enrol a reportable offender in an automated reporting system and take photographs of any information which is required to be reported under schedule 2 of the offender reporting legislation. Photographs of a reportable offender will also be able to be taken at a location other than a police station.

All decent members of the community find abhorrent any notion of sexual offending with respect to children. That is why I announced that a One Nation state government would implement a sex offender and child homicide offender public website. Currently there is no system in place to enable public access to information about convicted offenders. Daniel's law, contrived by the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, aims to prevent situations similar to the heartbreaking case of Daniel. Similar to child sex offender registers such as Megan's law in the US and Sarah's law in the UK, successful implementation of a sex offenders and child homicide offenders public website—Daniel's law—would ensure the public have access to the information they need, creating safer and more aware communities. Under this policy, photographs, names, convictions and general locations of offenders will be available to the public. One Nation is about educating parents, children and communities so that they can live safe, happy lives.

The Daniel Morcombe Foundation HQ and the Walk Tall House counselling service is a proposed building project that we need funding to complete. The foundation has purchased 4,400 square metres in Palmwoods. If elected to government, One Nation will fund \$1.2 million to build this project. I call on the ALP and the LNP to follow our lead and commit to this very worthy project. Supporting child victims of crime and educating children on ways to stay safe in the real world and in online environments are two of the basic aims of this foundation. This morning I spoke to Bruce Morcombe to ask for permission to talk about that this afternoon. I table our policy document.

*Tabled paper:* Pamphlet titled 'Queensland—It's in your hands' outlining One Nation policy [\[714\]](#).

Bruce is very keen on seeing this legislation pass. He is very keen on getting this structure built at Palmwoods. In this country you will not find more worthy people who really want to fight these people who do dastardly things to our children. It is high time the Queensland government and this parliament stood up and said 'enough is enough'. We have to go one step further. I think the legislation of the police minister is very good—I give respect to the police minister and the government for putting it forward—but there is further to go. These people do not care about our kids or our community. We have to push back and not let them offend. We in this House all know that 50 per cent of those who offend, go to jail and are then released reoffend. We have to stop it. We have to rub it out. I have no respect for these people.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.05 pm), in reply: I begin by thanking the members of this House for their contributions to the debate of this bill. I acknowledge that this bill has bipartisan support and the support of those on the crossbenches. This bill will enhance protections to the most vulnerable members of our community, namely, our children. Child safety is of such importance that it transcends politics. I appreciate the meaningful debate entered into by members of this House and the recognition of the good work performed by the Queensland Police Service.

I also recognise the dedicated members of the Queensland Police Service, particularly members within the Child Safety and Sexual Crime Group, including Task Force Argos members and the regional child protection investigation officers, who are tasked with the monitoring of child sex offenders in our community. These officers perform a very difficult task in which they are exposed to the most disturbing aspects of offending against children in this state. Their contribution to the monitoring of reportable offenders and reviewing the risk that those people may pose to our children is greatly appreciated by me personally and also by the government as a whole.

I also take this opportunity to address a specific issue raised just recently in the debate. The member for Buderim has raised the idea of giving the public unfettered access to registers that would hold the details of certain people's criminal histories. Determining whether this concept would be of benefit to Queensland would require extensive policy development and community consultation. Many issues would need to be addressed including whether this concept would promote vigilantism, drive

offenders underground or undermine the positive gains our police have been making in this area for many years. I will always take operational advice from the Police Commissioner concerning this issue. A policy of this kind must be evidence based.

In contrast, I am confident that this bill will deliver on the fundamental commitment of this government to community safety in respect of child safety. The Palaszczuk government has provided and always will provide our police with the tools they need to ensure they can continue to perform their work in monitoring child sex offenders to enhance the safety of children in Queensland.

Police who are required to investigate and monitor child sex offenders do a fantastic job in very difficult circumstances. This bill enables them to perform their role more efficiently by amalgamating two complex acts into one more efficient piece of legislation that not only meets the recommendations outlined in the Crime and Corruption Commission's review but also provides appropriate powers, penalties and safeguards.

Child safety has long been a strong mandate for this government, and providing adequate provisions to enable our police to monitor reportable offenders more effectively is paramount. I make no apologies for getting tough on child sex offenders. Enabling police to ascertain the whereabouts of offenders or view their storage devices is vital, especially as technology advancements provide offenders with significant opportunities to engage in high-risk behaviours or surreptitious online activities. The inspection provisions in this bill are cutting-edge.

This government is leading the way and is providing the toughest and most comprehensive police powers in the country in terms of examining reportable offenders' electronic and storage devices. Our children deserve to be protected from these predators. The community demands it and this government is delivering on it. This government will not stand by and allow reportable offenders to manipulate the system in order to offend against or revictimise more children. That is why we have reduced reporting time frames regarding offenders leaving or entering Queensland from seven days to 48 hours. Police need to know where these people are and who they are travelling with or intending to visit. That is also why this government will no longer allow self-represented offenders to cross-examine their victims, even in circumstances where the victim is now an adult. Their suffering does not end with an arrest or a conviction. They deserve to be protected from revictimisation and further trauma. The Palaszczuk government recognises their ongoing suffering and is committed to protecting and supporting these victims regardless of their age at the time of giving evidence.

In developing this bill, our government consulted widely with experts in the field and considered the views of the community. The Palaszczuk government listened, evaluated and responded. I will share with members of this House some of the comments made about this bill. Denise and Bruce Morcombe provided the following comment in respect of this bill—

Daniel was murdered by a twice convicted paedophile. Being on the front foot to protect children is vital. These planned measures are tough on predators and that is a good thing. It allows suspected child exploitation activity to be investigated swiftly, potentially reducing harm to our youngsters.

Hetty Johnston from Bravehearts provided this comment in respect of the bill—

I think these amendments reflect contemporary necessities in law enforcement to ensure greater community safety. The online domain is the new front line and our police certainly need to be in a position to monitor what known offenders are doing in that space. These changes meet not only community expectations but logistical necessities around how we protect our children and I commend you for their introduction. It is critical that police and other authorities have effective tools to properly monitor those people we know pose a risk to our children and as such I believe the raft of changes proposed are to be commended.

I take the opportunity to thank, on behalf of the government, Denise and Bruce Morcombe and Hetty Johnston for their comments. Their contributions that they have made not only to our community but also in their commentary of this bill have been invaluable and we are very thankful for their work to make Queensland a safer and better place for our children.

I conclude by emphasising this very important point: this bill enhances children's safety and police effectiveness in the monitoring of child sex offenders. It delivers on the Crime and Corruption Commission's recommendations and it makes the reporting obligations of child sex offenders more rigorous. I also want to place on the record that this bill will receive bipartisan support as well as support from crossbenchers and is a core example of the Queensland parliament working together to enhance the protection of children. This bill is essential to keeping our children safe and we make no apologies for cracking down on child sex offenders. 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 50—



**Mr RYAN** (5.13 pm): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

**Mr RYAN:** I move the following amendments—

**1 Clause 8 (Amendment of s 8 (When a person stops being a reportable offender))**

Page 10, lines 27 and 28 and page 11, lines 1 and 2—

*omit, insert—*

- (d) the end of all reporting periods to which the person is subject, including under an offender prohibition order.

**2 Clause 34 (Insertion of new ss 74C–74J)**

Page 63, lines 9 to 15—

*omit.*

**3 Clause 34 (Insertion of new ss 74C–74J)**

Page 63, lines 24 to 31 and page 64, lines 1 and 2—

*omit, insert—*

- (2) The prescribed entity may give the information to a person if the entity reasonably believes the giving of the information is necessary for the person to perform a function for which the person is employed.

**4 Clause 34 (Insertion of new ss 74C–74J)**

Page 64, lines 14 and 15—

*omit, insert—*

permitted to do so under section 51C or under another Act.

**5 Clause 34 (Insertion of new ss 74C–74J)**

Page 64, lines 17 to 19—

*omit, insert—*

**Act** includes an Act of the Commonwealth or another State.

**6 Clause 34 (Insertion of new ss 74C–74J)**

Page 64, lines 23 to 30 and page 65, lines 1 to 6—

*omit, insert—*

- (a) the chief executive of a government entity; or  
(b) another entity that is wholly or partly funded by the State or the Commonwealth.

**7 Clause 36 (Insertion of new ss 77A–77F)**

Page 69, lines 1 to 4—

*omit, insert—*

to a proceeding under this Act as if—

- (a) a reference to a protected witness included a reference to an alleged victim of the offence who was under 16 years when the offence was committed, irrespective of the alleged victim's age when giving evidence; and  
(b) a reference to a person charged were a reference to—  
(i) a reportable offender; or  
(ii) a respondent in a proceeding under this Act.

**8 Clause 39 (Amendment of sch 5 (Dictionary))**

Page 79, line 29, '*Mental Health Act 2000*'—

*omit, insert—*

*Mental Health Act 2016*

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

*Tabled paper:* Child Protection (Offender Reporting) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Ryan's amendments [715].

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 50, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 1—



**Mr RYAN** (5.14 pm): I move the following amendments—

**9 Schedule 1 (Amendment of other Acts)**

Page 93, lines 7 to 12—

*omit.*

**10 Schedule 1 (Amendment of other Acts)**

Page 94, line 5, 'reporting'—

*omit, insert—*

prohibition

**11 Schedule 1 (Amendment of other Acts)**

Page 94, line 8, 'reporting'—

*omit, insert—*

prohibition

**12 Schedule 1 (Amendment of other Acts)**

Page 94, line 16, 'reporting'—

*omit, insert—*

prohibition

Amendments agreed to.

Schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.14 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. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (5.15 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.15 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders for this day's sitting, the House now proceed to the private member's motion, to be followed by a 30-minute adjournment debate.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**MOTION****Palaszczuk Labor Government, Infrastructure**

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.15 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government's do-nothing approach to delivering infrastructure for Queensland.

Labor's softly, softly approach to infrastructure just simply is not cutting it in this great state of Queensland. Doing nothing is not working and it is simple: the state economy is hurting. The regions are hurting with unprecedented unemployment rates such as the area that you, Mr Deputy Speaker Millar, represent with its very high youth unemployment rate. Regional councils are not able to put on extra crews because this Labor government has decided to put a freeze on the infrastructure spend. Obviously this government has the 'all-too-hard basket', the 'do-nothing basket' and the 'let's not do anything basket'. During debate on a motion in this House on which I spoke the Minister for Main Roads put everything in the all-too-hard basket in relation to the Northern Australia roads fund. He also put everything in the too-hard basket or did not want to look at—or maybe it went into that email account—anything in relation to the beef roads fund as well. All the minister needed to do was respond to the letter from the federal government saying that it has the money, but, no, it took that minister a while to decide to get it from his inbox and actually apply for that money for those much needed roadworks in the north and Western Queensland.

There is no greater example of a do-nothing government go-slow box than the funding for Rookwood Weir. Federal members are literally screaming out for the state government to do something but there has not been an answer from it at all.

**Mr Hart:** They went slow on the feasibility study.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection. It did go slow on the feasibility study. I think Beattie in about 2009 said that it was shovel-ready. It is a bit like the Cross River Rail—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Millar): Members, I would like to hear the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker! It is exactly like the Cross River Rail project at the moment. The federal government puts \$10 billion on the table and all it wants to see is a business case that stacks up. Guess what? This Deputy Premier has not been able to provide a business case that stacks up, and this government knows it. With its cap in hand, this week it was waiting to have the federal government stump up holus-bolus because this government has not been able to plan and is unable to get its infrastructure spend out the door. In the last two years the minister opposite has underspent for the Queensland economy by \$3 billion—\$3 billion less on infrastructure!

**An opposition member:** No big projects.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection: no big projects and nothing it can talk about—absolutely nothing!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members on both sides, I would like to hear the deputy opposition leader.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take the interjection. The only project the Deputy Premier is able to yell out about is a federally funded project.

**An opposition member:** The Toowoomba range, the Bruce Highway.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am getting to those. It is obvious that there are no projects at all that this Deputy Premier or the Premier are able to deliver. They have squirrelled away the \$850 million from last year's budget. We hear that the Premier's department wants it for the regional infrastructure fund. This week, in her mind, the Deputy Premier has been sorely let down, because she is unable to produce a business case. She hides behind that but, obviously, that business case does not stack up. If it did, it would be released so that the people of Queensland—

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take that interjection. It does not have any trains in it, either. What did the LNP do when it was in government? We made a \$10 billion investment in the Bruce Highway. We put \$4.4 billion into the new generation rolling stock. We put \$1.6 billion into the Toowoomba second range crossing. We put in 10 new schools in high-growth areas. There was \$450 million for the government wireless network. There was \$1 billion for the Gateway Upgrade North Project. All of those projects were done under an LNP government. After 2½ years in government, this government is not able to deliver for Queensland.

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (5.20 pm): It is Labor governments in Queensland that have a proud record of building the infrastructure that our state needs. I ask members to look around and they will see our track record: Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, built by Labor; Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast university hospitals, built by Labor; Springfield and Moreton Bay rail, built by Labor; Gold Coast light rail, built by Labor; all of our busways in South-East Queensland, built by Labor; the Cairns cruise terminal, built by Labor; the Bundaberg ring-road, built by Labor; the Ted Smout Bridge, built by Labor; the Gateway Bridge duplication, built by Labor; the Forgan Bridge duplication in Mackay, built by Labor; the Douglas arterial duplication in Townsville, built by Labor; upgrades to hospitals right across the state—Townsville, Yeppoon, Bundaberg, Mackay, Rockhampton, Mount Isa—built by Labor. We build the infrastructure because it is in our DNA. The Palaszczuk government has picked up that legacy and it is delivering the infrastructure that our state needs.

I refer to some of the new major pieces of infrastructure that we have already started delivering. There is stage 2 of the Gold Coast light rail in partnership with the Commonwealth and the Brisbane City Council. Did one of the LNP members representing the Gold Coast support it? Not one. There is the North Queensland stadium. Is it supported by them? Not one. There is the Ipswich Motorway, Darra to Rocklea. Did any of the LNP members support it? Not one. There is half a billion dollars for major new roads, including the six-laning of the Pacific Motorway; a major upgrade of the M1-Gateway motorway; the construction of the Walkerston bypass near Mackay, which is something that the member for Mirani has been advocating for consistently over a long period; the widening of the Mount Lindesay Highway, which is something that the member for Logan has been advocating for consistently over a long period; and funding for the planning of the M1 from Varsity Lakes to Tugun—the missing link. We are planning for the future.

Out of our State Infrastructure Plan we are funding the \$200 million Works for Queensland program, which is delivering more than 700 projects right across this state. Every single council loves it. What did the members opposite do? They trashed it. There is \$100 million for significant regional infrastructure projects right across our state and \$300 million for critical priority economic works right across our state.

When the LNP members talk about infrastructure, they should think about the Newman government's record on this matter. After being in opposition for so long, one would think that the LNP members would come into government with an idea of what they wanted to build for the state.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection from the member for Gladstone. He is absolutely correct. What did the LNP members do when they got into power? They cut the ribbon on major projects that were funded, planned and delivered by Labor and there was a little bit of a continuation of the disaster recovery works arising from the 2011 natural disaster. But the LNP members had one big idea that played into the vanity of the premier and the treasurer of the day and that is their crowning infrastructure project, 1 William Street.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** Absolutely. The LNP members opposite should feel enormously proud of their infrastructure legacy for Queensland. Every single member of the Palaszczuk government is a very strong advocate for their electorate, for quality front-line services, for quality infrastructure, for job-generating economic infrastructure for their electorates. But those on that side of the House are apologists for a federal government that is determined to turn its back on Queensland. This week, their behaviour proved that, if the LNP formed government in Queensland, it would not be a Queensland government standing up to Canberra; it would be an LNP government in Queensland taking orders from Canberra. That is what was clear this week. The LNP members opposite have no idea what they are talking about and Queenslanders cannot trust them on infrastructure.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.26 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise in the House to speak in support of the motion moved by my great friend the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. As we know, only the LNP has a plan to build a better Queensland and only the LNP has a plan to build the infrastructure that Queensland needs—to build the roads that Queensland needs, to build the bridges that Queensland needs and, importantly, to deliver the water security, the dams, that Queensland needs.

We know that this is a do-nothing, asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government. This build-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government has failed Queensland by ripping billions and billions and billions of dollars out of infrastructure. This government has ripped billions of dollars out of regional towns right across Queensland. The scrapping by this government of the Royalties for the Regions program shows just how committed it is to rural and regional Queensland. That shows that this government does not have any commitment to rural and regional Queensland. It does not give a damn.

**Mrs Frecklington:** They definitely don't give a damn.

**Miss BARTON:** I will take that interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. This government does not give a damn and it does not build a dam. We know that the Royalties for the Regions program injected \$500 million back into regional Queensland. We also know that Labor scrapped it. It ripped out those projects. In its first year of government, Labor spent one per cent.

I am not going to talk just about the LNP government's record, because I have only four minutes left. Quite frankly, that is not enough time. I am keen to talk about Labor's failures. We know that, when it comes to delivering infrastructure for Queensland, this Labor government has failed. We know that this government has been cutting billions of dollars out of infrastructure in Queensland.

This government describes itself as an infrastructure government. Quite frankly, when it comes to delivering infrastructure for Queensland, it is a Clayton's government. The only thing that I could trust the Deputy Premier to deliver is a pizza, because we know that this government is not delivering the much needed infrastructure that we need—

**Mr McEachan:** It will be late and overpriced.

**Miss BARTON:** I take that interjection from the member for Redlands. Where is the Rookwood Weir in the electorate of the member for Gregory? Where is the Urannah Dam? Where is this government's commitment to deliver water security, particularly for the Townsville region? As we know, it is critically important that that part of Queensland receives water security. I see the member for Burleigh, the shadow minister for water supply, nodding his head, because he knows how critical water security is. The LNP is the only party that people can trust to deliver infrastructure, dams and water security for North Queensland.

This government crows about the fact that they have set up an authority to deliver Cross River Rail, yet that authority is unable to deliver its business case. I have been trying to think about why it is that this government is unable to deliver its business case and I have come to three possible conclusions. One, they are hiding new taxes—the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has gone out there and told Queenslanders that there are six hidden new taxes in the business case; the alternative is that someone has emailed it to mangocube6 and Minister Bailey has simply forgotten to check his email address; the third possibility that crossed my mind when it comes to why this government has failed to deliver the business case is that the guy who is carrying it is still waiting for the train so that he can come into the city.

Only the LNP is committed to building a better Queensland. The LNP has delivered the infrastructure that we need. We will continue to deliver the infrastructure that we need, whether it is market-led proposals, whether it is integrated resort developments across the coast, whether it is up in Cairns, in Townsville or whether it is on Great Keppel Island. We are committed to working with those communities to deliver the job-creating infrastructure that they need because that is what the LNP cares about and that is what the LNP has delivered and will continue to deliver. Only the LNP has a plan to create jobs, to build the infrastructure that Queensland needs, whether it is roads, bridges or dams. Only the LNP—Tim Nicholls and Deb Frecklington—have a plan to build a better Queensland.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.31 pm): It is interesting that those opposite want to come in here and lecture us about infrastructure. They must have a pretty short memory. Let me remind them of what infrastructure the LNP government delivered for us in North Queensland. Let me just check.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** There we have it! What did the LNP deliver for us in North Queensland? Absolutely nothing! They made a lot of promises, had a lot of pie-in-the-sky ideas, but the only way they could come up with funding them was through asset sales. What were they going to sell in Townsville? They were going to sell the Port of Townsville, the best commercial port in Australia.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, if it continues this way I might invite the member to start his speech again.

**Mr STEWART:** Those promises were made through asset sells. They were going to sell the Port of Townsville. It has been awarded the best commercial port in Australia two years in a row. They were going to sell Ergon, the backbone of North Queensland. What else were they going to sell? They were going to sell the rail line from Mount Isa to Townsville. They were going to sell these assets to fund their big infrastructure spend. If they think they have a leg to stand on about infrastructure I would encourage them to look out the window. In three years the only major project that they could come up with was 1 William Street—the billion dollar office block with no business case in the middle of the Brisbane CBD. There is no respect for the regions.

On the other hand, the Palaszczuk government is actually delivering projects in North Queensland, with more than \$2.4 billion in infrastructure allocated in North Queensland in the 2016-17 state budget. We have boots on the ground that are getting on with the job. We are delivering projects across the broad spectrum of roads, water, innovation, tourism and, of course, the jewel in the crown, the new stadium. You name it, we are delivering it.

We responded to difficult economic conditions in regional Queensland by fast-tracking projects in regions such as Cairns, Townsville and Wide Bay through the \$440 million Accelerated Works Program. Through the Priority Economic Works and Productivity Program we are delivering on our promises to upgrade Riverway Drive connecting the Upper Ross with employment, education and service hubs across Townsville. That is all we ever heard from the member for Thuringowa. With the \$180 million Significant Regional Infrastructure Projects Program Townsville is the big winner. There is \$6.5 million to upgrade the Townsville Hospital paediatric ward. It was great to have the minister come up to announce that. There is \$8.5 million to build the Palm Island primary healthcare centre; over \$8 million for social housing in Condon and Kirwan; over \$1.4 million for upgrades to the Kirwan State High School; and who could ever forget Wilsonton State School. Who delivered that? Labor!

Most recently we have begun rolling out our new Works for Queensland program. This \$200 million program is supporting thousands of jobs across regional councils. Regional councils love us for it. Almost \$120 million of this money is out the door and in the hands of councils with work started, making a direct difference to those communities today. In Townsville, council has reported that 47 of its 51 Works for Queensland projects have already commenced. Townsville mayor Jenny Hill wrote thanking the Palaszczuk government for investing \$21.8 million in funding for the Works for Queensland program in a region that has been doing it tough.

We have also joined with the federal government and Townsville City Council to deliver Australia's first City Deal. We will focus on improving the lives of Townsville residents through job creation, economic growth, investment in local infrastructure, a revitalisation of urban centres and a more vibrant and livable city. Projects like the Townsville Airport Apron Safety Plan are delivering jobs and new economic development opportunities for all of North Queensland. We are committed to working with local council to deliver the new \$28 million bus hub and promenade in the CBD. Queenslanders know that we need infrastructure; they know it is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that will deliver it.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.36 pm): I rise to support the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the motion. It is quite obvious, if one comes to Toowoomba, that there is really only one thing you could conclude and that is that the ministers sitting opposite are more than happy to hand over someone else's homework. There is not an original thought amongst them. They stand here and criticise the innovative approach to releasing up Queen's Wharf and criticise 1 William Street. Where would everybody be if it had not been built? This catalytic piece of infrastructure had to be built so the whole of Queen's Wharf can go ahead.

Anybody can see that the Toowoomba second range crossing was a project languishing in the never-never under Labor. I note that the minister will be following me. I hope that the minister announces that I am allowed back on site to shoot some video so the people of Toowoomba can actually see the great work that is going on with their hard-earned taxpayer dollars. This was a project that was languishing and not going anywhere. It will release the productivity of the entire Darling Downs. We all

know that the agricultural base of Queensland has bailed Queensland out many, many times. Without decent infrastructure to get to the port all of that languishes. To move a container from the Darling Downs down to the port is nearly half the cost of moving it all the rest of the way around the other side of the world and having it delivered to someone's doorstep because we have some of the most inefficient infrastructure available.

We need the inland rail because it will add productivity, jobs and make sure that businesses can compete on the international market going forward. That is exactly what the second range crossing will do. I am concerned about the second range crossing. I am hearing that if you want a job on the second range crossing you need to apply in Brisbane. That is not local employment. I am also hearing that they are pushing really hard and it is potentially causing some safety issues. I am very concerned about that. More than that, in the first year of the budget that this government put forward they underspent by \$100 million on the second range crossing. It is unbelievable that they could announce they are going to do it and then almost spend nothing.

The existing rail tunnels that run down from Toowoomba need to be lowered. That project is underway and I thank the minister for making sure that the project is underway. However, I do not think anybody will thank him for removing the sidings that were a part of that project. The trains cannot pass each other without sidings, so not having them will slow down the whole network. That funding was ripped out of the budget. It was in their first budget, but not in their second budget. All of a sudden they decided to put a couple of million dollars into their pocket, so \$20 million was taken from the project.

What else did we do for Toowoomba? We spent \$74 million on a CDB substation upgrade, which released land so that the QIC's Grand Central project could go ahead. That investment was worth half a million dollars. I ask any of the ministers to come to Toowoomba to look at our thriving CBD and at what is happening in the city. If you stand at the cafe at the half-a-billion-dollar Grand Central centre, you will look straight out at the rail yards. We had those rail yards turned over from Queensland Rail to the local council so that we could redevelop 10 hectares of land in the middle of the city.

A sum of \$50 million was required for a bridge to complete the Outer Circulating Road. I thank the former deputy premier for the Royalties for the Regions program, of which we were a beneficiary for that project and also for the flood works that were done at the same time. We allocated millions of dollars to flood works, which included upgrading a rail bridge to stop the water from collecting in the CBD. That was seen in action just recently when we had a big downpour. That was a \$5 million project. We spent another \$2 million on waterworks.

With the high school at Highfields, what did we see from these guys? They talked about a high school. In 2008 Lawrence Springborg announced that we were going to buy the land. By 2011 they finally bought a block of land, but what happened? All we saw were weeds growing everywhere.

They have always been a do-nothing government and everybody in Toowoomba knows it. We know that they have not been able to deliver critical pieces of infrastructure. This week there are billions of dollars on the table for inland rail, which will make Queensland and our nation wealthier by allowing our farmers and businesses to be more productive. We are an export state and an export nation. What do we hear from them? Crickets! Nothing! No corridor has been secured. There is no opportunity to be able to get the job done.

The minister is about to jump to his feet. I ask him: please let me back on the Toowoomba second range crossing site, because I would love to shoot a video and show everyone what the LNP government has been able to achieve.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (5.41 pm): In response to the member for Toowoomba North, there is a 41-kilometre project yet the poor darling cannot find a spot to do his video. If that is the extent of his contribution here today, the government is not being challenged whatsoever.

It is ironic that we are talking about infrastructure, because we all know the opposition's view on infrastructure. They never saw infrastructure that they did not want to sell off and privatise. Let us look at their list for privatisation: the SunWater pipeline, Stanwell, CS Energy, Powerlink, Ergon, Energex, the Port of Townsville and the rail line, and the Gladstone port. That is their record. We know from this book that if the Leader of the Opposition gets half a chance he will go it again, privatise and sell off infrastructure. We know that that is what he wants to do.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Did the minister have a prop? Members, that is not an invitation to turn into a rabble. If it continues, I will consider the option of inviting the minister to start again.

**Mr BAILEY:** We know the record of the Leader of the Opposition. If he gets half a chance, he will privatise with the help of One Nation and his dodgy deals on the side. His is weak leadership. It is something that Queenslanders never endorsed at an election. They want our assets kept in public hands. They want our infrastructure kept in public hands. We know what their agenda is and we will be reminding Queenslanders of it at the next election. We will also be reminding them of his weak leadership and sly deals with One Nation. You can bet on that.

Let us get down to the tintacks when it comes to infrastructure. What sort of investments have we made in this state? Instead of selling off the Townsville port, we are investing in it with \$40 million allocated to the berth 4 project, creating a productive economy and jobs. We have funded the Ipswich Motorway project, which is almost underway. That is something that they could not achieve in three years in government. They ignored Ipswich and they ignored Springfield. They did nothing there.

For three years under the Newman-Nicholls government, we did not see a single new dollar spent on the M1. We have landed a better deal for Queensland to get the two upgrades going at the merge and down at Varsity Lakes and Mudgeeraba. We have allocated \$160 million for road infrastructure related to the Commonwealth Games. We are delivering infrastructure for the Gold Coast. It is no wonder that there are challenges to three sitting Gold Coast LNP members of parliament. That is an absolute record. There is an internal revolt because their Gold Coast members of parliament are so ineffective when it comes to delivering infrastructure. In fact, the outcome of the preselection in Broadwater will be very interesting, as we will see whether the Leader of the Opposition gets his way or whether he gets rolled by the backroom. Suddenly they are all very quiet over there. They know their record on infrastructure for the Gold Coast is pathetic.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering the Walkerston bypass. What did they do? Nothing! We are delivering the Logan upgrade with not a single public dollar. What did they deliver down there? Nothing! Did they deliver Riverway Drive? No! Did they deliver on the Mount Lindesay Highway? No! In fact, they cut funding to local government infrastructure. A line-up of mayors have complained to me about Tim Nicholls who, as treasurer, cut funds to local government. We have restored it to 92 per cent.

Let us look at cycling infrastructure. This morning a bevy of them were pretending to like cycling, but when in government with a record majority they cut cycling funding by \$98 million and called it gold plating. How hypocritical is that?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Now we can all hear.

**Mr BAILEY:** In three years, they could not even get exit 54 or the Townsville ring-road going. When Western Queensland was going through drought, did they look after the roads? No! The Palaszczuk government allocated \$40 million under the western roads package. There is a clean energy boom going on in this state with 16 large-scale renewable projects. How many did they get done? None! Zero! Zip! In fact, they lost 1,300 jobs in three years, at a time when the world is transforming itself with clean energy infrastructure. That is an extraordinary achievement. There is \$2 billion worth of infrastructure coming into Queensland in renewable energy large-scale projects, but they did not deliver one. In fact, the Collinsville Power Station closed under their watch. What did they do? Nothing! They mothballed Swanbank E. They did absolutely nothing for it. Their policy on energy infrastructure is akin to investing in a biplane in the jet era. That is what they are about. They would rather have VHS or Beta than streaming. They would rather have rotary phones than a mobile phone. They would rather have a stagecoach—

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 38:**

**LNP, 38—**Barton, Bates, Bennett, 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, Rowan, Seeney, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

**NOES, 40:**

**ALP, 39—**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, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

**INDEPENDENT, 1—**Gordon.

Pairs: Lynham, Bleijie; Ryan, Simpson; Pease, Robinson.

Resolved in the negative.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.52 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 23 May 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.53 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Interruption.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Member Ordered to Withdraw from Chamber, Reversal and Apology

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in question time this morning I asked the member for Hinchinbrook to withdraw from the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A. I was of the belief that I had earlier warned the member for Hinchinbrook under the standing orders. I have, however, reviewed the transcript of proceedings and can confirm that I had not warned the member. My earlier warning was in fact directed to another member. I therefore apologise to the member for Hinchinbrook as standing order 253A should only be applied after a warning. I also note that the member for Hinchinbrook accepted my call without dissent at the time which goes to his credit.

## ADJOURNMENT

Resumed.

### Burrandowan Picnic Race Day; National Road Safety Week

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.54 pm): This weekend the mighty Burrandowan picnic race meeting is on. I invite all of my colleagues and friends in this great House to head out to Burrandowan picnic race day. It will be a fabulous country race day.

**Mr Seeney:** Best barbecue you will ever have.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I will take the interjection from the member for Callide. It is the best barbecue you will ever have. We have a barbecue that goes through the night. Many people camp overnight. It is at the end of a road that needs a fair bit of work. Those constituents of mine who live in the Ironpot and Burrandowan area are desperate for the Kingaroy Burrandowan Road to be at least graded and upgraded a little. I will be looking forward to the race day this weekend. I say to those who will be travelling across that road to please be careful. Today nothing is more important because it is National Road Safety Week. I have been pleased to wear this yellow ribbon, an initiative of the Safer Australian Roads and Highway group.

On a serious note, I was very saddened this morning to hear of yet another fatality on one of the main roads within the Nanango electorate, to the south of Esk on the Brisbane Valley Highway. Anyone who travels roads throughout country electorates knows that these roads are dangerous. It is very unfortunate that this fatality has happened. My thoughts, prayers and best wishes go to the family of the victim of the accident today.

Within the Nanango electorate we have the Brisbane Valley Highway, the D'Aguilar Highway, the Bunya Highway, the Burnett Highway and the New England Highway. Of course there are all the other connecting roads. It was during the term of the LNP government that major investment was made on those roads within that area. We invested \$10 million through the Royalties for the Regions program, building overtaking lanes on the Brisbane Valley Highway and the D'Aguilar Highway. We built two more overtaking lanes on the Bunya Highway and again on the D'Aguilar Highway between Nanango and Kingaroy.

For people in our regional areas continued road investment is critical. It helps ensure producers get their product to market, it brings tourists in, it transports goods in and out of our regions and, most importantly, it means our communities get where they need to go safely each day. I call on this government to reinstate much needed funding for the Nanango electorate's road network.

### Federal Budget, Education

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (5.57 pm): The LNP believes that every child should have access to the best possible education, regardless of where they live, the income of their family or the school that they attend. On Tuesday the federal government confirmed as part of its 2017 budget that Queensland would receive an additional almost \$3 billion over the next 10 years.

Unlike the Palaszczuk Labor government, the LNP welcomes additional funding for our schools. It is right that we have a fairer, more transparent, more needs based model. It is not just the LNP that welcomes it. David Gonski welcomes it. He said that he was pleased that there is substantial additional money, even over indexation and in the foreseeable future.

It is important to remember that when the last funding agreement was negotiated by the then education minister, the member for Surfers Paradise, Queensland got the best deal in the country. What did we do with that additional money? We gave it directly to the schools through the Great Results Guarantee. Members would be hard pressed to find a principal in this state who would not tell them that this was a game changer for their kids.

Maybe the minister should take a leaf out of the member for Surfers Paradise's book and stop whingeing and start negotiating. I challenge the minister to ensure that every red cent of this new money goes directly to our schools—no skimming off the top to sit in bureaucracies, but go directly into the classrooms to get the best educational outcomes for our young people.

The real question is whether this government will commit to a similar increase in their education budget. For all the protestations by the part-time Minister for Education about federal funding, I am sure it would be of great interest to Queensland parents to note that the Palaszczuk government cut over \$191 million from the budget of the education and training departments. In fact, it is these cuts alone that make up over 40 per cent of the entire reprioritisation program that Labor introduced in the last budget—the Labor cuts program, budget cuts from the very departments that are here to skill up and teach our youth for the future.

This is what they do not want parents to know. They do not want parents to know that: \$31.5 million was cut from the budget last year; \$42.7 million will be cut in 2017-18; \$53.3 million will be gone in 2018-19; and a staggering \$63.7 million will be cut in 2019-20. It is a pity that this Premier and her part-time education minister do not see that taking this money out of the budget will in fact affect the outcomes for our kids. I challenge them to ensure that they keep the money from the Commonwealth budget directly in our classrooms.

*(Time expired)*

### Renewable Energy Forum

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (6.00 pm): As the Premier said earlier this week, we are the solar state. I am proud to be part of a government that is determined to unleash our state's potential for renewable energy—in particular, solar energy—into the future which is in stark contrast to those opposite. We all remember the 'latte sippers' sledge by the member for Clayfield. Well, there must be a lot of latte sippers in my neck of the woods.

According to the Australian PV Institute, 34 per cent of dwellings in my electorate of Springwood have solar PV installed, based on existing boundaries. In the 4165 postcode that takes in Mount Cotton, that figure jumps to an astounding 47.2 per cent of households. Jimmy and Raj, who run the Valley Way Cafe at Mount Cotton, must be doing a roaring trade with all of those latte sippers! The future will be even brighter with renewable energy. Storage is becoming cheaper and more efficient, and Queensland leads the way nationwide for solar uptake. Here in the sunshine state we know that solar energy is limitless.

Recently I held a renewable energy forum at Mount Cotton State School. We had a fantastic turnout, with more than 60 local residents hearing from industry experts, including Mr Trevor Berrill, and we were pleased to be joined by the shadow minister for climate change and energy, Mark Butler, about how we can move forward and embrace solar energy.

Transitioning to clean energy forms is, as we know, inevitable. The people I represent want to be part of this clean energy future for Queensland. There are many Mount Cotton residents expressing concerns to me about another less clean form of power. There is a proposal on the books for a 160 square metre, 60,000-megawatt power station that will burn, of all things, chicken poo—65,000 tonnes of chicken poo. Mount Cotton is a wonderful residential area with a fantastic lifestyle. I share the residents' concerns that this is not an appropriate place to be burning that sort of material. Quite frankly, I think the proposal stinks. Not only is the smell of burnt faeces unappealing; residents also have concerns about the traffic impacts of the poo being trucked in.

The future for renewable energy in our cities is about solar and batteries and wind energy. It is about energy efficiency and efficiently designed homes. The Palaszczuk government is delivering on this transition, and I am proud to be part of this work through the Queensland Building Plan. Labor backs solar and I am backing the residents of Mount Cotton as we work together for a true clean-energy future.

### Glass House Electorate

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.03 pm): Whilst parliament has not sat for a number of weeks, it has been crazy busy in the electorate of Glass House. The day before Anzac Day I had the privilege of attending a fantastic service put on by the students at the Palmwoods State School. These kids had researched the lives of each of the Palmwoods residents who had been lost in World War I and World War II and had researched five current veterans who had continued to live in or had connections to the Palmwoods community. They did a superb job.

The Woodford pre-dawn service was eerie and very fogbound on Anzac Day. The Wamuran Nasho service was outstanding as always, especially young Wamuran State School captain Emma Folks' recitation of the poem *Sir* to one of the veterans.

There is always that sense of nature when you go to the Witta Cemetery for their Anzac Day service as the minute silence is held. You hear the birdsong all around you as you stand beside the graves of returned servicepeople. The morning concluded at the Glass House Mountains community march and service. My good mate Andie Little led the singing and did a stellar job, particularly of *Abide With Me*.

It has been busy in terms of events, too. We had an extraordinarily successful Maleny Wood Expo. I commend the team at Barung Landcare. Maleny was literally at a standstill for the entire long weekend with so many people coming to participate in that great activity.

We also had a birthday party—the 40th birthday of the Maleny Arts and Crafts Group. The ladies and the men put on a great fair over that weekend. It was great to acknowledge the work that they had done over those 40 years and to identify, in particular, Mrs Beverley Heading, one of the original members. We joked on the evening that clearly back then they were inviting teenagers to be members of the organisation given how good she is looking!

There was the Maleny District Sport and Recreation Club awards. We had as the guest speaker Ian 'Dicko' Dickson. Unfortunately it was after the Brisbane Roar had soundly defeated his team, the Western Sydney Wanderers, but it was great to have him there. The Sporting Team of the Year was the Maleny Rangers Football Club; the Volunteer of the Year was Anita Turner from the Maleny Arts and Craft Group; the Club of the Year was the Maleny State High School Interact Club; and the Sportsperson of the Year was our very own Sarah Peters, an amazing show judge.

I got along to GMAN's koala plantation at constituents Lisa and Paul's place, something that was funded by an Everyone's Environment grant during my time as minister. Finally, we awarded the latest round of the Local Heroes grants: to the Obi Art Prize; to young Palmwoods based 15-year-old squash player Josh Penfold; to the Wamuran Earth Protectors, who are working with the Wamuran State School on recycling; and to the combined Glass House school chaplaincies. It has been an entirely enjoyable few weeks in the electorate of Glass House.

### Walk for Youngcare

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (6.06 pm): I rise tonight in the House to talk about the walk for Youngcare, which will be happening in my electorate next Tuesday. This is something that has been building for some time and something that I am really looking forward to. I had the great privilege when I was the minister for housing and public works to be able to arrange for this gift of land from the housing

ministry to Youngcare, and we are now finally, after about a three-year process, going to see this facility open. There will be a soft opening next Tuesday where eight residents will come in and receive full-time care and have the home that they deserve and the dignity that comes with that.

We will be having a barbecue that morning on site to welcome the residents to the community and, of course, we also want to raise money for them. The whole idea is to buy a special purpose vehicle to help transport the residents. We have set a target of \$30,000. So far we have raised \$12,500 mainly through local businesses. I thank all of those local businesses who have seen and embraced the idea of Youngcare coming to our district. They are going to join me on a walk right around the electorate. It will be a 12-kilometre walk. Fortunately my electorate is not like some other electorates in the regions. I would not be able to walk around those, but you can walk around my electorate. We will have 40 to 50 people coming along trying to raise money for this great cause.

We are going to be dropping into schools along the way. First, we will drop into Albany Creek State School. Then we will be moving our way down to the Good Shepherd Christian School. Then we will be off to Eatons Hill State School. Then the final trek is an eight-kilometre walk from there to Everton Park State School. When we get there the head of Youngcare will talk to the children about the challenges of young people with disabilities and talk to them about the Youngcare facility. We will be doing a couple of laps of the oval at each of those schools and inviting the kids to make a gold coin donation towards the fundraising target—we are trying to get to \$30,000.

I want to thank all of those businesses who have already contributed. I want to make a call-out to other businesses who have not yet had the chance to respond. We would love to see you make that \$200 donation. If you can make a donation more than that, that would be appreciated as well. If we can get at least \$20,000 we will be able to get a good second-hand car. If we can get \$30,000 it will be even better. These young people deserve it. We look forward to a great walk. I hope we get great weather. We welcome the residents of Youngcare to the Albany Creek community.

### **National Palliative Care Week**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.09 pm): It is my pleasure to speak about the upcoming National Palliative Care Week and in particular Ipswich Hospice Care. Palliative care is not something that we like to think or even talk about, but we know that around 70 per cent of Australians want to die in their own home and the reality is that few realise this. A good death gives people dignity, choice and support to address their physical, personal, social and spiritual needs.

Nursing homes and hospitals are identified as a person's least preferred place to die, yet over the past 100 years home deaths have declined and hospital and residential care deaths have increased. The facts are that 54 per cent of people die in hospitals and 32 per cent in residential care while only about 14 per cent of people die at home. These figures show that death is an increasingly institutionalised and medicalised experience.

In my electorate of Ipswich we are fortunate to have a wonderful community based hospice, Ipswich Hospice Care, which was officially opened by the Hon. Bill Hayden, a storied Ipswich citizen and former governor-general of Australia, in 1994. Ipswich Hospice Care has been a constant and comforting site for Ipswich people since its opening. It is a proudly community owned and managed charitable organisation. It is nationally accredited and it has a very experienced palliative care team. There are seven beds in the hospice and it provides a very high quality end-of-life care. I would like to take this opportunity to praise all the members of the Ipswich Hospice Care management committee, led by well-known and loved Ipswich local Peter McMahon, as well as all staff and volunteers, led by general manager Paul Brew and his extraordinary team.

Palliative care is not all they provide at Ipswich Hospice Care as they partner with neighbouring Hilda's House, which provides bereavement support services to the wider community. It offers one-to-one support, drop-in and peer support groups for both adults and children. The hospice also works on a no-set-fee basis. This means that families in a vulnerable position and possibly desperate for care can ensure that their loved ones are receiving the highest quality care.

I encourage all my colleagues to get involved with National Palliative Care Week, aka hospice week. This year hospice week will run from 21 to 28 May with the message: 'You matter. Your care matters. Palliative care can make a difference.' In keeping with this, Ipswich Hospice Care will be hosting a Turn Ipswich Purple Day on 26 May with the aim of spreading awareness of palliative care to the community and making sure that the message is spread to those most in need.

Ipswich Hospice Care is one of the most valued organisations in my community. Through hard work, drive and passion they provide reassurance to Ipswich people that no matter what time of life a person may be in they can rest easy knowing that they will be cared for in an environment as close to their own home environment as possible.

### Rural and Remote Schools

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.12 pm): I rise tonight to congratulate the work done by some of our rural schools. I had the pleasure of visiting Urandangi State School, which is in a very remote part of Queensland, and meeting with Principal Lewis Parker and about eight kids from the school. It was a fantastic experience. The job they do out there is magnificent. I met with Chris Ford, the Principal of Burketown State School, and saw the tremendous results that he has achieved over the last two years. We are very grateful to the government which provided the sum total of almost \$2 million to subsidise an optic fibre cable that has helped with their schooling.

In visiting up there it became apparent that these schools fluctuate in their numbers. They are very small numbers. Once you go below about 23 students you start losing extra teacher numbers. Numbers go up and fluctuate during the year. It is very hard for these schools to hold good staff because they need a little more flexibility and latitude. We have had discussions with the minister. I spoke with the ICPA president, Kim Hughes, and Kate Twist under her the other day pursuing the same thing. It is something we really need to do to help all of these remote schools. We need to give them some flexibility and some longer term contracts for teachers who commit to going out there. They are doing a wonderful job with our students in remote areas. It is a way that we can support them. I hope that we are able to achieve that in this House.

The other issue I would like to make the House aware of is that Dugald River announced its plan this week to make a base in Townsville. That is terrific, but the big issue is: where is Dugald River going to put its ore? Are they going to cart their ore along the Flinders Highway and rip it up some more, or are they going to put it on rail? The federal budget talked about inland rail and a railway from Melbourne to here. There is no point building these rail lines if we have not set the pricing and policies around it that will entice people to use the asset itself.

We have this wonderful asset—the Mount Isa to Townsville rail line. The problem is not limited to just MIM and Aurizon, whose contract fell over. There are a lot of other users who should be on that rail line. We have used taxpayers' money to build that line over the years. They should be able to see it used. It is an absolute tragedy to see trucks carting bulk ore and new mines coming online considering putting their ore on the road when there is a perfectly good rail line sitting right next to it that should be taking it. We should be using that as an industry-enabling asset that entices people to use it and that creates jobs and keeps our roads safe, not ripping up the Flinders Highway. It is wasting taxpayers' money just ripping that up. We need some action from the government through Queensland Rail so it is used as an industry enabler to entice all the users back on to the line and we do not have bulk ore going on the roads.

### Townsville, MS Swimathon

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (6.15 pm): On the weekend I had the pleasure of attending Townsville's MS Swimathon to cheer along teams in my electorate and the broader community as they swam a huge 12-hour relay. The important event aims to raise much needed funds for information, education, treatment and care for people with MS, and has well and truly become a cornerstone in our community's event calendar.

Among our fundraising superstars was 11-year-old Aimee Segal, the team captain of the Townsville Grammar Torpedoes. Aimee's dedication and understanding of the cause is way beyond her years, and I was blown away by her energy and excitement. She had recruited all of her 11 teammates, doing speeches at school assemblies about MS and by going from classroom to classroom to talk about the importance of fundraising. Her team was aged between eight and 11 and completed the entire 12-hour swim—a massive 33.1 kilometres—without any adult assistance. Together they raised a huge \$5,930. Aimee raised \$2,950 of those funds, which is such a tremendous effort. Their funding will now go towards a new air-conditioning unit for someone with MS to help manage their body temperature.

Aimee spoke to me about her passion for helping people, which is the reason she participates in the event every year, and about her goals after leaving school. She told me that in her spare time she loves to sing and wants to pursue a career as either a singer or an actor, but if that does not work out she told me she wants to become a politician. Can I tell the House that I think she would make a very good one.

Although Aimee and the Townsville Grammar Torpedoes are very young, they know their small effort has made a very big difference, helping the Townsville MS Swimathon raise funds well beyond their goal of \$40,000. These funds will go directly towards important services and supports locally and across the state for people with MS. We know that some of these services simply would not be possible without the support of people like Aimee and her team which make it all worthwhile. I was so very proud of everyone's efforts on the day and to see so many people getting involved. MS Queensland is a fantastic charity and I was thrilled to be part of the event.

### Dalrymple Electorate, Road Safety

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (6.18 pm): I would like to bring to the attention of the House a road that desperately needs to be upgraded and sealed, and that is the Herberton Petford Road to Irvinebank. Irvinebank is an old tin-mining town. It was the Irvinebank and Petford region where 'Red Ted' Theodore held a lot of political movements and fought hard for the working class people. This road is a shortcut to Chillagoe. It also saves about 30 kilometres for travellers who are travelling from Mount Garnet to Herberton. Rather than going through the Atherton Tablelands, they are able to take that short cut to Chillagoe and likewise to Dimbulah. The road is in a deplorable state. There are massive holes in the road which can be seen from this picture, which I will table.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph of a Irvinebank Road, Petford [\[716\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of photographs regarding Irvinebank Road, Petford [\[717\]](#).

This road desperately needs to be sealed. Year in year out, the road is graded over and all of the rocks still stick through so it does not alleviate the problem or produce a smooth, safe road. A lot of the road is downhill and it gets very bumpy. We have had six accidents in the last seven weeks, and about four of those accidents involved serious injuries. We can keep asking the Mareeba Shire Council to grade that road every year, but there are bad spots on that highway. It is a well-used road. If we put bitumen over the top of about three or four kilometres of that bad section, we would not have this problem year in year out. I have tabled all of these letters and the photo shows the rocks sticking through that road. It is severely dangerous. Cars are travelling downhill and they slowly bump themselves out of the alignment and then go off the side, roll or have a serious accident.

There is also a need to upgrade the Kennedy Highway, particularly the Tumoulin Road turn-off. We acknowledge the funding that we are getting to upgrade the Tumoulin Road turn-off to the Upper Barron Road turn-off. This section is breaking up. It is a B-double route and is well used by B-doubles, yet it is falling to pieces. We need those two sections of roads to get emergency funding to resolve these problems once and for all.

### Logan Electorate, Volunteers

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.21 pm): Nothing highlights the spirit of Logan City more than our community's volunteers. Last Saturday I was delighted to attend the Logan City Council's annual Logan Loves Volunteers Thank You Breakfast. I had the opportunity to join the Queensland Governor, the Hon. Paul de Jersey, the Premier and members of our local Labor team, including the members for Waterford, Algester and Logan—and I am delighted to say that the members for Logan and Algester are in the House tonight—to thank the community and our outstanding volunteers for everything they do.

The breakfast is about honouring people who make Logan the most generous community in Queensland. Since 1988, these awards have been highlighting the people who are normally in the background taking care of others, whether it is cleaning, serving meals, delivering fire safety messages or, more recently, helping Logan get back on its feet after the devastation wreaked by ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie. I would like to thank all of them for everything they have done and congratulate those who were nominated and received awards for their compassion and commitment to the Logan community. This includes Trent Becker, the winner of the special Frank Lenz Memorial Award for Volunteer of the Year. I also want to recognise Marama Kelly, who volunteers at the Logan Central Library and the Woodridge North State School, both in the electorate of Woodridge.

There are a number of volunteers who I know personally, and I would like to formally recognise the difference they make in the Woodridge electorate in particular by putting their names on the parliamentary record. I want to thank my friends from the Logan House Fire Support Network, Christine and Louie Naumovski. I want to recognise the members of the Crestmead Neighbourhood Watch group, including Geoff and Wendy Smith, Kath De Leon, Louie and Christine Naumovski, Wendy Murphy, Shirley Collier, Paul Kennedy, Angela Fisher, Scott and Janet Martin, Christine Baker, Carl and Naomi Harrison and Tony Harrison. This important group was also recognised for their services. Local volunteers in police were recognised, and I would like to acknowledge Andrew Jones, who received an award, along with Pam Cornwall and Graham Nicholson.

I want to acknowledge Michael Tawadros and Alain Guillemain, workers from Access Community Services. Volunteers are all throughout our city. I also want to acknowledge volunteers who assisted as members of our mud army to help clean up our city including: Nigel Munt from Logan Law; Matt Mead, President of the Logan Brothers Junior Rugby League Football Club; the Logan Brothers A Grade Rugby League team; and Marsden State School Deputy Principal, Suzie Stathis. Each year more than 7,000 volunteers in the City of Logan demonstrate the strength of Logan's community spirit. They make me proud to call Logan home.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.24 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, 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, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams