



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Friday, 16 June 2017

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FRIDAY, 16 JUNE 2017



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.30 am): Yesterday during the budget debate the member for Nanango claimed in the parliament that my agency, the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, had spent a further \$93 million to hire ‘an extra 31 spin doctors in Brisbane’ in the 2016-17 financial year. This is not correct. Even a cursory reading of the budget papers bears this out.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide. I am listening to the Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: Page 17 of the department’s SDS clearly indicates that this increase of 31 staff includes a transfer of corporate staff.

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. This is not a matter of privilege. A matter of privilege relates to the privileges of a member in the House. This is a matter of debate that can be explored in the estimates committee or in the remainder of the budget debate. I ask you to rule that this is a misuse of the sessional orders that allow members to raise matters of privilege.

Mr SPEAKER: The issue is whether the Deputy Premier will be alleging a deliberate misleading of the House. I will listen to what the Deputy Premier has to say, I will consider it and make a statement later on.

Ms TRAD: Page 17 of the department’s SDS clearly indicates that this increase of 31 staff includes a transfer of corporate staff from the Department of State Development. I am advised that 21 staff provide finance, procurement, governance and risk management support for the department and were transferred directly from one department to another under a machinery-of-government process that was only undertaken—

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. Surely this is debating an issue that is in a bill before the House that can be debated later in the day. Surely this is a misuse of the matter of privilege.

Mr SPEAKER: I will make a statement. Do you have anything further to add, Deputy Premier?

Ms TRAD: Clearly the SDS articulates the functions of these staff. The member for Nanango came into this House and misled the House.

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order. Quite clearly this is not the place to debate the merits of the allegation in relation to the deliberate misleading. The Deputy Premier is trying to establish the components of the complaint. That is a matter for her to establish to your satisfaction by writing to you, not to debate the contents of the SDS, which she has been doing. This is not a matter that warrants the further attention of the House.

Mr SPEAKER: My decision is that the Deputy Premier is alleging a deliberate misleading of the House. Are you going to request I refer this to a committee to investigate?

Ms TRAD: Yes, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: And I will do so. Can you put the matter in writing?

Ms TRAD: I believe the member for Nanango misled the House and I will be writing to you on these matters.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I will look forward to the correspondence and I will consider it.

PRIVILEGE

Member for Buderim, Answer to Question

Mr DICKSON (Buderim—PHON) (9.33 am): On Wednesday I asked the Premier a question without notice—how many Queensland government employees earn \$200,000 or more—and the Premier made a statement that she would come back to me. She is yet to do that and I am hoping before the end of this sitting that will be organised.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I rise to a point of order. I asked the member to put it in writing—to put it on notice—and I would get back to him.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, my understanding is the Premier did not agree to take it on notice. My understanding is—and I will have to check the *Hansard*—you need to write to the Premier. She said she will respond to you. You need to put it on notice.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Questions on Notice

Mr SPEAKER: Standing order 114 requires questions on notice to be lodged with the Clerk by the end of question time each day. I remind all honourable members that question time will conclude at 10.30 am today pursuant to sessional order 1(i).

SPEAKER'S RULING

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 25 May 2017 the Attorney-General and member for Redcliffe wrote to me alleging that the member for Everton deliberately misled the House on 24 May 2017 in his contribution to the private member's motion. I sought further information from the member for Everton about the allegation made against him in accordance with standing order 269(5).

The member for Everton advised that he accepted that he may have drawn a long bow in his assertions and for that he apologised and unconditionally withdrew his comments. In addition, yesterday the member made an unequivocal apology and withdrawal in the House.

Given that an adequate apology has been made, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House by the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, and the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged misleading of the House [1024].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Citizen's Right of Reply

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, recently there has been interest in relation to the citizen's right of reply criteria. I would like all members to be aware that I have placed this matter on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. I have asked the committee to consider whether the current citizen's right of reply sections need to be amended so that it will provide a citizen who feels aggrieved with an opportunity to have up to a maximum of four years to respond to the comments that have been made in the chamber by a member.

Members may have a view in relation to the proposal to amend the current citizen's right of reply, which effectively means if a member of the public has been aggrieved that right to respond finishes once that parliament finishes. At the moment, if a member of the public feels aggrieved by a comment that a member of parliament has made, once the Premier calls an election that member of the public has no further right in the next parliament to a right of reply.

What I am asking is that the Committee of the Legislative Assembly agrees that that member of the public will have a maximum of four years from when the member referred to the member of the public, and the calling of an election will have no impact on their right of reply.

PRIVILEGE

Member for Buderim, Answer to Question

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.40 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I am concerned about the circumstances of the point of order taken earlier by the member for Buderim in relation to the question on notice that he posed to the Premier on Wednesday afternoon.

It is my understanding that the member for Buderim posed that question without notice to the Premier on Wednesday afternoon and that it was not ruled out of order insofar as it was a question that conformed to the rules and orders of the House. The Premier has now advised the House that the member for Buderim needs to write to the Premier in order to seek an answer to that question. The nature and substance of that question asked on Wednesday afternoon is recorded in *Hansard*. The *Hansard* record ought be enough in my view for the Premier to undertake to respond to that question to the member for Buderim. Why does the member for Buderim subsequently need to write to the Premier to clarify or to re-ask the question when the nature and substance of that question has already been recorded clearly by *Hansard*?

Mr SPEAKER: My understanding is that the *Hansard* record shows that in her response the Premier asked the member to put it on notice. I will not have a debate about it.

PRIVILEGE

Member for Buderim, Answer to Question

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (9.41 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I am concerned that the member for Buderim will now have to place on notice a question that has not been ruled out of order when he asked it without notice and that the member for Buderim will effectively need to sacrifice his opportunity to ask another question on notice when a perfectly—

Government members interjected.

Mr CRIPPS: It is not. It is about the nature of—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Have you anything further, member for Hinchinbrook?

Mr CRIPPS: It is a simple question of whether or not—

Mr SPEAKER: No. Do you have anything further to add?

Mr CRIPPS: It is a question about whether or not the member for Buderim's original question without notice was in or out of order. If it was in order on Wednesday afternoon, why does it need to be put again on notice?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: The member for Hinchinbrook has risen on a matter of privilege suddenly arising which surely arose at the time the question was asked and the answer was given by the Premier. This is a matter that was dealt with at the time. An answer was provided to the member for Buderim to your satisfaction, Mr Speaker, clearly, at the time, because no objections or points of order were taken by the member for Buderim, to his satisfaction. The Premier said, 'I will take the last one first,' after she had already noted that there were two questions contained within the question. She further said, 'I am happy if the member wants to put that question on notice, and I will get back to him.'

The provision of putting a question on notice is well established and understood in our standing orders and rules. That is what was suggested to the member for Buderim at the time by the Premier, and he clearly accepted that in that he did not raise a matter of privilege suddenly arising at the time or indeed make a point of order.

I contest that this matter is being raised now not for the purpose of addressing a matter of privilege but in order to eat up the very meagre amount of ministerial statement time available to the treasury benches on this Friday morning.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, it has been brought to my attention that there is a ruling from Speaker McGrady that, unless the minister who was answering the question has agreed to take it on notice, under standing order 113(3) that is the requirement we have to comply with. It is dealt with.

Mr DICKSON: I have a point of order on clarification. The Premier's answer stated—

I am happy if the member wants to put that question on notice and I will get back to him about it. I do not have that information off the top of my head.

This is about the Premier's credibility.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Buderim; that is exactly the point. We will move on.

PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated—

Herberton to Irvinebank Road, Upgrade

Mr Knuth, from 392 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise the immediate upgrade to a sealed standard for the Herberton to Irvinebank Road [1004].

One Mile and Leichhardt, Bus Service

Mr Madden, from 30 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate how the removal of bus stops on the former route 516 has impacted upon elderly and disabled residents in the communities of One Mile and Leichhardt; and the possibility of restoring the 516 service or expanding the current 506 service [1005].

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

Parliamentary Proceedings, Prayers

From 532 petitioners, requesting the House to remove religious prayers from all parliamentary business thereby confirming government impartiality in matters of religious belief [1006].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MEMBER'S PAPERS

The following member's papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Cairns (Mr Pyne)—

- [1007](#) Media release, dated 15 October 2016, by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, titled 'Panel to conduct Electoral Commission review announced'
- [1008](#) Document titled 'CCC Exhibit, Minutes Luke Smith Mayoral Campaign Executive Meeting 22 April 2015'
- [1009](#) Document titled 'CCC Exhibit, Minutes Luke Smith Mayoral Campaign Executive Meeting 20 May 2015'
- [1010](#) Document titled 'Crime and Corruption Commission, Transcript of investigative hearing, 13 June 2017' containing interlineations
- [1011](#) Document titled 'Ipswich City Council' regarding concerns of the Ipswich Ratepayers and Residents Association
- [1012](#) Document titled 'Ipswich City Council, Brookwater Resort Investments Pty Ltd'
- [1013](#) Document containing allegations regarding Ipswich City Council and Cherish the Environment Foundation
- [1014](#) Document, undated, titled 'Council Costs for CCC Operation Belcarra' containing interlineations

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

Redistribution Commission, State Electoral Districts

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.45 am): I table copies of the following documents which were given to me by the Queensland Redistribution Commission in finalisation of the determination of the boundaries and names of Queensland's 93 state electoral districts.

I table all suggestions properly made under section 42 of the Electoral Act 1992, all comments properly made under section 43 of the Electoral Act 1992, a copy of the things made available for public inspection under section 47(2) of the Electoral Act 1992, all objections properly made under section 48 of the Electoral Act 1992, a copy of all comments properly made under section 49 of the Electoral Act 1992, the *Queensland Government Gazette* dated 26 May 2017 containing notification under

section 51(1) of the Electoral Act 1992 of the Queensland Redistribution Commission determination of Queensland's Legislative Assembly electoral districts. Due to the volume, I have earlier provided those documents to the Clerk at the table.

Tabled paper: Queensland Redistribution Commission: Review of Queensland's Electoral Districts—Public Suggestions, July 2016 [1015].

Tabled paper: Queensland Redistribution Commission: Review of Queensland's Electoral Districts—Public Comments on the Suggestions, August 2016 [1016].

Tabled paper: Queensland Redistribution Commission: State Electoral Boundaries Queensland—Maps of Queensland's proposed electoral districts, February 2017 [1017].

Tabled paper: Queensland Redistribution Commission: Review of Queensland's Electoral Districts—Proposal for the redistribution of the state's electoral districts, February 2017 [1018].

Tabled paper: Queensland Redistribution Commission: Review of Queensland's Electoral Districts—Public objections to the proposed state electoral districts, Volume One, March 2017 [1019].

Tabled paper: Queensland Redistribution Commission: Review of Queensland's Electoral Districts—Public objections to the proposed state electoral districts, Volume Two, March 2017 [1020].

Tabled paper: Queensland Redistribution Commission: Review of Queensland's Electoral Districts—Public objections to the proposed state electoral districts, Volume Three, March 2017 [1021].

Tabled paper: Queensland Redistribution Commission: Review of Queensland's Electoral Districts—Public comments on the objections to the proposed state electoral districts, April 2017 [1022].

Tabled paper: Queensland Government Extraordinary Gazette No. 20, dated 26 May 2017: State Electoral Boundaries Queensland—Queensland Redistribution Commission Notification under section 51(1) of the Electoral Act 1992 [1023].

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Trade Mission, Overseas

 Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.47 am): Queensland's economy and Queensland jobs rely on international trade. I am pleased to say that trade is looking up. Figures released last week show the value of Queensland's merchandise exports has risen to \$61.1 billion. That is a 27 per cent increase on a year earlier and 37 per cent higher than it was in the last month of the Newman-Nicholls government when the value of our exports was falling.

As part of my government's strategy to improve those terms of trade even further, securing more international investment and more jobs for Queensland, I will tomorrow depart on a trade mission to the United States. Given the focus this trade mission will have on biofutures and biotechnology, the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy will accompany me to Bio2017 in San Diego. We will also be accompanied by 101 delegates from Queensland including businesspeople, mayors and senior representatives from UQ, QUT and Griffith University. At this event, we will talk to hundreds of potential investors looking for further investment opportunities in the bio industries. I want that investment here in Queensland.

I will also promote business opportunities to potential investors in San Diego and Reno and again meet with the US Navy to talk about their use of Queensland biofuels in the Great Green Fleet.

Further US investment in Queensland film and television production will be the focus of meetings with key production companies and studios. Following previous meetings with production companies in the US, we have seen the likes of *Thor: Ragnarok* and *Aquaman* filmed here in Queensland, providing jobs in the creative arts.

One cannot get new overseas investment in Queensland by staying in Queensland. That is why I shall talk directly to potential investors and get more investment dollars for our state and more jobs.

China Airlines, Flights

 Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.49 am): I am pleased to announce we have secured more China Airlines flights from Taipei to Brisbane through our Attracting Aviation Investment Fund. China Airlines will expand their Taipei to Brisbane flights from four times per week to daily. I want to thank the Minister for Tourism for her hard work in this area. This is some more good news for Queensland today. This will bring an additional 50,000 more travellers to Queensland over the next 12 months and a \$52 million boost to our economy.

These additional flights have the potential to support up to 400 Queensland jobs. These extra services will open up additional access to other key growing markets like Japan, Korea, North America, Europe and the United Kingdom. This is all part of our tourism investment, including \$10 million through our Attracting Aviation Investment Fund to secure more international flights to Queensland.

Since we were elected we have secured new flights bringing more than 650,000 new seats to Queensland. These flights are injecting more than \$700 million into our tourism economy. We are determined to grow our tourism industry because we know it has the potential to support thousands more Queensland jobs. We will not talk down our industry, but we will do whatever we can to support the 52,000 tourism small businesses in this state.

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.50 am): Today the Palaszczuk government will take the next steps in delivering Cross River Rail. Today we will be holding the first industry briefing after we have fully funded Cross River Rail in this budget. This industry briefing will be an opportunity for a cross-section of infrastructure related industries to hear more about this major project. At this briefing, the Premier and I will outline the next critical steps towards the delivery of this project. Already this week we have announced the complete funding for the project and that early works will start later this year with the demolition of the Goprint site at Woolloongabba.

Today, I can also announce that Mr Graeme Newton has been appointed by the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority board as the acting head of the authority. Mr Newton was the CEO of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and was previously Queensland's Coordinator-General and director-general of the department of infrastructure. Mr Newton will act in this role as we embark on the search for a CEO.

In the meantime, we are getting on with the job of delivering this game-changing project. The delivery authority is in a unique position to partner with industry to build Cross River Rail. We will look to industry and other delivery partners to mobilise so that construction can start quickly, jobs can be created and Queenslanders can realise the benefits of Cross River Rail sooner.

That is why the delivery authority will be working in close partnership with industry to ensure that they are involved every step of the way and are able to maximise their involvement in the efficient delivery of the project. Throughout its construction life, the Cross River Rail project will support more than 7,700 jobs with many more jobs to be supported once the project is completed. Through jobs, through connectivity and through great urban development, Cross River Rail will shape our city and our region. The Premier and I are looking forward to the first industry briefing being held today because we are determined to get on with the task of creating jobs and growing our economy by building Cross River Rail.

Jobs

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.52 am): This week's state budget is part of our economic plan that is delivering jobs for Queensland. We promised to generate jobs now and for the future. The ABS figures released yesterday show we are doing that. The figures for May show a net 69,300 jobs have been created under the Palaszczuk government's economic plan since the state election. That equates to 2,470 jobs on average each month.

Queensland's trend unemployment rate for May remained steady at 6.3 per cent, where it has been since January, based on figures revised by the ABS. On the more volatile seasonally adjusted measure, the rate was 6.1 per cent—down from 6.3 per cent in April. The unemployment rate for May is still lower than the 6.6 per cent this government inherited from the former government. The LNP promised a four per cent trend rate over six years. Instead, they watched Queensland's trend unemployment rate rise 1.1 percentage points from 5.5 per cent in March 2012 to 6.6 per cent in January 2015. The former LNP government had the wrong economic plan and the wrong policies to achieve that goal. It simply gave up its target as being too hard.

All three state budgets I have delivered have several things in common—funding employment support programs and initiatives that encourage economic growth and business investment to generate jobs. There is one thing I have never included in any of them—that is the loss of 14,000 jobs. We said there was a better way, and with this week's budget we have proved it again. The latest ABS figures are proof. The 2017-18 state budget is estimated to support 40,000 jobs across the state in 2017-18.

What we have seen in trend terms in the ABS data is our state growing by 5,900 in the month of May—a rise of 0.2 per cent. Trend full-time employment was up by 3,600, or 0.2 per cent. Trend part-time employment was up by 2,300, or 0.3 per cent. In annual terms there were 31,100 more jobs in May 2017 than in May 2016. Overall we have created a net 69,300 jobs—that is more than double the 29,100 jobs created by the LNP in their first term in office. In fact, we have created more in the last year than they did over their entire term. This is contrary to the LNP's alternative facts which say we have lost 30,000 jobs.

These figures all confirm the Palaszczuk government is on the right path with a comprehensive range of programs in the 2017-18 state budget and the first two budgets including: \$42.75 billion over four years for job-creating infrastructure across the state and supporting regional economies; \$4.8 billion for infrastructure allocated to Mackay, the outback, Far North Queensland, Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Darling Downs and Townsville that will directly support 14,500 jobs; more than \$3.8 billion for roads and transport projects; \$2.8 billion to start the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project; \$604 million for school facilities; and \$916 million for Health capital works. All of these projects, together with our targeted jobs programs like Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work, are aimed at creating more job opportunities, more growth and economic activity right across our state.

Winter Beds Strategy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.56 am): This week's budget continues the Palaszczuk government's strong commitment to funding the front line of health care in our state. This includes allocating a further \$15 million for our 2017 Winter Beds Strategy. This funding is an important component of our strategy to arm the healthcare system for the annual challenges presented by winter, as winter is generally a time of increased presentations at our emergency departments and generally coincides with the peak influenza season in Queensland.

The seven key actions under our 2017 Winter Beds Strategy include to: provide \$15 million, including a significant investment into additional new capacity through the Mater Hospital, to support hospitals and health services most impacted by winter to implement additional targeted capacity management strategies; provide access to an extra 90 beds to provide surge capacity in areas of high demand; develop and enact annual patient flow and capacity plans, including winter bed initiatives, in all HHSs across Queensland; provide funding for dedicated nursing resources to support patient flow in our busiest EDs; continue to utilise private sector capacity through the \$20 million Surgery Connect program; continue a communication strategy and marketing plan to promote influenza vaccination for the general population and those individuals at an increased risk of complications as a result of influenza infection; and provide a quality improvement payment for staff influenza vaccination to improve voluntary influenza vaccination uptake amongst hospital and health service staff.

We also need Queenslanders to take steps to better protect themselves and their families from common winter ailments and influenza, including getting a flu shot. These steps will go a long way to decreasing the winter burden on our EDs and ensuring that our ambulance services and emergency departments remain available for those who cannot avoid it.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Budget

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (9.57 am): Yesterday in his budget reply speech the Leader of the Opposition stated in response to people being fixated on their plans for the Public Service—

Let me make that position very clear: there will be no forced redundancies. Unless, like every other workplace, people voluntarily decide to leave the Public Service, everybody who is a public servant will keep their job. Just so we are all clear, let me say it again: there will be no forced redundancies.

The Leader of the Opposition could not even keep his promise for five seconds because they have already created one forced redundancy on their side. The situation involving the member for Broadwater was not a voluntary redundancy. She was not given any options.

This is a very serious issue. You would have to question the level of trust in you by the public when you need to have your people standing outside Public Service buildings handing out a flyer saying, 'Fact: The LNP's plan includes no forced redundancies. Fact: The LNP's plan includes exchange and secondment programs with the private sector.' Does 'exchange and secondment' mean,

'Here, you can have them because we don't want them anymore'? Or does it mean, 'We will use your people because we don't want to pay for any public servants anymore'? You can only imagine the focus groups, can't you? 'Do you trust the Leader of the Opposition, Tim Nicholls, when he says, "No forced redundancies"? Let us have a look at what they said back in 2012. Campbell Newman said—

Despite all the hype and hysteria, not one permanent employee has been 'sacked' as a result of the budget process.

He said—

My point is this: as we have said before, there will be reductions through voluntary redundancies ...

The Leader of the Opposition himself said—

We are putting \$800 million on the table for voluntary redundancy program for people who choose not to seek redeployment. We know what redeployment meant, don't we? It meant: take the money now or you get nothing. That is their idea of voluntary. There was nothing voluntary about it.

We heard the Leader of the Opposition in his Press Club speech say, 'That wasn't me. I wasn't the leader then,' but Campbell Newman knew the facts, didn't he? Campbell Newman made it clear: Tim Nicholls was the treasurer, he made the decisions and he cannot be trusted.

Budget

 Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.01 am): By yesterday this impotent budget was dead on arrival. So bad was this budget that the government could not even get two days of news out of it. That is hardly surprising when we look at who delivered it. Just like this government, the budget is bereft of ideas, it is bereft of big thinking and it lacks vision. The budget has been framed around just two jobs: the job of the Premier and the job of the Deputy Premier, both desperate to cling to power after 2½ years of doing sweet Fanny Adams.

Contrary to the spin of the Premier and her ministers, stakeholder groups have also seen through the budget. Here is what the RACQ said. The RACQ said motorists have been 'duped'. AgForce called the budget 'underwhelming'. The Property Council said Labor was playing a dangerous game with new taxes that could be 'economically damaging'. CCIQ said there was nothing in the budget for small business, the backbone of the Queensland economy.

Is it any wonder the business community has such little faith in this Labor government when we have a Treasurer who has been airbrushed out of budget week by his own party? The Treasurer has gone from being the 'Mythbuster', to 'up Pitt Creek', to 'Captain Risky', to now the 'Invisible Man'. What little attention remained on the budget on Thursday was stolen away by the constant distraction that is the member for Yeerongpilly and the use and deletion of his private email account. As if the previous allegations of potentially 'corrupt conduct' were not bad enough, it has now been alleged the member has been using his private account to communicate with his director-general—a charge, if proven, would be both a moral and ethical breach. Tellingly, the minister refused to address the allegations in parliament yesterday and the Premier adopted her usual approach when asked, and that is to do absolutely nothing.

To top the week off, this Labor government suffered yet another embarrassing defeat on the floor of the parliament. The Queensland parliament passed a motion condemning this government for slashing \$400 million from road infrastructure funding across this state. The whole parliament condemned this government for slashing \$400 million from road funding. This is historic and shows just how bad this budget truly is.

Labor has again shown this week that it simply is not up to the job of governing Queensland. The people of Queensland deserve better than the sideshow that is this fake government. They deserve a government that listens, plans and acts, and that is the government that the LNP will offer.

(Time expired)

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 10.30 am.

Women's Legal Service

 Mr NICHOLLS (10.04 am): My first question is to the Premier. The Palaszczuk government's bad budget slashed \$300,000 from the Women's Legal Service, who assist 13,000 women escaping domestic violence across rural and regional Queensland. Why is the Premier taking this heartless decision and putting domestic violence victims at risk?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. I am very proud of the funding that my government is putting into tackling domestic and family violence across the state. In fact, we will be rolling out two new domestic violence shelters this year, as well as expanding the domestic and family violence courts and also providing outreach to some of our more remote and regional Indigenous communities across the state.

In relation to the Women's Legal Service, I am really glad that the member has asked this question because my government has been meeting with the Women's Legal Service because we know how important their work is in helping women and families—

Mrs D'Ath: \$3.6 million.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you. I take that interjection—\$3.6 million. What I can say is that perhaps the Leader of the Opposition would like to ring up his LNP colleague in Canberra Malcolm Turnbull, because the problem with the cuts that the Women's Legal Service is experiencing at the moment is due to the massive funding cuts from Malcolm Turnbull. Very clearly, what we have seen is federal cuts hurting the Women's Legal Service in this state. My government has actually given the Women's Legal Service \$50,000 now for additional counselling—

Mrs D'Ath: Fill the gap.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—to fill the gap because of Malcolm Turnbull's cuts. As we know, Malcolm Turnbull has a good record in this state when it comes to not funding the services that Queenslanders need. We saw what he did with Cross River Rail, playing politics with not giving the funding for Cross River Rail. We are getting on with the job and building Cross River Rail. We are not waiting for those opposite. We are not waiting for Malcolm Turnbull. We are getting on with the job. We have already gone out to Woolloongabba. The Goprint site is going. Demolition works will start by the end of this year.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition's question was about domestic violence. The Premier is speaking about Cross River Rail and demolishing buildings. Even the longest bow drawn could not justify that as an answer to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier. Can you make your answer relevant to the question? Do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Getting back to the Women's Legal Service, we know how much those opposite support women in this state. They are not supporting the member for Broadwater. They are getting rid of her. Pick up the phone to Malcolm Turnbull and say, 'Deliver the federal share of funds to the Women's Legal Service.' Pick up the phone and call Malcolm Turnbull. It is a federal government cut. Thank you very much for that dixer today.

Ministers, Email Accounts

Mr NICHOLLS: My second question to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm media reports yesterday that both the health minister and the environment minister have also been using private email accounts to conduct official government business?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not know whether I can thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. We have just had a budget handed down this week. Queenslanders out there want to know about the jobs in Queensland that we are actually creating for them.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, no.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I know that is what you want to talk about, but the answer has to be relevant to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, these matters have been well canvassed. It was their RTI. The Minister for Health has made it very clear he was sending emails to himself to print things out.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. We will wait.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy to talk about the record investment that we are making in Health. I thank the Minister for Health for that record investment.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I think you have answered the question. We will move on. The clock is ticking.

Jobs

Mr KING: My question without notice is also to the Premier. Will the Premier outline the latest trends in employment figures in Queensland and what the Palaszczuk government is doing to find more jobs for Queenslanders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Kallangur for that excellent question about the budget and jobs for Queensland, because my government is absolutely committed to growing jobs in this state. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition gave his appalling address. I have said that he has been the worst treasurer this state has ever seen. I have to say now that he is the worst opposition leader we have ever seen as well. Even the member for Southern Downs did a better job. He had a bit of excitement when it came—

Ms Trad: What about the member for Callide? He may have been better too.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. Even the member for Callide was better than the Leader of the Opposition.

Ms Trad: The member for Surfers Paradise gave it a go once.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He did as well. He showed some excitement when he got up there and a bit of passion. In all seriousness, yesterday while the Leader of the Opposition was giving his budget reply we had some good news on the jobs front that I want to share with the House. Trend unemployment is steady, revised down to 6.3 per cent. The good news is that in trend terms the budget papers said that 59,000 jobs had been created in two years under my government. It is now confirmed that 69,300 jobs have been created since my government came to office.

We know how important it is to create jobs for people. Unfortunately, when the Leader of the Opposition was the treasurer of this state what did he do in his very first budget? They came to office and cut 14,000 jobs. Now the Leader of the Opposition expects the public of Queensland—the families of Queensland—to believe that he is not going to do it again. I can honestly say that no-one in this state can trust this man. No-one in this state can trust this Leader of the Opposition, because before that election they said that public servants had nothing to fear. Then in his very first budget he axed 14,000 people. To hand out these brochures is a disgrace. It is an absolute disgrace to go around telling people that their jobs are going to be safe. No-one believes it. No-one can trust him.

A total of 69,500 jobs have been created since we have come into office. That is good news for Queensland. This budget means 40,000 new jobs. Over this term of government, over the next three years, we want to see 100,000 jobs in total created. That is what we are planning to do.

(Time expired)

Pumicestone Electorate, Road Funding

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table this article from the Bribie times in which the member for Pumicestone comments that he was disappointed with road funding, and I quote—

Mr SPEAKER: I apologise, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Members, I have made it clear that we need silence when a member is asking a question. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, would you repeat your question please?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table the article from the Bribie times in which the member for Pumicestone comments that he was disappointed with road funding, and I quote—

We don't have anything for roads.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Bribie Weekly*, Bribie, Qld, dated 16 June 2017, titled 'Bribie left out of state budget for 2017' [1025].

Given Wednesday's motion condemning the Palaszczuk government for slashing \$400 million from the roads budget, will the Premier now reverse her bad decision to cut road funding for Pumicestone?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Nanango for that question. I saw a lovely article today on I think the front page of her local paper which talked about how happy everyone is about the new standard hospital in Nanango. To the health minister I say: well done. I want to thank the member for Pumicestone for his hard work. In fact, the health minister has been working on the expansion of the Caboolture Hospital for the families who live in the area, including Bribie Island, to access good quality health services no matter where they live.

Ms Trad: And education.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have some funding going out there for education. The member for Pumicestone spoke to me yesterday about the Bribie Island Bridge. He came in and made a personal representation to me. He was standing up for his local community and talking about some of the pressures in his area.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have anything further, Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: My government will continue to deliver for all of Queensland, whether they live in Kingaroy, Pumicestone or the Gold Coast. Where is the member for Southport? We know how much he loves the budget.

Ms Trad: Hervey Bay.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, even the member for Hervey Bay. There is something in this budget for everyone. Unlike those opposite, we will stand up for Queenslanders. We will look after Queenslanders. On this side of the House we care for Queenslanders. We are building housing across the state. There is a big bunch of housing in Bribie Island as well.

Mr Emerson: What about roads?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let us talk about roads. Under the former LNP government, \$600 million was slashed from the roads budget. Even the mayors in Western Queensland are thanking my government for the roads that we are building.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I know the member for Indooroopilly is really excited about this question but I am having—

Ms PALASZCZUK: He loves dressing up as Robin Hood; we know that.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He loves dress-ups.

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

Mr Emerson interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am only telling the truth. He loves dress-ups.

Mr SPEAKER: We will move on.

Employment

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer advise the House of initiatives to stimulate employment in Queensland? Are there any alternative plans?

Mr Pitt: I thank the member for Capalaba for his question. He is yet another great advocate for his local community, because I get asked all the time, ‘What can I do to help people in the Capalaba electorate?’ That is what we try to deliver in this budget, just like the Premier’s answer in regard to the member for Pumicestone.

We have heard on numerous occasions today that the ABS released its jobs data yesterday. What we have is nearly 70,000 net new jobs created under this government. That is a big deal. That is 2,470 jobs on average each month. Our trendless job rate is down to 6.3 per cent. Yesterday we heard the member for Clayfield’s much anticipated budget reply. What a fizzer it was. What a weak effort—weak because we have heard pledges again from the LNP which we know are meaningless. Yesterday we heard a number of pledges. Unfortunately, they do not add up to an economic plan. You can have all the pledges you like, but there is no coherent economic plan. This is their third go at it. He had three goes as the treasurer and he could not do it in the budget.

What is their plan? It continues their negativity. Let us go down memory lane. When was the last time they made a pledge? They did their contract with Queensland. How did that work out for them? That was a shocker. People across Queensland wherever they live could accuse them of breach of contract because they did not deliver. We know they did not deliver a saving of \$120 a year in electricity prices. We know that it went up across the term by 43 per cent. That is a massive rise, and they are exactly the sorts of pledges that they have given Queenslanders in the past.

What were their other pledges? They said they were going to bring unemployment down to four per cent in six years. Granted they were there for three years, not six years, but wouldn't we have expected them to have been halfway there by the time they got to three years? No. Instead of unemployment going down, it went up by 1.1 per cent. They went in exactly the opposite way. It just goes to show that the member for Clayfield has the reverse Midas touch, and then we have the reverse Robin Hood sitting next to him. We know that there is meant to be taking from the rich and giving to the poor, but they manage to take money from anywhere they can get it—and that includes sacking people.

Those opposite have no credibility. When they make pledges, we cannot believe them. When it comes to asset sales, that is the favourite topic. They said we only have three choices—to massively raise taxes, fees and charges; asset sales; or sacking people. They said yesterday—if we can believe them—that they are not going to sack anyone and there are no forced redundancies. Here is the fine print: if we believe them on that and we believe them on asset sales, guess what they have left. The only thing they can do is massively raise taxes, fees and charges. That is where the reverse Robin Hood comes in. They are a joke, and that was the worst effort I have seen as a budget reply.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Transport

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm that the Palaszczuk government is modelling the closure of the Shorncliffe, the Redcliffe and the Rosewood lines for the duration of the Commonwealth Games to free up drivers for the Gold Coast line? Will the Premier rule this out, guaranteeing that no train lines will close during the Commonwealth Games?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy to get back to the member about that.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not the line minister. What we do know is that we will need extra drivers because there will be the pressure points coming up for the Commonwealth Games. Of course we will be working through all of those issues with Phillip Strachan and the CEO. We will make sure that we get it right. If there are any changes or any impacts to any other line, we will actually ensure that the public is updated and knows well in advance.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Given the discussion earlier, can I confirm that under 113(3) the Premier has given a commitment to come back to the House on that matter?

Mr SPEAKER: I do not think she has given a commitment.

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, on the point of order—

Mr SPEAKER: I will check the *Hansard* records.

Mr POWELL: Thank you.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy but the Minister for Transport has advised me categorically that there will be no line closures.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Are you happy, member for Glass House?

Mr Powell interjected.

Electricity Prices

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Energy. Will the minister outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to help large customers put downward pressure on electricity costs?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member for Mackay, who is doing a fantastic job in her first term. She always stands up for her electricity consumers, unlike those opposite with their terrible record. We understand that electricity costs are an important issue for large industrial users in our state, so today I am announcing a \$6 million trial to help large electricity customers in regional Queensland reduce their electricity bills and use energy more efficiently. Up to 10 businesses will participate in the large customer adjustment trial which will provide free and independent energy audits, including comprehensive advice on energy management strategies and the standard electricity tariff best suited to their particular circumstances. We are committed to putting downward pressure on electricity and stabilising prices while delivering jobs in investment, unlike those opposite who gave us 43 per cent increases during their time in government with their record majority.

The QCA will today release their new determination, which locks in the Palaszczuk government's decision to invest \$770 million as a cost-of-living measure to slash the expected electricity price increases for households by more than half. Queenslanders have been shielded from the significant electricity price increases across the country because of our recent intervention as part of our \$1.1 billion Powering Queensland Plan. I table a copy of the price rises comparing our state to other states.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Increases in residential electricity prices 2017-18' [1026].

It is 11½ per cent in New South Wales, 19 per cent in the ACT, 9.6 per cent in Victoria and 19 per cent in South Australia, and we are at 3.3 per cent in Queensland. We are leading the country in terms of the impacts on electricity consumers. If we compare this to other states, obviously it is a better outcome. What we have seen from the opposition is them recycling their old promises again. We have heard it all before. Do members remember the no asset sales without a mandate? They did it anyway. They cannot be trusted under the leadership of the member for Clayfield.

Let me outline to the House the Australian Energy Market Operator's 30-minute spot electricity prices at nine o'clock yesterday: Queensland was the lowest in the country, at \$75; New South Wales, \$86; Victoria, \$103; South Australia, \$109; and Tasmania, \$103. This is because we intervened and we are managing our energy in this state. We are actively doing that because we have a plan and we are implementing it. The markets are responding. We have a clean energy boom coming in this state with 17 projects. Why? It is because we understand it is the cheapest form of power that can be built. We are not going to put in expensive, old technology like the opposition are committed to.

(*Time expired*)

Springvale Station, Irrigation Dam

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Premier. I refer to reports of the environment department draining and bulldozing a 1,000-megalitre irrigation dam on Springvale Station. Is it hypocrisy or incompetence that risks the release of about 1,000 megalitres of dam water and tonnes of sediment being flushed on to the Great Barrier Reef under this Labor government's watch?

Mr SPEAKER: Is that to the Premier?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, we do not need a cheer squad.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. It is very technical. I am happy to look into that question for the member. I understand there was an illegally built dam on that property. I am more than happy to get the information from—

Dr Miles: It is being rehabilitated.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The minister has advised me that it is being rehabilitated. I am happy to get any further details relating to the specifics of that question.

Budget, Health

Mr POWER: I have a question for the Minister for Health. The 2017 budget delivers a record investment in the health care of Queenslanders. Is the minister aware of any other approaches to the administration of public health care, including reporting measures and Service Delivery Statements?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes.

Mr DICK: We have seen it again with the shadow minister, the member for Surfers Paradise, on his magical, mystery, fantasy tour around the Health budget. We saw yesterday he was going around the state telling untruths and causing alarm in the community. What did he say? What has he done since he has been the shadow minister? He falsely claimed that the government was cutting the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme, when it has gone up 10 per cent under our government. The only government that wanted to cut it was the LNP. Who recommended it? It was Peter Costello and the Commission of Audit, accepted by the then treasurer.

He falsely claimed that people's lives may have been shortened by palliative care chemotherapy in Toowoomba, when the Leader of the Opposition's own chief of staff was briefed on the very issue by Mike Horan, the Chair of the Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service and a former National Party

health minister. He falsely claimed outpatient waiting lists were going up because he did not know the difference between a weighted activity unit and a patient. He claimed that Labor bungled the Mental Health Tribunal when he himself sat on the LNP cabinet and appointed the unqualified member of the tribunal.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, just one moment. Member for Toowoomba North, please resume your seat. You are in the corridor. We have spoken about that earlier in the sitting. I am trying to hear the minister.

Mr DICK: Yesterday, he said that under Labor's 'bizarre agenda', the budget papers have resorted to reporting on—wait for it—the percentage of Queenslanders eating fruit and vegetables as a performance measure. Who had it in their budget? For three consecutive budgets, the LNP government! I table extracts from the SDS.

Tabled paper: Extract from Queensland State Budget 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15: Service Delivery Statements—Queensland Health [1027].

This is not an opposition; it is an episode from *Have You Been Paying Attention?*, but none of them have been paying attention to anything in the budget. For three years they had the same performance measure, yet they say it is bizarre. This shadow health minister has no idea and no concept of health, all aided, abetted, written and authorised by the leader. The leader has authorised all of this. They are unfit. He is unfit not just to be the health minister; he is unfit to be the shadow, and the Leader of the Opposition has demonstrated again why he cannot be trusted.

Mr SPEAKER: Time has expired.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Mr SEENEY:** I rise on a matter of privilege. It is a real matter of privilege and a serious issue. This morning it has been brought to the attention of the opposition office that two members of the government, one of them a minister, allegedly handed over their parliamentary security passes to United Voice union officials, allowing them to wander unaccompanied through the Parliamentary Annexe in a bid to harass members of parliament and make a case as part of a campaign that they are trying to push.

Obviously this is a very grave matter that significantly compromises the security of the parliamentary precinct and the security of all members. Mr Speaker, I ask you to formally investigate the matter to establish which areas of the parliamentary precinct were accessed by unaccompanied members of United Voice or union officials, using security passes that were provided for the use of members of the government.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. Can you provide whatever information you and the opposition is aware of to assist me in the investigation.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (10.32 am): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—that leave be granted for a motion without notice.

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

APPROPRIATION BILL

REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 15 June (see p. 1782) on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.38 am): The Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget is a great budget for the people of Redcliffe, as well as the broader community. Redcliffe schools, health services and social

housing will experience a massive capital investment from the 2017-18 budget. The justice system will see another boost in this year's budget, on top of the significant investment in the 2016-17 budget. Domestic and family violence specialist courts, drug courts, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, courts, the Coroner's Office and the Electoral Commission all receive additional funding in this year's budget.

In the area of training and skills, the news is not as strong. While the Palaszczuk government continues to invest in ensuring the people of Queensland have the skills they need to gain employment, due to the ceasing of the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform, which delivered \$105 million in the 2016-17 year, currently no funding arrangements are finalised. I will go through many of those initiatives in greater detail later in my speech, but firstly I will go to some of the highlights in my portfolios.

The government's key priorities and initiatives are: continuing to implement justice system initiatives in response to the *Not now, not ever* report into domestic and family violence in Queensland, including the rollout of the specialist domestic and family violence courts; rolling out a further three high-risk teams to Cairns, Brisbane and Ipswich to provide an integrated response across government and the community to domestic and family violence; implementing a whole-of-government youth justice strategy; implementing the government's response to the independent review of youth detention in Queensland to improve practices and services pivotal to the safety, wellbeing and rehabilitation of Queensland youth in detention; managing the social benefit bond contract with Life Without Barriers to reduce reoffending rates for young people; addressing recidivism and the underlying causes of offending through specialist courts and court diversion programs, early intervention initiatives, restorative justice programs and offender programs and re-entry services; enhancing service delivery and access to justice services for vulnerable and disadvantaged Queenslanders, such as victims of crime, adults with impaired capacity, children in need of protection, people with disability and people overrepresented in the justice system; providing funding over three years for legal assistance services for vulnerable and disadvantaged people, delivered by Queensland community legal centres, with additional interim funding to support Queensland community legal centres to maintain staff and services for three months while decisions are made about the allocation of the restored Commonwealth funding over 2017-20; and \$331,000 in 2017-18 to support the coronial inquest into the deaths at Dreamworld.

In Training and Skills, the government continues its focus on providing all Queenslanders with access to high-quality training and skilling opportunities to participate effectively in the workforce. The government is committed to: strengthening the Queensland VET market to support eligible Queenslanders to undertake training for employment in priority areas identified by industry; investing in TAFE Queensland to be a premium public provider of VET; setting standards for high-quality training delivery through the implementation of the Queensland VET Quality Framework; continuing to support Queenslanders into work through the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative; collaborating with Jobs Queensland, an independent statutory entity providing strategic industry advice to government on skills demand and workforce planning; and strengthening prequalified supplier entry requirements to assure training participants that their chosen registered training organisation is able to deliver high-quality industry standard training.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. In doing so, I confirm that I have the approval of the Deputy Speaker.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Order! Have you also provided an electronic copy and a copy for tabling?

Mrs D'ATH: Yes, I believe so.

Leave granted.

Justice System

This Labor Budget has ensured Queensland will now have specialist courts that tackle two significant criminal issues in our society: Drugs and domestic and family violence.

The State Budget has allocated almost \$69.5 million being \$49.492 million over four years and \$20 million capital over two years for a rollout of Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Courts. This funding will make the Southport Specialist Court permanent, and will also allow the specialist court to be expanded across two new locations at Beenleigh and Townsville, with circuit courts to Mount Isa and Palm Island. This means that in addition to the domestic and family violence matters heard by our magistrates across the State, Queenslanders will have five courts at which a specialist domestic and family violence magistrate will operate.

The allocation of funds to these courts was chosen after consideration of the evaluation of the trial of the Southport DFV Court and an analysis of the areas of greatest demand across Queensland.

This funding provides for Magistrates, court staff, corrections officers, prosecutors, duty lawyers, support services for victims of domestic and family violence, and programs for perpetrators at these locations.

This funding also includes significant capital investment to the Beenleigh and Townsville courts, to ensure that our courts can provide the appropriate private spaces and facilities necessary to accommodate a special domestic and family violence court.

Upon coming to Government, Labor promised the people of Queensland that we would bring back our diversionary courts. The Palaszczuk government has already delivered on our commitment to bring back the Murri Courts and court-ordered Youth Justice Conferencing. With this budget, the Palaszczuk fulfils our commitment to diversionary courts by delivering on the last phase being a specialist Drug Court.

Funding of \$22.7 million over four years (including \$500,000 capital) and ongoing funding of \$6.5 million per annum across Justice Services and Corrective Services service areas, the judiciary and Legal Aid Queensland to reinstate the Drug Court and to provide referral and support services to help people address issues associated with their offending. The funding will deliver the new Specialist Drug Court and court referral and support services.

The Specialist Drug Court will operate in Brisbane, where the necessary support services are based, to best achieve the wrap around services. Brisbane is also the site where the largest volume of drug related matters arise. This decision is also supported by the views reflected in the Report to start with one court and ensure that the processes are bedded down and working effectively before any further roll-out.

Having said this, the Specialist Drug Court will be further supported by court referral and support services in other parts of Queensland. The Queensland Drug and Specialist Courts Review, which I tabled earlier this week, was conducted by leading experts in the field and set the framework for a Specialist Drug Court to be reinstated in Queensland.

The Specialist Drug Court was a key election commitment of the Palaszczuk Government and will provide an intensive, targeted and effective sentencing option for offenders whose behaviour is driven by drug or alcohol dependency, and will help reduce reoffending by addressing the underlying causes of addiction.

Another important investment in our justice system and our courthouses is an injection of \$31.6 million over five years reducing to \$4.2 million per annum, ongoing from 2022-2023 to expand and upgrade existing audio visual capability in the criminal justice system. This enables our courts to have the state of the art audio visual equipment to open up our courts to more areas and matters, through the flexibility of hearing matters via video link. This creates efficiencies across the justice system, including for police, corrective services and the legal profession.

This Labor Budget also provides \$16 million over two years to upgrade and maintain courthouse infrastructure across Queensland, including increased funding of \$7.5 million for repair work at the Rockhampton Courthouse.

Another important commitment being delivered by the Palaszczuk Government is the transition of 17 year olds from the adult criminal justice system into the youth justice system, as part of a broader whole-of-government strategy to reduce youth offending and recidivism. The Government has committed \$199.6 million over four years to implement reforms that will not only support the transition of 17 year olds into the youth justice system in a safe and manageable way, but also to invest in early intervention and address the underlying causes of offending. By doing so the Government can save money in the long term by reducing crime, thus reducing pressures on our courts, policing and detention centres, community services and the costs of long term incarceration including in the adult prison system.

This objective formulated on evidence-based models is far more effective in the long term in making our communities safer, than simply spending more money on building more detention centres. That philosophy simply accepts that crime will increase and more youth will be sentenced and require detention. That is a short sighted approach that does nothing to reduce crime and make our communities safer.

The Palaszczuk Government, on the other hand, is committed to long term youth justice reform, which has been widely supported by stakeholders, who recognise that Queensland was the only State in Australia that still treated 17 year olds as adults.

The Government will continue its commitment to the Community Youth Response initiative in Townsville by providing funding of \$7.3 over 2 years for this important intervention strategy.

The whole-of-government Youth Justice Strategy includes delivering Queensland's second Social Benefit Bond to reduce reoffending rates for young people aged 10-16 years old and also aims to reduce the risk of young people being held on remand. The multi-systemic therapy service provides the opportunity to address re-offending rates among young offenders where early intervention can reduce both severity and duration of future offending behaviour. Up to 600 young people over 5 years will be referred to the program by Youth Justice.

The funding provided through the Special Domestic and Family Violence Courts roll-out, the reintroduction of the Drug Court and the Youth Justice Reforms, will include funding for an additional seven new FTE magistrates. One of these magistrates is to be a relieving magistrate to act in the Children's Court and provide the flexibility to move a special children court magistrate around the State where needed.

Training and Skills

In my portfolio of Training and Skills, the Palaszczuk Government continues its commitment to the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative by funding \$60 million in 2017-18 to support up to 8,000 Queenslanders to get into work or young people back into education.

This budget also supports the Back to Work program by supporting eligible jobseekers to gain required skills for employment in regional Queensland communities through additional training under the Back to Work Certificate 3 Guarantee Boost.

To ensure that training is being delivered in the areas of demand based on regional needs, Jobs Queensland is funded \$9 million over four years for the Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy.

The Government continues its development of the Advancing skills for the future: A strategy for vocational education and training in Queensland, a blueprint to ensure Queensland has the skilled population to attract investment and encourage job creation.

The Palaszczuk Labor Government will continue its unwavering support for our public training providers, including TAFE Queensland, with funding of approximately \$203 million in 2017-18 under the State Contribution Grant.

The Government will be developing strategies to provide services to better inform students and employers about qualifications, study options and training providers suited to their needs. This includes partnering with TAFE Queensland to provide up to 10,000 state school students with personalised information about potential career and training pathways.

With the VET Investment Plan for 2017-18 to be released shortly, there is currently a reduction in the overall budget due to the decision of the Commonwealth Government to not renew or extend the National Partnership Agreement on Skills Reform. This NPA delivered \$105.4 million in 2016-17.

While the State Contributions to the Training and Skills budget is increasing from \$576.5 million in 2016-17 financial year, to \$614.9 million in 2017-18, the Commonwealth Contribution decreases from \$483.3 million in 2016-17 to \$419.6 million in 2017-18. This is including \$70 million (down from \$105.4 million in 2016-17) under the Commonwealth's new Skilling Australians Fund, which is subject to the passing of legislation that if passed, will not commence until March 2018. In addition, the revenue for this fund is wholly funded through a new levy on the hire of migrant workers by businesses.

This new Fund is to provide funding to States and Territories to fund an increase in apprenticeships and traineeships, however, the funding is reliant on bringing in as many migrant workers as possible. If the migrant workers are not employed in sufficient numbers to fund the scheme, the funds will not be available to support apprenticeships and traineeships in Queensland.

This means we have a scheme that is not finalised, the terms are still to be determined and the funds have no certainty going forward.

The Palaszczuk Government will continue to advocate for the best deal for Queenslanders with the Commonwealth Government, with the aim to lift apprenticeship and traineeship commencements and completions in Queensland.

Redcliffe

In my electorate of Redcliffe, I am proud to be part of a Labor Government that is investing \$11m in 2017-18 for school infrastructure projects across the Redcliffe Peninsula, totalling \$14 million. This includes \$4.9 million in 2017-18 for Redcliffe Special School to construct additional classrooms, with total funding of \$6.5 million.

In 2017-18 \$4.7 million will also go to Redcliffe State High School to construct a new hall and administration building, as well as new basketball courts and sports shed. In total Redcliffe State High School will receive \$6.1 million. This construction is due to be completed by the end of 2017, for the start of the 2018 school year.

Clontarf Beach State High School, Redcliffe State High School, Scarborough State School and Kippa-Ring State School will all receive \$350,000 each under the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program. These grants will refurbish manual arts blocks at our 2 state high schools, with the state primary schools refurbishing school blocks and classrooms.

Our health services get a great boost, with \$4.6 million funded in 2017-18 out of a \$6.6 million project to be used to construct two replacement Day Procedure rooms and refurbish sterilising service and pathology areas. The upgrade will improve patient flow for patients receiving gastroenterology day procedures.

This is in addition to the work already underway to move the oncology and dialysis units over to the Moreton Bay Integrated Care Centre (MBICC), making way for 26 new acute hospital beds to be developed on level 6 of the Redcliffe Hospital. The MBICC is on track with construction works underway and completion forecast in the coming months. The new ward is expected to be completed by mid-next year in time for the busy winter season. The Health Service also opened a newly refurbished ward on level 4 in 2015 and funded an additional 8 beds in 2016 that are now open throughout the hospital.

The next phase of the project will be the announcement of tenders in the third quarter for both the new ward and other work planned including the upgrades to the Day Procedure Unit, sterilising services and pathology areas.

As the people of Redcliffe are well aware, we are not immune from social issues such as homelessness. Anyone could find themselves homeless when unexpected events happen in people lives. The reasons why people end up homeless can be complex, but it is important that Governments meet their obligations to provide social and affordable housing for our most vulnerable in our community.

That is why I am so proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Government that is investing \$8.5 million over the next 5 years on the Redcliffe Peninsula to build at least 30 new social housing dwellings.

Local non-government organisations that perform incredible work in our community, Chameleon Regional Community Housing and Open Minds Australia, will continue to share in \$1 million for homeless services.

\$490,000 is also provided to upgrade the Cowan Bypass Road, Moreton Island, \$444,000 as part of a \$1.7 million local commitment over four years to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims of domestic and family violence, \$350,000 as part of a \$1.4 million local commitment over 4 years to support people with a disability transition to the NDIS.

Many local Dolphins fans will also be pleased to know that \$618,000 is provided in the 2017-18 budget as part of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to \$1.1 million for stage 2 of the Dolphin Stadium. This stage includes upgrading the field, constructing rooms for coaches, referees, media and a recreational bunk house.

Another big announcement that will benefit the people of Redcliffe along with Queenslanders right across South-East Queensland is the funding of the Cross River Rail. Queenslanders are sick of waiting for the Commonwealth government to join with the Queensland Government to deliver on this important public infrastructure. That is why the Palaszczuk government is funding this project. Our inner city rail line is choking. We need to create greater capacity to allow for increased services and reduced travel time across South-East Queensland.

The facts about the Cross River Rail project:

- a new 10.2 kilometre rail line between Dutton Park and Bowen Hills, with 5.9 kilometres of tunnel under the Brisbane River and CBD. New stations will be built at Boggo Road, Woolloongabba, Albert Street, Roma Street and Exhibition showgrounds. Early works will begin in 2017 with the demolition of the GoPrint site at Woolloongabba;
- 1500 jobs each year over five years of construction and more than 3000 jobs in the most intensive year of construction;
- all state approvals are ticked off, with the Coordinator General approving the Request for Project Change for the Environmental Impact Statement in June 2017;
- Cross River Rail will free up the transport network right across South East Queensland resulting in travel time savings for all regions by removing the rail bottleneck across the Brisbane River.

The people of Redcliffe understand the benefits of investing in public transport, having just celebrated our 1 millionth passenger travelling on the new Redcliffe Peninsula rail line. Once operational the Cross River Rail will save Redcliffe residents up to 8 minutes travelling time to the city on the Redcliffe Peninsula line.

This is a city-shaping project 10 years in the making and it will be delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor Government.

These funding announcements in the 2017-18 budget for the Redcliffe community are in addition to the ongoing fund for road upgrades, grants for sporting and community organisations, including our most recent announcement of \$60,000 for the Redcliffe Harness Racing Club for track upgrades and semaphore boards.

The funds provided in the 2017-18 State Budget are on top of the significant investment in the Redcliffe community to our frontline services. In just over 2 years the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered a major boost to the frontline services our community relies on:

- 95 extra nurses at our local hospital;
- 19 extra doctors at our local hospital;
- 23 extra teachers and teacher aides at Redcliffe schools with 2 extra guidance officers.

The Palaszczuk government continues to deliver for the people of Redcliffe, and as the local member, I will continue to be a strong voice for my community, and a person that the people of Redcliffe can continue to count on into the future.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Before I call the next speaker, I acknowledge students in the gallery from St Thomas' school, Camp Hill, in the electorate of Bulimba.

 **Hon. L SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.42 am): Madam Deputy Speaker, this will be the final time that I have the opportunity to rise and speak in response to a budget in the Queensland parliament. It is a little bit like groundhog day because, when you have seen some 28 budgets, the more they change the more they stay the same. When it comes to this Labor budget, it has all the hallmarks of Labor budgets post the middle of the 1990s. When I came into this place I recollect people such as Keith De Lacy and David Hamill bringing down Labor budgets that, whilst I may have disagreed with the fundamental values and directions of the budget, at least had a fiscal strategy, at least had a fiscal competence and at least had a fiscal responsibility. When I compare this Labor budget with those Labor budgets of the first and second Goss governments, they are poles apart on those two important parameters.

This budget, beyond its very nice cover—it probably has the nicest cover of any budget I have seen in 28 years; the colour scheme is fantastic—has nothing. It is a budget which is designed around self-preservation and nothing else. It is a budget that lacks competence and it is a budget that lacks coherence for the overall direction of this state. I would encourage honourable members opposite who wish to continue in this place in their current iteration to take a leaf out of the book of earlier Labor treasurers in this state. I was looking at the budget earlier on and listening to some of those opposite say all sorts of things from the briefs they have been given about debt going down in Queensland, but look at the simple reality. Very few members of this parliament were here in 2011 and 2012 when their celebrated Andrew Fraser brought down his last budget.

His last budget proposed in the forward estimates—which at that time would have finished in 2014-15—had underlying government debt in Queensland of \$84.934 billion, almost \$85 billion. That was in Labor's forward estimates laid down in 2011-12. What happened when this government took over some three years after that budget and brought down their first budget? In their first budget, the 2015-16 state budget—the last budget of ours going into the first budget of theirs—what happened to

state debt in Queensland? It was \$73.335 billion. It had declined by \$11.5 billion based on the profligacy and forward estimates of the Labor government in 2011-12. That is the fundamental difference between us and Labor: an \$11.5 billion reduction in state debt on what was proposed by the Labor Party.

What we now see is that, notwithstanding the efforts that were put in by the LNP government of the time, this government is proposing that debt goes to \$81 billion again over the forward estimates. The really galling thing is that they have not been able to keep debt under control. They have not been able to reduce debt by a commensurate level of \$11 billion or \$12 billion as we did, despite taking almost \$14 billion out of necessary contingencies which the government holds. Anyone can artificially create a cash surplus. Creating a fiscal surplus, which is the better measure, is something more challenging.

Despite all of the groundwork which had been laid, they have taken \$4 billion out of the defined benefits superannuation fund against the advice of the State Actuary; failed to pay another \$2 billion into the defined benefits superannuation fund; taken \$3.4 billion out of accumulated long service leave in this state; and shifted \$4 billion worth of debt from one government credit card to another government credit card. Despite all of that jiggery-pokery and starting off with an indebtedness situation which was \$11.5 billion less than Andrew Fraser projected, we see debt escalating over \$80 billion again in the forward estimates. That is the real hallmark of the administration of a Labor government versus an LNP government.

Those opposite who will stand up here later on during the course of the day like lemmings trying to emulate a dodo should consider the reality of what is in the budget papers and not just reread something. How can the Treasurer say that debt is going down when all of the indicators indicate otherwise? If you wanted to complain to the Speaker, we would almost have an open-and-shut case about misleading this parliament based on some of the precedents which have been laid down.

I am very loath to say that I am proud to have achieved more spending than a Labor government, because I think that the more you spend does not necessarily achieve better outcomes. If it did, under Labor governments here and elsewhere we should have the best public administration in the world because they celebrate what they spend. They do not celebrate what they deliver. They do not celebrate effect and efficiency; they celebrate what they spend.

We have heard the Minister for Health stand up here in recent times. The Minister for Health did embark upon what was a political sabbatical by the popular acclaim of his electorate of Greenslopes. A lot of things changed in the three years that he was out of this place between 2012 and 2015. In 2012 as he packed up his office and headed south across the Captain Cook Bridge to Greenslopes, or wherever it was, reflecting upon what had just happened on 24 March, he probably looked a little bit to the west and saw the PA Hospital. He would have seen ambulances ramping out of the hospital and down the street. Maybe as he got a little bit further towards the QE II Hospital he also looked at that hospital and saw not just one or two ambulances ramping outside of that hospital but many dozens of them.

If the minister drove even further down the road towards his adopted community of Logan—he now says that Logan is his hospital—he would have seen a hospital that was almost always on bypass, with ambulances ramping out on the street. That is the reality. If he had glanced a little to the east, back over towards Teneriffe, he might have seen the fruits that were able to be chiselled out by the fake Tahitian prince as he bought his new apartment by embezzling \$16 million from the health department.

The member may have also reflected upon the fact—to be fair, he was not then the minister for health; he may not have taken any notice of those cabinet briefs—that we had 63,000 Queenslanders waiting longer than recommended for a routine dental check-up and we had 6,485 Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for surgery. He may have considered for one moment those briefing papers that were taken to the cabinet regularly by the then health minister to cover up the waiting list for the waiting list, which was never published until we came to government. It escalated from 120,000 in its entirety in 2006 to 232,000 in its entirety in 2012, when those opposite left office.

Maybe he reflected upon those sorts of things. He may have reflected on the fact that on the Gold Coast there were outpatients who had their file marked ‘never to be seen’. He may have also reflected on the fact that at the Royal Brisbane and Women’s Hospital there were ophthalmic patients who had their file marked ‘never likely to be seen’. Maybe he reflected upon all those sorts of things, but I bet he did not because those things were not routinely known to the people of Queensland, as they were when the LNP came to office.

One of my first actions as health minister was to ask the director-general to not take the outpatients waiting list data to cabinet because we should publish it. I also said, ‘Let’s publish the dental waiting lists in Queensland.’ I was advised that it was not a good idea. I asked why. I was told, ‘We have people waiting up to 12 years for routine dental appointments.’ This Minister for Health, the member for Woodridge, stands up and talks about Labor values. Are Labor values about ignoring the most needy people in our state—the people who have been waiting to see a dentist, the people who have been waiting to see a specialist, the people who have been waiting to have their surgery? They are not Labor values; they are a pretence at Labor values. If those opposite genuinely believed in that, they would not have had people waiting for 12 years.

I recollect saying to that departmental officer that we would publish the dental waiting lists. I said, ‘I bet by the time they are published there will be no-one waiting 10 years. There will be no-one waiting 12 years.’ Indeed, by time the waiting lists were formatted and published a few months later there were very few people on them. Within 18 months they were reduced to zero through an outsourcing program which ensured we were able to get value for money, working as we did with the private sector in Queensland to deliver services.

What was the message of the member for Woodridge to the mothers of Beaudesert who could not have their babies in that hospital because it was closed by a Labor government? What was the message of the member for Woodridge to the women of Emerald who were birthing on the side of the road because they could not run a proper maternity unit? What was the message of the member for Woodridge to the mothers in Ingham who wanted to have a birthing unit, which has been opened as a consequence of the actions we had taken? I also mention Cooktown Hospital. Mothers there can now birth in their local community. Why did this government stop the reopening of birthing at Mareeba, which was the next one to be opened? Do they not care about the women and their families in that area? Now expectant mothers find themselves in a situation where they are confined for up to six weeks as they wait to have their babies in Cairns.

What about the tens of thousands of ophthalmology patients who were not even on the waiting list for the waiting list? Through our savings in Health—the first time we had ever had savings in Health—and through allowing those savings to be reinvested, along with hundreds of millions of dollars of accumulated surpluses, people received surgery and treatment. Those people were able to get their gift of sight back. In addition, 130 people on the waitlist for a cochlear implant were able to get their surgery as a consequence of good financial management in Queensland. By the time we left office, those 6,485 long waits in surgery were down to a couple of hundred and the escalation in the total outpatients waiting list of 15 per cent a year—I would like to see the total outpatients waiting list—had been stemmed and the number was reduced.

In order to fix the outpatients waiting list you need to fix the surgical waiting list. The strategy put in place to deal with outpatients was the strategy being implemented in the department when the member for Woodridge became the minister. He was able to use surpluses to assist as a result of the financial management of the LNP. We had never heard about surpluses. In Labor’s last full year in government it had a Health deficit of \$300 million. In this health minister’s first SDS—I think on page 23 or 24—he stated that the good financial management of the previous government would be continued as a part of his administration. We are now seeing that slipping.

I do not take much heart from this, but the escalation in expenditure in Health under the LNP, from the last Labor budget to our last budget, was 23 per cent. The escalation under this Labor government over the same number of budgets is 22 per cent. I apologise that we had a higher percentage of escalation in spending, because that is not something I like to celebrate, but that was down from double-digit increases every single year under Labor. The deficits got worse, the waiting lists got longer and people were left lying and dying in waiting rooms and ambulances around Queensland.

Every Health budget is a record. Every Education budget is a record. I daresay it has been ever since we became a separated colony in 1859. It is the nature of the beast. We should not celebrate increasing expenditure as though it is some great achievement. It is a clarion indicator that we have to do things better. You cannot spend your way out of trouble; you have to manage your way out of trouble.

When members talk to their constituents, whether they be householders, they are in small business or whatever the case may be, do they hear them celebrating how much money they spend? They do not. They celebrate how much money they save and they celebrate the effectiveness of what they deliver with the money they have spent. We have to get away from this parallel universe in

government where we celebrate the amount of money we spend, not the effectiveness and efficiency of what we deliver. Spending more does not always mean better outcomes. It just means you have spent more money. As a consequence, essential financial discipline goes out the window. You do not scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of what you do and you do not curtail waste. I can say that the amount of waste across government is very significant because the government is able, by public expectation and by the mantra it has developed, to live in a parallel universe which is as removed from reality as possible. We need to understand that taxpayers are the ones who fund these sorts of things.

During this debate we have heard about the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. It had not increased by and large since it was implemented in the late 1980s. It had been stuck on 15 cents a kilometre and it had been stuck on \$30 for the overnight allowance. We doubled that when we came to government. That was our commitment. It went to 30 cents and \$60. That provided a great benefit to those patients in rural and regional areas around Queensland. In the last couple of days I have heard lots of things said as members seek to embark upon this revisionism about what has happened.

I noted the comments made by the local member yesterday with regard to what happened at Wynnum Hospital. I would like the local member to ask Paul Lucas for his briefing notes with regard to the nursing home in that area that said that it was unsafe, that it was asbestos ridden, that it did not comply with fire requirements and the fact that it was the government's strategy of the day led by Paul Lucas to exit from state run nursing homes. That was the strategy. It is a matter of public record and it was made available to the media.

Also with regard to the Wynnum Hospital, let us ask Geoff Wilson, a previous health minister in Queensland, for his briefing notes that said that that hospital was not able to competently deliver category 1 and category 2 emergency services to patients and was on permanent bypass for that category of patient down to the Redland Hospital. It was on permanent bypass because it could not be delivered, and I note the honourable member for Lytton celebrating the new primary care outreach clinic there which was actually the initiative of our government—site acquired, money allocated—and now they are celebrating that because those people will have a range of services they never had before.

I just want to maybe meander a little bit north because the honourable member for Maryborough is in the chamber listening. I was most intrigued by his revisionism because, as he was wandering the community as a candidate saying, 'It would all be better if we all just wore red,' the reality was there were several thousand people on the long wait dental waiting list at the Maryborough Hospital. In his health service region there was a person on the outpatient waiting list in Queensland who had been waiting the longest time. It was a respiratory patient with a whole range of other issues who had been waiting 15 years. How does that sit with the honourable member for Maryborough, who wants to live in some sort of socialist utopia? The only socialist utopia that applies any sort of semi reasonable health care is Cuba, so maybe he should not go to Maryborough but go to Cuba if he wants a real socialist utopia!

By the time we had finished, those dental waitlists had been reduced to zero, there was a rehab unit at the Maryborough Hospital which was second to none in orthopaedic surgery and rehabilitation planning was being done better than anything else. It is a pity that I do not have the time to mention things all the way up to Cairns, but what happened with endoscopy services in Maryborough? People were waiting up to two years for an endoscopy or a colonoscopy. That was reduced to 19 or 21 days in the time that we were in government. There was an audit of those people who had been waiting which found that there was a high level of mortality or disease of people because they had been waiting too long once they had been preliminarily assessed as potentially having bowel cancer.

That was a significant issue and that was the legacy of the Labor government in places such as Maryborough. Those members who want to try to revise what has happened in Queensland Health—right from Cape York and Saibai Island right down to the southern most areas of our state—need to look at the reality. As the health minister has come back in here after his period of exile, maybe he should go and ask for some of those briefing notes. He should ask for the reality and reacquaint himself, because it is nowhere—

(Time expired)

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (11.02 am): I rise to support the appropriation bills as delivered by Treasurer Pitt for the 2017-18 state budget, which has a clear emphasis on jobs for Queensland. Our strong economic plan has created 59,200 new jobs since our election to government in 2015 when Queenslanders threw the Newman government out of power. We know that we have

more to do, and the budget delivered on Tuesday shows that we are getting on with creating jobs. The Palaszczuk government has delivered surpluses in three budgets to date, with surpluses forecast across the forward estimates. The 2017-18 surplus of \$146 million allows for the \$1.1 billion hit from Tropical Cyclone Debbie. This includes \$400 million of road repairs to keep communities connected following the cyclone. This follows the \$2.8 billion budget surplus for the 2016-17 financial year. We could have built a tower of power with that extra money, but we decided to put the surplus into job-generating projects, further debt reduction and initiatives to lower power costs across Queensland for businesses and households.

The \$10.2 billion Capital Works Program for 2017-18 is estimated to support 29,000 jobs and 11,000 jobs through the Back to Work program. Further initiatives and capital works will also support local government employment. The budget shows that general government debt has been reduced by more than \$14 billion. That is in stark contrast to those opposite who said that the only way to reduce debt was to sell assets. Instead of selling off our income-generating assets, we kept our government owned corporations. They are performing well for Queensland, returning significant revenue, helping reduce debt and supporting our energy projects to power Queensland, with an emphasis on renewables.

Households and businesses in our state continue to benefit from this government maintaining its commitment not to introduce new taxes, fees and charges on Queenslanders. An enhanced public hospital capacity includes a \$19.6 million expansion to the emergency department at Caboolture Hospital. It also includes part of \$112.2 million for planning and preparatory works to expand the Caboolture Hospital and the Ipswich and Logan hospitals. We have housing shortages in Pumicestone and throughout the state and as a terrific response we have our \$1.8 billion Housing Strategy. Our plan has been welcomed by the HIA, Property Council, Master Builders Queensland, QCOSS and Q Shelter, not to mention the community in Pumicestone that shares our burden for the homeless and disadvantaged. This massive investment of \$1.8 billion is to construct 5,000 new homes over 10 years. There is no time wasting or navel gazing like those opposite would do. We are getting on with the project. Expressions of interest are now open and we are calling for organisations to partner with government.

Let us talk about the \$1.1 billion Gateway Arterial upgrade north and the \$929 million for the Bruce Highway's Caloundra-Sunshine Coast interchange, projects that have already started. I recognise that we have been paying down over \$14 billion in state debt. I am pleased that the Bribie Island-Old Toorbul Point Road intersection traffic lights and road upgrades will now go ahead. This is one of the busiest intersections in our area, with 350 schoolchildren at St Michael's College 100 metres down the road. It is overdue. The previous LNP member for Pumicestone, assistant to Newman's sidekick treasurer, only dropped the speed limit as all capital expenditure was going to Newman's tower of power. My community in Pumicestone will be happy with the budget considering the investment in Pumicestone, but I will come to more of that later.

I must talk about electricity costs. They went up by 43 per cent in the 33 months under Newman's treasurer Nicholls, but under the Palaszczuk government they have risen 1.9 per cent per year or about 5½ per cent over an equivalent time of 33 months—yes, 38 per cent less than what those opposite managed to do, and they call themselves great economic managers! Madam Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

We have exercised fiscal discipline in getting the balance right in driving the Queensland economy. Those opposite always say that they will deliver a debt-reducing budget, but their record shows otherwise. General government sector debt was \$29.5 billion at the end of 2011-12 when they came into government, it rose to \$43.1 billion in 2014-15 when they got chucked out. That is an increase of 46 per cent—so much for fiscal responsibility. And they sacked workers, sorry did I say sacked, I meant encouraged workers to take voluntary retirement, they have said they won't do that again, trust us.....

Our Debt Action Plan is working, we look at the general government sector debt to revenue ratio which is now at 60 per cent, down from a peak of 91 per cent in 2012-13. General government sector debt is estimated to be \$33.8 billion in 2017-18 which is \$9.3 billion lower than the peak in 2014-15 of \$43.1 billion under those opposite. The 2017-18 debt is \$14.7 billion lower than the forecast for 2017-18 of \$48.4 billion at the time of the LNP's last budget.

I wish to speak to Pumicestone and our achievements in this budget—\$60 million construction related works and over \$200 million in total investment.

Alternative power the 50% renewables target by 2030 show that we are in touch with community opinion and Bribie Island community have the highest uptake of solar renewable in the State if not the country and in fact the roof top systems have surpassed power production of the biggest power plant in the state in Gladstone.

I incorporate a breakdown of investment that the Palaszczuk Labor Government is making in Pumicestone.

\$154,012 Fire Break project constructing an emergency access track along the alignment of Fire Management Area (FMA) 402 on Bribie Island to create a fuel reduced zone 30m wide and 1000m long.

\$250,000 to refurbish Block 2 and 27 through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program at Caboolture East State School.

\$250,000 to refurbish Teaching Block through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program at Tullawong State School.

\$200,000 to refurbish Block U through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program at Caboolture State High School.

\$2.6 million in 2017-18 to continue upgrade signals and intersection improvements at Caboolture King and lower King streets at a total cost of \$7.6 million over forward estimates.

\$6,541,990 as part of a \$26,167,961 commitment over four years to provide out-of-home care placement services to ensure children and young people in need of protection are supported and safe.

Grant funding of \$18,070 committed over a five month period to provide permanent display boards at the Australian Aviation Society commemorating the First World War listing each airmen, the aircraft they flew and details of their achievements.

Grant funding is \$8,463 as part of a \$33,850 commitment over an eight month period to provide a new weapons display cabinet and a website to promote the 11th Light Horse Caboolture Troop and Military Museum Association.

It is estimated \$225,000 in 2017/18 will be provided to Moreton Bay Regional Council for recovery and reconstruction projects in partnership with the Australian Government.

Grant funding is \$0.05 million as part of a \$0.14 million commitment over 3 years to provide non-clinical support services to people with mental illness, their carers and families.

Grant funding a second stage of \$0.06 million as part of a \$0.13 million commitment over 2 years to provide non-clinical support services to people with mental illness, their carers and families.

For our communities, Child Safety & Disability Services

\$714,562 as part of a \$2,858,250 commitment over four years to provide child protection support services that help support children and families meet case plan goals.

\$597,307 as part of a \$2,389,226 commitment over four years to provide domestic and family violence services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, particularly those in high risk situations.

\$4,177,450 as part of a \$16,709,802 commitment over four years to provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point.

\$1,291,211 as part of a \$5,164,842 commitment over four years to provide domestic and family violence services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, particularly those in high risk situations.

\$900,468 as part of a \$3,601,874 commitment over four years to provide support to vulnerable individuals and assist them to get their lives back on track.

\$115,375 as part of a \$461,498 commitment over four years to provide programs to increase the ability for individuals and community groups to participate positively in their community.

\$668,017 as part of a \$2,672,066 commitment over four years to provide support for young people at risk of disconnection, focusing service delivery efforts on building their connections to their families and the community.

\$88,673 as part of a \$354,693 commitment over four years to provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point.

\$115,376 as part of a \$461,502 commitment over four years to provide programs to increase the ability for individuals and community groups to participate positively in their community.

\$13,473,000 to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need as they move through the different stages of their life. As clients transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme the Queensland government's direct funding commitment to Service Providers and recipients will reduce. Funding in this region is expected to significantly reduce during 2018-19 in line with full implementation of the scheme by 30 June 2019.

\$1,996,231 in 2017-18 to assist persons under 65 or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person aged under 50, with a disability. As clients transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme the Queensland government's direct funding commitment to Service Providers and recipients will reduce. Funding in this region is expected to significantly reduce during 2018-19 in line with the transition plan.

\$123,110 as part of a \$492,440 commitment over four years to support and enhance community relations with people from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds under the Community Action for Multicultural Society Program.

\$635,000 funding in 2017-18 to provide transitional housing to eligible applicants with very high or high needs.

\$125,000 in 2017-18 for payment to eligible residents of Comptons Senior Village to subsidise weekly rent located at Caboolture.

\$692,000 in 2017-18 to provide Home Assist Secure services.

\$437,000 in 2017-18 for non-government organisations to deliver specialist homelessness services aimed at both reducing the number of homeless people and the number of people becoming homeless in Queensland by assisting people to: obtain housing, maintain their housing and maximising their capacity to be independent, self-reliant and connected to appropriate social and community supports.

\$4,987,000 to complete construction of 20 units of accommodation in King street Caboolture.

\$50,000 as part of a \$100,000 commitment to upgrade lighting including electrical system, new poles and LED lights on tennis courts to support tennis at Caboolture.

\$1.7 million in 2017-18 to commence road widening and installation of new signals at the Beerburum Road-Pumicestone Road intersection, Caboolture, at a total cost of \$2.3 million.

\$500,000 in 2017-18 to commence planning for the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road upgrade at a total cost of \$3 million.

\$0.5 million to support natural resource management priorities in the Region including priority pests and weeds, improvement in water quality and further support for sustainable agriculture initiatives in the South East.

\$15.0 million in 2017-18 to construct new infrastructure and refurbish existing buildings to expand the Caboolture Hospital Emergency Department to provide quality and safe emergency services worth \$19.6 million.

\$3.0 million to commence a business case development, planning and site preparation of a total cost of \$18 million at Caboolture Hospital.

\$6.5 million to refurbish the watchhouse and old police station at Caboolture, providing enhanced district coordination, community safety and accessibility of policing services.

\$16.3 million to construct a replacement police station and district headquarters at Caboolture providing enhanced community safety and accessibility of policing services.

\$738,595 in 2017-18 to create up to 300 more car parks to help ease access to the Caboolture Hospital worth \$4 million, announced ready to start, design work finished.

\$1.0 million in 2017-18 to upgrade four passenger lifts which have reached the end of their serviceable life at Caboolture Hospital worth \$1.3 million.

Grant funding of \$558,014 in 2017-18, as part of a \$1.7 million commitment over three years, to provide palliative care services.

Grant funding of \$46,345 as part of a \$139,035 commitment over three years to provide non-clinical support services to people with mental illness, their carers and families.

Grant funding of \$63,559 as part of a \$127,118 commitment over two years to provide non-clinical support services to people with mental illness, their carers and families.

\$2.3 million in 2017-18, from a \$10.6 million total spend, to carry out network construction works at Caboolture West substation to improve network performance.

\$5.4 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need as they move through the different stages of their life. As clients transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme the Queensland government's direct funding commitment to Service Providers and recipients will reduce. Funding in this region is expected to significantly reduce during 2018-19 in line with full implementation of the scheme by 30 June 2019.

\$1.8 million in 2017-18 to assist persons under 65 or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person aged under 50, with a disability. As clients transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme the Queensland government's direct funding commitment to Service Providers and recipients will reduce. Funding in this region is expected to significantly reduce during 2018-19 in line with the transition plan.

\$300,000 will be provided in 2017-18 of \$6.5 million to refurbish the watchhouse and old police station, providing enhanced district coordination, community safety and accessibility of policing services.

\$5.5 million will be provided in 2017-18 of \$16.3 million to construct a replacement police station and district headquarters at Caboolture providing enhanced community safety and accessibility of policing services.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (11.10 am): In my response to the 2017-18 budget, I can assure the House that Bundaberg and Burnett residents are disappointed after this week's pitiful announcements for our part of the world dressed up as a budget. What I am hearing is that residents quickly saw through the spin of reannouncing projects over and over and a Labor budget that was a con designed to protect jobs in the south-east corner.

Every single Bundaberg and Burnett resident will continue to suffer under this bad government. Power, water and car registration are all set to skyrocket to cover Labor's historic poor management. Labor's debt will reach \$81.1 billion for the first time in history. This means every man, woman and child in my region—and all Queenslanders—will owe \$15,795 each. We were promised a jobs bonanza, but what we got was a jobless budget. We are now facing a full-blown jobs crisis across our region. One in four youth now cannot get a job in our region. Bundaberg residents are not stupid. They have seen

straight through the spin and rubbery figures. They will certainly see through the spin when Labor starts delving deeper into their hip pockets with the many new taxes and charges that our residents now have to pay.

Labor has not delivered one single new infrastructure project for the region in this year's budget. This do-nothing government continues to starve the Bundaberg region of vital infrastructure investment. They have essentially sold us out. Once again the Bundaberg region will miss out on its fair share in favour of securing inner-city votes. Labor always promises the world but delivers very little. Labor even had the hide to slash infrastructure and road funding. It has already been debated in this House. Budget paper Nos 1, 2 and 3 clearly state that the funding cut from my region is \$85 million. This is not good enough. Bundaberg residents deserve better. We deserve our fair share. What was bitterly disappointing was that there is no action on wholesale electricity prices, which are up by 70 per cent under this government. Bundaberg families will now have to pay an extra \$50 and will be \$105 worse off when their electricity bills come out later this year. Bundaberg residents face an even bigger price increase in 2020 when the government subsidies end and the money merry-go-round comes to a stop—something successive Labor governments never deal with. There is just more debt and deficit.

Despite Labor's claim of a record health spend, people in my region are still waiting longer for essential services. We have gone back to the bad old days where ramping, waiting lists and reduced services are the norm. Patient travel subsidies in my region have been cut and dental vouchers for those most vulnerable have been ignored. Ambulance ramping has well and truly set in across Queensland and Labor has no solution to fix it. This is a classic Labor health budget, made up of massive cost blowouts, poor patient outcomes and millions underspent in promised capital.

In relation to the budget response for the Department of Housing and Public Works, in an all-too-familiar trend of poor performing Labor ministers, we have the Minister for Housing and Public Works continuing to erode confidence in Queensland. We have a housing crisis under Labor and more and more of the most vulnerable Queenslanders are being left on waiting lists. It is almost a year ago since the minister used the estimates committee hearing to cover up the announcement of the rushed and now disastrous decision to disband the Logan Renewal Initiative, although it was supported by Treasury. We all remember the decision to cancel and rush through, with no consultation with project proponents, no consultation with local stakeholders and no consultation with the Logan City Council. There are significant concerns, not only within the Department of Housing and Public Works but also across a number of government departments with regard to this minister. We understand the reported chief architect of disaster of many of the minister's poor and naive decisions, the chief of staff, has abandoned the sinking ship.

In relation to the new 10-year Housing Strategy and the spin and glossy brochures that have been released this week, for nearly three years the Labor state government has been advising of the intent to release a new Housing Strategy which has finally arrived. Meanwhile, a review of the originally approved Logan Renewal contract reveals that had the Logan Renewal commenced in accordance with the August 2014 signed contracts, the following would have been achieved for the people of Logan and that part of Brisbane: 125 social and affordable houses would have been completed and occupied right now; it would have delivered \$25 million in building and construction investment; it would have contributed 50 full-time-equivalent new jobs in Logan—and remember that no state government employees would have lost their employment or been required to join any other entities if they did not want to, despite what those opposite say. In addition, a further 175 social and affordable dwellings would have been in planning or underway, locking in a further \$23 million in construction investment and expanding the jobs growth to 95 full-time equivalents.

The new 10-year Housing Strategy identifies 492 social housing dwellings in Redlands and Logan in the first five years. Let us assume half of these are in Logan—say, 250—the Logan Renewal would have delivered twice this many in the same period: 500 dwellings in Logan within the first six years, being 200 social and 300 affordable. One hundred and twenty-five of these would be occupied right now.

What remains particularly unclear at this stage is how the government will pay for the targeted development of 4,522 social homes and 1,034 affordable homes over the strategy's 10-year period, when its current plans indicate a preference for the state to continue to own and manage all social and affordable rental housing. This locks the state out of Commonwealth rent assistance, which is a valuable contribution only accessible to non-state government providers of social or affordable housing.

The Logan Renewal leveraged private finance, Commonwealth rent assistance and the skills of the community housing sector to return \$900 million in value back to the state in cash and property from an input by the state of just \$13 million in cash and \$228 million in land transfers—1,000 of the total 5,000 properties in Logan. That is a massive 375 per cent return on investment for the state and the people of Queensland. It is not clear how the new strategy will be able to achieve these same results.

With a complete policy vacuum or direction from the minister, there is one set of figures that are interesting and worth revealing. They are the figures that expose the lie which is Labor's 'no asset sales' mantra before the last election. The reality is the Palaszczuk government was selling government housing in order to fund backlog maintenance programs. Under Labor, 115 government owned properties had either been sold or were shortlisted for sale in the future—60 properties had already been sold for \$16.7 million. For a so-called 'no asset sale minister' he seems to be very busy selling off anything he can lay his hands on.

In a long line of failures, all based on some Marxist reform agenda, Labor has robbed the people of Logan of many advancements. A billion dollars in Commonwealth money has been lost. Had Labor not destroyed the urban renewal project, 200 homes would be under construction and occupied. How many are actually being built today? I can tell members it is none. We see the policy of returning tenancy management back to government, again robbing Queensland of hundreds of millions of dollars and ensuring that inefficiencies will return. We note that the Queensland Housing Strategy is now from 2017 to 2027. What a disappointment for Queenslanders. LNP's Housing 2020 and Homelessness to Housing Strategy was working and reducing Labor's waiting list. The LNP was well on target to deliver 12,000 additional social and affordable housing dwellings by 2020, not 2027. Under Premier Palaszczuk and Minister de Brenni, it is back to the same sad, old Labor story: another failure and wait lists again blowing out to nearly 29,000 people waiting for accommodation.

I note the headline this week 'Budget and social housing failure continues under Labor and Minister de Brenni'. Minister de Brenni has proven he is incapable of managing the Housing and Public Works budget. Last year the budget blew out by \$182 million and he is showing no appetite to fix this mess, with a forecast deficit of \$169 million in this year's budget spend of \$2.006 billion—an 8.4 per cent deficit. This is increasing by \$50 million every year under this minister. Department of Housing and Public Works wages have blown out by more than 10.5 per cent to \$212.862 million while staff numbers have increased by 70 full-time equivalents to 1,698, underlining high wage growth in the department. We have a social housing disaster. The Labor budget delivers less through a plan that will cost much more. As usual, there is no detail and Queenslanders are being asked to trust this minister. Labor seriously short-changes needy Queensland families. Under the Bligh government's mismanagement, more than 30,000 Queenslanders were left languishing on the social housing waiting list. The LNP reduced the waiting list by 37 per cent to under 19,000 in its first two years in government. Labor wants Queenslanders to believe them when clearly they have failed.

Labor's record on social housing speaks for itself. Labor scrapped the community supported Logan Renewal Initiative that would have delivered 2,600 new homes in Logan. It was an initiative with no cost to the state government and Queensland taxpayers. Labor ignored locals, non-profit community housing groups and the Logan City Council, who all supported the initiative, and dumped the project without any consultation. After scrapping the initiative and coping widespread condemnation for pandering to unionists to keep 20-odd department jobs at Logan, Minister de Brenni announced that Labor would build 70 new homes at a cost of \$100 million—as if 70 would compensate for the loss of the proposed 2,600 new dwellings. It was typical Labor—it costs more and delivers less. Now Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk is breaking another election commitment not to sell assets. The housing plan announced in the budget is based on selling unused government owned land. Labor deceived Queenslanders to get into government and now it plans to sell even more of our assets.

There is only one government that ever sold assets—a Labor government. Labor's Housing Strategy includes \$1.8 billion for a 10-year housing strategy but only \$670 million is included in the budget, and across the forward years only around \$190 million is new money. More than \$1 billion is outside the budget and the forward estimates. There are 4,522 social homes and 1,034 affordable homes statewide but there are no details on where or how. The strategy claims to support 450 full-time jobs in 10 years. The report talks about 'leveraged' opportunities with the private sector but, given Labor ripped off the contractors and ripped up the contracts for the Logan Renewal Initiative, it is hard to imagine anyone will want to work with them.

It is really interesting that the state Labor government is talking about surplus state land being developed for residential purposes, with only five to 25 per cent of new dwellings being designated for social and affordable housing. Essentially, we will sell our soul to make five per cent of housing available for those most vulnerable. This desperate policy to sell state land to developers has little detail and does not support Queensland. Finally, after 2½ years we are talking about private and public delivery of residential dwellings, and using and redeveloping underutilised government land—something the government could have opened the door on when first elected.

We hear a lot of talk but little detail on the Housing Construction Jobs Program, another government led and staffed department called a Housing Partnership Office to deliver housing projects. I believe there are enough staff already capable of delivering these reforms without another bureaucracy. Another bureaucracy is flagged in a new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing body. We also see the intention to create housing referral teams to support people to access housing. Is this not the role of the government-led agenda in the housing service centres where there is plenty of scope to continue to recruit many public servants? How much of the \$1.8 billion is flagged to pay for shiny new offices and staff?

What is also disappointing is that the Housing Strategy flags the proposal to create another Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan. Those Indigenous communities across Queensland must feel insulted that we are again talking about reviewing and not about doing. Finally, it has taken 2½ years for the government to talk about reforming the department's intake and dealing with housing tenants. The LNP had already established assessment and allocations processes and was set to identify people's needs and work to ensure tenants' aspirations and dignity were being addressed in many cases to obtain the great Australian dream—home ownership. Sadly, with the return of government-led agenda and delivery, it has taken years for this government to catch up.

We note talk of Indigenous ownership opportunities. In nearly three years in government we once again see Labor handing in the LNP's homework, spinning another glossy brochure and claiming credit for LNP reforms to allow Indigenous Queenslanders the opportunity to own their own homes. After 30 years of inaction by Labor, we introduced reforms in 2013 and 2014 that were reannounced this week in a glossy brochure in the Queensland Housing Strategy. The question the Indigenous community should be asking is: what has the government been doing for the last 2½ years? I note that it appears funding has been cut for the Housing and Employment Program, HEP, which has been running since 2012 in Bundaberg, Capalaba and Ipswich—a \$1.2 million program helping those most vulnerable. We look forward to questions in estimates about why we see more cuts to those most vulnerable Queenslanders.

In the section on Queensland's Housing Strategy labelled 'Confidence', which is ironic in its title, after only 2½ years the minister now talks about reforming the Housing Act 2003, the Residential Tenancies Act and the Rooming Accommodation Act 2008. It is proposed to establish a Housing and Homeless Research Alliance to better support targeted research and analysis. There is a lot of analysis and a lot more reviews.

In another go-slow, we now have commitments to amend the Retirement Act 1999 and the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003. If we needed any further evidence of problems within the department, it is the litany of errors in the strategy. When the strategy first came out, Central Queensland's fact sheet contained errors and misinformation about the budget spend. It appears on the website that we have discrepancies. In one area it talked about \$1.8 billion for the Queensland Housing Strategy to deliver more social and affordable housing and in another area we see \$1.6 billion quoted. I am sure a lazy \$200 million does not matter if it is in a glossy brochure. In seeking trust from this budget, these types of discrepancies do not instil confidence. One can imagine the confidence the construction sector foresees when it looks at those glossy brochures!

The LNP's record on housing speaks for itself. The 2020 plan was on target to deliver an additional 12,000 homes by 2020—nearly threefold the number Labor now promises, essentially at no cost to government. The LNP plan also included the renewal of existing housing stock that was aged and no longer fit-for-purpose. The LNP worked with the non-profit sector to deliver better outcomes for people in social housing but Labor now has abandoned this approach.

I conclude by reaffirming that we are committed to building a better Queensland, to building stronger families, to providing safer and livable communities and that the LNP will deliver better and not more government.

Hon. LM ENOCH (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (11.25 am): I rise to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 Queensland state budget. On Tuesday, the Treasurer delivered the budget and delivered on our government's commitment to providing a better future for all Queenslanders. This budget will support 40,000 new jobs right across Queensland. It is a budget designed to improve the lives of everyday Queenslanders, to lower the cost of living and to help us take advantage of the abundant opportunities available in our state. It is a budget for families, for battlers and, as I said, a budget for Queensland's future.

We are getting on with the job of diversifying Queensland's economy and providing the right economic conditions to help small businesses, start-ups and entrepreneurs turn their great ideas into commercial realities in our state. Of course, commercialising ideas in Queensland means more jobs for Queenslanders. This budget sets out a clear path for our state's future, but what did we hear yesterday from the member for Clayfield in his budget reply speech? We heard nothing more than empty promises, recycled policies and tall tales.

When it comes to small business the LNP claims to be a friend of small business, but its record when it comes to supporting our state sector speaks for itself. How many references to small business did we hear from the shadow minister, the member for Indooroopilly, during his budget reply? Just one. There was one reference to small business, and it did not even outline how the LNP would support this important sector in Queensland's economy. The LNP is not serious about small business and does not care about small business. The Leader of the Opposition stood in this place and promised six-year targets and annual repeal days, but history shows us that the LNP failed miserably when it came to cutting red tape.

Let us be clear on this: the burden of red tape increased under the Newman-Nicholls government. Their approach was simply to fill rooms of bureaucrats counting words and documents. That is how they looked at reducing red tape. In its April 2015 red tape survey report, the Chamber of Commerce & Industry said—

The burden of red tape has intensified over the past two years and continues to adversely impact the performance of Queensland businesses.

The report also found that one in four businesses felt growth was hindered by red tape and were disappointed the LNP government had let them down.

Unlike the LNP, we are actually working with Queensland small businesses to build a better Queensland. Our economic plan is setting the right conditions for business growth after the disastrous cuts of the Newman-Nicholls government. The LNP did nothing but slash jobs and services. As treasurer, the member for Clayfield cut small business support, abolished the small business commissioner, cut on-line business services and oversaw cuts to the incredibly successful Mentoring for Growth program—actions that according to the ABS contributed to over 14,000 small businesses being lost in that first year. That is an average of 269 small businesses being lost per week in the first year of the former LNP government. That is what happens when one sacks 14,000 public servants overnight.

Contrast this to the work being done by the Palaszczuk government. We have committed an additional \$22.7 million to deliver our Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy. We have seen our small business numbers grow from 406,000 to 414,000—the biggest increase in the numbers of small business in Queensland in three years. The Suncorp Group CCIQ Pulse Survey for the March 2017 quarter shows business confidence at its highest since 2014, with business conditions perceived to be the best since 2009. We are seeing these positive results because the Palaszczuk government is listening to small businesses and delivering programs to meet their needs, programs such as the \$3 million Accelerate Small Business Grants Program.

This week I announced eight small businesses will share in funding totalling more than \$63,000 to engage business mentors, coaches or an advisory board to work closely with the business for six to 12 months. Our Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program provides \$3 million over three years to help new small businesses access professional advice and support in the critical early stages of establishing a business. The Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program provides up to \$5,000 in matched funding to enable small businesses to access planning, coaching and training. The Office of Small Business received more than 200 applications, with 148 of these approved to receive a total of \$559,547 in grant funding.

Our Small Business Digital Grants Program has seen 155 Queensland small businesses share in \$1 million to help them boost their digital capability and participate in the global digital economy. These grants are helping Queensland small businesses start, grow and employ and are being

welcomed by small businesses across the state. In addition to this, our expanded Mentoring for Growth initiative has proven beneficial for 148 Queensland small businesses in the past financial year, by helping them increase profit and employ more Queenslanders.

While the member for Clayfield made some fleeting references to small business in his budget reply speech, it is once again those working in the research, start-up and innovation sectors who should be most concerned by what he did not say. Despite acknowledging the vital role science and technology will play in our economy now and in the future, the Leader of the Opposition once more failed to outline the LNP's policy to support Queensland's best and brightest minds. Yet again there was no real mention of innovation, no mention of entrepreneurship, no mention of start-ups, no mention of the digital economy and no mention of research.

What of the hope offered by the member for Mount Ommaney in her role as the shadow minister? It is a role the member is happy to have the title and extra pay for but not that happy to do the extra work for. The member for Mount Ommaney is happy to stand in this place and crack jokes about the hugely successful Advance Queensland initiative—she is even happy to misquote me—but the transition of Queensland's economy is no joking matter. The future prosperity of our state depends on it and it will take all levels of government—of all persuasions—working together with the private sector to ensure prosperity for generations of Queenslanders to come. In that spirit, I would like to share some insights with the member for Mount Ommaney so that she might consider them.

International evidence tells us that attracting experienced overseas companies, start-ups and entrepreneurs to our state is investing in Queenslanders. It is providing them with access to the experience of what it takes to turn a great idea into a business. It is providing them with the opportunity to learn firsthand what it takes to attract venture capital investment. It is providing them with international connections to take the ideas they have commercialised in Queensland to the world.

I would encourage the member for Mount Ommaney to get out and spend quality time with our local start-ups, innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs. I would encourage her to hear their stories, listen to their challenges and understand the opportunities before them. Once she has done that, she should release the LNP's policy to support our state's best and brightest minds. That is something that has been promised but is still nowhere to be seen.

Given the LNP's track record in the innovation space, we should not hold our breath. In their first budget they cut \$50 million from the innovation and science division. Over the three years of LNP government their total investment in innovation was just \$7.2 million and they created just 41 jobs. In contrast, we have seen more than 2,100 jobs created through our Advance Queensland initiative in just two years. We continue to support our best and brightest minds. In the three years of the former LNP government they only awarded 14 research fellowships—the lowest number in over a decade.

The Advance Queensland initiative through the Palaszczuk Labor government is supporting the best and brightest minds. Through our research fellowships and PhD fellowships we have supported close to 100 researchers in this state and that continues to grow through programs such as our Knowledge Transfer Partnerships program.

This is a government that is committed to ensuring that we are not just keeping pace with the rest of the world but that we are getting ahead of it. We are going to ensure that we get our fair share of the new global industries and the new global jobs so that the next generations can participate in those and have the quality of life that all Labor governments expect into the future. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I have sought guidance from the Deputy Speaker and have made available to Hansard an electronic copy.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is investing in this future in many ways—including a \$40 million funding injection to strengthen Queensland's digital infrastructure.

Although we continue to call on the federal LNP government to lift its game when it comes to the so far very disappointing NBN, our government won't stop forging ahead with our digital plans.

We see this commitment as essential work—allowing Queensland to evolve along with our knowledge economy that's built on innovation and entrepreneurship.

The funding will allow us to develop intelligent and tailored government services, to transform the delivery of scientific information, and to safeguard our state's records.

Because Mr Speaker, a revolution is sweeping through our state, and the Palaszczuk Government is committed to improving service delivery for Queenslanders against this backdrop of digital transformation.

That's why the 2017-18 Budget includes an allocation of \$20 million to continue transforming government services through the One-Stop Shop program.

Because Mr Speaker, we want to make it easier for Queenslanders to interact with us.

One-Stop Shop works with all tiers of government and our partners to provide customers with easy access to information and services.

A great example of the improved services being delivered is an online seniors' concessions service, which has reduced the processing time of concession applications from 20 days to 24 hours.

Understandably, this service has received overwhelming positive feedback.

Mr Speaker, \$12.7 million over two years will support the first stage of a digital archive solution to help keep the most significant records of our state safe.

Meanwhile, to modernise the delivery of science services, the government is providing additional funding of \$6.2 million in 2017-18 for the first phase of the Science ICT Remediation and Renewal Program.

This will help us ensure scientific information is not only integrated, coherent and reliable, but that it provides new and accessible insights, and supports more informed decision-making across government.

In addition Mr Speaker, Open Data will receive a further \$1.1 million over two years to increase the publication of high-value datasets and improve data visualisation.

The work will enable access to free, useable Queensland Government data, and will help unlock fresh ideas and fuel greater innovation. Mr Speaker, I am proud of the immense work done by our government to lead Queensland into the digital era.

This \$40 million dollar injection of new funding further adds to the foundation we're building for Queensland to truly be the state of innovation.

And an additional \$10 million has been reallocated for the highly successful Ignite Ideas Fund, which has provided almost \$16.5 million to approximately 120 businesses in the past 18 months.

Queensland's first Chief Entrepreneur, Mark Sowerby, is right behind this move, and calls it a program that's doing what it's meant to do—which is giving Queenslanders a chance to start a business, employ people, and create jobs and wealth.

Mr Speaker, innovation is at the heart of our \$420 million whole-of-government Advance Queensland initiative.

Since its introduction, Advance Queensland has backed more than 900 innovators and supported more than 2100 jobs.

Not to mention, Mr Speaker, Advance Queensland has already helped 3400 entrepreneurs learn new skills to pursue their big, bright ideas.

In 2017-18, through Advance Queensland, \$50 million will be spent unlocking further opportunities and positioning Queensland as the innovation state.

And Mr Speaker, let's not forget about all the associated benefits for Queensland small businesses from initiatives like Back to Work and Made in Queensland, and through energy concessions and the payroll tax rebate.

Our Back to Work program—which has been expanded in this year's budget—is helping break the cycle of long-term and youth unemployment, and the \$20 million Made in Queensland initiative is allowing our local manufacturers to become more innovative and competitive.

Meanwhile, the Palaszczuk Government's Smart Savings website has made it easy for Queenslanders to learn about and apply for concessions and rebates that will ease the cost of living and running a business.

And Mr Speaker, we will also continue with the successful initiative of raising the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees from 25 to 50 per cent. This is in addition to keeping those wages exempt from payroll tax until the 30th of June, 2018.

Because, Mr Speaker, we want to address the issue of falling apprenticeships among our youth, and put more young Queenslanders into jobs that will eliminate a skills shortage and further develop our highly skilled workforce.

Our state is made up of 12 vast and highly diverse regions.

In these regions, we find passionate communities, and I'm proud to speak in the House on behalf of my electorate, Algestor.

This Budget will offer greater support to local families, schools, and individuals with disabilities. It is about empowering people with purpose, and connecting our community as a whole.

Mr Speaker, \$5 million will be invested in the Algestor electorate during the next financial year—part of a \$20 million, four-year commitment—to deliver out-of-home placement care that will ensure children and youth in need of protection are safe.

Almost \$800,000 will be spent on providing vulnerable families with parental and crisis support services, and improving family and community connections for young people at risk.

The Algestor Electorate will benefit from more than \$12.6 million in disability services funding that will support individuals with disabilities, and their families, through the different stages of their lives.

And \$330,000 in grant funding will be used to strengthen dementia respite services—part of a \$1 million commitment over three years.

Mr Speaker, Boronia Heights State School—which has approximately 700 students enrolled from prep to year six, and an enriching Special Education Program—will now be able to upgrade pathways and ramps throughout their grounds with \$100,000 in new funding delivered through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program.

\$490,000 of a half million dollar investment will also be used to refurbish specialist spaces at Calamvale Community College, while \$50,000 of an allocated \$200,000 will be made available to refurbish the library at Watson Road State School in Acacia Ridge.

And football will now be a constant feature in Willawong, with \$50,000 to be released to construct a new playing field, which is half of a \$100,000 funding commitment.

In addition, Mr Speaker, an \$11,000 commitment has been made in 2017-18 to support and enhance community relations with people from diverse cultural backgrounds.

Last weekend I took part in the Algester Parkinson Lions Club's 'Many Cultures, One Community' event, and it was wonderful to see so many smiling faces from every pocket of our multicultural electorate, so this funding will no doubt be a valuable investment.

Our greater region will also continue with its recovery efforts following extensive flooding earlier this year, with an estimated \$9.5 million to be provided to Logan City Council in 2017-18, in partnership with the Australian Government.

Mr Speaker, as I suggested earlier, this is an inclusive budget that looks after all Queenslanders.

It's supporting jobs, it's investing in critical services and infrastructure, it's helping our state recover from disaster, and it's connecting us like never before.

The figures show the Advance Queensland initiative and the Advance Small Business Queensland Strategy are working.

The programs involved are putting more Queenslanders into jobs, and are helping put Queensland on the map when it comes to innovation, entrepreneurship and startups.

That's why we are holding strong on our current course with both initiatives, and will continue to invest in Queensland, and Queenslanders, so they can start businesses, grow their business, and employ more people in the community.

I commend the Budget to the House.

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (11.34 am): I rise today to speak to the Appropriation Bill and state budget 2017-18. This budget that is proudly lauded by those opposite as a good Labor budget is an insult to the people of Redlands. It is nothing more than a con. Worse, this budget is the cause of injury to the people of Redlands. Let me spell it out for those opposite in the clearest possible terms.

The Redlands electorate is in the top five fastest growing electorates in Queensland. The Redlands electorate is part of Redland City—the fifth largest urban population in the state.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Members in the House, I ask you to please keep your conversations down. Those conversations are interrupting the member for Redlands.

Mr McEACHAN: This budget does nothing to address the needs of not only the 55,000 people in Redlands but also the some 165,000 people who make up the city.

Redland Hospital, under Labor's watch, now has one of the worst rates of ambulance ramping in the state. Proud, hardworking ambos and hospital staff are stretched to the limit. How many more beds, nurses, doctors and services at the Redland Hospital have been funded in this budget? None, but that is okay says Labor: you will get Cross River Rail!

Alcohol and substance abuse is taking a terrible toll in the Redlands. It is a big factor in home invasions, assaults, theft, child neglect and antisocial behaviour. How many more police on the beat for Redland Bay, Cleveland, Russell Island and Macleay Island police stations are budgeted for? None, but that is okay says Labor: you will get Cross River Rail!

Victoria Point State School, Redland Bay State School, Mount Cotton State School and Carbrook State School are using enrolment management plans. They are overflowing with students. Notwithstanding the very welcome but reannounced \$668,000 in funding for a new administration facility at Redland Bay State School, Redlands got no investment in local schools.

The department knows we need to start work on a new school in the southern Redlands. What did we get? Nothing, but that is okay says Labor: you will get Cross River Rail! Russell Island State School and Macleay Island State School are both situated on central spine roads that traverse the length of each island. These roads are the principal access roads for people getting to barges and ferries—people on time constraints. The reality is that we do see people exceeding the speed limit. They see people exceeding the speed limit while students are arriving or leaving the schools. There has been a tragic fatality on one of these roads. A child was struck while riding his bike. Crossing attendants regularly report near misses.

We heard earlier last night that the electorate of Pine Rivers has school zone flashing lights for every school. We should all applaud that, but what do we get on the islands? Nothing. The Deputy Premier said yesterday that that is okay Redlands: you are getting Cross River Rail!

The electorate of Redlands is home to vast mangrove forests, internationally important Ramsar sites, the world-famous Moreton Bay Marine Park, endangered koala populations and creeks with remnant rainforests that are in desperate need of remediation to improve water quality. What did we get for our precious environment in Redlands? Nothing, but that is okay says Labor: you are getting Cross River Rail!

I have some important news for the Deputy Premier and it pertains to Cross River Rail: there is no railway in Redlands! Residents from Redland Bay, Victoria Point, Coochiemudlo and the Southern Moreton Bay Islands can drive 45 minutes at peak hour to get to the Cleveland station—a single line—often to find that the service has been cancelled. Deputy Premier, it is time to climb on board the reality train. Your Cross River Rail con job will not fly in Redlands. We need investments in roads, schools, emergency services, our hospital, environment and local jobs, not the cheap tricks of a cheap charlatan.

Apart from being a con job, I believe there is a fundamental problem with the budget process for Redlands. The Redlands electorate is a proud part of a proud independent city. We have gone from a rural shire just 11 years ago to a major Queensland city today. It is time for Redland City to get its own place in the budget—a snapshot in the same way that cities like Cairns, Townsville, Toowoomba and Logan get, to name a few. Redland City needs this so it is not subsumed by Brisbane's budget figures. Redlands need this so a clear light can shine on our needs and they can then be properly addressed. I make this commitment. I will fight for Redlands to have its own place in a budget brought down by an LNP government.

In order to demonstrate the importance of this, I turn to the Far North Queensland action plan and compare it to the Brisbane action plan. The Brisbane action plan includes Redland City in the map only—the only major population area and independent city not subject to this state budget process. Let me say from the outset that I do not begrudge funding to the good people of Cairns. This serves purely for comparison purposes. In this budget the Cairns urban area receives up to \$97 million out of a total spend of \$897 million in the forward estimates. Redland City, with an almost identical population, be it slightly larger and growing faster, in this budget receives up to \$15 million—\$15 million compared to \$97 million—out of a spend of \$30 million in the forward estimates. It bears repeating: in this budget the Cairns urban area receives up to \$97 million out of a total spend of \$897 million in the forward estimates. Redland City, with an almost identical population, be it slightly larger and growing faster, in this budget receives up to \$15 million out of a \$30 million spend in the forward estimates.

It is also worth pointing out that of the \$15 million for Redlands in the 2017-18 budget nearly \$10 million is for the Stradbroke Island transition. Stradbroke Island has an economy that under this incompetent Labor government is rapidly going from a vibrant, diversified economy to a singular one totally dependent on tourism and in doing so has trashed more than 100 local jobs and amplified sovereign risk. From the mayor to the Redland City Chamber of Commerce, to Straddie residents, they know that this transition strategy is hopelessly inadequate. With my friend and colleague the member for Cleveland, soon to be Oodgeroo, we are standing up for Straddie locals and those on the mainland impacted by this ill-considered decision and we will fight for a transition plan that better meets the need.

It is reasonable to say that the Redlands electorate and the City of Redlands is actually going backwards under this utterly incompetent Labor Palaszczuk government. It must have escaped the Treasurer's attention but two of his own Labor members represent the City of Redlands as well. I will happily say on behalf of those Labor members that locals in Mount Cotton, Sheldon, Capalaba, Alexandra Hills, Birkdale and Thorneside in this year's budget receive—wait for it—nothing. That is okay they say, because we are getting Cross River Rail! I am sure great candidates Julie Talty and Cameron Leafe will have a differing view, a view that actually represents the concerns of local people.

A Tim Nicholls LNP government will tackle the cost-of-living pressures to help build stronger Redlands families. An LNP government will freeze family car registration for three years, saving Redlands families and pensioners hundreds of dollars—the first of many policies to help ease cost-of-living pressures. The LNP will get the state's finances back on track so we can build not only a better Redlands but a better Queensland. The LNP plan to create more jobs, stronger families, lower crime rates and build fair dinkum roads. An LNP government will commit \$100 million to fund the Get Queensland Working plan to help tackle unemployment—so important for the Southern Moreton Bay Islands, an area of persistent disadvantage where youth unemployment is north of 30 per cent.

I am pleased to say to Redlands locals that asset sales are ruled out completely, as are forced redundancies in the Public Service. Contrast this with the Palaszczuk Labor government, who sold the Mount Cotton driver training centre, a world-class facility and an income-generating asset. Not only did they break a promise to Redlanders; but they spent the proceeds on government advertising, putting the lie to the ridiculous assertions of the hyperbolic member for Yeerongpilly.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member, that was unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr McEACHAN: I withdraw. I would like to acknowledge the speech given earlier by the member for Southern Downs. It was a fantastic speech and demonstrated what a person of conviction and integrity in the position of health minister can do in three years. It was a proper schooling for those opposite, particularly the member for Maryborough.

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Stretton, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr McEACHAN: Speaking of schools, the member for Maryborough commented last night that Maryborough State High School had not had any new buildings since 1955 which I found quite interesting given that Maryborough State High School did not exist in 1955. There were in fact two schools—a boys school and a girls school. In fact, my mother went to the girls school and I went to the high school some years later. I do recall going to school and attending the computer classes in a newly built building which also housed our music and art. I am pretty sure that was not around circa 1955.

An opposition member: So did he mislead the House?

Mr McEACHAN: He may have misled the House, but I am not going to go down that path because I have no faith in him whatsoever in restoring the record. I am happy to restore it on his behalf. There have been several other buildings built since 1955 at Maryborough State High. I would like to continue with my speech. In closing, only an LNP government is committed to building a better Redlands—building the roads we need such as upgrading Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, tackling the cost-of-living pressures, creating the environment for small business to thrive, creating jobs, creating stronger families, tackling local crime, tackling ambulance ramping and protecting our environment.

During the Bligh years when my daughter broke her leg—her tibia and fibula below the knee—and I held her in my arms at Redland Hospital and as we waited for more than three hours to be seen, with no pain relief for that little girl and no emergency beds available to lie her down, and ambulances ramped down the road, I made a promise to her. I promised to devote my life to get rid of the Labor government responsible, and I saw it through. I look across the chamber at an even worse Labor government and I reaffirm my promise to her and to the people of Redlands. Only an LNP government can build a better Redlands and a better Queensland.

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (11.48 am): It is my great privilege to speak on the Appropriation Bill introduced by the Hon. Curtis Pitt. This is my third year in a row of responding to a good Labor government budget delivered by Treasurer Pitt and, once again, I feel an incredible pride in the depth and breadth of his budget's outcomes and in what a great difference this will make to all Queenslanders—none more so than my constituents of the Kallangur electorate. This budget makes a difference where it matters. In the words of the Treasurer, if I can paraphrase him, it is a 'better way', where 'confidence has made a comeback' and a surplus and great future has been achieved through a 'disciplined approach' to fiscal management, service delivery and investment—or, as I may say it, it is a budget that delivers jobs for my community through infrastructure projects and real employer incentives that we need.

This budget puts the front-line services of health, education, police and emergency services along with a strong Public Service front and centre delivering for our community. It delivers a budget surplus, with overall debt reduction and economic growth that is amongst the highest in the nation. It does this at the same time as it delivered effective and vital relief to those affected by natural disasters like Cyclone Debbie. That means business wants to invest in our community and our people recover from tough times quickly.

This budget keeps the cost of living down for us all and focuses on areas of concern like electricity prices and home affordability. It does this all by strong fiscal management that is future focused and, most importantly, it does not require the sale of our income-generating public assets. The surplus delivered by the Treasurer of \$2.8 billion accompanied by growth of 2.4 per cent despite the effect of Cyclone Debbie is stunning. This has allowed the Palaszczuk government to focus on jobs, reducing debt and tackling electricity prices as key priorities.

This budget has shown that there can be a strong emphasis on front-line jobs, with 90 per cent of those new jobs being in health, education and police, and we can deliver a strong economic position to the state's bottom line. This budget is a stunning vindication of the decision by the Palaszczuk government to protect the assets of our state and our people to ensure that profits benefit our children's future and us, not sent off to some private for-profit company to bolster their bottom lines and coffers while Queenslanders pay more and more for vital services like power. We do not have to sell the family silver. In fact, it pays well to keep it. Our ability to fund Cross River Rail is a huge boon for our community in South-East Queensland and is critically needed for all of us in the south-east corner. Labor is the party that understands building for our future and not selling to our mates is what delivers results such as those we see in this budget.

I am intending to incorporate my speech as I have much to talk about but I will talk for a few minutes first to identify the key outcomes for my electorate, as I and my community are very excited by so many of them. The Anzac Avenue and Dayboro Road intersection, or, as it is known locally, the 'Petrie roundabout', has been front and centre of my priorities since I was elected. The road is already the cause of much traffic delay and frustration in my community, and with the Petrie University underway this infrastructure is one of the most pressing projects we have.

Previous members like Mary-Anne O'Neill fought hard to fix and started work on the AJ Wyllie Bridge when it was damaged in 2011. My predecessor saw the opening of this bridge adjacent to the roundabout. However, I, like many other residents, knew that the bottleneck he complained about was in fact at the roundabout. I know this from having lived in this area and having been caught in this bottleneck for many, many years. The funding of approximately \$7½ million over the next three years through QTRIP to undertake stage 1, the planning and design of the upgrade required, is the vital start that is needed. This work will inform us of the final project funding costs. I am pleased to have listened to and delivered the start of a project that has been desperately required for so many years. By the look of my Facebook page comments and shares the announcement has had, I am not alone in my delight at this outcome.

There is \$10 million in 2017-18 to continue the upgrade of the Bruce Highway at the Boundary Road interchange. The total cost of the upgrade will be \$100.4 million. We have delivered our share of this project without asset sales, unlike those opposite who when in government proposed they would only move on this project if they sold our assets and were re-elected. This project includes a minimum six-lane bridge over the Bruce Highway which will help improve road safety through increasing capacity at the interchange, reducing queuing and improving travel time.

Over the next three years there is also money for the planning, design and early works on New Settlement Road at the Deception Bay highway overpass. This overpass has been in dire need of an upgrade and quickly becomes a choke point during peak times. This project was scrapped from QTRIP by the Nicholls-Newman government. If it had not been, it is likely that this project would be shovel-ready by now and we would be seeing more of the jobs that our region needs. Local residents who use the interchange do not need to be told that it needs an upgrade. Our strong Moreton Bay region Labor MP team has listened to the concerns being raised by people who live in all of our communities. I am very pleased that we are able to deliver for them and I am pleased that this project is back on track. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I have sought and received approval from the Deputy Speaker and an electronic copy has been sent to Hansard.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, Kallangur has not missed out and I list below the funding we have received to support our community.

- \$2 million in 2017-18 will be funded to continue the dam safety upgrade at Sideling Creek Dam, worth \$18M. This is an important part of the work on our dam and waterways system in Kallangur.
- We will see \$350,000 to Refurbish Science Labs and Prep Room through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program at Dakabin State High School. This continues our focus on STEM schooling so our students are future prepared for the jobs of the future. Dakabin is a great school and along with Minister Miles I know what a difference this money will make.
- We will spend \$240,000 of \$300,000 to refurbish Block I Special Ed through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program at Kurwongbah State School, again a great State school who will benefit by this budget.
- Along with Minister Ryan, I welcome the funding of nearly \$3M for Narangba Valley State Schools additional classrooms. This is much-needed infrastructure for the future as this region that we share. A recent Kallangur Community report Minister Fentiman and I worked on with her department shows this area has growth of over 3.4% and over 64% of the current and projected population is families with children. Funding for a raft of infrastructure for the areas of Narangba and Burpengary are squarely in my sights in the future given these growth projections.

- As well with Minister Ryan we welcome \$183,333 as part of a \$333,333 commitment for the construction of a multi-purpose hall at Burpengary State School.
- With the Member for Pine Rivers, Nikki Boyd, I welcome funds for a school that my constituents children also attend, Lawnton SS receiving \$155,455 of \$605,455 to refurbish Blocks A and C.
- Whilst my electorate has no Health facilities within its boundaries, clearly my community considers these vital to be funded, with a record Health budget of \$16.6 billion, up \$3B since last budget. Funds for infrastructure at Caboolture hospital and the Prince Charles Hospital Mental Adolescent health Centre replacing the Barrett Centre the key initiatives in addition to the many frontline Doctors, Nurses, Allied health, Qld Ambulance Service and operational staff that we have restored to provide this world class care we all receive.

Mr Speaker, we all need our clean water and waste services to be meeting the needs of our growing community.

I have to say as an electrician in my past life I know these essential services are sometimes overlooked in the 'Glamour' stakes of Budget items but I know, as does my community how important they are. Many of these vital electricity supply, water and waste services are funded in this budget.

- \$3.9 million in 2017-18 to complete the upgrade of the Petrie Water Supply Zone in conjunction with UnityWater, worth \$9.96M.
- \$1.3 million in 2017-18 out of a \$4,261,000 total spend to carry out network construction works at Lawnton substation to improve network performance.
- \$6 million in 2017-18 to continue the sludge upgrade at the North Pine Water Treatment Plant, worth \$10.165M.

There are many more items in this budget that are going to make difference to so many people in my community and our broader region such as:

- \$1.7 million in 2017-18 to assist persons under 65 or an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander person aged under 50, with a disability. As clients transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme the Queensland government's direct funding commitment to Service Providers and recipients will reduce. Funding in this region is expected to significantly reduce during 2018-19 in line with the transition plan.
- \$7.4 million to assist people with a disability and their families to access the support and services they need as they move through the different stages of their life.
- \$981,662 as part of a \$3,926,648 commitment over four years to provide out-of-home care placement services to ensure children and young people in need of protection are supported and safe.
- \$627,153 as part of a \$2,508,614 commitment over four years to provide child protection support services that help support children and families meet case plan goals.
- \$7,837 as part of a \$31,347 commitment over four years to provide support to vulnerable individuals and assist them to get their lives back on track.
- \$399,390 as part of a \$1,597,559 commitment over four years to provide domestic and family violence services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, particularly those in high risk situations.
- \$627,301 as part of a \$2.5 million commitment over four years to provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point.
- \$115,376 as part of a \$461,502 commitment over four years to provide programs to increase the ability for individuals and community groups to participate positively in their community.
- \$442,000 to provide Home Assist Secure services.
- \$542,000 funding for non-government organisations to deliver specialist homelessness services aimed at both reducing the number of homeless people and the number of people becoming homeless in Queensland by assisting people to: obtain housing, maintain their housing and maximising their capacity to be independent, self-reliant and connected to appropriate social and community supports.
- \$4.58 million to commence construction of 20 units of accommodation for public rental housing.
- \$721,000 to complete construction of 12 units of accommodation for public rental housing.

Mr Speaker, sporting and Community groups have not missed out either with:

- \$37,728 as part of a \$75,456 commitment to construct a sand arena with drainage and fencing to support equestrian activities at Narangba.
- \$50,000 as part of a \$100,000 upgrade of on-field lighting to support football at Narangba.
- \$50,000 as part of a \$100,000 commitment to upgrade clubhouse including modifications to change rooms and toilets and to extend the existing building to include canteen and undercover areas to support Australian football, netball and cricket at Burpengary at the home of the Mighty Narangba Crows.
- \$50,000 as part of a \$100,000 commitment to construct an indoor high ropes course and an outdoor obstacle course to support outdoor recreation at Camp Bundalong at Joyner.

As you can see Mr Speaker, Education, Health, Police, Jobs programs, Energy and Water, Roads and Transport Communities, Housing, National Parks, Sports and Recreation are all in the budget for our community.

I would recommend that people read the Treasurers terrific speech for the total overview of the programs that this budget will provide. I don't do it the justice it deserves in this short speech but so many of the initiatives make huge difference to my constituents.

I commend the Treasurer, the Premier and all the Cabinet and their hard working Departments for this budget that delivers so well for my community and for Queensland.

I thank the Ministers and their staff for listening to my constant and tenacious lobbying for my community. You didn't give me everything I asked for but I know that together we are working on making it happen for Kallangur because that is what good Labor people do, we make it happen, we have in the words of the honourable Treasurer—a "Better Way!"

I commend the Bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.54 am): I rise today to make my contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2017 presented to this House by the Treasurer, the member for Mulgrave, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, on Tuesday, 14 June 2017. This is yet another nothing budget from the Labor Palaszczuk government, especially for rural and regional Queensland. Once you get over the range there is very little spending on education, health, roads and infrastructure. In 2015-16 Labor failed to deliver \$2 billion, or 20 per cent of its total infrastructure spend, and failed to spend \$1.7 billion of its capital program. Labor governments always talk up their spending on infrastructure but always fail to deliver on much needed infrastructure projects that would provide jobs.

Mr Stevens: Is Cross River Rail good for you, Pat?

Mr WEIR: Cross River Rail is not good for me and they are not interested in it in Condamine, I can tell you.

Our local councils have seen their grants funding slashed since the last budget. From 2016-17 to 2017-18 the Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program has been slashed by over \$17 million. This funding is essential for local governments, particularly those in small regional and rural communities. What the Palaszczuk Labor government does not seem to grasp is that council infrastructure spending means jobs for these communities. The importance of local government to the economy of rural and regional communities cannot be understated. An LNP government led by Tim Nicholls will invest in councils and communities by providing \$500 million for the Royalties for Regions infrastructure program and the TIDS regional roads guarantee to ensure jobs are created in the rural and regional areas of Queensland.

Labor have done nothing to improve health outcomes in Queensland with this latest budget. In 2016-17 Labor blew the budget on supplies and services across the health system by almost \$700 million, putting pressure on the ability to deliver future services. We see ramping increasing across Queensland with no solutions being offered by the Labor government. Almost 50 per cent of category 1 and 2 patients are on waiting lists. Surely this cannot be good for patient outcomes. There have been a record number of Health public servants hired, yet the outcome for patients continues to grow worse. It was inspiring to hear the member for Southern Downs' contribution early today, and he will be sorely missed from this House.

Regional Queensland hospitals have been short-changed by this Labor government, with more than \$22.2 million in promised capital works in 2016-17 not delivered. Mental health has been largely forgotten in Condamine with very little funding for youth mental health issues in particular. There is a great need for mental health services to be available for the future of our young people and rural and regional Queensland. The last thing we need is for the youth of these areas having to move to the city to obtain the mental health services they require. There is no funding for either Dalby or Oakey in this budget for mental health.

Unfortunately, crime continues to rise under Labor. The LNP committed to an additional 1,100 police officers over a four-year period whilst in government. This budget will see an additional 40 officers. Drugs and crimes associated with either drug users or dealers is a massive problem in many parts of rural and regional Queensland. It would appear as if the Labor government does not want to confront the ice epidemic we are facing in towns like Dalby. In the electorate of Condamine many police stations are only manned part-time or have only one officer in attendance.

The racing industry is yet again in tatters, with cuts to prize money and the sacking of the entire Racing Queensland board and the CEO of Queensland Racing. It has been turned upside down and left Queensland racing stagnating while the big race states of New South Wales and Victoria are powering ahead with record prize money.

This industry needs some leadership, not a minister who would not know the front of a horse from the back of one. Racing needs its confidence restored, certainty returned and a plan to grow the industry that is driven by the industry. Labor has put a freeze on new racing infrastructure for 2½ years. Why? Country racing is the fabric of many communities, with a race meeting being one of the few occasions country people have to gather and socialise while putting money back into the local community. The seat of Condamine is one of the largest thoroughbred breeding areas in the country.

Small business is the backbone of the economy, yet Labor have not offered any new measures in this budget targeted at small business. There was no tax relief for small business owners already struggling with costs like payroll tax. The red tape that was removed by the LNP is back for small business. Electricity costs are out of control, and the government are offering no relief to those running a small business and trying to juggle a family as well. Electricity prices are one of the highest imposts that our irrigators out on the Downs suffer.

In the electorate of Condamine, the budget was a nothing. It was old money being recycled to look like we have something new. There was an announcement of funding for the Warrego Highway, with overtaking lanes between Oakey and Dalby, but it is well on its way to completion; it was an old announcement. The duplication of the Warrego Highway from Charlton to Kingsthorpe is also well on its way down the construction pathway, and the upgrade to the eastern access of the Warrego Highway through Dalby has commenced. As for the Toowoomba second range crossing, it is difficult not to notice the activity with this massive construction well underway. Once again, they are all old announcements and mostly federal funding. The Myall Creek development in Dalby for the upgrade of the pedestrian bridge was started about a month ago. The Charlton North stormwater catchment detention basin project commenced in November 2016. This was another old announcement.

I welcome the announcement of the new ambulance station at Drayton; however, the \$100,000 in this year's budget will hardly be enough to get the architects out of bed and design what should be a state-of-the-art facility to service the growth areas of Toowoomba. The Labor government have stated a total spend of \$4 million on this new station. Is this yet another plan that will be announced again if they get another chance? The Oakey Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Station relocation and upgrade was announced in the 2016-17 budget, with spending of \$1.5 million. That spend is now \$1.3 million, and to date only \$415,000 has been spent. That is an underspend of \$1 million for the people of Oakey. There will be no funding in this budget for the flyover on the second range crossing at the Wellcamp Airport. This was a very disappointing decision for an infrastructure project that was funded wholly by private enterprise and delivered ahead of time.

This Labor government has done a fantastic job of pork-barrelling the communities of Cairns, Townsville and Mackay to garner votes, with nothing for the communities west of the range. Who knows what the impact of \$5.4 billion for the Cross River Rail will have on future budgets? The budget announcement of an extra 15,300 public servants to be employed on top of the already 15,100 who have been employed since this government was elected is not exactly music to the ears of the people in rural and regional Queensland who have actually lost public servants in their communities. This is a government that has no plan to boost employment in this state outside the government sector.

In closing, this is a nothing budget for Queensland and in particular rural and regional Queensland, unless you are in an area the Premier wants to retain to hold on to her unstable government.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.03 pm): This is a budget that is being extremely well accepted by the people of Queensland. We have introduced three budgets now and those opposite must be sitting there thinking that debt is down, the revenue position is great and the fiscal settings are good. Most importantly, the mums and dads of Queensland are thinking: the power price rise has been kept to a minimum; my job is secure; hospitals are being built and they are being well cared for; and the kids' education is great, with new schools, IT services provided and teacher aides in prep. In the regions, we have a convention centre opening in Cairns, Townsville's water supply problems being addressed and a biorefinery in Mackay—as well as much, much more.

We can do all of this because we did not sell our assets. We kept our assets. We kept electricity price increases to a minimum, while those in privatised states have seen massive increases in their electricity prices. We are achieving all of this and more. We are achieving this with a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. We are the only party in this state that can do this. The minor parties could never do this. There would be disarray for the population of Queensland and no stability if the minor parties tried to achieve this. Those opposite in the LNP simply do not want a renewable policy at all, as we heard yesterday with a new coal-fired power station in the north.

This 50 per cent renewable energy policy that we are standing strong for is the same one that federal Labor is standing strong for. That will be a 50 per cent renewable energy policy here in Queensland and a 50 per cent renewable energy policy when Labor gets government in the federal sphere. Even India has a 54 per cent renewable energy policy by 2026. India is going the same way as Queensland and Australia. The only people who are—

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Beaudesert, your interjections are not being taken. You will be warned if you continue.

Dr LYNHAM: The only people not trying to achieve this policy are those opposite. We will get to 2030. The way our 50 per cent renewable energy policy will be announced in 2030 is that a mum or a dad or a friend will turn to each other in 2030 and say, ‘Wow, we’ve got a 50 per cent renewable energy target.’ We will get there without huge price increases and without any disruption to our industry or to homes. We will get there without any harm, without any increases, without any disruption. We are the only party that can do this. We are the only party that will get us to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.

The resources sector is healthy. Jobs have grown in the resources sector by 3,000 in the last six months, and there are 2,000 to come in the next six months. We have projects opening everywhere. In the resources sector, not only will Queensland be leading in the new electron resource sector—lithium, rare earths—but coal will be secure in Queensland for generations to come because 65 per cent of our exports are metallurgical coal, which is coal that will be needed and used for years and years to come.

I want to address the concerns expressed by the shadow minister yesterday. In terms of the resource exploration expenditure, the opposition resource spokesman stated that we are not supporting our exploration sector, but he was the one who would not support the concessions and expenditure for our exploration sector. He would not support it; they were thrown under a bus. He incorrectly claimed the collaborative drilling initiative that was started by Henry Palaszczuk. He also said that we were not building the Townsville stadium fast enough. Mr Deputy Speaker, you would remember how long it took to get the federal government on board with the Townsville stadium. How long did it take before they came on board with the Townsville stadium? They were kicking and screaming, as they have been kicking and screaming on Cross River Rail and other initiatives.

I now turn to my electorate of Stafford. The electorate of Stafford is a fantastic electorate with the Prince Charles Hospital in the middle of my electorate. We are focused on health care and education in my electorate. Queensland’s health budget will grow by \$1.3 billion to strengthen front-line services, redevelop hospitals and bolster mental health care. In Stafford, the Prince Charles Hospital is not missing out.

The budget contains \$6.3 million for nurse navigators and \$2 million for the extra beds that are needed to cater for the increased population of Stafford. Frontline services benefit as well. The key feature is the \$68 million in additional funds to rebuild and expand mental health care services for young people, which is the Barrett centre in Prince Charles Hospital. Stafford schools do not miss out with allocations for refurbishment. Kedron State School will receive \$4 million to create new classrooms.

Stafford does not miss out in this budget. The resources sector does not miss out in this budget. Regions do not miss out in this budget. This is a budget that is well accepted by all Queenslanders. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. It has been transferred electronically and vetted by the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

As the Minister for State Development and the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, my two portfolios are responsible for a lion share of the development and growth of the Queensland economy.

In this budget, the Palaszczuk Government will invest almost \$450 million to encourage the next generation of resource projects and jobs, and allocating \$429 million to State Development, so we can continue to deliver economic growth and create jobs across the state.

The sustainable use of Queensland’s natural resources is one of the pillars of our state’s strong economy.

An allocation of \$445.905 million for next financial year will allow the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to boost exploration in new frontiers and deliver a gas supply and demand action plan.

In this budget, we are earmarking \$27.125 million to be invested over four years to expand resource exploration and development for gas in new basins and minerals in the North West Minerals Province, and support the implementation of the Strategic Blueprint for Queensland's North West Minerals Province.

Our multi-billion dollar mineral resources sector is at a critical point where some mines are entering the end of their project cycle, and there is a need to expand into the next frontiers.

Queensland needs a strong and continuous exploration program to ensure that the 'discovery conveyor belt' keeps moving and provides a reliable resources stream in the longer term.

To facilitate this, the budget has funding for a range of mapping activities so explorers can better understand what's below the ground in our more far flung regions.

Over four years, the budget includes:

\$4.275M for Mineral geophysics to pinpoint the locations of potential new mineral prospects over wide areas;

\$1.450M for Mineral geochemistry programs to identify the type of potential mineral deposits such as copper, lead, or zinc; and

\$4.950 M for Mineral synthesis to develop a comprehensive and integrated understanding of the geology of the North West Minerals Province. In addition, there is \$925,000 to support national research into advanced techniques used in the discovery of mineral deposits in frontier regions.

The current Natural Resource Management Investment Program is due to finish in June 2018, opening the way for a new program to maintain and build on regional capacity and ensure continued effective management of the State's resources.

Significantly, the budget provides \$42.313 million in additional funding over four years, starting 2018-19, for the Natural Resources Investment Program to support sustainable landscape management.

Much of this funding will go to natural resource management bodies who work with volunteers, grass roots groups and landholders to deliver projects that sustainably manage the landscape, improve water quality, respond to climate change, and reduce the threat from weeds and pests.

Mr Speaker, The Department of Natural Resources and Mines will also be implementing further reforms to protect coal mine workers' health and safety with funding of \$3.7 million over two years.

The safety of Queensland coal miners is a high priority with additional funding being allocated to support the respiratory component of the Coal Mine Workers Health Scheme.

This significant level of investment in the natural resources and mining sectors will generate new economic activity, foster more economic growth and regional development, and create jobs as well as strengthening the regulatory framework for safety and health.

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government's 2017-18 budget is also delivering for my important portfolio of State Development, which focuses on industry, regions and projects to create jobs and diversify the Queensland economy.

Through the \$429 million budget allocation, the Department of State Development will deliver economic growth through funding critical regional infrastructure projects, driving innovative approaches to investment and developing the state's priority industries to create the jobs of the future.

One of the Palaszczuk Government's top priorities continues to be jobs for regional Queenslanders.

To this end, we are continuing to deliver our hallmark \$375 million regional infrastructure program, Building our Regions, to generate jobs and business opportunities where our state really needs them.

This year we are investing \$111 million in Building our Regions to create jobs and deliver critical infrastructure in regional communities.

Our Building our Regions program has already proved its worth by creating more than 1,300 jobs. A total of 108 projects are underway or completed so far.

We are making a significant investment in growing, innovating and creating jobs by establishing the \$20 million Made in Queensland program, and jointly managing the \$130 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund in partnership with Queensland Treasury.

The Palaszczuk Government's Made in Queensland program is part of the \$200 million Jobs and Regional Growth Package, targeted at growing regional economies and employment, announced in the 201617 Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review.

The Jobs and Regional Growth Fund will facilitate private sector projects and create employment and economic growth opportunities in regional Queensland, focusing on regions with higher than average unemployment.

The fund will provide one-off financial assistance on a case-by-case basis, ranging from \$100,000 to more than \$10 million in either direct grants or relief from state charges.

Under Made in Queensland, the Palaszczuk Government will allocate matching grants of from \$50,000 to \$2.5 million to eligible businesses. These businesses receive free industry-leading benchmarking sessions to help them to improve and grow.

This coming financial year we are allocating an additional \$15 million to implement the Advance Queensland Priority Industry Roadmaps and Action Plans which will support growth and diversification of Queensland's economy by identifying the knowledge-based jobs of the future.

This includes funding to access world-class biomedical infrastructure; innovation in remotely piloted aircraft system applications for military and civil markets and promoting Queensland's defence and aerospace industry.

The Palaszczuk Government continues to work with small and medium manufacturing enterprises to help increase their international productivity and competitiveness, and adopt innovative processes and technologies.

Queensland's \$21 billion Mining, Equipment and Technology Services sector is a powerhouse of innovation for the resources industry globally, and we want to see it flourish even further. We will continue to support our METS companies to diversify, identify new markets, products and services, and grow jobs.

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is also continuing to build on our vision for a \$1 billion sustainable, export-oriented biotechnology and bioproducts sector, and we are leading Australia's bio-economic revolution through our Advance Queensland Biofutures 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan.

Queensland is already well-known as an aviation hub of the Asia-Pacific and has attracted a number of global leaders in the civil and defence aviation area.

My Department of State Development is developing a 10-year Aerospace Roadmap as part of Advance Queensland to invest in jobs for the future by opening the door to new industry and research collaborations and by tackling the big innovation challenges.

The department is preparing a Biomedical 10-Year Roadmap, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to diversify Queensland's industry base, create high-value, well paid, knowledge-based jobs and drive export growth.

Another priority industry for our government is Defence.

The Department's Defence Industries Queensland team supports national and international prime contractors to fund defence capabilities, helps companies working or wishing to work in defence to up-skill and make connections with defence contractors and suppliers and assists the Australian Defence Force to expand its presence in Queensland.

Another project driving jobs and growth in regional Queensland is the game changing \$250 million North Queensland Stadium in Townsville. Delivering this stadium was a key commitment of the Palaszczuk Government, and the budget is delivering towards our \$140 overall funding commitment to build this city-changing piece of infrastructure for the people of North Queensland.

This is one of the key initiatives this Government is delivering to advance North Queensland's economy.

The stadium project will receive \$46 million in 2017-18 as part of overall funding so we can power ahead with this much anticipated project with more than 2,000 people expected to be engaged in the delivery of the stadium.

The Department of State Development will continue to work with local firms to ensure they have the information they need to register for work on the stadium and other upcoming projects in North Queensland.

The managing contractor Watpac plans to achieve more than 80 per cent of hours spent building the stadium be by local people. They also are targeting 6.6 per cent of the workforce to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The stadium project is also about training opportunities, expanded skills and more supply chain expertise that will be significant assets for Townsville and North Queensland for many years to come.

The 207-18 budget delivers on my department's strategic plan for Queensland's economy to be Australia's strongest and most diverse.

Mr Speaker, my Department of State Development, along with my Department of Natural Resources and Mines continues to lead the Palaszczuk Government's delivery of economic outcomes for Queensland by facilitating major projects, strengthening Queensland's regions, driving new and emerging industries and supporting enterprise and job creation.

This is a government which is focussed on delivering front line services and we are delivering for Stafford.

Queensland's health budget will grow by \$1.3 billion to strengthen frontline services, redevelop hospitals, and bolster mental health care.

In Stafford, the Prince Charles Hospital will benefit from this funding.

There's a 280-million-dollars allocation for Metro North Hospital and Health Services.

Of that, there's \$6.3 million for nurse navigators to improve patient care, and \$2 million for those extra beds to help with the extra patients who show up at emergency over winter.

There are frontline services.

A key feature of the budget is more than \$68 million in additional funds to rebuild and expand mental healthcare services for young people.

In Stafford, this includes the delivery of a new adolescent extended treatment facility at the Prince Charles Hospital.

There is \$50,000 as part of the \$500,000 project for Roy Harvey Park.

That is going to deliver a two level multipurpose clubhouse and a junior size AFL oval for our local community.

And there's \$4.7 million to finish an upgrade worth almost \$30 million to make Alderley and Newmarket Stations more accessible.

We have great schools and active P&Cs in Stafford.

I regularly attend the school P&C meetings and meet with our principals, and I know this funding comes at the right time for this community.

When I called the principals this week, they all welcomed this school funding in this third Palaszczuk Government Budget.

There's new funding of \$300,000 for Stafford State School to refurbish Block A classrooms being \$200,000, and \$100,000 to repurpose the outdoor learning area for the preps.

At Kedron State School, a school that will join my electorate in the re-distribution, there is \$4 million in total to build additional classrooms.

As well, there is another \$200,000 to continue a refurbishment of in Block A.

Also new to my electorate is Wavell Heights State School.

They will receive a massive boost \$6.58 million in total to commence work on the new performing arts and music facility, refurbish Block C for home economics, and resurface tennis courts so that the school can continue its already strong tennis program.

I have listened to my community, advocated on their behalf, and this budget is going where the funds are mostly needed health and education.

Mr Speaker, as the Member for Stafford, I will continue to work hard and deliver for my local community, ensuring it has the quality education, health care and infrastructure it needs.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.10 pm): It is great to follow that entertaining, if misleading, performance from the member for Stafford. While it was a great performance, the performance I am really interested in seeing from the member for Stafford is on 27 June, when he comes to Toowoomba to attend a political series lunch where he has to explain to hundreds of businesses and employees across the region why Acland stage 3 is tied up in knots. That is the performance where the minister—who is leaving the House now—

Government members interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I withdraw. I am interested to hear what he will say to the businesses in Oakey and towns across the Darling Downs about what he is going to do with Acland stage 3.

In my first year of economics, I had an economics lecturer who always talked about economics as the dismal science. This week, as I reflect on this budget, 'dismal' is the only adjective that I can use to describe it. I want to run through a few aspects of the budget. Let us start with the proposed surplus. The government has revised its surplus from \$2 billion at the half year to \$2.8 billion for the year ending. While they may crow that that is the largest surplus for over a decade, the debt trajectory that ultimately takes state debt historically beyond \$80 billion for the very first time places that achievement in its truthful perspective.

The projected surplus upgrade reveals a delicious irony that the government should achieve a surplus on the back of coal royalty revenues when the party is so half-hearted about the very existence of coalmining in Queensland. I repeat: it is so half-hearted about coalmining in Queensland. Without coalmining royalties, this budget would look very different. It would actually look about \$3.4 billion different for those opposite who would have the coalmining industry shut down. That is \$3.4 billion to the bottom line of the Queensland budget. It must stick in their guts that coal remains Queensland's key commodity. Ninety per cent of coal is exported, which makes it our second largest export. They do not deserve the benefits that coal brings to the treasury benches.

Let us not forget that the uplift from higher coal prices is likely to be temporary and, in any event, as the budget papers show, Labor has already spent away the benefits of that particular boom in coal royalties in the couple of years ahead in the forward estimates. The surplus has also been artificially boosted with the front loading of Cyclone Debbie federal government funding. The spending of that money will, in fact, occur next year. All of this adds up to significant volatility, which I do not believe the government is capable of managing. As the *Financial Review* noted this week, this confluence of events masks the economic malaise.

The state's credit rating is vital to managing our costs of funding and the LNP, as has historically been shown, as the superior economic manager needs to keep a close eye on this government. After all, it was the Labor government that lost our AAA credit rating in the midst of a mining boom. I am sure that the QTC, which has the responsibility of going to the market to refinance this state debt, will also be watching closely. They do have over \$10 billion worth of maturities that need refinancing in the year ahead.

Interestingly, the CBA modelling of the S&P ratings methodology suggests a leap from a rating 1 this year to 3 in 2017-18 in the budgetary performance profile measure. That pushes the matrix outcome from 1.8 this year to 2.0 in 2017-18, which is a significant jump with an alarming trend. S&P also

monitors the debt burden metric, which is tax supported debt as a percentage of consolidated operating revenue. That debt revenue ratio rises in the out years and is substantially higher by the end of the forecast horizon. What a shock that the debt figures advance more quickly in the out years than in the short term. They are more land mines for the future to deal with in 2020-21.

At the broad non-financial public sector level, net debt is also rising substantially. It is forecast to rise from \$36.3 billion this year to \$49.8 billion by 2020-21. Of course, as we know, the headline debt number is forecast to rise historically from \$73.2 billion this year to \$81.1 billion by 2020-21.

Last year's budget, which repatriated \$4 billion in funds from the defined benefit superannuation scheme, provided Labor with some short-term breathing space. This budget reveals that they have blown that too, as the temporary debt profile relief granted by that trickery has worn off, which is another significant jump with an alarming trend.

The economic outlook is uncertain and has not been helped by this budget. The alleged jobs bonanza will result in no statistically relevant decrease in the unemployment rate, which is already the second worst amongst Australian states and territories. In an environment of subdued wages growth, which is tracking at around two per cent, there is every reason for Queenslanders to be concerned about Labor's ongoing and increasing car registration fees and other taxes and charges.

Business investment is flat, which is no wonder when the government cannot even bring itself to say the word 'business' in the budget. There is not a single word of any reduction, relief or reprieve in any taxes or charges. Employment growth is flat and confidence is flat, but Labor's exaggeration and hyperbole are at record levels. What a marked contrast we saw from the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. The LNP has quietly listened, planned and now stands ready to act on the issues that are discussed around kitchen tables in Queensland. I note especially the announcement of the policy that the LNP will freeze car registration for three years if it were to form government.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: This government mistakes speaking for action. It mistakes spending announcements for real and tangible on-the-ground change.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, I ask you to cease debating across the House.

Mr JANETZKI: I take the minister's interjection, because I think it highly offensive that \$200 is seen as nothing. To average Queensland families 200 bucks is well worth putting in their back pocket.

An honourable member: They're meant to be the champions of the working class.

Mr JANETZKI: That's right: the party of the working class. The party that stands up for battlers thinks that 200 bucks is nothing. I think that is atrocious.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, we will listen to the remainder of the speech in silence. Member for Everton, if you are making interjections you need to make those from your own seat. Otherwise, you need to be silent.

Mr JANETZKI: The government mistakes spending announcements for real and tangible on-the-ground change. Announcing more child safety officers will not fix the systemic and cultural crisis in child safety across Toowoomba and the Darling Downs and the foster care community. I reflect on the contribution made yesterday by the shadow minister, the member for Mudgeeraba. She spoke eloquently of the challenge that more funding will not solve the problems, and history has shown that.

Many Labor contributors spoke about social housing initiatives, and I note that there are 58 new proposed social housing dwellings in Toowoomba over the next five years but there are no broader measures to alleviate housing affordability challenges. Even more relevantly, there are no broader measures that directly address the underemployment or unemployment issues facing so many disadvantaged, particularly those in our community suffering from mental illness. I note that the member for Condamine spoke to that as well. Where is the specific investment in social enterprise that may help people train for and find a job? Toowoomba is the capital of social enterprise in Australia. I acknowledge our newest social enterprise Second Shot, which is run by Nat and Tiff Spary at the Base, and various other social enterprises that operate across the city.

Speaking of Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, I have already spoken this week in relation to the government's failure to fund major concerns in my electorate, particularly the remaining flood mitigation works along East and West creeks, and address particular safety concerns near Glenvale State School. They also have not addressed my request for air conditioning in special education classrooms at Darling Heights State School. It is pleasing to see necessary health funding and the commitment of \$930,000 for classrooms at Centenary Heights State School. It is an institution of ours which is expertly led by one of Queensland's finest educators, Maryanne Walsh.

It always interests me that, under Labor, it seems that Toowoomba is in the south-east corner when taxation is under consideration but out of the south-east corner when it comes to actual on-the-ground delivery.

Mr Krause: It is ironic.

Mr JANETZKI: I will take that interjection from the member for Beaudesert. It is ironic. We had another perfect example earlier this week when Toowoomba's new bus network was launched by the assistant minister, the member for Gladstone. Yes, he was there with the lost candidate for Toowoomba North, a long way out of his electorate. The assistant minister launched the network but failed to fund a go card or similar technology to deliver a 21st century bus service for a 21st century city, and the budget is silent on when—if ever—it will be implemented.

While I am disappointed about the cuts to road funding by a quarter across the region and infrastructure spending across Toowoomba and the Darling Downs—as was so well put by the member for Condamine—my greatest concern with this budget in the Toowoomba region is its cold-blooded ignorance and negligent lack of vision. They have failed to grasp the magnitude of the opportunity in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs. Road, air and rail connectivity are combining with the vitality of private enterprise to build a region of strength in agriculture, services, resources and value-added manufacturing. A moment has been lost. This was the moment for the Labor government to get behind the region with fresh project funding. This was the moment to invest in infrastructure after withdrawing \$400 million in infrastructure spending over the last few years. This was the moment when they could have introduced a comprehensive decentralisation strategy. This was the moment when they could have backed Toowoomba and backed our future promise. That moment has passed and Labor has once again failed Toowoomba, failed the Darling Downs and failed regional Queensland.

 **Mrs JR MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.23 pm): This budget is a mixed bag for the Bundamba electorate. There are some good spending initiatives, such as \$100,000 to repurpose the outdoor learning area adjacent to the computer lab at Redbank State School; \$100,000 to refurbish Riverview State School's general learning area for a music space; \$715,000 towards construction of a new community centre at Redbank Plains; some money to complete the Dinmore Railway Station; and \$473,000 to replace and refurbish the existing infrastructure at the Swanbank E Power Station. However, I would not be doing my job in this parliament unless I said that I was disappointed that no money has been allocated for an extension of the railway line from Springfield Central to Redbank Plains. This is a necessary piece of infrastructure in my community and it would have cost less than one-tenth of Cross River Rail.

I am also disappointed that no money has been allocated to fix the dreadful interchange past Springfield Lakes where the speed limit on the highway drops from 100 kilometres per hour to 60 and then goes back up again to 100. In my community we also need a new administration block for Kruger State School; the Redbank Plains State Primary School needs to be refurbished; we need more public housing for seniors; and we need money for the filling up of the mines underneath Collingwood Park. We need real use of the land owned by the department of housing at Collingwood Park so that housing can be built there, preferably seniors housing, that is lightweight. The fire station at Bundamba needs to be completed once and for all. It is a saga. Honestly, you drive past there nearly every day and nothing really happens. Bremer TAFE once again must become the preeminent vocational training provider choice for locals. We need more police liaison officers that are adequately resourced to prevent crime in our proud multicultural community. We need trains that run on time and a Monday-to-Friday timetable for those who work a standard work week.

We need more full-time jobs instead of part-time jobs and casual work. The lack of full-time-permanent jobs in my electorate is disturbing and worrying. Too many people are underemployed; that is, they are working in part-time and casual jobs and that affects the way they live. Too many people live in poverty. Too many children and older people in my area are living in poverty, and I have had enough of it. I can tell you now that their quality of life is poor and their standard of living is very poor. Poverty is the No. 1 issue in my area now, and it is caused by not having enough money to live on. It

is caused by underemployment and unemployment. In my electorate office we see the effects of this every day of the week. We need to stop talking about jobs, jobs, jobs and start talking about full-time jobs, full-time jobs, full-time jobs, because that is what people want. It is not rocket science. These days in my electorate a full-time job is an aspiration for many, but in my generation we saw it as a right.

The term 'liquid workforce' has been adopted to refer to employees who are able to retrain and adapt to their environment in order to stay relevant during this digital revolution. The term 'human cloud' refers to workers who work for agencies to fill gaps temporarily in the labour force rather than employers hiring and firing people due to the changing nature of available jobs. Today the human cloud, freelance workers, comprise some 35 per cent of the workforce and their numbers are expected to reach 75-80 per cent by 2030. As Stephen Hawking said—

The automation of factories has already decimated jobs in traditional manufacturing, and the rise of artificial intelligence is likely to extend this job destruction deep into the middle classes, with only the most caring, creative or supervisory roles remaining.

We see daily that business models like eBay, Uber, airbnb and Freelancer are thriving and growing the digital economy and disrupting existing business. The question is how to ensure that the transformations they entail have a positive impact in our community. They are changing the way that we undertake business and the way people are employed and provide income for their families. The 'gig economy' is where people work for various one-off jobs for a fee rather than being a PAYE employee, where their money is put into their bank accounts. This poses challenges for legislators in terms of protecting workers. It challenges how trade unions support workers and it challenges workers who seek to provide a steady income to support their families.

As a community we need to foresee these changes and bring forward ideas and strategies to either repel them or adapt to this changing workforce. Government of course needs to take a central role in facilitating change to allow workers to adapt to new labour markets and ensuring they are protected from the worst elements of the new changes these technological advances bring. Today I call on this government to refer this issue to the employment committee of this parliament to investigate and report on these matters as a matter of urgency. That is because it is affecting workers in my local community every day of the week.

I believe that Australia needs to consider a universal basic income. The idea of a universal basic income is not new. It, too, must be referred to a committee of this parliament. We have to make sure that people have a sustainable income source that treats them with dignity and respect and allows them a place in this new emerging economy. Thomas Paine talked of it at the time of the American revolution. Martin Luther King stated that he believed it was a means to end poverty. Here in Australia it was talked about by Bill Hayden in the Whitlam government. What we need to debate in this parliament is: is the universal basic income an idea whose time has come?

In India, where it has been trialled through UNICEF, some consequences were improvements in nutrition, better school attendance, more—not fewer—in work and greater small-scale investments. In Canada, women were more likely to delay returning to the workforce after childbirth, while adolescents and young adults were more likely to finish high school and attend tertiary education rather than leave early to get a job. There were also improvements in the physical and mental health of participants.

People's jobs give them a sense of self-worth—their place and role in the community, their value as a contributing member of society, their place as the income producer in the family, the social interaction with work colleagues and clients, and connections with other workers through the trade union movement. In many ways you are defined by your work. Indeed, you are what you do. Automation could take this away, with concerns for mental and physical health and social cohesion. A universal basic income does not take that basic need away, so people will still want to contribute to the community and society in general, although automation may alter how this occurs with the change in the labour market and the economy.

Only a few years ago, when people became unemployed in my electorate I was able to point them to Bremer TAFE to undertake almost free training at certificate and diploma level. It gave people hope and training for the future, and there were many success stories. Now unemployed people want to enrol in a TAFE course but they have to show their Centrelink or income statements, and some are refused enrolment because they are too poor. It is the ultimate kick in the guts for these people, for people in my electorate.

The training system has failed my community and it needs to be fixed. Indeed, it must be fixed. It has to be able to give hope to people—to give hope to our high school students, to the many who are unemployed or underemployed. I know that this is a national issue, but there must be a bipartisan

agreement across parliaments nationally and at the state level to bring TAFE back to the workers, to provide excellent training for jobs now and into the future. In a rapidly changing world economy and jobs market, we need to understand now what our future is going to look like and how we are going to prepare for it. I always welcome government initiatives to produce jobs and training for working people, but we are now on the cusp of a dramatic change of employment due to the increasingly technological ways we are doing work in our community.

This brings with it many great things but also many great challenges for the community to face. The challenges are not just economic in terms of fewer jobs for a growing population. They are also social in terms of how people will be valued and contribute to our local community. There may be a time when there will not be employment or there will be massive underemployment, and I am seeing this in my electorate. All sorts of jobs have been reported as being replaced by technological advances in artificial intelligence and robotics. We know that we can probably not stem this tide, so we are looking at driverless cars, automated ships and docks, 3D printing replacing construction workers, medical professionals replaced by artificial intelligence, automated cars taking jobs from bus drivers, taxidrivers and truck drivers, and maybe even algorithms replacing lawyers, accountants and other professions. The potential impact on jobs in our community is not just about low-skilled manual labour but is across-the-board. Even governments are now experimenting with replacing staff with robotic interfaces in Centrelink offices.

This rapid change in the labour market means that workers will need to be flexible and embrace continuous learning and continuous retraining to keep pace with new job prospects wherever they may arise. This means we need to ensure cost-effective, reliable training and employment programs that are available across all demographics in our community. That training should be free or affordable and it needs to be job focused for that point in time.

In relation to health matters in my community, I want more money spent for public patients in the Mater Private Hospital in Springfield. That will help in the short term, but in the long term we need planning for hospital access in the eastern suburbs of Ipswich. The facts are simply that people in my electorate do not go backwards towards Ipswich Hospital; they go down the Ipswich Motorway or down the railway line towards the Royal Brisbane, the QEII and the PA hospitals. They go towards Brisbane city as that is where most of them work. I am concerned that these facts have been continuously ignored by the Ipswich Hospital board. In fact, recently they had a forum to discuss the so-called health strategic plan in my area. It was to commence at six o'clock in the evening in Ipswich Central, but people in my electorate are not home at six o'clock at night, let alone if they have to go backwards towards Ipswich Central. When I wrote and asked for a forum in the eastern suburbs I did not even get a reply. So much for consultation! We will not be ignored on health in my area. We demand a say, and I say to this health board: have the decency to respond, to organise real consultation and to let us have a say. The Bundamba Creek line must go.

I know that my community, like many others, has problems with obesity, diabetes, heart disease and blood pressure, amongst others, but we do not want any fancy programs; we want nurses to set up in pop-up shops in the shopping centres where they can be health coaches, where they can talk to people about how to lose weight, how to cook simple meals and adapt that to their own various cultural recipes. We need nurses to help our people eat better, exercise more and become healthier, and there are many vacant shops in shopping centres in my area where they could easily set up a program.

I know that one of the biggest worries in my community is the cost of electricity. People in my area are interested in the bottom line. They simply want to know what it costs, and many of them have solar panels. The opposition stated earlier this week that coal is not a dirty word in the LNP. Well, it is not a dirty word in the ALP either—not while I and the member for Mirani are sitting here! I support Queensland's coal industry and I support coal-fired power generation that uses clean coal technology and that lowers the cost of power bills for people in my electorate. Any new coal-fired power station should be built right next door to a coalmine and it should be in the coalfields in Central Queensland where enclosed conveyor belts go straight into the power station. I would have coal any day over the dreadful prospect in future years of nuclear power plants, and I say that having had coal power stations in my electorate since the 1960s.

I want to talk about the effects of unemployment and underemployment in my local community. My people are not numbers. We should not be referring to them as No. 2,010 in relation to statistics on unemployment or underemployment. They are people. They live. They breathe the air. They eat. They have needs. In my community we try to support through Anglicare, St Vinnies and the Salvation Army

those people who are living in poverty—the unemployed, the underemployed and those who are on pensions and benefits from all age groups, and they are living in poverty. I say to each and every one of them who are going through this time in their life that I want you to know that you are worthwhile and that you should never be judged otherwise by anyone; that your life journey matters as together we face these economic and employment challenges; that if you are hurting we in your local community hurt as well and that your feelings matter. Together we will work through these challenges to work and the changes in the local economy and the economy in Queensland and nation-wide. Finally, I want my local people to know that I love them and that they will never walk alone whilst I am their MP.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.42 pm): All I can say is that I am bitterly disappointed with the Palaszczuk Labor government's 2017-18 budget. For the first time ever in Queensland history, the state debt will top \$80 billion. That is almost \$16,000 for every man, woman and child in 2020 thanks to the mismanagement of the state's finances by the Labor Party. This week's budget confirms that the Palaszczuk Labor government has no real plans for regional Queensland. It proves that it is a government for Brisbane, not a government for all of Queensland. Regional Queensland has taken a big hit in the 2017-18 budget with \$192 million in infrastructure funding ripped out of the outback. At a time when the outback is going through five years of drought and looking down the barrel of another failed wet season, the government has ripped out \$192 million in infrastructure funding from the outback. Some \$35 million has been cut from the Central Queensland infrastructure funding program and \$400 million slashed from the state's road funding program.

Members opposite have siphoned off our regional infrastructure funding to pay for their signature project in Brisbane—the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail! Imagine what \$5.4 billion would do in regional Queensland. With that kind of money, we could complete the GABSI works program, pest proof the entire central west, build the inland port at Yamala and Rookwood Weir, unlock the potential of our agriculture and tourism industries and pave and seal many of our state controlled roads which have been left largely untouched for two decades under Labor. While I welcome the \$4 million on the table for the continuation of the Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative, it is not good enough. For years landholders and contractors have been battling the stop-start works program because of the indecisiveness of the Labor Party, and again they have no certainty.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MILLAR: The federal government committed \$8 million in May this year for the continuation of the GABSI works program until 2018-19.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Member for Logan, your interjections are not being taken. I ask you to stop or you will be warned under 253A.

Mr MILLAR: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Historically projects have been funded on an equal basis between landholders and the state and federal governments. For this to continue, and with the capping and piping works still to be completed on 160 free-flowing bores and 5,500 kilometres of open bore drains, \$4 million from the Palaszczuk Labor government is not going to cut it.

I am also disappointed that this government has virtually turned a blind eye to the needs of the agriculture sector in the electorate of Gregory. After five consecutive years of drought, the communities of Western Queensland are on their knees. Road funding and cluster fencing projects are exactly what these communities need. They provide jobs and stabilise the local economy. We have a youth unemployment rate in some parts of outback Queensland as high as 48 per cent. It is at crisis point—at absolute crisis point to have a rate of 48 per cent youth unemployment. It is something that needs to be addressed. Almost half of them out there are struggling to find a job. That is absolutely shameful. What is this government going to do to create jobs? Well, not much because it is too busy employing public servants in the south-east corner and building the Cross River Rail! Only \$1 million has been provided to continue cluster fencing projects—only \$1 million! Because of cluster fencing, 360,000 sheep have already returned to the region and that has, in turn, provided approximately \$4 million in valuable labour. It baffles me how those members opposite cannot see the benefits of investing in more cluster fencing. \$1 million does not go very far. Just ask the people building the Cross River Rail!

I want to draw the House's attention to the lack of investment in the Central Highlands in the latest budget. There are only two projects, both of which have already been announced. If we look at the map on the nice, glossy, shiny brochure put out for Central Queensland, there is funding for a school hall in Emerald—announced about four weeks ago—and a cut in road funding for the Gregory Highway from Emerald to Clermont. That is all we have! The Central Highlands is an economic powerhouse. The Central Highlands produces 15 per cent of Australia's chickpea crop annually and 25 per cent of the

nation's mung bean crop. We produced over 180,000 bales of cotton this season alone. We have 380,000 citrus trees which produce 90 per cent of Queensland's mandarin exports. Central Queensland has 4.8 million head of cattle and the Central Highlands alone has one of the greatest beef livestock areas in Australia. We grow more than 150,000 hectares of wheat annually and more than 100,000 head of cattle go through our saleyards each year which equates to approximately \$100 million. We have an emerging macadamia industry with 260,000 new seedlings and trees.

The Central Highlands also pays approximately \$380 million in royalties from resources companies each year, yet not one red cent has been allocated for agriculture investment in the Central Highlands in the 2017-18 budget. However, we have this shiny brochure with a map on it. I can just imagine when the Mayor of the Central Highlands Regional Council, Kerry Hayes—a big supporter of agriculture himself from a council that supports agriculture as a main pillar of the economy—would have done when he opened this brochure. He would have looked at this and he would have been thoroughly disappointed—thoroughly gutted with what has happened to the region of the Central Highlands when it comes to investing in agriculture—but the agricultural economy in the Central Highlands is a powerhouse when it comes to providing its fair share of taxes and GST.

What do we in the Central Highlands get in this budget from the royalties from the mining industry? Two projects! One that has already been announced—funding for a school hall—and a cut in road funding for the Gregory Highway from Emerald to Clermont. It is absolutely disappointing. Not one red cent has been allocated to agriculture investment in the Central Highlands in the 2017-18 budget. The Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, who is from Central Queensland, has neglected our hardworking farmers and agriculture producers. They are powering ahead developing innovative farm processing practices and working hard to tap into new domestic and international markets, but what is this government doing to support them? It is building Cross River Rail here in Brisbane. Thanks for nothing!

I would also like to raise an issue that is close to our hearts in the Central Highlands and Central West and that is the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme. I cannot stress enough how important the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme is for the people in the electorate of Gregory. In fact, my home town of Emerald has one of the highest uptakes of the scheme in the state. The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme enables patients to travel away to places like Rockhampton and Brisbane to seek specialist care. It is critical for individuals, families and pensioners. No-one's health should be disadvantaged by their postcode.

The LNP is the only government in over 20 years to recognise that the payment schedule of the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme is outdated, which is why in 2012 Lawrence Springborg, the former health minister, doubled the subsidy. The Ombudsman's report on the Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme released last week highlighted significant governance issues with the scheme. The Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme is critical to the people of Gregory and the people of regional Queensland. However, the system is not patient friendly. Patients should not be waiting six months to receive their payments. We need a scheme that provides fast claims processing and payments and one that ensures people in regional Queensland are adequately compensated for patient travel.

Finally, I would like to highlight the need for more funding to be allocated to the upgrade of roads in the electorate of Gregory. These roads are critical to unlocking the potential of our region, boosting productivity and supporting our agriculture industry. Gregory is home to some of the worst roads in Queensland. Take the Tambo-Springsure Road—or the Dawson Developmental Road as it is known. That is the road between Springsure and Tambo. This road is an accident waiting to happen. Families leave their properties and can often be sandwiched between two road trains travelling on this dangerous gravel road. I do not know about other members, but I would not want my loved ones travelling on a road like that. Since I was elected I have been campaigning hard to secure funding to upgrade the Tambo-Springsure Road. Unfortunately, it seems to have fallen on the deaf ears of those opposite.

Only the LNP recognises the benefit of investing in regional roads. Regional roads are the wealth arteries for regional Queensland. We need these roads sealed as soon as possible. I invite the minister to come and travel on the Tambo-Springsure Road to see how long it takes her to realise that this road drastically needs upgrading straightaway. We are looking at kids trying to get to school and road trains trying to get cattle to the abattoirs. When it comes to agriculture and mining, this is where the wealth comes from for the state government. We need proper roads. I call on the Labor government to make sure that roads are upgraded in that region. Regional Queensland does not just sit along the coast; regional Queensland is all of Queensland. It includes places like Emerald, Blackwater, Barcaldine, Blackall, Longreach, Tambo—

Mr Stevens: Richmond!

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid, an old Richmond boy himself. He understands that regional Queensland is more than just towns and cities along the coast. The economic powerhouse of this state is in the heart of the state and includes agriculture and mining royalties which this government is happy to take but, unfortunately, does not like to deliver back to those areas to pay for much needed infrastructure.

I call on this government to invest in regional Queensland—invest in our roads and in infrastructure—and please explain to those people in outback Queensland why it has ripped nearly \$200 million out of the infrastructure budget and nearly \$37 million out of the Central Queensland infrastructure budget when most of that money comes from regional Queensland. I call on the government to make sure that it invests in regional Queensland.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Sunnybank—ALP) (12.54 pm): I rise in the House to support the Appropriation Bill 2017. Today I wish to speak about the Palaszczuk Labor government's budget for 2017-18 delivered on Tuesday, 13 June in this House. I would first of all like to congratulate the Premier and the Treasurer for delivering for the people of Queensland and especially for the people of my electorate.

As a result of the redistribution by the Electoral Commission my currently named electorate of Sunnybank will be called Toohey. I acknowledge that this will not occur until the writs are issued. My new electorate now includes the suburbs of Nathan, Salisbury, Rocklea, Moorooka and Eight Mile Plains. In the time available I intend to deal with areas of the budget that directly affect my constituents in the current electorate of Sunnybank and future electorate of Toohey. The five areas I intend to deal with are education, health, housing, infrastructure and technology.

First of all I will deal with education. Since the election of the Labor government in 2015 one of the Palaszczuk Labor government's election commitments was the restoration of front-line services. In relation to teachers, this budget commits a further 698 extra teachers—not a reduction in teacher numbers which those opposite are famous for. The opposition appear to have selective memories and a blinkered view of the damage that they did to the Queensland economy when they cut front-line services. When governments fund infrastructure to build new school buildings they fund jobs.

Some of the highlights for Sunnybank in the 2017-18 budget are as follows: \$3.3 million in 2017-18 out of a total \$3.5 million to replace the manual arts facility at MacGregor State High School; \$370,000 to refurbish MacGregor State School's Special Education Unit through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program; and under education and training, \$4.8 million in 2017-18 out of a total \$5.0 million to conduct master planning and commence redevelopment at Sunnybank Special School. The Sunnybank Special School Principal, Darren Greenway, was thrilled to hear the news of the Palaszczuk Labor government's commitment to educating and improving the lives of the students under his care. Darren is very proud to be the principal of this school and especially proud of the staff who contribute to the education of students under his and his staff's care. He is very appreciative of the contribution that is being made to them.

There are a number of hospitals in and near my electorate. The two main hospitals are QEII and the Princess Alexandra Hospital where many of my constituents attend for their many medical needs. The South-East Queensland hospitals package in the budget of \$200 million over four years is an initial investment to enhance public hospital capacity and services, including mental health facilities, restoring front-line services in our hospitals, fixing the nurse-to-patient ratio and restoring doctors to our hospitals. On Wednesday of this week I received an email from one of my constituents, Mike. His email spoke of his experience dealing with emergency services and the Princess Alexandra Hospital Emergency Department. Mike said—

I would just like to say that from the arrival of the ambulance crew through to my discharge from the hospital, I was treated with fabulous courtesy and professionalism by everyone. Many people complain about the public health system here in Queensland, but I found on many occasions it is second to none.

I would appreciate it, therefore, if you could pass on my comments and heartfelt thanks to the Minister concerned.

I thank the Minister for Health, Hon. Cameron Dick, the member for Woodridge. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I will now turn to the commitment by the Palaszczuk Labor government in the 2017-18 Budget to housing. In my electorate, I have the suburb of Coopers Plains where soon after the second world war Dutch immigrants built the Dutch houses, a public housing project which did stand the test of time.

The Bligh Labor government put together a housing project with private enterprise Cornerstone Building Developments for both private and public housing. I was recently at Coopers Plains with the Minister for Housing Mike de Brenni and representatives from Cornerstone welcoming the 500th resident to her brand-new townhouse.

The Queensland Budget 2017-18 has made a further commitment to public housing with the construction of 26 units of public housing rental accommodation.

I will now deal with the part of the Queensland Budget 2017-18 that deals with Infrastructure spending and job creation. In relation to the major construction of Cross River Rail, the Budget has made a commitment of \$5.4 billion to fully fund and deliver Cross River Rail. The Queensland Budget will directly support the creation of around 8,000 jobs.

Lastly, I would like to deal with funding that this budget gives to Technology advancement. I am fortunate enough to have in my electorate the Biosecurity Science Laboratory. This great facility was built by a Labor government. The facility houses the Food Pilot Plant at the Health and Food Sciences Precinct. The facility is a state-of-the-art facility designed to service the needs of the Queensland and Australian food industries. The food grade pilot plant and associated food technology, sensory and consumer science facilities are available to conduct scientific research and trial new products or processes. The \$2.4 million commitment through the Technology Commercialisation Fund is to attract external investment and increase the potential to move Queensland's agriculture and food technology Intellectual Property into commercially viable opportunities, generating innovative products for existing and new industries, transforming industries from domestic to export focused income, increasing profits and, importantly, generating new jobs. I commend the Bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.30 pm): In formulating this speech on the Palaszczuk Labor government's Appropriation Bill 2017, I perused my previous Appropriation Bill speeches of 2015 and 2016. There was an eerie similarity of the promises, wish lists, re-announcements of existing programs, heavy dependency on old LNP projects and claiming credit for federally funded initiatives. To be honest, in the words of that famous football coach Jack Gibson, this Appropriation Bill is déjà vu all over again. A mantra and wordsmithing built around the political necessity for this government of jobs, jobs, jobs when the reality is that this piece of political propaganda, disguised as an Appropriation Bill, is a blatant effort to hide the fiscal truth about jobs in Queensland to save the jobs, jobs, jobs of Labor members of parliament in regional Queensland.

Despite the spin and rhetoric of future job promises mirrored by the 2015 and 2016 Appropriation Bills, the 2017 Appropriation Bill again highlights the inability of the Palaszczuk Labor government to provide any job-creating infrastructure in Queensland other than to hire another 15,000 public servants to the bloated taxpayer funded payroll of this Labor government to falsely delude the public that it has any fiscal credentials at all to deserve another opportunity at governing this wonderful state.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Excuse me, member for Mermaid Beach. Can everyone please settle down into their seats? I know that we only just started the afternoon session, but I am already finding it hard to hear the member for Mermaid Beach.

Mr STEVENS: We have the Labor party dogma continually spruiked by the member for South Brisbane that the Cross River Rail project is the most important project in Queensland to save our state from economic doom. This is a blatant and transparent attempt by this government to shift the state's jobs and economic woes on to Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP for not providing a Labor Party ATM for an ill-costed, unfunded, Holy-Grail project that I can assure the Treasurer is not even on the radar of Gold Coast voters. I am sure it is actually a teeth-grinding enema for the people of Townsville and North Queensland suffering high unemployment and low job prospects, leading to unprecedented crime levels pervading their cities.

The Cross River Rail project may be the member for South Brisbane's answer to protecting her job from the Greens party onslaught in South Brisbane, but as far as the rest of Queensland is concerned we have operated well without it until now with the only problems for Queensland Rail being trains running late due to Labor's mismanagement of providing train drivers because of the union control of the Palaszczuk Labor government members of parliament. Reduced train timetables and delayed train arrivals are hallmarks of this Labor government. It is a debacle that never occurred under the LNP government. To commit \$2 billion to the Cross River Rail project without further funding available to complete the project is the epitome of financial irresponsibility and a smack in the eye for Queensland regions crying out for infrastructure and job-creating projects. This continues the failed Labor track record of the recycled water pipelines and the \$7 billion South-East Queensland water grid that blew out.

Mr Rickuss interjected.

Mr STEVENS: That was in that grid, I take the member for Lockyer's interjection. It blew out Queensland debt under the Beattie watch, putting more debt and repayments on to the back of Queenslanders through higher water prices. Nothing has changed with Labor except the name of the leader. This poorly presented Cross River Rail project will be a further burden on the debt load of Queenslanders.

It goes without saying that Labor is committed to more credit card debt on behalf of every Queenslander with a firm and resolute direction that imposes \$80,000 million of debt on every mum and dad Queenslander while at the same time hitting them with higher fees and charges to pay for Labor's financial mismanagement. The absolute audacity of their mantra of looking after Queensland battlers while pouring more financial debt onto their hip pockets daily is unbelievably arrogant in the extreme in its bare-faced hypocrisy, delivered unflinchingly from their padded leather ministerial benches. The promises, wish lists, buck-passing and blame sharing is not believed by Queenslanders anymore.

After three Labor budgets delivering a replica of drivel, diatribe and dismay, displayed so deceitfully by a government bereft of fortitude to put real job-creating infrastructure from the private sector in place because of ideological turgidity and left-wing patronising recalcitrance from their union-backed puppets, it is with an almost comedic sense of sadness that one must laugh or be reduced to tears.

I make note of the Palaszczuk Labor government trend of an ever-increasing public servant wage bill, which is set to continue with another record high this financial year of 216,636 full-time-equivalent employees who will cost the Queensland taxpayer almost another \$1,000 million extra this year with on-costs. As I stated last year—and I will state again—adding 16,000 to the Queensland government bureaucracy is not the answer for providing jobs for regional Queensland. By the Premier's own admission, that is certainly the case. Inflating our Public Service is a statistical sugar hit that does not address the real need for job creation for our youth or regional unemployment, yet it has the diabolical effect of putting more debt on to the back of Queenslanders already struggling with cost-of-living pressures such as electricity and water charges, which should be affordable, and reasonable government services provided by their government of the day. Putting the public servant numbers up may hide the unemployment reality for a short-term political fix but does little to address the genuine and heartbreaking shortage of jobs and job opportunities in our regional areas.

In the 2015 Appropriation Bill, my LNP colleagues and I saw the likely effect of the debt swap to our electricity suppliers and their assets. 'It will be fine,' Labor said. 'It will not push any extra costs onto the Queensland public,' they said. Lo and behold, it has come to pass that electricity bills have jumped up on average \$104 a year, which has resulted in a bandaid fix promised by the Premier for this year. It is now clear to me that the only concern of the Palaszczuk government and the Treasurer is for themselves and their hope of saying anything and promising anything to get elected for another four years.

I am ashamed to report to my Mermaid Beach residents that the only money set aside for the Mermaid Beach electorate in this deceitful, pork-barrelling regional Labor electorates budget is a rehash of previously announced programs such as the Mermaid Waters ambulance building. Unfortunately, it is what I have come to expect from a Labor government blind to the needs of the rapidly expanding Gold Coast. It is a Labor government promoting the rise again of criminal outlaw motorcycle gangs through their watering down of tough law breakers legislation, put in place by the LNP, and their reduction of the rapid action police squad police numbers to enforce the peace and safety of our community in an age of increasing violence, primarily due to the horrendous drug ice which is being peddled throughout our community by these criminal outlaw gangs that the Labor government has welcomed back into the Gold Coast.

Again referring back to my speech on the Appropriation Bill 2016, I note there are a couple of Gold Coast projects that did not get a mention or an iota of funding for resolution of major issues for our Gold Coast region. The first is the cruise ship terminal proposal put forward by Mayor Tom Tate and the Gold Coast City Council which would have enormous impetus for tourism on the Gold Coast. There is overwhelming community support for a CST on the Gold Coast and it seems that an offshore facility satisfies many of the environmental and operational concerns that plagued the previous proposal to put large cruise ships into a very shallow Broadwater. What is missing is a single state government to assist with feasibility, planning and job creation on the Gold Coast. The procrastination by this Labor government over the cruise ship terminal is a reflection of their attitude to the LNP controlled state seats, which rejected their union controlled puppet masters at the last election and even gave us an extra seat in an otherwise statewide wipe-out.

While I am talking about The Spit, the uncertainty and squabbling over high-rise development on The Spit could be easily resolved by a state government actually concerned with the development of its own state land on The Spit being proactive and putting in a stakeholders group of residents, landowners, council and state government representatives to sit around a table and come up with a worthwhile, workable development plan for the long-term attractiveness and sustainability of one of the most iconic areas of the Gold Coast. It would cost a pittance to commit to from a government's point of view and yet not one dollar or mention of the Labor government's plans for high-rise on The Spit is in this year's budget. I think their silence on The Spit before a state election is more secrecy to deflect any fallout from whatever their real plans are for The Spit area.

Finally on matters relevant to the Mermaid Beach electorate and the Gold Coast generally, I reiterate my constant calls in this House to start planning and providing for an alternative route to the M1, which is near bursting point already. Not one dollar is allocated to further develop the interregional transport corridor again for an alternative to the M1 and yet we know that at 142,000 cars per day the M1 is near capacity. This is a real game-changing, job-creating project which could be undertaken by the private sector as a toll road and yet again the Palaszczuk Labor government is too timid and left-wing wounded to address an obvious infrastructure need that will demand action on the problem in the very near future.

This budget has been howled down by all independent commentators who have not been pork-barrelled in an attempt to save the bacon—pork-barrel, bacon—of the Palaszczuk Labor government in its death throes in the regions of Queensland. To put forward as the most important project for Queensland a South Brisbane electorate Holy Grail for \$2 billion spits in the face of every regional Queenslander doing it tough. I surely hope that this incompetent, job-inhibiting budget for 2017, driven by a clueless, bumbling Treasurer, is the final nail in the coffin of a Labor government not fit to govern Queensland.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (2.42 pm): This is a great week for all Queenslanders. My government's budget delivers jobs for Queenslanders and it delivers on our commitments. We are delivering for Queenslanders, no matter where they live. This year's budget is about diversifying and strengthening our \$300 billion economy. My government is single-mindedly focused on securing and delivering more jobs for Queenslanders. Since the 2015 election, as released yesterday, 69,300 jobs have been created in Queensland. This budget will support another 40,000 jobs in the next 12 months.

Importantly, this budget delivers for our regions and our towns. It is a budget for battlers. It is a budget for builders. It is a budget for the people and families who live throughout our great state. Do not just take my word for it; let us see what other people are saying about the budget. Deloitte Access Economics stated—

The Palaszczuk Government has boldly resolved the long standing debate over Cross River Rail, committing to fully fund the project in this budget.

The Palaszczuk Government's commitment provides the green light for the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority to undertake early works.

AIG stated—

From an industry point of view the budget ticks a number of important boxes. In infrastructure, in energy, and also maintaining the social contract is an important underpinning for economic growth.

The LGAQ stated—

All up, this is a Budget that is well considered and well targeted to helping those regional communities that need it most.

Master Builders stated—

We came hoping the Treasurer would provide some support, some additional work, for the building sector and he's done that.

We have a capital program of \$10.2B, which is significant ... hundreds of millions of dollars for schools and hospitals, a correctional facility in Rockhampton ... it's very promising for the sector across the state.

The Queensland Council of Social Service stated—

Cost of living remains one of the greatest pressures being faced by many Queenslanders today, and the government has worked tirelessly throughout this term to address it.

The Queensland Trucking Association stated—

The QTA is pleased that road infrastructure and infrastructure projects are continuing to be supported.

These investments not only increase productivity but also in safety and economic growth.

I also clarify that the Queensland Trucking Association was consulted and is cooperating on truck management on the M1 and expressed the view that this should be phased in well before the Commonwealth Games. I thank them for their support. I want next year's Commonwealth Games to be the best Commonwealth Games ever. We know 800 extra positions need to be filled to help with the Commonwealth Games.

I note that the member for Mermaid Beach was speaking about this previously. My government is putting a lot of money into making sure that we have the necessary infrastructure on the Gold Coast. This includes our commitment to build the second stage light rail which the Deputy Premier and I will be inspecting when we govern from the Gold Coast in the not-too-distant future.

As I have said in this House this week, severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the floods that followed left a damage bill of \$1.1 billion. The assessments are still rolling in and being totalled. In tough times we step up. There will be more than \$400 million to help the councils and communities rebuild. More than \$400 million will be needed for roads, infrastructure and bridges.

My government invests in people. We have taken tough decisions, but we have always put the people of Queensland first and we are seeing positive results. The budget delivers lower debt without the LNP's asset sales. This budget is proof there is a better way forward. We have delivered a net operating surplus of \$2.8 billion in 2016-17.

At the heart of the budget is a massive \$42.75 billion statewide capital works program over the next four years to create jobs. There will be a \$10.2 billion spend next financial year. In relation to Cross River Rail, we know that this game-changing project for transport in the south-east cannot be delayed any longer. We have made the decision to deliver it for Queensland. We have taken the momentous decision to fully fund the delivery of the \$5.4 billion project. This vital rail link will support more than 1,540 jobs each year and has a construction time frame of seven years.

On Wednesday I joined the Treasurer and Deputy Premier to announce that early works will begin at the Goprint site in Woolloongabba in September. Earlier today the Deputy Premier and I joined more than 100 businesspeople who participated in our first Cross River Rail industry briefing since our announcement on Tuesday. I know that each and every one of those businesspeople recognises the importance of this project and the real and meaningful benefits it will bring to Queensland.

I want to talk about regional Queensland. As Premier, I have the opportunity to meet with Queenslanders every day, from the coast to Central Queensland, the gulf and the outback. These communities are different in a lot of respects. I know our regions are doing it tough. My government is committed to regional Queensland. That is why we are investing \$4.8 billion for a statewide spread of infrastructure across Mackay, the outback, Far North Queensland, Central Queensland, Townsville, Wide Bay and Darling Downs supporting around 14,500 jobs.

From the \$39 million for the North West Minerals Province blueprint to the Cairns Convention Centre, the Mackay Ring Road, the Capricornia Correctional Centre, Burdekin Falls hydro and dam safety improvement program and Townsville's water security, we are investing in quality projects that will be beneficial for those communities now and into the future. That is what my government does. We identify the issues, we talk to people and we listen to people. My government delivers for the people of this state.

We are also committed to working with our councils throughout Queensland. There will be \$200 million for Works for Queensland for local government projects in regional areas. My government has committed \$400 million to this program in the last six months. The successful \$375 million Building our Regions funding continues—a program already supporting some 1,300 jobs.

There is \$77.5 million of new funding for our very successful Back to Work program that has already supported more than 4,700 jobseekers in regional Queensland—\$50 million goes to regional Queensland and an additional \$27.5 million will extend it into South-East Queensland for long-term or young unemployed jobseekers. Queensland jobseekers born after 1 July 1993 can go to a job interview offering the business up to \$20,000 from my government if they get the job. I say to Queensland employers: let us help you to help Queenslanders get back to work.

I know a lot of families throughout our state are doing it tough. We are addressing pressures in the household budgets for thousands of Queenslanders. There is a record \$5.3 billion in concessions to ease the cost-of-living pressures they face. Another \$771 million is allocated to provide relief to electricity prices, and my government is already applying downward pressure on power bills. We have contained increases to an average of 1.9 per cent per annum over three years. When other states are experiencing double digit rises in electricity prices, we have kept our energy assets in public hands.

There is \$18 million to tackle the scourge of the drug ice that is having a devastating impact on families. I thank the ministers who travelled with me, especially when we had the first regional summit in Rockhampton and then the round table in Townsville. Behind closed doors we have heard the personal stories of families faced with the prospect of their loved ones being involved with the drug ice. We know that we need to do everything we can to help these families get their loved ones back on track. That is why we are also re-establishing the drug court. There is more than \$32 million for that. Also, \$70 million will be spent on rolling out the domestic and family violence courts in Townsville and Beenleigh.

Daily we are reminded that housing affordability is out of reach for many families. My government's very popular \$20,000 First Home Owners' Grant will be extended for six months. We will invest \$1.8 billion to build 5,000 new homes for families across Queensland.

Once again, the key areas of health—\$16.6 billion—and education and training—\$13.7 billion—receive record funding under my government. In health, we will deliver a replacement Barrett centre—a new adolescent mental health facility to replace the one shut down by the LNP. We will upgrade seven regional hospital and health facilities across our state. We will increase the capacity of our public hospitals and we will further reduce specialist outpatient long waitlists.

In education, we have made the decision to build the first inner-city school since 1963, add more classrooms across the state and hire 230 more teachers. We have made the decision to keep the Fortitude Valley State School. Those opposite closed it down and put the 'for sale' sign on it. We made the commitment that when we came into office we would keep that school. I am proud to say that that will become the first new inner-city high school to be built since 1963. I do not ever apologise for hiring more doctors and nurses in our hospitals and ensuring that we have more teachers in our schools.

Yesterday I was joined by my education minister, Kate Jones, and the member for Greenslopes, Joe Kelly, and visited pupils at the Coorparoo State School—a wonderful school in the member's electorate—where we announced that from next year every prep class in this state will have a full-time teacher aide. During my visit I met a wonderful teacher Chryssa Klinakis, and I thank her. I think she said it best when she said—

What I'm excited about is having that extra support, because this is all about children's learning.

Having another adult in the room can support the children with their academic learning, as well as their social and emotional learning—which is such an integral part of the foundation years.

In closing, I want to speak about my electorate of Inala. Our people are the heart of our community in Inala, and funding in this year's budget aims to help and strengthen some of our most vulnerable residents. As the member for Inala, I recognise the importance of jobs to the local community. I can talk about dignity of work because I know how much the people in my electorate and the people in the state value the dignity of work. I will say here in this House too that I find it highly ironic that members on the other side of this House want to talk about dignity of work when 14,000 people were axed in their first budget. There is no dignity in work when you sack people and they are faced with having to go home and tell their families that they do not have a job, they cannot pay the bills, they have to sell their house and they cannot take their children on holidays. There is no dignity in the way that the LNP government treated people in this state—no dignity whatsoever.

We will also continue the Darra to Rocklea section of the Ipswich Motorway upgrade which will create more than 470 jobs. We will also be putting half a million dollars into the Richlands East State School. This is great news for our local students and also for our families.

I do want to thank the Treasurer for all of his hard work in relation to this budget. I want to thank the members of the CBRC—the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Education. I know Minister Bailey was part of that as well last year. I want to thank my government because we on this side of the House believe that Queensland is a better state now than it was under the three years of the LNP. We will always put the people of Queensland first. We will always deliver the services that families need no matter where they live.

In this year's budget we have been able to put in place a really strong signal that we understand the housing pressures—the wonderful Housing Strategy that we announced. We will build 5,000 houses over the next 10 years with that \$1.8 billion commitment. We know that families are doing it tough. We have taken the hard decisions to make sure that we keep our assets in public hands to lower the pressure of electricity prices on families. You only have to look at the rapid price rises that are being experienced in other states due to the fact they do not own their electricity assets.

In conclusion, let me say that you cannot trust the LNP. You cannot trust anything they say. Before their election they promised no forced redundancies. When they came into government, they axed 14,000 people. They said they would not sell assets. Then their publication for selling off our generators had on the front page 'No sale of assets'. You cannot trust anything they say or do. This is a budget—a jobs budget. We are determined to create as many jobs as we possibly can, and we will continue to fight and stand up for Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe, adjourned.

MOTION

Amendments to Standing Orders

 Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.57 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the amendments to the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly circulated in my name be agreed to, effective immediately.

Amendment to Standing Orders to be moved by the Leader of the House

1. Standing Order 280 (Affected person may make a submission), subsection (3)—

Omit, insert—

(3) A person shall ensure a submission is received by the Speaker within four years from the date on which the person has been adversely referred to in the Legislative Assembly or a committee.

This matter, Mr Speaker, is one that you raised this morning in a Speaker's statement in relation to chapter 46 of the standing rules and orders that provides for a citizen's right of reply. You raised a very specific matter and concern that had been expressed, and I note that this has been expressed over some years at different times. At different times there have been points made or issues or experiences that have highlighted this concern whereby a citizen's right of reply to an adverse comment made in this House has been constrained by the fact that that right of reply expires with the life of a particular parliament. What has been proposed—and, I note for the benefit of the House, supported by the members of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly in bringing this back to the chamber—is to extend the right of reply to be available to adversely named persons and corporations for a four-year period after an adverse comment is made in the parliament, as opposed to expiring at the end of that particular parliament.

The key risk is that a member of the parliament, not keeping up to the standards that we would like to see all members of this parliament adhere to, might use the advantage and opportunity of parliamentary privilege to make comments about a person in the dying days of a parliament knowing that any adversely named person might not have the ability to get together their citizen's response—their right of reply—in a timely way and ensure that it is accepted by the Speaker and the parliament and recorded within the parliamentary record. This change today is one that ensures all citizens in Queensland have the opportunity to have their right of reply to any adverse comments which might be made by a member while continuing to protect the rights and privileges of all members of this House. I urge the House to support the motion.

 Mr SEENEY (Callide—LNP) (3.00 pm): On behalf of the opposition in this parliament, I indicate that we will be supporting the motion which, as the Leader of the House has just outlined, addresses the issue that was raised this morning by you, Mr Speaker, in a Speaker's statement. It is an issue, as the Leader of the House has indicated, that has arisen for consideration a number of times from my memory.

I am pleased today to support the solution that you proposed, Mr Speaker, this morning in your Speaker's statement. I think it is a satisfactory solution to a problem that becomes very important for people who are caught in this particular circumstance. This issue was raised with me by Dr Ross Cartmill, who felt aggrieved by statements made in the last parliament and who lost the opportunity to exercise his citizen's right of reply when the election was held at the end of the last parliament.

I endorse the comments that were made by the Leader of the House. I offer the support of the opposition for the solution that you proposed in your Speaker's statement this morning and that is put into effect by the changes to the standing orders proposed in the motion moved by the Leader of the House.

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.02 pm): I support the motion but there is a point that I would like to make. If a member has used parliamentary privilege appropriately and someone feels they would like to make a right of reply and the member then retires—which the member for Callide, Southern Downs and I all are—will there be appropriate liaisons with the Speaker so that we have information about what is happening with that right of reply? That could be a difficult situation for us, too, once we have left the House.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** For the purpose of clarity, I will respond to the issue raised by the member for Lockyer. The process is that if a citizen feels aggrieved they write to the Speaker and the Speaker refers that matter to the Ethics Committee to settle the wording of the right of reply with the aggrieved person. I cannot pre-empt how future Speakers will operate, but that is certainly the way I have operated. I thank the member for Callide and the Leader of the House for their leadership in resolving this matter so promptly.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL APPROPRIATION BILL REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from p. 1842, on motion of Mr Pitt—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (3.03 pm): I rise this afternoon to speak to the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill. I do so on a rather sombre note because, as you can see, Mr Speaker, I am wearing a police remembrance badge today. As the Premier noted this week in the House, one of my constituents, a member of the Queensland Police Service, passed away this week after a terrible accident last week. I am referring to the late Sergeant Brendan Poustie, who will be laid to rest next Monday. I understand that the Minister for Police and the Queensland Police Commissioner will be in Mackay, in my home town, to farewell Sergeant Brendan Poustie. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my deepest condolences to his wife, Jakki, their children, Liam and Lucy, their family and many friends, and Brendan's colleagues in the Queensland Police Service at this very difficult time.

People have come to Queensland for opportunity since Queensland started. My great-great-grandfather was a pioneering police officer. He was one of those people who came here in search of opportunity. Since 1859 when we ditched New South Wales and we made a go for it, we have had people from around the nation and the world come here in search of opportunity. From my point of view, people are losing hope. We want people to come to Queensland. I want people to come to my electorate of Whitsunday, the place that I call paradise, in search of opportunity, to start a family, to raise a family, to start a business, to farm the land, to try to get ahead in life.

As I said, my great-great-grandfather was a pioneering police officer. In fact, he was police officer No. 111 in the history of the QPS. He disembarked here in Moreton Bay in 1859, as I understand, and he arrived in Mackay when our town was three years old, and they have come in droves ever since to settle throughout the electorate of Whitsunday, from the northern beaches of Mackay to the northern end of my electorate—to places like Airlie Beach, Cannonvale, Dingo Beach and the great sugar-milling town of Proserpine. Unfortunately, I do not see great hope in this budget. Without hope, what have people got? We want to see people coming to North Queensland. I often talk about North Queensland as the promised land. We talk about the development of North Queensland. That has been talked about since the early explorers, going back to the days of George Elphinstone Dalrymple and many, many others.

It has been said on this side of the table and I will say it again: this budget is a con job. All we hear about is Brisbane's Cross River Rail. I was talking to a former member of the Australian Labor Party today in Rockhampton. He is one of those Aurizon workers who will lose his job at the end of the

year. He has been in the railway for 43 years. When he thinks of cross river rail, he thinks of the need for a new railway bridge across the Fitzroy to replace the Alexandra Railway Bridge, which was opened in 1899. The idea sounds right but they are about 650 kays out. That bridge was so important during the dark days of World War II that MacArthur made sure the US Army used it because the old bridge across the Fitzroy was not capable of handling the military hardware. I see the member for Gregory—a keen student of history and great advocate for Central Queensland—nodding his head. That bridge is 118 years old. That is the cross river rail that needs to be addressed.

We have \$2 billion on the table, as we see the Leader of the House giggling. It is insulting to the people of Central, North and Far North Queensland. It is insulting. I will tell the House why it is particularly insulting to the people whom I represent. A couple of months ago we were dealt a very cruel blow by Mother Nature in the form of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, a category 4 storm which significantly impacted the communities which I represent—places like the iconic tourist town of Airlie Beach, the great sugar-milling town of Proserpine and on it goes. We took the full brunt of Debbie—280-kilometre per hour winds, or in that vicinity, were clocked at Hamilton Island, Hideaway Bay and Airlie Beach, and people continue to mop up. We do say that the Whitsundays is open for business, but it has hit our sugar and tourism industries, which underpin the economy of the Whitsundays, for six. There is no doubt about that.

In the aftermath of Cyclone Debbie, we would have thought we would have seen some love for Mackay and the Whitsundays. What is in it for us? I will tell you what, Deputy Speaker: it is more a case of what is not in the budget. There are savage cuts to infrastructure spending across Mackay and the Whitsundays—home to the biggest regional economy of the north, with a \$22 billion GRP. That is not to be sniffed at. That is across just three local government areas—Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac.

There have been savage cuts to infrastructure spending and no funding for a new-look Bruce Highway across the flood prone Goorganga Plains. It is the most flood prone section on the Bruce Highway to this day between Brisbane and Cairns. Some great work was done by the former LNP government, with record spending on fixing the Bruce Highway, in conjunction with our federal colleagues, but more work needs to be done. Goorganga means crocodile, and we have seen crocodiles crossing the Bruce Highway, along with emus, turtles and kangaroos, but we do not see a new road to boost flood immunity.

When that road is cut, it not only cuts the Mackay-Whitsunday region in half, it cuts the state in half. What do members think it does for the economy and productivity? Go and talk to Blenners bringing their bananas from Tully to markets in the deep south. Go and talk to parents like me who have to wait for the floodwaters to go down before we can take the kids to school. Go and talk to the tourists heading into Airlie Beach or millworkers going into Proserpine after crushing is fired up. We need a new crossing at Goorganga Plains.

We also need funding for flood prone Shute Harbour Road at Hamilton Plains. There is nothing in the budget for this, and that is a state controlled road. We talk about the \$2 billion for Cross River Rail, and I see the puppet from Maryborough grinning like a Cheshire cat. May he grin like a Cheshire cat because there is \$2 billion for Cross River Rail to convenience people. We do not want convenience; we just want a fair go. When the road between Airlie Beach and Proserpine is cut, it cuts people in Airlie, Cannonvale and Jubilee Pocket off from their local hospital and the local airport, the Whitsunday Coast Airport, which I will come to in a moment. It cuts Airlie and Proserpine in half. We need a better crossing through Hamilton Plains.

There is no funding in this budget that I can see for a new Transport and Main Roads office in Proserpine, which is just up the road from my electorate office. It looks like a bomb hit the joint. I was near there the other day after the first of our three cafes reopened in the aftermath of Debbie. There were some young mums there because they came to pay their car rego. I ran over because it looked like they were lost and I said, ‘Ladies, there’s a van half a kilometre away outside the railway station.’ I do not know why it is there; maybe they are waiting for passengers to disembark the Sunlander. This is no laughing matter for my constituents. They have been asked to go down to Cannonvale or go and see this van that is a temporary solution. We need a new TMR office in Proserpine. It has been a cruel blow to our town.

There is no funding to rebuild the pavilion at the Proserpine Showgrounds. I salute people like Donna Rogers, Sue Quantock and her husband, Wayne, AKA Chicken Man, the minister for poultry in the electorate of Whitsunday. They are great volunteers in my community with the show society. I look forward to catching up with them and all of the show goers at Proserpine next Friday. There is no money

to rebuild the pavilion that was flattened by Cyclone Debbie, not even a few thousand dollars. What are they supposed to do? Do they need to have a chook raffle? Do they go down to Paul Faust and say, 'Poodle, we need some chooks'? It is not good enough.

There is no funding for new direct flights from southern capitals, like Sydney and Melbourne. We can compare that to what Labor has done for Townsville. I do not begrudge Townsville kicking on. It has been a great city to me over many years. I lived there three times before coming into this place. How can an iconic tourist destination like Airlie Beach be overlooked for the attracting aviation fund, which was instigated by the former LNP government? Those flights kick in next week, and it will be the first time for a domestic sector. They are going from Tullamarine to Townsville but they are not coming into Airlie Beach after the cyclone. We are saying that the Whitsundays is open for business. Craig Turner from Tourism Whitsundays is saying that the Whitsundays is open for business. Mayor Willcox is saying that the Whitsundays is open for business, but we are not getting a fair go from the part-time tourism minister. If we look at the budget, there is nothing in it for us.

What about the drive market? There are so many tourists who come to the Whitsundays that we are now the No. 1 departure point for tourists going into the Great Barrier Reef. This brings me to what the Treasurer said in his budget speech this week. It was on my birthday, but it was not a really good birthday present. He said—

The Cairns Convention Centre will receive \$176 million to expand into a state-of-the-art international venue. This catalytic investment will enhance Cairns' reputation as the gateway to the Great Barrier Reef ...

It is great to look back on the past, but in the last couple of years we have overtaken Cairns as the No. 1 departure point for tourists going into the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. It is a big statement because we do not have an international airport so we are punching way above our weight. What Tourism Whitsundays does with its funding base is quite remarkable. That brings me to my point that we need funding for a new tourist information centre for the Whitsundays. The old one in Proserpine is dilapidated. It is needed for grey nomads, backpackers and families heading up the coast for their holiday. It is actually dangerous when you come in from the north. In fact, it is illegal to turn in there. You cannot do it; you have to go down to Renwick Road.

Mr McEachan: There is no right turn.

Mr COSTIGAN: I take the interjection from the member for Redlands. There is no right turn. Last year, Mackay picked up \$1.3 million for a new tourist information centre. I do not begrudge my home town getting that. Nothing has been built, by the way; we have not seen any sod turning. It is the same with the fire station funding for Proserpine that was announced 12 months ago. Mackay got \$1.3 million for its new VIC last year, but in this budget there is a big fat zero.

Government members interjected.

Mr COSTIGAN: The natives are restless because the truth hurts. It is great to have a bit of an audience here today. The Treasurer made no reference to the Whitsundays in his speech and he spoke for 50 minutes. We just had a category 4 cyclone and it is a wonder no-one died. Fred Quad is a great local bloke. We were lucky to have people like Mark Flynn from the Queensland Police Service and Gavin Cousens from the Queensland Ambulance Service. He may have died in that cyclone. We were lucky, not like Cyclone Ada 47 years ago when we lost 14 people in the community that I now represent.

This was a category 4 storm, yet the Treasurer did not make any reference to the Whitsundays at all. There was no reference to Airlie Beach and no reference to Proserpine. I listened very intently to the Premier this afternoon, and there was no reference at all. We have seen a conga line of ministers roll into the place that I call paradise, but it is only because they are looking for a political gain. They are dirty that they did not win Whitsunday in 2015. I am proud that I kept the Brisbane bolsheviks at bay.

The Palaszczuk Labor government talk about the environment as if they have a mortgage on it. There are some great stories on this side, and I take what we heard from the member for Glass House earlier this week, if my memory serves me right. We have had some great initiatives that we do not get a lot of credit for, and we only have to look in my electorate. A big chunk of Eungella National Park is in my electorate. The township of Eungella itself is in Mirani, but a big chunk of the national park is in my electorate. It was started by the cycling senator, the late great Senator Ian Wood. He advocated for that and it is a marvellous place where people come from all over the world to view platypus. I call it the platypus capital of Australia.

Unfortunately, in the latest budget that the member for Mulgrave has delivered for the Palaszczuk Labor government, there is no money for coral rehabilitation for the Whitsunday Islands. There is nothing at all. There is a lot of talk. I saw the coral myself last year, looking for Nemo and Dory. It has been hit for six thanks to Mother Nature, but where is the money? There is no money to address this important environmental issue. There is no money either to invest in koala research on St Bees Island in the southern part of my electorate off the coast of Mackay. I was with Dr Alistair Melzer a few weeks ago traipsing around the island. He has been going there for 19 years studying koalas. There have been reports of up to 300 koalas there, but in the 10 or so days that he was there he saw one. I saw one but it was dead. The koalas have effectively been all but wiped out. It was reported a few weeks ago in Queensland's biggest selling paper, the *Sunday Mail*, but there was no money at all from this mean spirited Palaszczuk Labor government for the Whitsundays.

There is \$15 million in the budget for the Whitsunday Coast Airport. I welcome that, but where is the rest of the money coming from to deliver the upgrade? We were told under the former Bligh Labor government that we were going to get a new airport that was going to be five times as big as the old one. Guess what, it was twice as big as the old one and it was late in delivery under the former Labor member for Whitsunday, who was promoted as the minister for tourism just to sandbag the seat. That is what we are seeing from this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Mackay and Whitsunday coast airports have missed out as FIFO hubs, because the Palaszczuk Labor government is desperate to keep the seats of the three amigos, Huey, Dewey and Louie, from along the Ross River, that is, the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa, plus the members for Keppel and Gladstone, who are all first termers in office, while my region goes without. We are going to expand the airport, but there will be no mine workers going across the Clark Range to work on Adani's \$16 billion Carmichael mine. We need those jobs. It is my vision to see an international gateway for one of our airports, because we can grow tourism. We can make an even bigger contribution to the Queensland economy if we have the opportunity.

Labor has no vision for the sugar industry. In Proserpine, this year's crush will be perhaps half the size of last year's. I wish everyone involved in the crush, from our farmers and harvesting contractors to the mill workers, all the very best for the crush. Recently it was great to be in the cane fields at Habana for the blessing of the harvest. It will be difficult for many cockies and others in the industry, not only this year but also next year. However, there is no money to increase funding for sugar research and development. Under the former LNP government we had record funding, but guess what? It was downgraded because the Palaszczuk Labor government did not see it as important. A few weeks ago I was at SRA headquarters at Indooroopilly. They do not like the cutbacks under Labor. They always point the finger at us for cutbacks; what about their cutbacks?

Last year there was no funding for the Airlie Beach Music Festival. Today in Brisbane I was with Tex the cabbie. He is a drummer who goes up to that festival every year. Last year under the Palaszczuk Labor government there was no funding for that. There is no funding for the Whitsunday Reef Festival, which is coming up in August. Last Sunday at Shingley Beach Resort I attended a fundraiser for the Salvation Army. Margie Murphy lamented the fact that there is no government support for the Whitsunday Reef Festival in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Debbie, which is disgraceful.

In relation to sugar, people such as the Deguaras from Mount Ossa, the Caseys on the O'Connell River, the Simpsons at Bloomsbury, the Falettis from Foxdale, the Durnsfords at Yalboroo and the Pernas at Kuttabul want to see some genuine support for the sugar industry. We are not getting that from this Palaszczuk Labor government. There is no money for increasing sugar research and development, which is disappointing. We have heard what people such as Dan Galligan from Canegrowers have had to say about this budget, as well as the CCIQ and Grant Maudsley from AgForce. I will not duplicate what my colleagues have said, but through this budget the Palaszczuk Labor government has well and truly let down the agricultural sector. There is no doubt about that.

This budget is a Labor budget. It is a budget of high debt and larger deficits. The debt will balloon by \$9 billion up to \$81 billion. That is a debt of \$15,800 for every man, woman and child in Queensland, with interest at about \$3.6 billion or about \$10 million a day. Basically, that would put bitumen on the Mount Ossa Seaforth Road. The last time we saw bitumen on that road, Vaughan Johnson was the transport minister. It would pay for perhaps half of an upgrade of Shute Harbour Road at Hamilton Plains.

There is nothing in this budget for small business. People involved with the Whitsunday Coast Chamber of Commerce, their colleagues in Proserpine, Chris Patrick and Karen Vloedmans, or the Mackay Chamber of Commerce will tell you that they are not happy. They are cranky. There is \$2 billion

for Brisbane's cross city rail project and it is an 'up yours' to the people of the Whitsunday from the most mean spirited Treasurer we have seen in living memory. Given that he comes from North Queensland, one would have thought that he would have some empathy for our people, but sadly that is missing in this latest Pitt budget.

 **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) (3.23 pm): The Palaszczuk government has delivered an incredible program of positive reform and investment in child safety and domestic and family violence prevention. There are few areas of government that are more complex or more important than the work done to protect vulnerable children in at-risk families. This budget goes beyond the repair of front-line services and invests in the vital staff and programs that will make a real difference to the lives of vulnerable people in our communities. This is a budget that is strong on the Labor values of standing up for vulnerable children, standing up for the victims of domestic and family violence, and standing 100 per cent behind the incredible staff who are saving lives each and every day.

Over the past two years, we have seen a far-reaching and significant reform of the child safety system, including making it mandatory for parents entering into a parenting agreement with the department to submit to drug testing, as we see an explosion of ice use across our communities. Yesterday in her budget reply speech, the member for Mudgeeraba once again revealed her position on protecting vulnerable people, which was to hurl insults at our hardworking staff who are literally out there saving lives. It seems that gone are the days of 2014 when the now leader of the LNP, the member for Clayfield, said in his budget speech that the issue of child safety should be above politics. The efforts of our professional staff are at the heart of this government's mission to keep children safe. Their work is life changing. They are saving lives and families—real people who need help. The Child Safety staff who carry out that work are the heroes.

As well as increasing front-line Child Safety staff by more than 10 per cent, we are creating career pathways that will keep more experienced staff actively engaged with vulnerable families on the front line, ensuring child safety support officers get the recognition they deserve with improved pay. They work incredibly hard and they deserve to be properly paid for the amazing work they do. Of the almost 300 additional staff to be employed in our \$200 million package, 236 front-line and front-line support staff will hit the ground in the next financial year and many of them will be deployed in ice corridors across our state where that terrible drug is inflicting horrendous damage on families.

Of course, this is a budget about delivering jobs because Labor values the dignity of work. Labor is lifting more people out of poverty and into work, recognising the protective factor that a job can have for parents and families. Our budget initiatives have received strong backing from the people who best know this important work. The Queensland Council of Social Service Budget Analysis says the budget 'will be good for vulnerable Queenslanders' and particularly praised this budget's commitment to tackling the impact of ice on families. QCOSS goes on to say—

With Queensland children and women continuing to be harmed in their home at an alarming rate, these new investments at the front line are strongly supported by QCOSS.

Professor Karen Healy, the national president of the Australian Association of Social Workers and a former child safety officer, said, 'The plan will save lives and provide better outcomes for families'. Joanne O'Shanesy, a child protection practitioner with more than 35 years experience, both in the community and within the department, said—

We have been heard and we are so excited ... we are going to have new child safety officers, new child safety support officers and additional admin officers to support those people to get the work done well and get the work done quickly.

Our record on child safety is clear: we are rebuilding the child protection workforce after the LNP cut 225 jobs from Child Safety when it was in government. We are backing the Child Safety staff who are out there saving lives every day by giving them the support they need to do their job. Of course, keeping women and children safe from violence remains one of the Palaszczuk government's highest priorities. The Premier appointed me as Queensland's first Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence to drive this reform and that is what I do each and every day.

In 2017-18, more than \$42.8 million is allocated for domestic and family violence support services in my department. Those funds support specialist service responses, including counselling support for victims and their children, behaviour change programs for perpetrators, court support and service system coordination support. We are well down the path of the implementation of all of the *Not now, not ever* recommendations, with 67 recommendations completed and work well underway on the remainder.

I am so proud that two new shelters announced within one month of this government coming into office have now been operating for over one year. We are providing additional mobile support and designing and developing two more shelters in Charters Towers and Roma. Our third budget builds on this with a commitment for two additional shelters to ease the strain on South-East Queensland shelters, which is an area that we know is experiencing a huge demand.

These shelters are the first new government funded shelters for women escaping violence in over 20 years. It is important to recognise that as we bring domestic and family violence out from behind closed doors more and more victims have the confidence to reach out for help, so we have to have safe places for them and their children to seek refuge. Encouraged by the success of the trial at Southport, we have also committed to the expansion of the hugely successful specialist domestic violence court. I am very pleased to see it expanding to my own local court at Beenleigh and to North Queensland through the court at Townsville.

Of course this budget also delivers for people in my electorate of Waterford, with early works for an upgrade to Logan Hospital, Cross River Rail—which will cut commuters' travel time to the city by up to 15 minutes—and important upgrades to the M1 which for years LNP members on the Gold Coast have repeatedly failed to deliver. Locally, we are investing in our schools with a \$1.8 million upgrade at the Beenleigh State High School, Loganholme State School and Mabel Park State High School.

One of the things I am most proud of is finally delivering bus services for the residents of Holmview. This has been an issue since the estate opened in 2009, and I want to put on record my thanks to Sam Channing and her son Adam as well as the hundreds of other residents who signed petitions and campaigned for this vital service with me. I thank them for their persistence in this campaign. I would also like to thank the Deputy Premier for listening and delivering.

It is Labor budgets that deliver better schools, better health care, better roads, better transport and better cities, no matter the postcode. This budget, like our others, shows that Waterford and the City of Logan have not been taken for granted. In our first term alone we have managed to not only reverse the cuts of the Newman-Nicholls era but go further and build a better, stronger and more connected Waterford. I am very proud of that.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated into *Hansard*. I confirm that I have sought your approval.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Has the minister sent an electronic copy to Hansard?

Ms FENTIMAN: I have.

Leave granted.

Returning to Domestic Violence Mr Speaker, important initiatives funded to tackle Domestic and Family Violence include new High Risk Teams in Cairns/Mossman, Brisbane and Ipswich in 2017-18, adding to the teams already established in Logan-Beenleigh, Cherbourg and Mount Isa/Gulf which ensures locally designed integrated responses to domestic and family violence in these areas.

And of course our investment in new and enhanced domestic and family violence services continues to target existing service gaps, including:

- counselling and support services for victims, children and young people,
- court based support,
- sexual assault services,
- post crisis step-down recovery support,
- telephone services
- perpetrator programs and
- services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Importantly we continue to invest in specialist services to support women who have experienced sexual assault, including assault within an intimate partner relationship.

We are also supporting and increasing capacity in the domestic violence service workforce. These incredible staff who manage highly sensitive and often traumatic cases every day deserve our greatest respect and support. The budget continues investment in the development of training for frontline professionals to support the delivery of quality services and to upskill workers, particularly in rural and remote locations.

While I am speaking about workers in the community sector, I am particularly pleased to see we are supporting frontline community service staff to get the recognition they deserve, with improved pay in line with Fair Work Australia's 2012 Equal Remuneration Order.

They work incredibly hard and they deserve to be properly paid for the amazing work they do.

Our frontline staff are making real differences in the lives of Queenslanders every day, and this Budget is supporting those staff in the critical work that they do.

This budget invests in our staff, ensuring that critical frontline child safety staff are supported in their work and are suitably rewarded for the amazing job that they do each and every day.

In last year's budget, Labor put money in to the neighbourhood centres that are at the heart of supporting our communities. We raised every neighbourhood centre up to a sustainable level of minimum funding and I am pleased that our neighbourhood centres have gone from strength to strength over the past year.

This budget also commits to capital funding for several new neighbourhood centres and upgrades to many others.

We know that a place to connect and access services is essential to a strong and stable community where families are not left behind.

We now also have 11 community connect workers to help facilitate connections between families needing help and the services available in their community. A further worker is due to start soon in Manoora.

And we are ensuring that families in need have a genuine alternative to payday lenders and rent-to-buy schemes through our innovative Good Money Stores in Cairns and the Gold Coast.

While only in their early days, more than \$44,000 has been provided through No Interest Loans.

These Stores will continue to thrive in the coming year, providing phone based information, financial counselling, referral to emergency relief and other support services.

But there is never a clearer demonstration of the need for community support than when our great state is hit by a natural disaster.

My own community of Logan experienced horrendous flooding and many families are still picking up the pieces.

I spoke recently in this house about the Logan Spirit and the many ways in which people supported each other through this natural disaster.

I want to thank all of the volunteers, emergency services personnel, neighbours and friends who stopped to help families right across Queensland to save what they could and stay safe.

My Department is responsible for human and social recovery and I want to take this opportunity to thank the hundreds of staff from across Government who stepped up to provide help when people were at their lowest.

While recovery continues for some communities hardest hit, more than 118,000 people have been assisted with close to \$30 million distributed through the Personal Hardship Assistance Grants and Immediate Hardship Assistance Payments.

For the first time we operated through an online system, allowing payments to be applied for and approved online and transferred directly to the person's bank account.

This led to payments being made up to 8 times quicker, and I'm pleased we've been able to modernise the system in order to provide that immediate support to people who have lost everything.

Mr Speaker, this Budget shows that the Palaszczuk Government is delivering on its commitment to restore frontline services to Child Safety and the community sector and investing extensively in helping vulnerable children and the victims of Domestic and Family Violence.

I am proud to be part of the incredible work done by our staff to change lives, to save lives, and I am proud to be part of delivering a Budget that stands behind them 100 per cent.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.31 pm): Listening to the oohs and aahs of those opposite during Tuesday's budget speech by the Treasurer, you would think they were watching a rare sighting of Halley's comet or, closer to home, Cowboys legend JT scoring a try. Right on cue they cheered and nodded in unison but, just like a shabby excuse for a rent-a-crowd beholden to their union gods, they were praising a disgraceful con designed to deceive and fool the decent people of this great state. Labor's 2017-18 budget is nothing but a sham. This is a true Labor budget alright! Our state's debt will pass \$80 billion—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member for Lockyer, and I think it is the member for Pine Rivers, to cease your conversations across the chamber. It may be someone else. Whoever it is, could you please cease so that we can hear the member for Currumbin.

Mrs STUCKEY: Our state's debt will pass \$80 billion for the first time in history, despite the \$10 billion in raids and rip-offs that were a hallmark of last year's budget. Every man, woman and child in Queensland will owe \$15,795 each. What is even worse is that Labor do not care. Members opposite should hang their heads in shame for supporting reckless spending and fooling the public with false

hopes. Labor only care about their union mates. The honourable member for Southern Downs told it like it was. Former treasurer Andrew Fraser had a forecast debt of \$84 billion or thereabouts even though they had sold off Queensland's assets. On the other hand, the Leader of the opposition, the honourable member for Clayfield, outlined a clear and achievable plan, an inspiring vision, when he said—

Our resolute focus will be to provide Queensland with a Government that creates more jobs, lowers crime rates, contains cost of living pressures, enhances environmental protections, provides a strong and stable business environment and provides better Government, not more Government.

In addition, he completely ruled out asset sales and guaranteed no forced redundancies in the Public Service under an LNP government. Under Labor economic growth is slower than under the LNP. Unemployment will remain above six per cent and employment growth is being revised down. Our already high debt is increasing by \$8.2 billion, which means it will climb to over \$81 billion. For the first time in Queensland's history it is over \$80 billion. I bet that those on the government benches are proud of that record! In 2020 the debt imposed upon every man, woman and child will be the massive \$15,795 that I mentioned.

Labor have failed to deliver the \$1.7 billion of infrastructure they promised in 2016-17, but as usual they are trying to spin their way out of it. Profits from electricity generators have nearly doubled under Labor, wholesale electricity prices have increased by 70 per cent and Labor's bungled water grid has seen bulk water price increases of 350 per cent. The shadow Treasurer, the honourable member for Indooroopilly, said that Queenslanders were being treated disrespectfully like cash cows, as basic cost-of-living items such as car rego, water and electricity continue to increase. The LNP will freeze family car registration for three years.

Despite Labor's previous 'jobs' budgets, Queensland has the unenviable title of having the second-highest unemployment rate in Australia. Whichever way a rational person looks at this budget, it is a dud. It is destined to bring hardship and grief to everyday hardworking Queenslanders. Most of them will not receive any concessions, but their electricity bills are still going up under this union-worshipping Labor government.

On Wednesday this week the front page of the *Courier-Mail* was very telling. It summed up Labor's 2017-18 budget as follows, 'Spin it to win it—Palaszczuk's "jobs bonanza" is really about one job: Hers'. Queensland's major newspaper has realised this Labor budget is nothing more than a pork-barrelling exercise in the north of the state and which will do nothing to cut the unemployment rate.

Honourable members, having been here for a few budgets since 2004, I have to rate this as one of the most cunning. In the past I have spoken of opportunities squandered as rivers of gold flowed through Queensland and successive Labor governments spent like drunken sailors and borrowed as if there were no tomorrow. I have drawn parallels to the movie *The Truman Show*, where a poor soul is deluded into believing he lives in a real world when all around him is fake—much like the scenario before us. I have listened to 'hand-on-heart' Premier Bligh say, 'Trust me, there will be no asset sales,' before doing exactly that and selling them in a fire sale. The honourable member for Ashgrove was here then; she sold off our forests. The now Premier, the honourable member for Inala, was in the government then and supported the sale of Queensland Rail. So was the honourable member for Woodridge, but he was the member for Greenslopes back then.

Courier-Mail senior political reporter Steven Wardill noted that the Treasurer spoke about jobs 45 times yet rarely mentioned unemployment, and he spoke about infrastructure 21 times. The article states—

But he couldn't mention cuts, which is what actually will happen, given the state's capital buy has fallen \$1.5 billion short of what was previously promised in 2017-18.

On the same day the *Courier-Mail* editorial commented—

... Queensland has surrendered its status as the "powerhouse of the Australian economy" and we should not expect to reclaim that title anytime soon.

Not a single day passes that I do not give thanks to the people of Currumbin for giving me the privilege of representing them and our stunningly beautiful electorate. It is truly an honour to be the local state member, and I hope that residents will vote me back in at the forthcoming state election—whenever that may be—so that we can finally get the M1 widened to the border. As a local resident for 30 years, having moved to the electorate with my husband and family from South Australia, I know how precious our lifestyle is and how important it is to protect our exquisite natural landscape. We value living in a safe and connected community, and we are prepared to fight to keep it that way. I note that

Labor have finally just this week announced their candidate for Currumbin: a young woman who does not live in the electorate and who ran unsuccessfully in Mudgeeraba at the last election. It looks like Labor have overlooked poor Michael Riordan again and recently did him over most unceremoniously in his bid for preselection in Gaven.

Without doubt, the issue that matters most to the good folk of Currumbin is funding to widen the M1. I am pleased to say that as a result of our petition, which contained 10,353 signatures, Labor were dragged kicking and screaming to fund a business case for the section of M1 that goes from Varsity Lakes to the New South Wales border.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mrs STUCKEY: The member for Capalaba has gone up in the world: he is calling out from the ministerial leather over there. Watch out!

I commend those who signed my petition. I am very glad to see \$5 million to progress the planning and business case development for six-laning the Pacific Motorway between Varsity Lakes and Tugun which is listed in this budget. Like many people in Currumbin, I am sick and tired of the finger-pointing and hollow promises when it comes to widening the M1. I was reminded by the *Gold Coast Bulletin* of 7 June of behaviour that incenses taxpayers when former premier Peter Beattie said that it was never meant to be this long before the M1 bottlenecks were upgraded. He paid tribute to Annastacia and the Prime Minister for getting an agreement to do it within 18 months, stating that it really should have been done a long time ago. Who is he trying to kid? 'A long time ago', he says. He was premier for a long time, followed by Anna Bligh. Sixteen of the last 19 years have seen Labor governments, yet he expected the LNP to fix it in less than three years and left us a huge debt—a debt that has now passed the \$80 billion mark. At least we got the ball rolling and handed the federal government a business case to consider in 2012.

Who can forget the Tugun bypass? It saw a massive cost blowout, from early estimates of \$55 million to a whopping \$543 million, with 80 per cent of costs borne by the state government because of their sheer incompetence. When government members bang on about funding for roads over the border I remind them of the Tugun bypass saga, a fifty-fifty federal-state government split totally mucked up by Labor under Beattie and Bligh.

An article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* of Wednesday, 14 June titled 'Countdown to Gridlock' does not tell half the story. We are already gridlocked on the southern Gold Coast. We face bedlam during the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The article states—

Excitement is building. For commuters, so is a feeling of dread.

That dread is felt by none more than the people in the Currumbin electorate who face gridlock on a daily basis and have been left out of consultation. Now we hear that buses are being forced into left lanes. This is madness when there are only two lanes each way. It is a recipe for disaster. On Thursday morning the Premier spoke of this working in the United States. Well, they have a lot more lanes than we do.

Another recent comment from Peter Beattie in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* highlights the total lack of care or understanding of the impact of road closures and disruptions to hundreds of small businesses that the games will create. He said—

There will be varying levels of short-term inconvenience experienced by residents, businesses and visitors. Goldoc is working closely with Gold Coast City Council, QPS and DTMR to ensure information is provided well in advance of GC2018.

Just what does he mean by 'well in advance' and what are 'short-term inconveniences'? Will they have to close? People plan holidays well in advance, especially at Christmas as many businesses close. The opportunity has been missed to allow for meaningful discussions about staff holidays, to consider shortening the Christmas break and reallocating leave during the games. What of the several childcare centres along the route? Will they be able to operate? There is no excuse for this oversight. I have not yet spoken to one local business on Currumbin Creek Road that has been consulted.

The Gold Coast Trades College, located just behind Currumbin Creek Road, has not been consulted, yet they have 35 staff and 1,500 students. How can they plan next year's courses when they do not know what restrictions will be placed upon them? I applaud their dedication to training and educating our young people in trades at a time when we are facing a tradies crisis. They should not be penalised. I am asking a lot of questions and demanding to be briefed regularly so that I can inform my concerned residents of what lies ahead. Neighbourhood Watches have also been kept in the dark.

The member for Burleigh and I have just come from a productive meeting with key Commonwealth Games, government and Gold Coast City Council representatives—a meeting requested by us as we have been totally kept out of the loop. I am genuinely hopeful that better communication pathways will result so that we can all embrace the games.

Meanwhile, law and order issues continue to worry Currumbin residents, with spikes in crime pushing our hardworking police to the limit. Then there are the Auditor-General's reports about crime figures being fudged to hide the real numbers. Officer morale is down and bikies are coming back. Crime increases on the Gold Coast are alarming. In December 2016, overall crime was up 28.5 per cent, assaults were up 66 per cent, car theft was up 79 per cent and robberies were up 22 per cent. These statistics are disgraceful but unsurprising when you have a Labor government that is perceived as being soft on crime.

At last month's Coolangatta liquor accord meeting, at which representatives from some 20 venues were present, it was made patently clear that bikies are flexing their muscle again and trying to get into local licensed premises. We were advised that it started to happen the minute Labor watered down the LNP's tough VLAD biki laws. Mandatory scanning from 1 July will see unruly patrons banned and we do not want them to head south, prompting accord members to request the zone be declared a safe-night precinct.

Our two high schools have applied for a school based police officer to offer another layer of counsel and engagement for our youth who are experiencing pressures far greater than any other generation. We are keen to advance this position and would like to know when one can be appointed. I once again place on record my support for our local police, who encounter more dangerous situations than ever. To our officers at Palm Beach, Coolangatta and Elanora Police Beat: thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep our neighbourhoods safe.

Over the past 12 months we have seen several road improvements along Currumbin Creek Road and resurfacing—or, should I say, light spraying—on Galleon Way, which connects Currumbin Creek Road and Guineas Creek Road. I hope the entire race section of Currumbin Creek Road will be properly resurfaced as it is the route for the Commonwealth Games cycling race, which will be beamed around the world. The way it looks at the moment is an embarrassment.

I was pleased to see Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School receive half a million dollars to refurbish the digital technology block a few months ago. Construction is well underway at Coplick sports park, with funds of \$825,000 allocated. It will be a magnificent complex when completed. Also in the budget are ongoing Energex upgrades to Palm Beach substation. There is \$2.9 million in 2017-18 out of \$13.5 million in total. Both of these projects were ongoing and not new so, apart from \$1.1 million for the Boyd-Kitchener drain renewal, Currumbin got virtually nothing. Instead we are paying for Labor's poor judgement and reckless spending, which is imposing financial hardship on all Queenslanders.

Labor's ill-fated water grid, featuring the \$1.2 billion 'more episodes than *Days of our Lives*' Tugun desalination plant, is going to cost us dearly for many years. To add insult to injury, with many residents carrying raw memories of the noise, dust, disruption and damage caused by construction of this facility, now they face paying more to help meet the repayments for Labor's \$9 billion water grid.

What is the government doing regarding escalating bus attacks and fare evasion? It said that it would have a safety summit, but a talkfest does not translate into a reduction in the prevalence of these behaviours. Our drivers, passengers and taxpayers deserve better than this. Proper investment in network guards is overdue and will be even more critical during games time, when we have hundreds of thousands of visitors here.

We have countless dedicated community groups in Currumbin. There are too many to mention here; however, I place on record my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the amazing service they provide. I also acknowledge our wonderful school communities and their teachers. They play such a key role in delivering education in a positive and harmonious environment. Palm Beach Neighbourhood Centre provides many programs and services on the southern Gold Coast. It is a pity it was closed for most of last year due to poor assessment of the time required to carry out refurbishments to their offices, delaying their programs.

I turn now to one of my favourite topics: Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and Hospital. I commend head vet Dr Michael Pyne and his team of health professionals and volunteers. The hospital relies heavily on public donations through the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital Foundation Trust. I urge honourable members to consider donating to this worthy cause.

In closing, I remind Queenslanders that they have over 80 billion reasons to get rid of this incompetent and deceitful Labor government at the next state election. You have to ask yourselves: can we really afford another three years of Labor? I do not think so.

 **Ms DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (3.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills 2017. Firstly, I congratulate the Treasurer on his budget. What a great example of a Labor budget it is. It demonstrates what Labor governments are all about.

Never has there been such a stark difference on display as when the opposition leader gave his reply. There was lots of bluster but absolutely no substance. The collective amnesia about the three years of the Newman-Nicholls government by those opposite is nothing short of comical. The comments by the Leader of the Opposition that the only lesson they seem to have learned was doing too much too quickly show that those opposite have not learned anything. They have not listened. They are still on the slash, burn and sell path that is so much a part of their collective DNA. Watching opposition members make their speeches is like watching a flock of sheep—all bleating in the same monotonous tone, looking at each other and then bleating in unison a bit more. As much as they say that they are free-thinking individuals, their performances tell a different story.

A lot has been said recently about the state of politics. Oppositions that oppose for ideological reasons only, at the expense of the needs of the community, are feeding the disillusion of Queenslanders with the state of politics. We see the Queensland opposition opposing renewable energy despite all of the science and economic data which shows unequivocally that renewable energy as part of a broader energy mix will bring electricity prices down and create thousands of jobs. We on this side of the House are looking to the future with our focus on solar, biofuels and other emerging technologies while the Queensland LNP has a plan only to build more coal-fired power stations—never looking forward, always only ever looking backwards.

We know that Queenslanders are doing it tough and we are working hard on trying to keep the cost of living down. As those opposite bleat on again about electricity prices, they have no idea on how they would do anything differently. They bleat about the average 1.9 per cent increase in electricity costs under our watch while their collective amnesia kicks in again about the 43 per cent rise in electricity prices they gave Queenslanders. Just today we see increases in electricity costs rising in other states of up to 19 per cent, but those opposite are still in denial and are still trying to convince Queenslanders that they have changed.

We on this side of the House stand for jobs and for workers. The Queensland LNP stands for job cuts and for lower wages. We on this side of the House stand for fairness and ensuring everyone in our community can depend on government to be there for them. The opposition stands for big business and deals for its mates. There is nothing fair about anything the LNP does. While we are trying to help people, the LNP is only interested in controlling and vilifying those who are doing it tough in our community. We will never stand for this and we will never sit idly by and allow this to happen unchecked. Those opposite have an ‘us and them’ mentality, a black and white view of the world. We on this side of the House can see all of the various shades in between and we know that people and life do not fit neatly into an either/or ideology that those opposite would have us believe. Who can forget Campbell Newman’s famous statement that public servants had nothing to fear, just before sacking 14,000 people? Now those opposite would have Queenslanders believe that they have changed, that they have seen the light. I think Queenslanders would have a better chance of seeing a bunyip actually!

People in Bundaberg tell me how nice it is to have a government that is listening. They have not forgotten the fights picked by Campbell Newman and his treasurer, the now opposition leader, with them and they have not forgotten the gag orders they put on community organisations. They have not forgotten the three years of nothing but bad news and job losses under the LNP. They know that was a failed experiment and they are not prepared to do it again. They know that when it comes to the LNP what it does and what it says it is going to do are never the same thing.

This is a budget for job creation in Bundaberg. This is a budget that gives hope to people in my community. It is a budget that tells my community that they matter. It is a budget that provides the groundwork for my community to have a positive future. We already know that the budget measures will continue to help people and long-term jobseekers get to work. It will help our community of innovators and entrepreneurs grow their ideas and their businesses.

This is a budget that gives our schools the facilities and the resources they need to educate the leaders of tomorrow. This is a budget that gives the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service a 10 per cent increase in funding as well as additional resources for people with mental health issues and other people who require support for drug and alcohol issues. This budget is for those with disabilities, for

those who want to age in place and for those who need homelessness support. We are providing record support for women fleeing domestic and family violence. We are providing record numbers of child safety officers, and I know that in my electorate this is welcome news. This is a budget that restores front-line services and provides better services. From the environment to the state development area in Bundaberg, this budget is clearly looking forward—not stuck in the past where those opposite would like to stay. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.54 pm): I rise for the 14th time in this House to contribute to the second reading debate on the budget bills.

Ms Boyd: And the last!

Mr RICKUSS: And the last, and it is with some nostalgia that I rise to contribute to this debate and I want to mention a few people. I want to thank my wife of 40 years, Ann. I also mention the fact that I have worked with some wonderful colleagues—Mr Cripps, Jeff Seeney, Lawrence Springborg, Peter Beattie and many others in this House—when I first came here. It has been a spread of interesting characters. Earlier I looked at the wall outside the chamber and something like 200 members of parliament have been here while I have been here, so it has been quite an interesting time. I also want to acknowledge my staff. Hope has worked with me the whole 14 years I have been here. She actually worked on the Fraser Island commission back in the early nineties and worked for Premier Ahern when he was premier. Julie and Erika both qualify for long service when I go, so I have had good, stable staff. I had better mention my five grandchildren while I am here—Archie, Oscar, Lucy, Sinead and Danielle. I have five lovely grandchildren and two sons.

Governments have to pull the levers and get out of the way of small business. Governments do not create jobs; small business create jobs. We need to ensure that small business is on the right track to be able to create jobs. That is really what it is about. Earlier in the debate I heard some of the interesting statements made by the member for Maryborough, and I am glad to see that he is sitting in the House. I must admit that I was actually going to get Dr Christian Rowan to go and see him to see if he needed some assistance because he was that delusional! The member for Maryborough said that 22 per cent interest rates under Keating did not hurt small business. Hello! What planet is he on? Twenty-two per cent interest! In 2006 when Howard was in government and the levers had been pulled in all the right directions, I remember saying to a small business owner in my area, ‘This is as good as it gets. I’ve never seen the place go any better. If you’re not making money now, you’re in the wrong business!’ The years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 were a great time to be in business, and of course we only have to look at the figures. The only amazing thing that happened was that the Queensland government went broke in a boom. I saw it here. It budgeted \$1½ billion for stamp duty from land sales but got \$2½ billion and still blew it all! I can see why the member for Maryborough thought they were difficult times, but it was only because of Labor’s poor policies.

As this is a house of debate, the member for Keppel then got up and said that Cross River Rail was really important. I would be surprised if one person from Keppel spoke to her about Cross River Rail! No-one in my electorate of Lockyer, which is only an hour and a bit west of here, has spoken to me about how excited they are about Cross River Rail.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr RICKUSS: No-one in Gympie either? I take that interjection. How could the punters of Keppel be excited about Cross River Rail? Come on! Let us be real! It is almost misleading the House. It really is misleading the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Lockyer, while this is a very exciting speech and you are being slightly provocative, I ask other members to just settle a little bit please so we can hear the member for Lockyer.

Mr RICKUSS: Yes, they are being very annoying. I also want to raise some issues with regard to what has been said about councils over recent times. I think that there should be a parliamentary select committee into local government given what we have seen recently about councils and what has gone on—mayors raising \$300,000 and mayors with \$50,000 in cash in bags at airports. A parliamentary select committee should look into it and clear the air for the good, honest and hardworking local government people so we know what is going on. Unfortunately, this is happening in all councils. It would not be a bad idea for the CCC to do a random audit of, say, 10 or 12 councils—five or six big ones, four or five smaller ones and a couple of small ones—after every election just to see what is going on. With the four or five that the CCC has looked at such as Moreton Bay everyone has forgotten how

donations were given. We know what has gone on in Ipswich with finding bags and what has gone on down at the Gold Coast. We have to clear the air. People want to feel there is an honest approach to elections. It is really needed.

Mr Williams: Just another review.

Mr RICKUSS: It would be along the same lines as the select committee that looked into coal workers' pneumoconiosis. Is the member saying that is just another review? It has the powers of a royal commission and can subpoena witnesses. That is the sort of committee I am talking about.

Today it has been announced by the Coordinator-General that the Calvert to Kagaroo rail line will be a coordinated project. This is one of the dodgiest projects ever. The first proposal was for the line to go through Ipswich West, Ipswich, Bundamba into Acacia Ridge. Then without consultation Paul Lucas decided to shift the line down through the seat of Lockyer into Beaudesert to Kagaroo. There was no consultation with me as the member. It was just a done deal. I even have some notes out of the cabinet briefs for it. It is absolutely crazy. I will table an insightful article in the *Beaudesert Times*.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Beaudesert Times*, dated 14 June 2017, titled 'Inland rail debate' [1029].

I have written a bit more on the back of it to the effect that the state is going to be required to build bridges on Pub Lane, Middle Road Bridge, Johnson Bridge and Leroy's Bridge. ATRC has conveniently lifted that out of the funding. Rail crossings over the Logan Motorway would need to be built. The cost would be in the vicinity of \$1 billion and it has not been accounted for by ATRC. They are trying to cost shift onto the state government. It is amazing. There will be much more of that throughout the Lockyer. There is an article by Tony Windsor, who most of us will remember, that I will table.

Tabled paper: Articles from the *Saturday Paper*, dated 10 June 2017, titled 'Tony Windsor—Government happy to be off track' [1030].

He wrote quite a good article on the Melbourne to Brisbane rail line which is worthwhile reading. What has been going on with this ATRC proposal is stupidity. It is a dysfunctional piece of construction.

Another issue I would like to raise is that a punter up our way, a Paul James Morrison, who was ripping off councils and people during the floods, has re-emerged as Paul Flackmorr. His name comes up on company searches and LinkedIn articles as national operations manager for Mega Group Energy. I will table these documents.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to company dealing with flood sub-contractors [1028].

Mega Group Energy is part of the Admorr Group. The secretary of that is Robert Thomas Adcock. Robert Thomas Adcock was also involved with Peter Foster. These blokes have a good history. They have been around. Adcock was named in Kerry Button's book *Cunning Deceit* as working for Foster and doing some dodgy weight scams.

Ms Boyd: What does this have do with the budget?

Mr RICKUSS: It is part of the budget because they have ripped people off. From my understanding they are not paying their outstanding accounts. There is a mob called Bailey Asset Management, which is a superannuation fund manager, and I think they are actually supplying these blokes with some money, but unfortunately they are going to get very burnt by Flackmorr, Morrison and Adcock. It is lining up as quite a deceitful process.

To give members a bit more of an insight into what these grifters are up to, they have done Mr Wong Hydraulics at Acacia Ridge for \$16,000. They have done Retruck Australia at Sumner Park for \$165,000. The Campbells at Retruck are good, honest, hardworking businesspeople. Mr Wong, commonly known as Wongy, is really dirty that he has been ripped off for \$16,000. Unfortunately this sort of thing goes on. I have searches here that highlight some of these companies that should not be dealt with.

I am glad to see that Minister Bailey is in the House because Stanwell is another favourite of mine for ripping people off—Stanwell through Coal Reuse. I have something here that the minister will be pleased to see, it is a lovely Coal Reuse hard hat.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order!

Mr RICKUSS: The light is getting into my eyes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I ask you to remove the prop.

Mr RICKUSS: I was not using it as a prop; I was using to it keep the light out of my eyes. It is a lovely Coal Reuse hard hat. I thought that Minister Bailey would be pleased to see that.

Mr Stevens: Is this cash for comment?

Mr RICKUSS: No. They have actually gone broke, that is the trouble. Approximately eight weeks ago MinterEllison were doing a review for Stanwell into the Coal Reuse contracts. I ask the minister, while he is sitting in the House, to please ensure that that review gets tabled in the House. I think it is very important that we have open disclosure because Coal Reuse—who supplied one too many hard hats—unfortunately owe punters around South-East Queensland around \$3 million or \$4 million. The creditors have been trying to get back the \$1.5 million that Stanwell took back as a favoured contractor. It is important that the report by MinterEllison is tabled in the House so that we understand what the process was that Stanwell went through when it appointed this company. This company was going to save Stanwell something in the order of \$10 million over a period of 10 years. I think it has probably cost Stanwell more than \$10 million because of the infrastructure required. They have also touched people up for millions of dollars.

It is important that the South East Queensland Regional Plan, which will be brought down very shortly, from my understanding, falls into place appropriately. At the moment the ineptitude of the minister is starting to hold up development. I have surveyors who want to carry out development and football clubs that are being divided by roads. They are really struggling. We need this put in place.

There are many new businesses in the Lockyer. There is a changing of the guard. These include Withcott Hardware; R 'n' B on North, which is a cafe and ribs place; Jak and Mo Taste Cafe run by Angie Jackwitz; Cottones Restaurant & Bar owned by the Cottone family; Brett and Heidi Steffens' Shed Health and Fitness Centre—these are new businesses that are starting to evolve in the Lockyer—Hannants Takeaway; Karen and Simon Hawker's Grantham Fuels; Luke and Julie Rickuss' Gatton Auto Electrical; Ian O'Brien has taken over the Toyota dealership and now also Ford Mitsubishi; Peter O'Brien's Shell Gatton; Rachel Waterhouse's Laidley Florist; Rianna Krenske's Gatton Florist; Aaron, Jason and Ryan Beaumont's Britannia Hotel in Laidley; Denise and Gary Morris's Eagle Rock Cafe in Laidley—a lovely rock and roll cafe; Carla Ferris from Laidley Rural; and Graham and Nimpinia Strang who own the Queensland National Hotel in Laidley. We have had a changing of the guard as a lot of the older businesses have started to move on. Most of these people would be in the 30 to 45 year age group. It is good to see dynamic businesspeople coming into the area. Withcott and Helidon will continue to grow. They have had new IGAs. Hattonvale is getting a new IGA. Plainland continues to expand with major retail tenants arriving in the near future. This has been part of the process of an overpass that Ron Boswell assisted me in getting some funding for from the federal government. That overpass has added about \$50 million worth of commercial activity around the area.

Another issue that is important for the Lockyer Valley is the supply of water. I will be talking to the minister about water out of Wivenhoe. Mr Seeney and I have regularly discussed how there is an ability to maintain a little bit more water in Wivenhoe to be utilised in a more equitable fashion around the area. When Wivenhoe was built in the seventies there were no satellites or the modern technologies that we have today. I am sure that we can keep 10 per cent of the flood capacity, which is one and a half billion megalitres of water, to use for agriculture.

I continue to lobby Main Roads for the planning study for the Warrego Highway. That is important. We have had some upgrades there.

Mr Bailey: There is heaps going on there.

Mr RICKUSS: That is right. It is the only place in the Lockyer electorate where people get killed on a regular basis so I have to keep pushing to get that done. The Cunningham Highway at the Amberley intersection is a priority. This is created by the RAAF base so the federal government does have to give some assistance there. It really is important. While the minister is in the House I bring to his attention that I am concerned that there are about four tankers a day that cross a double-lane highway at a busy intersection. It is like playing Russian roulette with B-doubles. Unfortunately an accident will happen at some stage. The sooner we can get half a billion dollars for that bypass the better.

Mr Bailey: You should get your federal friends up there, Ian.

Mr RICKUSS: I have been pushing the feds for it, do not worry. Unfortunately, the terrible shooting a fortnight ago in my electorate of police officer Brett Forte was really quite gut-wrenching for everyone. I fully support the federal government's illegal weapons moratorium. I call on everyone, whether they have an old Luger, something that dad got from the Second World War, an old automatic .22 that was grandad's favourite gun or something that you have not registered, get it off the street in case it falls into the wrong hands. I am not saying that people who have these guns are criminals or that they are going to be illegal, but they need to get them off the street.

While talking about weapons, the government spends tens of millions of dollars policing legal long-arm firearms. I often wonder whether this money would be better spent on chasing up illegal firearms. I think Canada has stopped the policing of legal long-arm firearms. We still have registers, we still know what is there, but do we need to spend millions of dollars policing them? I have spoken to people who have had police turn up on Good Friday to do a weapons inspection on long-arms. I am quite surprised that we spend so much money and time on this when honest people ensure they are registered. The bloke who shot Brett Forte had not registered that firearm. The sawn-off shotgun that gets stuck up someone's nose in a garage is not registered. It is really about the illegals that we have to get off the street.

I thank Minister de Brenni in terms of a constituent of mine, Jon MacDonald, who took on the Queensland Building Authority and cleaned them up in court. Of course, he fought with them for years because they removed his licence just out of vengeance, I think. He had to jump through a few hoops, but finally that licence was reinstated for Jon MacDonald and it was a win for common sense. Really, the department was very pig-headed in those terms.

Like I say, unless something tragic happens, this is my last budget reply speech. This is a great place to spend a career. I have enjoyed it. The punters of Lockyer have re-elected me five times in a row. The new LNP candidate, Jim McDonald, will do a great job. I am sure that returning members will look after him for me. Thank you very much.

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (4.15 pm): I rise to support the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 appropriation bills, a blueprint for the future economic prosperity of this state.

It is a great honour to represent the people of Ferny Grove in this parliament. The people of Grovely, Keperra, Upper Kedron, the Hills District, Bunya and Ferny Grove decided the outcome of the 2015 Queensland election. They wanted something better. The young aspirational families with kids and the mortgage to pay, the city professionals, the large number of public servants and the grandparents of toddlers who not so long ago raised their own children in our relaxed leafy urban surroundings were let down by the LNP and were let down badly. It was an LNP that sacked workers, an LNP that slashed their front-line services, an LNP that did not consult and an LNP member they sent to represent them in parliament who did not seem to listen. Queensland public servants were told they would have nothing to fear from a Liberal National Party government, the very same LNP that said Queensland had 20,000 more public servants than it could afford. Public sector job cuts are in the LNP's DNA. They also cut front-line workers, the same front-line workers who did their very best for us, the people of Queensland, in our schools, emergency services and hospitals.

Public servant job cuts had a big impact in Ferny Grove. Many people lost their jobs. While campaigning in 2014, I heard directly from small business owners who said that business was terrible. One florist told me, 'Ever since Newman sacked all the public servants, trade is down because people consider flowers to be non-essential luxuries when there are job losses in the family.' It resonates when one stands by and allows conditions of employment like penalty rates to be diminished. Where does the LNP opposition stand on the reduction of penalty rates? They stand shoulder-to-shoulder with their LNP mates in Canberra and remain silent on the savage cuts to take-home pays.

The LNP opposition can never be trusted. The hardworking people of Ferny Grove know our state's economy is strong and that their hip pockets are better off than they were in January 2015 when they booted the arrogant Newman and Nicholls LNP government out of office. The people of Ferny Grove know the Palaszczuk government is focused on continuing economic growth, on jobs for them and on a great future for their children and grandchildren.

This budget will support 40,000 jobs across Queensland. It is an investment in this great state. The people of Ferny Grove know that front-line services were restored after they were slashed by the Newman-Nicholls LNP government. The nurses and the doctors in our hospitals, the police on our beat and the teachers in our schools are back and working for the good people of Ferny Grove.

The third Palaszczuk government budget delivers a record \$16.6 billion spend on health and also \$2.37 billion on law and order to help Queensland police keep residents of Ferny Grove safe. The Palaszczuk government is enabling the state's \$300 billion economy to transform to one which is more innovative, diverse and productive. I am proud to be part of a government that is investing \$5.3 billion to help lower the cost of living for householders. We are supporting pensioners through the \$54 million Pensioner Rebate Subsidy Scheme. That is a 20 per cent subsidy per year for council rates and charges. There is \$341 per year towards electricity costs for eligible pensioners in Ferny Grove, and \$120 a year off the cost of water rates.

Not only has the Palaszczuk government delivered real reductions in yearly costs of getting a train from Ferny Grove station to Roma Street or Central through our Fairer Fares package, there is also great news in the 2017-18 budget for the Ferny Grove station and our community. I am very pleased to announce in this budget \$1.2 million to start the construction of the \$9 million Ferny Grove station precinct transit oriented development, or Ferny Grove TOD.

The residents of the Ferny Grove electorate told me that they wanted more car parking spaces at the Ferny Grove Railway Station, and I have heard them loud and clear. I have listened, acted and acknowledged the hard work of the member for Sandgate, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer in helping me secure an extra 253 carparks for commuters making their daily trip into the city and beyond for work. That is 253 extra carparks for commuters over and above the 900 there right now. Signed, sealed and to be delivered as part of the Ferny Grove TOD. That is \$1.2 billion delivered in the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget. A development application is soon to be presented to Brisbane City Council for public consultation and approval to get started on construction of the Ferny Grove TOD.

With an extra 253 park-and-ride places to reduce congestion on our regional roads, the Ferny Grove TOD will be transformational. It will create a vibrant precinct with fast, efficient, frequent railway transport right to the front door. It represents an innovative mix of retail, commercial and residential development and an eight-screen cinema, creating local jobs during and after construction. It will mean that more residents have better use of public transport to the benefit of the Ferny Grove community.

With the Palaszczuk government's commitment to fully fund and build one of Queensland's biggest ever infrastructure projects, the good news keeps getting better. The \$5.41 billion Cross River Rail project will support more than 7,700 jobs for Queenslanders and deliver a train to and from the Ferny Grove Railway Station precinct on average every six minutes during peak periods. That is a train on average every six minutes. It means more services and faster travel times.

Every child deserves a good education. This is something the Palaszczuk government is passionate about. The Palaszczuk government is investing a record \$13.7 billion in education, up 6.4 per cent on last year, and the students of the Ferny Grove electorate will share in that. I have worked hard to secure extra classrooms at Mitchelton Special School. Some \$500,000 is locked in to get started on the delivery of a \$6.1 million construction project at Mitchelton Special School. This will involve new classrooms. As a Labor government we believe every child deserves the best education. There is \$400,000 in the budget to refurbish block D—the manual arts unit—at Ferny Grove State High School under the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program.

The Palaszczuk government's \$1.8 billion Housing Strategy commits \$4.69 million to complete 20 new public housing units in the Ferny Grove electorate. We are backing first home buyers to get into the housing market. There are plenty of options to do just that from the Hills District to Mitchelton and Gaythorne with \$30 million to extend the \$20,000 first home buyers grant.

As the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, I am proud to be part of a government that is investing \$75 million to progress home ownership in discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. The Palaszczuk government's budget is investing \$120 million over four years in water and waste infrastructure for Indigenous councils and their communities. Despite the misinformed claims of the LNP's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships shadow minister, it was the Newman LNP government that flushed the water and sewerage program for Indigenous councils down the drain. It was the LNP that slashed the State Government Financial Aid program to Indigenous communities.

It was a great irony that Mayor Fred Gela and his councillors from the Torres Strait Island Regional Council came to plead their case at 1 William Street to remedy the wrongs of the Newman government's cuts in their communities. The tower of power was the sort of infrastructure Campbell Newman was interested in, not infrastructure in Indigenous communities. There was nothing for a better life for our Indigenous Queenslanders.

Only the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to closing the gap on disadvantage. We are investing with business in strategic innovation, because supporting small business is vital for Queensland's and Ferny Grove's economic growth. The Palaszczuk government's budget provides an additional \$400 million for local government to invest in jobs and vital community infrastructure. Happy campers, thrilled; that summed up the reaction from the Local Government Association of Queensland and councils to the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget. The LGAQ's budget scorecard delivered a rare, six big green ticks of approval.

As Minister for Local Government, it was important to secure \$120 million over four years for new water, sewerage and waste infrastructure for Indigenous councils. Everybody should have access to a reliable supply of clean, fresh water and the safe disposal of waste wherever they live in our big state. We have also increased the State Government Financial Aid program for Indigenous councils to more than \$33.7 million and restored the indexation former LNP Newman government treasurer, Tim Nicholls, disgracefully took away. There is \$5 million over two years to help small councils add the dental health benefits of fluoride to their water supplies if they choose to do so. There is an extra \$90 million in road funding for councils and \$10 million in infrastructure planning.

In every regional community I visit, mayors tell me how much they love the flexibility of the Deputy Premier's Works for Queensland program. The Palaszczuk government's budget is investing an additional \$200 million over two years. Works for Queensland delivers infrastructure and jobs, up to 6,000, where they are needed most in regional Queensland.

This budget—the third Palaszczuk government budget—builds capacity for local government to support jobs, infrastructure and vibrant local communities. It is a budget that delivers for Queensland. It is a budget that delivers for Ferny Grove. I proudly endorse the bills.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (4.23 pm): This is just another sham budget from this do-nothing, asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government. This budget fails on every single measure. It fails on debt. It fails on jobs. It fails on economic growth. It fails on cost of living. It fails on infrastructure and roads right across Queensland. The sole focus of this budget is saving two jobs—the job of the Deputy Premier and the job of the Minister for Industrial Relations.

I had the great pleasure of being in St George last week with the local member, the member for Warrego, and the shadow minister for education, the member for Aspley. We were meeting with parents from right across rural and regional Queensland at the Isolated Children's Parents' Association conference. What was really disappointing was that, while the LNP were there listening to those people, nobody from the government came. Nobody from the Labor Party thought to go out to Western Queensland and listen to those parents and stakeholders.

We all know that the minister is a very busy woman. A cursory glance at her diary shows just how little time she devotes to education. It is a great shame that the government could not find anybody to go and listen to those parents. The chair of the parliamentary education committee could have gone or perhaps a member from regional Queensland—the member for Mirani or the member for Mackay—could have gone to listen to those parents who have grave concerns about their children's education. Even more galling than the fact that the Labor Party and the government could not be bothered to send a representative was that at the time when parents were crying out for more support for resources and better internet this government was announcing two schools for the inner city that are designed solely and wholly to save the jobs of the members for South Brisbane and Brisbane Central.

Everyone would apparently believe it is okay if they believe Labor because they are delivering Cross River Rail. The people of the Gold Coast do not care about Cross River Rail. The people of the Gold Coast want certainty on light rail stage 3. They want certainty on light rail stage 4 and where that is going to go to the north. The people of the Gold Coast want certainty on plans to develop an integrated resort development out at The Spit. They want to know if this government is going to back tourism on the Gold Coast and work with our mayor to deliver an offshore cruise ship terminal.

The people of the Gold Coast and the people of my electorate want to know what this government is going to do to support the biggest employer in our city. We on this side of the House know that small business is the economic powerhouse of Queensland. It is the backbone of local economies right across this state. In my electorate of Broadwater small business is the largest employer.

Small business is in our DNA. We get it. My first job was in small business and so many of my colleagues have worked in and owned small businesses for all of their lives. Our track record when we were in government absolutely speaks for itself. We cut red tape. We made sure that we reduced WorkCover premiums without reducing support. Importantly as well, we reduced the threshold on that job-destroying tax—payroll tax.

The LNP know that governing is a serious business for serious people. Our experienced team, led by the member for Clayfield and the member for Nanango, are ready to serve the people of Queensland again. Only the LNP will create jobs across this state. Only the LNP will manage our finances better. Only the LNP will provide safe and livable communities. As the member for Mermaid Beach well knows, that is particularly important to us on the Gold Coast because when we were in

government the LNP got rid of the criminal motorcycle gangs. As is often pointed out by the member for Surfers Paradise, the Labor Party has rolled out the red carpet to organised crime on the Gold Coast again.

Only the LNP will build the roads, dams and bridges that Queensland needs. I know that the member for Nanango is particularly committed to making sure that we deliver the dams and water security that regional Queensland needs. Only the LNP will deliver better government not more government. We on this side of the House know that bigger government is not the solution to everything. As Ronald Reagan once said, 'The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help.'

Over the coming months, Tim Nicholls and Deb Frecklington will talk more to Queenslanders about the LNP's plan. In his budget reply, the Leader of the Opposition made a few things clear. The opposition, when we have the opportunity to form government, will freeze family car registration for three years. This will be a very significant saving for families not only in my electorate of Broadwater but right across Queensland who we know are doing it tough. There will be no asset sales. Despite what we know will be a campaign of lies and scare from the Labor Party, there will be no asset sales under a Nicholls LNP government. Importantly, the LNP is committed to delivering a \$100 million youth jobs plan.

I do not know if I should be flattered or offended that in budget week the government has been more concerned about my job than the jobs of young Queenslanders right across this state. What we do know is that this government does not have a plan to give the young people of Queensland and the young people of my electorate of Broadwater an opportunity to create a better life for themselves. We know that this budget has failed to deliver key projects right across Queensland, but it has also failed to deliver key projects right across my electorate of Broadwater.

This is my last budget as a member of this House and it is disappointing that I cannot stand up and talk about all the fantastic things that are being done in my electorate. The reason I cannot talk about it is that this government has failed to deliver for the third year in a row for the people of Broadwater.

Given Minister Bailey's near obsession with me on Twitter—every single time I get a notification saying, 'Mark Bailey MP has retweeted a tweet about you,' or 'Mark Bailey has mentioned you in a tweet'—I had hoped that he might deliver me a parting gift. I have made the good minister blush. I had hoped that in this my last budget I would get a parting gift, but alas I think I sent it to the wrong email address! There is no dredging for the Broadwater. There is no duplication at Jabiru Island. There is no safety upgrade to the crossing outside Coombabah State School, but I am sure, Minister, that the parents of that school, the parents who have had children hit by cars, will be greatly comforted because Jackie is delivering Cross River Rail! I am sure that the people of the Gold Coast who, when we stop dredging the Broadwater, will be perfectly happy to walk from Runaway Bay to South Stradbroke Island, but it is okay because Jackie is delivering Cross River Rail! What we do know is that this is a sham budget from a sham government who stand absolutely condemned by the people of Queensland.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.33 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2017 Queensland state budget. It is a budget that is not only good for the people of Ipswich but also good for everyone in Queensland. It is non-prejudiced. It is one that puts all Queenslanders from Ipswich to Innisfail and beyond first. No-one has been forgotten in this budget.

This is a Labor budget to its bootstraps, and I am proud to be a member of the Palaszczuk government that delivered it. It is a budget that is focused on educating our children, not stealing their future. I acknowledge and commend the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the education minister, Kate Jones, who this week announced \$24.8 million to deliver full-time teacher aides in every prep class in Queensland from 2018. It is great news for our prep classes. It is a budget that will continue our commitment and investment in jobs—an estimated additional 2,200 jobs for Ipswich, and I could not be happier.

This is a budget that provides record health funding across the state—money going to where it is most needed. I am delighted that Ipswich Hospital is one of the three South-East Queensland hospitals to benefit from the \$200 million initial investment over four years to enhance its capacity and services including mental health facilities. It is a budget that confirms that the Queensland economy is stronger today than when the Newman-Nicholls budget was kicked out of office in January 2015. It is a budget that is focused on providing the infrastructure that will be the cornerstone of this state's development, not the answer to its terminal decline.

For too many years I have heard from those in the LNP that we are a do-nothing government, one of big promises but little follow through. Some 69,000 jobs later, a drop in the unemployment rate and a 2.75 per cent rise in economic growth shows that those opposite do not mind throwing in an alternative fact or 20. This from a party that for three years did little more than hack and burn—its biggest idea for change likely an internal challenge to see just how many public sector and front-line jobs could be cut.

For proof that we are a government that keeps its promises, we need look no further than this government's commitment to re-establishing drug courts across Queensland—\$22.7 million has been allocated statewide for the introduction of local drug courts, and I am delighted that Ipswich will receive one of those courts. This is a budget that is focused on helping those with addiction, not turfing them onto our streets.

Since February 2015, my electorate of Ipswich has received over \$18 million in investment in our state schools—\$8 million to Ipswich West Special School for much needed expansion and over \$10 million to expand Claremont Special School. There is an additional \$500,000 to build a fence around Ipswich Special School, and in this year's budget I am delighted that Ipswich East State School will receive \$200,000 to refurbish Block D through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program. From March 2015 to March 2017, we have employed an extra 439 teachers in Ipswich alone. This is not what a government who cannot keep its promises would do.

There is so much that this budget is doing for my community and for communities right across Queensland. Ipswich is projected to be the fastest growing region over coming decades. This growth is driving strong investment in infrastructure and service delivery. The Palaszczuk government has and continues to invest in jobs for Ipswich through a diverse range of projects and initiatives—things like the \$200 million commitment to upgrade the Ipswich Motorway, Darra to Rocklea; \$13 million to deliver capital works at Ipswich Turf Club's Bundamba Racecourse; the investment in public housing—383 new dwellings in the Ipswich region; a safe cycling facility at Raceview; and the upgrade of the police communications centre at Yamanto. All of this is in addition to the Palaszczuk government's continued investment in health and education.

There are a lot of people moving to Ipswich—many of them first home buyers. I have heard firsthand from many of those people what this government's \$20,000 first home buyer's grant has meant to them. The Palaszczuk government's announcement in this budget to extend this boosted grant offer for a further six months will not only help numerous young families in Ipswich but also further drive economic activity and construction.

It probably comes as no surprise to many that Rugby League is big in Ipswich, but we also have a significant number of AFL supporters. I would like to commend the Treasurer on his commitment of \$165,000, as part of a total \$375,000 investment, to provide unisex player and umpire change amenities, with storage, offices and a gym for cricket and AFL at Limestone Park. This has been a project that I and AFL Queensland have been working hard to secure, and it is great to see the government commit funds to this project.

If there is still any doubt that the Palaszczuk government is a hardworking, progressive, united, economically sound and visionary government, we need look no further than the Premier and Deputy Premier's announcement this week that the Palaszczuk government will build Cross River Rail. Widely acknowledged as being the single most essential and largest infrastructure project Queensland has ever seen, Cross River Rail has been fully funded under this 2017-18 budget. Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP failed Queenslanders by ignoring the need to invest in this essential piece of infrastructure and Queenslanders will not forget it. Once constructed, Cross River Rail will mean less congestion on the roads and faster and more efficient train travel for commuters. It will make Brisbane the world-class city it needs to be and it means Ipswich people will have access to more trains more often.

Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I further welcome that \$8.9 million, as part of a \$35.7 million commitment over four years to provide out-of-home care placement services to ensure children and young people in need of protection are supported and safe, has been provided by this budget.

These funds will see those most at risk, our children and young people, kept happy, safe and secure.

Ipswich will also see a combined grant funding of \$1,130,000 to provide health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people in my community.

Mr Speaker, we have provided a large amount of funds to schools this budget, ensuring that their education is a paramount concern for our government.

At the same time, we will also be providing funding to families in crisis.

There will be \$5.6 million as part of a \$22.6 million commitment over four years to provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point.

This will ensure that Ipswich parents are given every opportunity to provide a strong, stable base for their families, and that no family is unduly separated.

Domestic violence is a scourge on modern society, and something that I understand all too well.

There are many worthy groups combatting this issue in my electorate of Ipswich, groups like the Domestic Violence Action Centre, Ipswich Women's Centre, and so many more actively combating this issue in our community.

These organisations have quickly cemented their place as institutions in Ipswich, providing service and assistance where it is often times the most essential.

I commend the Treasurer for providing \$1.7 million as part of a \$6.98 million commitment over four years to provide domestic and family violence services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, particularly those in high risk situations.

Mr Speaker, this budget has provided evidence of what I've been saying consistently, that we are a government of action, a government of follow through that benefits all communities across our state.

But it wasn't just continuation of funding for our communities, our government has presented a number of important new infrastructure and social projects that will vastly benefit not just Ipswich, but the state of Queensland.

Mr Speaker, grant funding of \$10.4 million in 2017-18 will be provided for non-clinical support services to people with mental illness, their carers, and their families.

Mental Health is no joke, it is something incredibly debilitating, family destroying even.

By committing \$10.4 million to the people of Ipswich, the Palaszczuk Government is ensuring that this will no longer be an issue confined to asylum, that as a government and community we will stand by everyone, no matter their story, and ensure no one falls through the cracks.

Mr Speaker, in my electorate of Ipswich I have a brilliant hospital, the aptly named Ipswich Hospital, organised and run by the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service.

In a city like Ipswich which is continually growing and expanding, projected to hit 400,000 people by 2050, they are able to provide a dynamic team which is constantly evolving and developing to meet the needs of our growing community.

I was thrilled to hear from the Treasurer and the Minister for Health, the Hon Cameron Dick, that \$3 million for business case development, detailed planning, site preparation and land purchases, at a total cost of \$24 million was being provided for the Ipswich Hospital.

This is great news for Ipswich.

For a city like mine, population growth and increased demand for services is one of the most severe issues that we face.

These funds will provide the necessary foundations to ensure that the expectations of my community are met when it comes to their health and wellbeing, and I am eagerly anticipating the results from the detailed planning.

But those were not the only funds provided to the Ipswich Hospital network.

Our government has seen the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service receive a funding boost of \$42.3 million in this year's 2017-2018 Budget.

This new budget of \$554.6 million represents an 8.3% increase in funding provided to the Ipswich communities number one health care provider.

What this will mean at a fundamental level, is that we will see a number of crucial developments throughout the Hospital and Health Service.

It will provide funding to meet growth in the emergency department, a \$5 million increase that was promised earlier this year by the Minister for Health.

It will provide a new mental health acute care team for the hospital, further acknowledgment of the critical approach we as government have to take when it comes to our community's mental health.

Overall, this boost of funding to the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service is part of a \$1.28 billion boost to Queensland's health budget.

This increase in spending is emblematic of our Palaszczuk Government's approach to health, a sign of the priority that we as a government are placing no person at risk, ensuring Queenslanders' health is a top priority.

As I've mentioned earlier, the Minister for Racing, the Hon Grace Grace, recently announced \$13 million from the Racing Infrastructure Fund to deliver capital works at the Ipswich Turf's Club's Bundamba Racecourse.

Mr Speaker, this is an emphatic victory for the Ipswich Turf Club and the Ipswich people, a project that is decades in the making, possibly even more, that I can assure you the people of Ipswich having been champing at the bit for it.

In the end, as is so often the case in Queensland, it took the concerted effort of the people and the Palaszczuk Labor Government, to hear the call to action, and accept it.

Finally, I would like to extend a significant commendation to our Treasurer, for the reinstatement of a Drug Court in Ipswich.

Mr Speaker, there is an ice problem in Queensland, and Ipswich is not exempt, and it's an issue that I and the Palaszczuk Government are putting every effort into eradicating and solving.

This is not a problem that has a quick fix, no one size fits all solution that will resolve it, with the reinstatement of the Drug Court being a positive step in the right direction.

Honestly, it defies reason that it had to be reinstated at all, that the LNP thought that the best way to help those with drug addictions was to remove a proven program and replace it with nothing.

Mr Speaker, what my government has done is shown that we not only stick to our election commitments, but that we understand the issue.

With this third budget, the Palaszczuk Government has shown that we are not just a party in government, but a party that can and will lead.

These projects, which are upgrading crucial Ipswich infrastructure, uplifting our economy, and providing jobs for the Ipswich region, represent a government that will not back down in the face of adversity.

These projects represent only a portion of what the Palaszczuk Government is spending on Queensland, symbolising the commitment we have not just to the South East, but the regions as well.

When the Palaszczuk Government presents a budget, a real Labor Budget, it provides Queenslanders with assurances, a guarantee that we will always represent their best interests, and put the people of Ipswich and Queensland first and foremost.

I commend the 2017-2018 budget to the House, Mr Speaker.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills. I commend the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for their budget replies in the House yesterday. This is the opposition's opportunity to review and scrutinise how the state government has collected and expended taxpayers' money in hopefully a fair and equitable manner across the state.

This was supposed to be a budget about jobs. However, we see in the budget that employment growth is weaker and unemployment is forecast to stay higher for longer. This is a very disappointing budget for the outback region, particularly for the youth of the outback region as the unemployment rate for youth in the outback region sits at 48 per cent. Nearly half the youth in the outback region do not have a job—that is in places like Charleville, Cunnamulla, Quilpie and Thargomindah in my electorate.

The youth of the outback just want a future. They want some security and some hope, and they are not getting that from this government. There is one thing for sure: this is not a jobs budget for the youth of the outback. The youth of the outback are wary of budgets with glossy covers, because with a 48 per cent unemployment rate they know that this government is not delivering. The youth of the outback do not have access to public transport to get to work; they have to drive a car. That is why the LNP's freeze on the family car registration for three years will help ease the cost-of-living pressure on these young people. It will help families in regional areas who rely on the family car to take the children to school or the doctor or to travel to and from work because there is no public transport. These people cannot catch a ferry, a train or a bus. Those services just do not exist in most of the communities in my electorate.

This budget is one of debt and unprecedented debt. Over the next four years, the state government debt is forecast to balloon by \$9 billion up to \$81 billion. It might be of interest to this House to know that when Paul Keating left office he left a national debt of \$96 billion. It took 10 years for the whole nation to pay back his debt—that was the whole nation, not just Queensland. Queensland is now heading for this level of debt. We cannot afford it and we will be paying it off for years to come. The interest bill will stifle infrastructure spending and new service provision. The interest on this debt will remain at about \$3.6 billion, or almost \$10 million a day. There are 192 days until Christmas this year, which means that a distance of 1,920 kilometres of road will not be built between now and Christmas because the interest bill has to be paid.

Let me put that in perspective. The cost of building a new dual carriageway road from Brisbane to Quilpie and back again will be paid out in interest payments between now and Christmas. Every day this government fails to manage and reduce the debt is a day that taxpayers' money cannot be spent on infrastructure and delivering roads or services because this money is being spent on interest payments.

For three budgets, I have looked for the words ‘agricultural profitability’ in the Treasurer’s budget speech. In the first budget, agriculture did not even rate a mention in the Treasurer’s speech. Last year, it snuck in there with an acknowledgement of agriculture. At least this year there is a mention of agricultural assets. However, the funding for the agricultural portfolio did not fare so well, with a reduction of \$14 million. AgForce described this state budget as ‘underwhelming’ for the agricultural industry, which is one of the pillars of so many regional communities across my electorate.

This funding reduction is not good news for cattle producers who are battling against drought and also pimelea poisoning. I wish to thank the member for Burdekin, who has been on the ground with landholders affected by pimelea in my electorate and strongly supporting the call for funding to develop a probiotic for cattle affected by pimelea. I am also pleased to advise the House that some funding has been secured through Meat and Livestock Australia, producers and AgForce for initial research projects running until December 2017. Options to fund additional pimelea research beyond 2017 are needed, and I call on the Queensland government to contribute financially to the ongoing research project with a cash injection to pimelea research beyond 2017.

There is no doubt that agriculture needs water. Landholders, particularly those in my electorate, are conscious of the need to conserve water from the Great Artesian Basin. The \$8 million allocation from the federal government, which Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce announced in my electorate at Roma, is most welcome. However, the state government has only committed up to—and ‘up to’ are the important words—\$4 million in matching funding. I hope the Queensland government does not fall short on the GAB because of this wishy-washy commitment from the state government. I might also add that we did hear in this parliament this week something about the Abbott government and the Great Artesian Basin. Let me put on the record that it was Kevin Rudd who actually closed off and cancelled the funding for the Great Artesian Basin. It was Kevin Rudd; it had nothing to do with Tony Abbott.

I turn to the impacts of this budget on the outback region capital program, which has been savaged with a 31 per cent reduction. The Darling Downs capital program has been cut by 24 per cent. It is the regional areas that are producing coal royalty revenue increases of up to 80 per cent in 2016-17, but they are not receiving their fair share in return infrastructure projects. Capital spending is needed in the regional areas. There is ageing infrastructure that needs replacement, like hospitals, particularly the Charleville Hospital, and schools like Thargomindah. They need covered areas to protect their students and staff from temperatures of over 47 degrees in summer. Instead, we see projects like Cross River Rail being allocated more than \$2.9 billion—a project that will not carry one freight train. The capital funding for the regions is being siphoned off to the Cross River Rail project, despite promises from the Palaszczuk government that major projects would have a business case.

Talking of rail, in my electorate the Angellala Creek rail bridge was blown up in 2014. My constituents would like to see this do-nothing state government finalise the insurance claim for this rail bridge. The government has had 2½ years to do that insurance claim and to get it finalised and that still has not happened. No wonder South-West Queenslanders are not interested in the Cross River Rail because they are waiting for this do-nothing government to get on with the insurance claim for the Angellala Creek rail bridge. This was also echoed by AgForce, which said—

While there are billions of dollars set aside for road and rail projects in southeast Queensland, there appears to be no major new funding for regional and rural transport initiatives that would make it safer, easier and cheaper to get farm goods to market.

It's particularly disappointing there is no funding for an AgForce-backed rail freight infrastructure project in central and southern Queensland that would be a game changer for grain growers.

It would be a game changer for the many grain growers in my electorate. While I am talking of infrastructure, I was pleased to hear again from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in her budget reply that the LNP will restore the very popular \$500 million Royalties for the Regions program that will replace Labor's failed Building our Regions fund. I have championed the Royalties for the Regions program that delivers. I am pleased to see the LNP Royalties for the Regions program being championed again and again by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I will give an idea of how the LNP Royalties for the Regions program delivers. In two years the LNP delivered a total of \$120 million of projects in the Warrego electorate. Let us contrast that against the Palaszczuk government's program that failed to deliver 89 per cent of the infrastructure promised in their first year. They failed to deliver.

Mr Crandon: Was that 89 per cent?

Ms LEAHY: Yes, 89 per cent of the infrastructure promised in the first year. This Labor government's Building our Regions program is a smoke-and-mirrors program compared to the real LNP Royalties for the Regions program that actually delivers.

I have been keeping a watching brief on the Warrego Highway Upgrade Program, which comprises 15 projects between Toowoomba and Miles that are planned to be delivered hopefully before June 2019. I am pleased to see that the Jingi Jingi Creek bridge is completed. However, I cannot say that the Brigalow to Chinchilla widening project was as well managed. The Brigalow to Chinchilla project originally was meant to take nine months to complete. Instead, it took 16 months under this government. There has been a significant delay. I ask that no other Warrego Highway project be delayed, cut short of funding or managed like the Brigalow-Chinchilla project. The remainder of these projects are to be delivered by June 2019, and I wish to see all of them delivered in this time frame. I do not think there should be any more mess-ups, stuff-ups or delays like we saw with the Chinchilla-Brigalow project.

The regional roads budgets in the Darling Downs and the south-west have been slashed in this budget. When projects finish, there are no new road projects to do the essential works, like the widening of the Meandarra-Westmar road to make it safer for the school buses that travel on that road, or the Mitchell Saint George Road that supports the livestock and tourism industries, or addressing the terrible surface of the St George-Bollon road. What we see with projects that should be continued or replaced is that the money is being siphoned off to the Cross River Rail.

I am pleased to see that the LNP initiated \$70 million Roma Hospital redevelopment is recognised in the budget. I can advise the House that the old nurses quarters has been demolished and plans for the new hospital have been made available to the community.

A government member interjected.

Ms LEAHY: I take that interjection. It took the LNP to initiate it.

Government members interjected.

Ms LEAHY: The LNP started that project and it was Lawrence Springborg who visited on many occasions. I note that the budget papers state that this is one of the largest single government investments in Roma in many years and will be a huge boost to the local economy. I will correct that record somewhat, as it was the LNP government, through the Royalties for the Regions program, that built and finished stage 1 of the \$17 million levee bank in Roma and provided significant funding for stage 2.

I wish to raise another issue of importance to both the Warrego and Gregory electorates, which is food security for residents of communities such as Cunnamulla, Eulo, Yowah, Quilpie, Thargomindah, Eromanga and further west to Noccundra and out to Cameron's Corner. There is an existing subsidy for livestock and regional freight contracts to provide funding to support the movement of cattle via rail only and freight via road and rail to and from regional areas of Queensland. That subsidy is listed in the Budget Strategy and Outlook and in 2017-18 is projected to provide \$33.8 million. I am advised that Aurizon currently has the contract with the state government for the freight services in my electorate and those are currently delivered by road. I am advised that, despite liaising at length with Aurizon personnel for the previous six months, small local businesses in my electorate that use that service are very nervous. They are nervous that this freight subsidy will be reduced by stealth and the existing corporate customers and direct accounts will feel the brunt of any subsidy reduction.

I do not believe that Aurizon is being very helpful to south-west Queenslanders or those businesses that provide fruit and vegies and cold goods. I do not think Aurizon is ensuring that there is a smooth transition out of those services. The direct customers advise me that they are at risk with those services not being provided, as they are outside the existing contractual arrangements that extend beyond the government's contract. This has the capacity to adversely affect businesses and the availability of fresh fruit and vegies and cold goods to many south-west communities. Changes have been proposed as to how this contract will operate in the future. Submissions have been called and they are under review. There are some six months left of the existing contract, so now it is time for the department to finalise the review, do the consultation and make sure we have that certainty for the communities of south-west Queensland. I look forward to achieving a workable outcome with businesses to ensure that food security and quality for those communities is maintained. I hope the government will assist in doing that without increasing the cost of living.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.52 pm): I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 2017 and contribute to the debate on the Queensland state budget. First and foremost, I am the state member for Morayfield

and my commitment to the community that I grew up in, that I live in and that I represent in this House is absolute. I am very pleased that this budget continues the proud tradition of Labor governments delivering for the Morayfield region. This budget is a jobs budget, it is a workers' budget, it is a battlers' budget and, most importantly, it is a budget that delivers for the people of the Morayfield state electorate.

After my strong advocacy and with the support of other local Labor members of parliament over many years, I am particularly excited that this budget commits funds to advance a major upgrade and redevelopment of the Caboolture Hospital. On top of that, the Caboolture Hospital's emergency department will also receive an immediate expansion with \$19.6 million allocated to provide 14 new treatment spaces, four new consultation rooms and a treatment room. The expansion will almost double the current emergency department's capacity and is expected to be completed by the end of next year. It was Labor that built the Caboolture Hospital and it is Labor that is delivering the upgrade and redevelopment of the Caboolture Hospital.

This budget also allocates funding for local infrastructure projects that will generate jobs, as well as deliver positive outcomes for locals. The budget locks in funding for the \$15 million upgrade of the Morayfield train station and the construction of the \$22 million new Caboolture Police Station and watch house project. Construction on those projects will start in the next financial year. This budget also continues our commitment to improve infrastructure at local schools, with over \$7 million being invested to construct and refurbish classrooms and teaching areas. The budget also delivers funding for our Queensland Housing Strategy, which will deliver more social and affordable housing in our region. This strategy has my full support, because it will genuinely make a big difference to the lives of the people of the Morayfield region. That is what Labor governments do: we look after the battlers and we look after working people.

As already mentioned, this budget makes jobs a priority and the Morayfield region will be a recipient of our government's focus on jobs. I am excited to see that a dedicated regional action plan will help to boost investment and promote jobs in the Morayfield region, with the expansion of the Back to Work program into the Morayfield region. The Back to Work program will offer financial incentives for employers to hire a long-term unemployed or young unemployed jobseeker in our region. The Palaszczuk government's economic plan is delivering jobs and will continue to deliver jobs for our community.

In relation to the portfolio areas that I represent as a minister in the Palaszczuk Labor government, I am pleased that this budget delivers for our police, our fire and emergency services personnel and volunteers, and our Queensland Corrective Services staff. The Palaszczuk government has always been and will always continue to be committed to doing everything we can to ensure the safety of Queenslanders. That is why our government has increased funding, resources and officer numbers for police, fire and emergency services and corrective services since we came to government. Let me be clear: we will do everything and anything in our power to ensure every corner of our state remains a safe place to live and visit. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Police

We have always said if our Police Commissioner needs extra resources, we will provide them.

He asked and we have delivered.

This means we have also delivered more jobs for Queensland as new facilities are built or upgraded and more officers recruited. Since March 2015, the Palaszczuk Government has put police back on the beat and increased the QPS to more than 11,800 officers.

That is an extra 332 police officers who have been recruited, trained and allocated to our regions and cities.

And that was just the beginning, Mr Speaker.

In the 2017-2018 Budget, the Palaszczuk Government has committed \$32 million over 4 years for:

- 30 counter terrorism officers.
- 20 Rapid Action Patrol officers for Townsville and.
- an additional 20 police officers for regional Queensland.

The jobs bonanza does not stop there with \$46.7 million over 4 years for the world-class Westgate counter-terrorism precinct to be built at Wacol.

This state-of-the-art facility will generate more than 130 jobs during construction.

A detailed business case has been conducted and the QPS has completed planning and site preparation for the 140 hectare site which will ultimately include training, specialist and logistics hubs.

Another \$66.5 million over 3 years will improve working conditions for officers as part of the Queensland Police Service Certified Agreement reached last year.

The Palaszczuk Government recognises the increasing complexity of policing with officers having to deal with counter-terrorism, serious organised crime, domestic and family violence, the prevalence of Ice and the security for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Mr Speaker, we have also allocated \$8.5 million over 4 years for additional prosecutorial staff as part of the Specialist Domestic and Family Violence Courts; and \$532,000 over 2 years to provide additional prosecutorial staff to support the Specialist High Risk Youth Court in Townsville.

There is \$7.4 million in additional funding over 5 years to continue the highly successful Project Booyah early-intervention youth program in 9 locations; and \$7.5 million over 4 years for policing activities associated with the transition of 17-year-olds to the Youth Justice System.

One of the most significant challenges facing governments and law enforcement agencies globally is the proliferation of the drug ICE which wrecks families and costs lives.

The Palaszczuk Government has released a comprehensive draft plan, Action on Ice, for community feedback.

As part of this multi-pronged attack on the supply and use of crystal methamphetamine and its evil aftermath an extra \$4.1 million over 4 years will be spent to significantly expand the police roadside drug testing program.

The funding boost will enable our officers to undertake up to 12,500 extra roadside drug tests each year.

An additional \$14.8 million over 4 years has also been allocated for the QPS to enhance road safety strategies including increased police enforcement.

Mr Speaker, I can inform the House the Queensland Police Union of Employees has welcomed this Budget and the funding of those specialist officers and the world-class Westgate Counter Terrorism precinct.

I'd like to thank Union President Ian Leavers for his strong advocacy on behalf of his members.

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government and the Queensland Police Service depend on hard evidence, verifiable facts and the intelligence gained by the highly skilled officers on the frontline to allocate funding and resources to where they are needed most.

This is in stark contrast to the LNP Opposition which, under the Nicholls/Newman regime sacked 106 police officers while the Opposition leader was Treasurer.

It is no secret we have had to do a lot of work untangling the mess left behind by the previous LNP Government, restoring police funding and resources slashed under its dogmatic cost cutting.

That included overturning the strange deskbound policing policy the Opposition leader supported in the Nicholls/Newman LNP Government to put officers back on the frontline.

The Palaszczuk Government is investing in keeping Queenslanders safe.

QFES

Mr Speaker, the horrifying fire in London this week was a harsh reminder, if we ever needed one, of the dangers our fire and emergency services officers face every day, be it from property or bush fires or cyclones and floods.

Nowhere in Australia is more at the mercy of natural disasters than Queensland which is why we have the best emergency services teams in the world and why the Palaszczuk Government is committed to ensuring their safety.

We will be supporting our brave fire and rescue firefighters and our rural fire service volunteers with more than \$47 million this year to replace and purchase new vehicles for them.

This includes the \$30.1 million over two years Accelerated Rural Fleet Program which will see 60 RFS vehicles replaced during 2017/18, and many more in the following financial year.

All up, more than \$107 million has also been set aside for QFES facilities, vehicles and communications equipment throughout the state.

This includes \$17.9 million for upgrades to auxiliary fire stations; and \$5.8 million to complete the multi-service facility at Bundaberg and upgrade the Fire and Rescue station and communications centre in Rockhampton.

To increase the safety of firefighters and volunteers, we will also invest \$3.7 million in operational equipment and protective clothing, including:

- portable specialist scientific analysis and detection equipment.
- encapsulated gas suits and.
- self-contained breathing apparatus.

Queensland is growing and the operational response of our emergency services needs to grow with it.

QFES provides a vital frontline service to the Queensland community and it is important we show our support, allowing for our emergency services to continue their great work within their local communities.

Corrective Services

Mr Speaker, the Palaszczuk Government is delivering on its promise to implement 89 of the 91 recommendations from the Sofronoff Review into the parole system in Queensland.

The \$265 million, 6-year reform program will start to ramp up in July 2017 to deliver the greatest changes in Queensland Corrective Services in a generation.

The new Parole Board Queensland, led by Mr Michael Byrne QC, is on track to commence operations in July, while QCS is completing significant work to realign its support for the new, professional, parole board.

In addition to the new professional parole board, QCS has commenced work on the reforms to deliver:

- a dedicated Parole and Assessment Unit.
- expanded use of GPS tracking for up to 500 parolees.
- the recruitment and training of additional staff to strengthen the Probation and Parole Service and expanded rehabilitation and re-entry services.

The Palaszczuk Government is also responding to the infrastructure demands at the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre.

We have allocated \$27.4 million over 4 years, including \$16 million capital over 2 years, and funding of \$4.5 million per annum ongoing to expand capacity at the Centre.

We also have an ongoing program to deliver significant works to expand and increase safety and security at a number of other QCS facilities across the state.

This includes the \$200 million capital investment for the expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre.

In 2017-18 we will achieve the completion of the \$126.9 million Borallon Training and Correctional Centre recommissioning which includes a 244-cell upgrade program to deliver safer prisoner accommodation at the 492-cell facility.

We are also committed to ensuring our correctional centres are some of the safest and most secure in the Nation, with the \$76.6 million perimeter security upgrade program.

Other measures include upgrades to closed circuit security cameras, perimeter detection and security management systems at Townsville Men's, Arthur Gorrie, Woodford, Wolston, Maryborough and Capricornia Correctional Centres—as part of this 5-year program of work.

In addition to the enhancements of the parole system and QCS infrastructure, the Palaszczuk Government will spend \$55.1 million over 4 years—including \$20 million capital over 2 years—to continue its rollout of Specialist Domestic and Family and Violence Courts, with the model trialled in Southport expanded to Beenleigh and Townsville, with circuit courts to Mt Isa and Palm Island.

This forms part of the Government's total package of \$69.5 million over 4 years for the specialist courts in response to the Not Now, Not Ever report into domestic and family violence in Queensland.

Mr Speaker, this budget continues the Palaszczuk Government's commitment to building a safer, stronger Queensland and supports our police, our fire and emergency services personnel and volunteers, and our correctional services staff as they go about their great work of keeping Queenslanders safe.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (4.57 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills and the abysmal budget laid out before us by this do-nothing Labor government. Let us look at some fast facts. Over the next four years, state debt will bloom by another \$9 billion to \$81 billion. In simple terms, that represents \$15,800 of debt for every man, woman and child in Queensland. Debt interest costs will remain at around \$3.6 billion or almost \$10 million a day. Based on this single fact alone, I fail to understand how any members opposite can stand in this House and claim that this budget is delivering positive outcomes for Queenslanders.

The massive police investment that the LNP committed to in 2012 is well and truly over, with this budget providing for only 40 additional officers statewide and 30 specialist counterterrorism officers. In their own brochure promoting the budget spend on the Gold Coast, they list new teachers and nurses but do not make any mention of a single new police officer for the Gold Coast. The LNP put more than 1,100 police on the beat, 1,100 more nurses into hospitals and 761 more teachers and teacher aides into our schools, with specialist services dedicated to the Gold Coast. When will Labor deliver a budget for Queensland and not just for Brisbane?

In the past year, personal safety offences have increased by 11.8 per cent, including assault by 12 per cent and robbery by 32 per cent. In the past year, property offences have increased by 11.9 per cent, including break-ins by 13 per cent and car theft by 22.8 per cent. The fight against organised crime is being softened at a time when the gangs are re-establishing themselves in Queensland. It was an LNP government that introduced tougher laws and cracked down on organised crime with an increased investment, and we saw crime rates reduce and bikies flee the state. However, now under Labor the criminal gangs are back in business.

Mr Stevens: Welcome back!

Mr MOLHOEK: I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. Welcome back! Coupled with softer laws, the safety of Queenslanders is being put at risk by this soft-on-crime Labor government, particularly on the Gold Coast.

As we all know, tourism and education are significant economic drivers on the Gold Coast. Last week at a Southport Chamber of Commerce breakfast we heard from Leigh Sorensen, the general manager of Tourism Australia, who provided an expansive overview on the significant growth that we are seeing nationally in international visitors. He also provided some insight into the major drivers that attract international visitors. Among the top 5 we heard that value for money, food and wine, nature and wildlife, and aquatic experiences are right up there. The No. 1 driver for international visitors, both students and tourists, is personal safety. The No. 1 driver for visitors is personal safety, and the No. 1 driver for families choosing to send their children here to study is also personal safety. At a time when the Gold Coast is enjoying significant growth in visitation and increases in international student numbers, and with us on the eve of the Commonwealth Games, it seems crazy that this out-of-touch Labor government would want to tear down the great policing and tough laws that we had in the past and put at risk the safety of our visitors.

I am very concerned about this budget. Labor is simply not taking law and order seriously when it comes to the coast, because if they were there would be more police for Southport and Surfers Paradise, there would be more police in the north of our city and there would be more police in Broadbeach and other parts of the city. Furthermore, they would be reinstating RAP, the rapid action task force, that they so recklessly disembowelled last year. Each year the Gold Coast attracts over one million international visitors. According to Tourism Australia, 62 per cent of these are from Asia and 38 per cent come from the west. We have Griffith University on the Gold Coast with some 48,000 domestic and international students, which creates some 4,000 jobs and an estimated \$700 million economic impact to the Gold Coast economy every year. Over and above this, there are thousands of domestic and international students who attend many of our schools and colleges like Bond University and Southern Cross University. Given that personal safety is such a significant driver, Labor's 'softly, softly' approach to crime is not only putting Gold Coast families at risk; it also puts at risk our entire tourism and international student education programs to the detriment of the Gold Coast and Queensland economies.

I want to move on and speak briefly about housing. This budget is too little, too late for Queensland's vulnerable children and families. Quite frankly, the great big shiny \$1.8 billion housing and homelessness announcement is not only cruel but deliberately misleading. Like so many of Labor's announcements, the devil is in the detail. You need to read the fine print, and the fine print is that it is \$1.8 billion over 10 years. In real terms this is a cruel, significant reduction in real spending compared to the past five years. As part of their 10-year strategy Labor says they will allocate \$1.8 billion towards their new Housing Strategy and that every Queenslander should have safe access to a secure and affordable home that meets their needs and supports them to participate in the social and economic life of a vibrant and prosperous state. Frankly, this Housing Strategy is a joke. This year the Gold Coast has been promised a paltry \$8 million for new housing. I am no rocket scientist, but if we assume that an average two-bedroom apartment costs between \$350,000 and \$450,000, then that is a paltry 20 dwellings to meet housing and homelessness demand in Australia's fastest-growing city and to address some of the state's longest waiting lists.

What is even more concerning—and there is some pork-barrelling going on here—is that, while the Gold Coast gets \$8 million, Cairns, the Treasurer's home patch, receives \$96 million and there is a further \$41 million for Townsville. On top of this, what I find just as concerning is Labor's half-hearted commitment to construct two—only two—special refuges for women and children escaping domestic and family violence for the entire state not this year but, as the budget documents say, sometime this decade.

I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

This is hardly a serious commitment to support our state's most vulnerable, two shelters is completely inadequate.

The entire housing budget is a sham, in real terms means fewer homes and less support for those who are currently homeless or at risk of homelessness right across Queensland.

The issue of homelessness is growing. Currently the wait period for high needs housing is 8 months. An 8 month wait for domestic violence victims, the elderly, people with a disability and families.

Let's consider how long 8 months is, a woman could be almost the whole way through her pregnancy in that time. Where does that leave her and her child?

In fact I had a young mother with 2 children and a third on the way come to my office only a matter of weeks ago, pleading for housing for her family. She had been homeless or in emergency accommodation for almost her entire pregnancy, her children couldn't go to school without a fixed address and she was faced with being on the street with a newborn and 2 young daughters. How do we tell her to keep waiting? At what cost to these three little lives?

The Premier and Minister for Housing should hang their heads in shame, this housing budget is a sham, we're not just dealing with numbers on a spreadsheet, these are real people, real lives and they quite rightly should expect more from this "do nothing", LOST Labor Government.

Schools

Southport families are going to be paying the price for Labor's lack of investment in infrastructure with next to nothing in the way of funding for growing schools.

We developed and delivered the \$131 million Great Results Guarantee, providing real needs based funding for state schools focussed on increasing literacy and numeracy levels and we created a \$300 million "fixing our schools" fund to clear the school maintenance backlog we inherited from Labor.

However this year in Southport only one school, Southport Special School, the school which looks after families and disadvantaged children from across the city is to receive any capital funding.

No other school in my electorate has been earmarked for capital expenditure, no new classrooms, no new building and no plans for any new school in this rapidly growing part of the Gold Coast.

Over the past few months I have spoken to or visited all of the schools in my electorate and I can inform the house that every one of them is absolutely busting at the seams, some are at capacity, some are over capacity and some are on the brink of capacity.

In less than a year from now the Commonwealth Games will have come and gone and the new village will eventually be filled with families and their children, thousands of them and where will they go to school?

Lack of foresight seems to be a symptom of this do-nothing Labor Government and now our local kids and families will be left to bear the impact.

Health

Yet again Queensland's health system is in crisis. All we have seen this week is the classic Labor Health budget made up of massive cost blow outs, poor patient outcomes and millions underspent in promised capital investment.

We have seen a record number of health public servants hired and outcomes have gotten worse for patients.

Only today I received this email from a local family concerned about the level of care and staffing levels:

My father is currently in hospital. He thankfully should be home this Friday, I say thankfully because the level of service has dropped very suddenly and I would feel safer in some ways with him at home. I think the main issue is staffing. The nurses in the ward are good at their job but are stretched to the limit and this is leading to poor patient care. I would be very surprised if this issue was not a hospital wide issue and not just limited to this ward. I think more noise needs to be made about getting adequate staffing numbers in order to provide an appropriate level of care to patients or deaths could result. There is also a lack of communication between departments.

Some of the issues experienced by my father—

- *Length of time to answer nurse call buttons. It is not uncommon to average 7-10minutes to get a response. And when you do get answered there is no guarantees that the nurse will be able to deal with you then. It may take another 10-20mins depending on how busy. In dad's case he has buzzed to be taken to the toilet waited 10-15mins to get a response then told he would still have to wait. By this time he has had to go in his pad making twice as much work for the nurses. He has also had two low blood sugar episodes where his blood sugar dropped to very low level and it took too long for nurses to respond. I don't know if you know about blood sugar but if you get too low you can go into a coma and potentially die if something is not done quickly to bring the levels back up. This is a dangerous situation.*
- *Agency nurses who are bought in to fill voids who do not take time to get to know a patient history or read a patient notes which is leading to the mistreatment of patients.*
- *Being sent for scans without the nurse caring for the patient's knowledge. In dad's case he was sent down with no pain killers which was required and sent in a wheelchair and not a bed which was required.*

There are probably more issues but I think you get the drift. There need to be more staff and support. All the nurses on the ward are admitting there are issues but fear for their jobs. They have said to dad they don't know how much more they can take. One even contemplated walking out. If this is not isolated to this ward then the hospital is in crisis.

Patient outcomes have been lost in Labor's two and half years of political spin, when is it going to stop? When are we going to see long term planning? How many lives need to be lost before this do-nothing Labor government get out of their seats and get the Queensland health care system up and running again?

Paul Broughton

Finally I would like to acknowledge the contribution made to the community by Mr Paul Broughton who last week was honoured with an Order of Australia medal. Paul is widely known for his significant contribution to Rugby League. In fact just some of his service includes:

- Chair, Gold Coast Titans Rugby League Club, 2007-2012.
- Chief Executive Officer, Gold Coast Chargers, 1996-1997.
- Operational Manager, New South Wales Rugby League (NSWRL) (Australian Rugby League ARL), 1988-1995 at all NSWRL events.
- Special Projects Manager, NSWRL, (ARL), 1990-1996; Coaching Director, 1984-1985; Coaching and Development Officer, 1986-1987; Player and Mentor since 1952.
- Member, Fundraising Committee, AIDS Trust, 1990-1993.
- Director, National Rugby League Camps, University of New England, 1983-1996.
- Awards and recognition includes:
 - Recipient, Gold Coast Medal, 2006; Gold Coast Sports Honour Medal, 2004, City of the Gold Coast.
 - Recipient, Australian Sports Medal, 2000.
 - Recipient, Life Membership, NSW Rugby League, 1995.
 - Recipient, Eunice Gill Award for National Coach Education, Australian Coaching Council, 1990.
 - Recipient, Life Membership, NSW Weighing Industry, 1980.
 - Recipient, Life Membership, Sports Union, University of New England, 1991

However his lesser known contribution to the Gold Coast, in fact the entire Queensland community is that Paul was integral in convincing the Government to put in the bid for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

I've raised this before in this house and I simply raise it again today as so much of what's happening in my special patch of the Gold Coast has come about as a result of his vision and the successive work of many great people inside and outside of this house.

The Future

I also raise the matter of Paul Broughton's vision because I'm sick of hearing those on the other side of the house take credit for things they had no part of, in fact most of those across the floor were not even members when the vision was born and very few if any have made any contribution to the legacy that will be the Commonwealth Games.

And may I remind the house that it was the LNP who when elected in 2012 were confronted with the news that there was no money for the games, and it was then Treasurer, Tim Nicholls and now leader of the opposition, and the former Deputy Premier, Jeff Seeney who worked with Treasury and industry to put in place the innovative funding model required to make the games village a reality and it was the LNP that undertook the planning and financing that has made the Games and the many legacy venues a reality for the Gold Coast.

Mr Speaker, I've fought hard for Southport and we are now seeing the fruits of the commitments we made when we were in Government.

It was my great honour to have served in the office of then Deputy Premier, Jeff Seeney who through two separate new Priority Development Area (PDA's) declarations for Southport provided the stimulus and certainty necessary to encourage and open up development rights in the old tired Central Business District of Southport and the health and knowledge precinct adjacent to Griffith University which includes Parklands and the Commonwealth Games Village.

The momentum we created when in government has resulted in more than \$8b of government and new private sector spending in Southport over the past 5 years.

- The brand new Gold Coast Private Hospital is already expanding,
- We cleared the old hospital site in Queen St and now Gold Coast Council has before it a substantial re-development application before it which will further add to the dream of reinvigorating Southport as the Gold Coast's CBD.
- The PDA has opened up opportunities and approvals for the construction of more than 8000 new apartments, many of which are already under construction;
- Griffith University has continued its stellar expansion and growth;
- It was the LNP who finished Light Rail Stage 1 and commissioned the planning and funding for Stage 2;
- It was the LNP who re-established a Waterways Authority to undertake better management and dredging of the Broadwater and it was the LNP who provided funding for completion of Stage 2 of the Broadwater Parklands and the new boat launching facilities.
- And Mr Speaker it was the LNP who worked with Gold Coast Council to deliver the new Gold Coast Hockey Centre and Gold Coast Aquatic Centre.
- And Mr Speaker it was the LNP that commissioned and undertook significant road network upgrades to Smith St, Olsen Ave, Ferry Road, High Street, Currumburra and Bundall Roads.

All of this investment has been a flow on from strong LNP investment and forward planning!

Mr Speaker looking to the future there are so many things that we can achieve in Southport are I'm committed to;

- Increasing the capacity of schools given the significant amount of in-fill development;
- Securing new investment in the Health & Knowledge Precinct once the games are done;
- Keeping the accelerator on the reinvigoration of CBD Southport supporting great redevelopment of the old Hospital Site as the Queen St Village;
- retaining and improving parking in the CBD generally and around the Southport Courthouse;
- Ongoing expansion and promotion of the Legal Precinct, Law Chambers, and fighting for more court facilities and services;
- And, fighting for increased police numbers and further meaningful initiatives to deal with family and domestic violence and cracking down on drugs.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (5.05 pm): It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Treasurer on handing down the third Palaszczuk government state budget. This is my third state budget as a member of this House and while the first two were impressive, the Treasurer has clearly left the best until last in this particular parliament.

I have been listening to this debate intently. We obviously heard the Treasurer deliver his fantastic budget speech on Tuesday, and of course yesterday we heard the reply from the Leader of the Opposition. I found it very interesting, because even by the Leader of the Opposition's extremely low standards his budget reply yesterday was particularly underwhelming. Earlier today we heard from the member for Nanango. I think she talked about how she was reading the *Bribie Island Weekly*. I have to admit that I am not a regular reader, but of course the paper of record in this particular state is the *Courier-Mail*. It is very interesting to look at the coverage of the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech in the *Courier-Mail*—five columns in the top corner of page 18.

Mr Williams: I got page 19!

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the member of Pumicestone. He appeared on page 19 with five columns, he tells me, so it is similar coverage. I have to say that I do not always agree with the editorial position of the *Courier-Mail*. I am sure that all of us have our disagreements with their editorial position from time to time, but I have to say that in this particular case the *Courier-Mail* has given the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply the coverage that it deserves. I table that for the benefit of members who may have missed it hidden away there on page 18 of today's *Courier-Mail*, those five columns on the top right-hand side of the page.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Battle of the ballots' [[1031](#)].

After we heard from the Leader of the Opposition we then heard from the opposition frontbenchers. They all pretty much stuck to the same lame script. What they have clearly done is grab the relevant SDS relating to their particular shadow portfolio, looked at where the budget's actuals were in fact less than the budget estimates and then criticised our ministers for saving the state some money. I found it really unbelievable. Some of them were better at sticking to the same lame script than others. The member for Surfers Paradise went a bit off script, as was pointed out by the Minister for Health earlier today during question time, but generally there was the same lame approach. I find it really interesting, because of course when those opposite were in government they were all about cutting jobs and services. Then, when they turn up at the 2017 budget debate, they criticise ministers for exercising spending restraint. That is the problem with the modern LNP: there is simply no middle ground. They go from one extreme to the other. They have gone from extreme cuts to extreme spending. But it gets worse.

I have summarised the approach of the Leader of the Opposition and the opposition front bench, but what about the opposition backbench? They have plenty to say now and they have had plenty to say during the budget reply. What did they do? They pretty much followed the same model as the member for Redlands, which was to read out a whole shopping list of commitments that they wish were included in this particular budget. It led me to consider two questions: firstly, are these election commitments from the opposition backbenchers? The 'spendometer' would be well and truly off the chart if they were. I note that the member for Redlands is grinning. He was not elected to this place, but he was certainly a key member of the Newman administration then. Did you ever raise any of these issues when were you in government? That is my question to the opposition backbenchers who have continued to take this approach, and I hope that some of them will be able to answer those two questions later on tonight during this debate.

This is a budget very carefully crafted to advance Queensland through an intoxicating blend of economic growth, innovation and, above all, the creation of high-quality jobs. Amongst other things, the budget provides a record \$16.6 billion in funding for health services and \$13.7 billion for education;

\$5.8 billion for better roads and transport outcomes; a huge \$5.344 billion in concessions to lower the cost of living for Queenslanders; \$2.37 billion for the Queensland Police Service to make our communities safer; \$1.887 billion for disability services and \$1.11 billion for child safety and family services; a significant injection of \$1.8 billion over 10 years for safe and affordable housing, and I commend the Minister for Housing and Public Works on that fantastic initiative; \$1.5 million to deliver the 2018 Commonwealth Games; a total commitment of \$420 million for the Advance Queensland initiative; \$35 million for the Queensland Trade and Investment Strategy including 22 new initiatives to boost exports, attract job-creating investment and strengthen Queensland's regions; and, of course, the policy those opposite do not like, the full funding required to deliver the Cross River Rail project at a total cost of \$5.049 billion.

Those opposite would be very interested to know—they have not mentioned this in any of their speeches—that this has all been achieved while realising estimated annual increases in gross state product of three per cent from 2018-19 to 2020-21 and achieving budget surpluses across every year of the forward estimates, including a surplus of \$2.824 billion in the current financial year. I thought last year's budget was impressive, but this budget is so focused on growth and so fiscally responsible that it may well be the greatest state budget in Queensland's history. I call on both government and opposition members to join with me in congratulating the Treasurer and saying 'well done'.

Rather than focusing on all of the successes of the budget, for that would take a very long time, I would like to contrast our approach with the hopeless attempts of those opposite. I hope those opposite can take on board the lessons we can teach them, such as how to produce a successful budget that people do not hate and how to never repeat the universally despised budget they produced in 2012-13, although it would be hard because on coming to power the LNP instinctively want to cut everything they can. It is in their DNA.

I also make the genuine offer to all those opposite that I am prepared to meet with any of them and clarify what they have to do to run a successful budget process. It is a lesson they need to learn. Of course, over the past two years I have demonstrated the unmitigated failures of the LNP in their last term of government. Sadly, from 2012 to early 2015 the Leader of the Opposition was the chief architect of Queensland's destruction. He did a really good job almost tearing the state apart. I know that so many members opposite were cheering him on. I will never let those opposite forget how they left the state in fiscal tatters. When the member for Clayfield was treasurer of this great state he was obsessively working hand in glove with then premier Newman to take on hardworking public servants, nurses, teachers, doctors and just about everyone else in this state. Frankly, our government was only just able to save Queensland from a catastrophic situation. In three budgets we have managed to turn this situation around.

I also remind those opposite what happened the last time they tried to create their own dog-eat-dog LNP utopia in Queensland. In the 2012-13 state budget, after promising that nobody would be worse off, then premier Newman and the LNP implemented the most ruthless budget Queensland had seen for decades. Over 14,000 public servants were sacked, \$1.4 billion was wiped from the state's capital program, halting essential road and infrastructure upgrades, and a supposedly low-tax LNP increased taxes by \$600 million. Those opposite have all gone quiet now, because they know the facts do not lie. Of course, they continued on that trajectory when they followed up with an uninspiring budget in 2013-14 which did nothing to stimulate growth or reduce state debt. The centrepiece of the 2014-15 budget was a desperate attempt to reduce debt through a fire sale of the state's prime silverware by liquidating \$37 billion in highly profitable state assets. Not only had the then treasurer failed to keep debt under control; around \$8 billion from selling the silverware was earmarked for a range of pork-barrelling and wild election promises to prop up shaky LNP electorates. I think some backbenchers opposite have got confused, or maybe they know something we do not know about what the Leader of the Opposition said in relation to his commitment not to sell assets. I guess only time will tell.

I remind those opposite what happened when they released three state budgets. State debt increased from \$62.2 billion in 2011-12 to \$75.5 billion in 2014-15—a shockingly high increase in debt of over \$3 billion per year. We have reduced their debt to \$73.1 billion, and this will fall even further, to just under \$72 billion, in 2017-18.

Under the LNP, unemployment in Queensland skyrocketed from 5.7 per cent in early 2012 to 7.1 per cent in seasonally adjusted terms by October 2014. Our economic plan has seen 59,200 jobs created since we were elected in early 2015—over 2,100 jobs a month. That is a big difference which I am sure the LNP will not dare mention in this parliament. Of course, they all go quiet when they are presented with the facts.

During the LNP's time in power Queensland's credit rating was downgraded or put on watch by all three credit ratings agencies: Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch. Our credit rating has remained steady. That is the LNP utopia they created: a twisted Orwellian version of *Nineteen Eighty-Four* right here in Queensland. That is the LNP way.

Given this, I wonder what the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition would do if they were back in power. Can members guess?

Mr Madden: Sell assets.

Mr PEGG: That is a pretty good guess by the member for Ipswich West. Their plan for Queensland would be to dramatically cut spending on crucial programs and grind consumption and jobs to a halt, because that is always their solution to everything. I demand that the Leader of the Opposition apologise to the people of Queensland for his ongoing fiscal failures and I congratulate the Treasurer for making things right. I commend this budget—our budget—to the House.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (5.16 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

Government members interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: I have heard some fairy stories in my time, but you take the cake!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Member for Hervey Bay, if I get to my feet and someone continues to speak they will be warned under the standing orders.

Mr SORENSEN: The other day when I looked at the budget papers I saw a document titled 'Regional Action Plan: Jobs for Brisbane'. That has to be a joke.

Ms Simpson: That sums it up.

Mr SORENSEN: That sums it up. Can members imagine going down to Canberra and saying, 'We've got a regional action plan for Brisbane'? It is unbelievable. I just cannot believe that that garbage was sitting on the top of the budget papers we received the other day. I then saw the regional action plan for Wide Bay. I thought that sounded pretty good. I saw under Health that there is \$2.5 billion worth of works, but it included the Darling Downs and Sunshine Coast hospital and health services in with Wide Bay. I am not sure how Darling Downs and the Sunshine Coast got into Wide Bay. Somebody should go back and rewrite some of this stuff, because it is just a joke. No wonder we think this budget is nothing more than a con.

Mr Costigan: They are geographically challenged.

Mr SORENSEN: They are. They do not know where things are. There is an allocation for an administration block extension at Yarrilee State School. I feel really sorry for this school, because it has 200 more students than it was built for. Why do we in this parliament have to wait for a crisis before we do anything? This Labor government is always catching up in that there first has to be a crisis, yet it has to be able to do something about it.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: Mate, let us compare my achievements when we were in government against yours.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: That was never in my seat, mate. I will give the member a little briefing on what I did do.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Maryborough, if you feel the overpowering need to interject, you can do it from your proper seat.

Mr SORENSEN: When we were in government we built the cancer clinic in Hervey Bay, we built the dental clinic in Hervey Bay, we built a sporting centre for the Hervey Bay State High School, we built 16 classrooms and we put two artificial reefs in Hervey Bay. We actually got things done, but since then there has been very little except regurgitating. One of the biggest things in the budget papers is the World Heritage extension of Fraser Island. It will cost \$373,000 for a nomination dossier to the federal government. We are spending \$373,000 on the progress of the Great Sandy Strait World Heritage nomination—\$373,000! At a time when we are going into debt and we are spending that sort of money just on a dossier, I really wonder where we are going. We have children who need classrooms, but we are going to spend it on a dossier. Unbelievable! It is just an absolute waste of money.

This budget really has forgotten Hervey Bay once again and has delivered nothing else but regurgitated announcements of old money and old promises for Hervey Bay. Labor just cannot do anything, and I will give the House an idea of what I am talking about. The Burrum Heads Road-Scrub Hill-Wide Bay Drive intersection shows \$26 million in this budget. There was \$26 million in the 2016-17 budget. It was also in the 2015-16 budget, yet not one bit of soil has been turned yet.

Mr Stevens: The money's there but no action.

Mr SORENSEN: The money is there, but those opposite cannot do the job. They simply cannot get things done. Why? They reckon they have spent \$4,944,000 to date, but nothing has been done. There is just nothing there. It is unbelievable! At least Urraween Road got going, but I always have to have a laugh about that given that the minister stood up on 20 April and said that the intersection was upgraded four weeks ago. I can tell members that that intersection is still being worked on. It was not finished in 2017. We had to start a petition to get any action out of this government, but at least it is getting done. The other intersection is the Burrum Heads Road intersection with the Maryborough-Hervey Bay Road. I was at that intersection the other day and traffic was backed up from the Eli Waters Shopping Centre right back up the road to Xavier Catholic College and then out to Dundowran as far as the eye could see. That is the type of traffic congestion at that intersection of a morning. We really need a fair go with those sorts of things. It was a real joke when he said that it was upgraded four weeks ago. The government has also failed to deliver \$1.7 billion for those works, yet they are some of the intersections that should have been done by now. In three years nothing has been done—three years!

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: Three budgets then—three budgets.

Ms Grace: How many?

Mr SORENSEN: Three budgets—do you want me to say it again?—and nothing being done.

Another issue is electricity costs. The other day I was with the shadow minister in Hervey Bay when we went around to a few businesses. We asked one business owner about electricity costs. He was just getting a new contract. After two years it had expired and he was looking for a new contract. That new contract is going to cost him 50 per cent more than the one two years ago, yet Labor says electricity prices are not going up much. They went up by 50 per cent for this one businessperson employing 100 people in Hervey Bay—50 per cent! How are some of these small businesses going to survive? It is very difficult for some of these businesses to be able to compete in the market. In this regard, cotton growers are saying to get off the grid. They refer to electricity prices as a death spiral. Irrigators are going to get off the grid. They are going to go back to diesel generators so they can get electricity, because if you are pumping flood harvesting water into a dam you need the pumps to go when it is there so you cannot really run it off a solar panel because you need it going all of the time. Even Brian Tessmann and QDO's main concern now is electricity costs. What is happening with all of that?

I have had one hell of a week, and I now turn to domestic violence and abuse against women. The Labor Party has said what it is going to do with the Not Now, Not Ever campaign for women. Domestic violence and violence against women in general is just not on. Violence takes many shapes and forms and is predominantly against women, and we need to get a lot tougher. Only this week my staff had to put up with threats and unacceptable abuse and violence. I want to give the House an example of the resources needed such as police and the courts to address such abuse and threats of violence. The police had to be called to my office to investigate how real the threats may have been. The police do a great job and I thank them for their support. They have put a lot of time and effort into chasing down the threats and concerns. My staff member was verbally abused to the point where she advised attendees at my office that she would call the police if that individual came back into the office, which he was about to do. She was then vilified on a Facebook page and on that same Facebook page she read threats of guns and protesting and she wondered how far it would go, but I insisted on a police investigation. What is particularly interesting is that I want the Premier and the Attorney-General to know that the Labor candidate for Hervey Bay Adrian Tantari posted things on this Facebook page that were abusive to my female electorate officer. Therefore, he gave tacit approval of the abuse, name-calling and intimidation of my staff that was utterly reprehensible, totally unwarranted and untrue, and I table some of the documents.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from a Facebook page [1032].

I have not tabled some of the vile stuff because it is shocking. This is hard to say. He was happy that my electorate officer was called a bimbo, a bitch, an effing something that I will not explain and a sick, miserable bitch of a woman. And what did he do? He then proceeded to take part in various conversations on the same Facebook page and say, 'We will fight this all the way.'

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): One moment, member for Hervey Bay. I want to make sure that some of the language that you are using is appropriate. I very much suggest that you table whatever you have. I do not want to interrupt your flow, but I want you to be aware of it.

Mr SORENSEN: I have already tabled the Facebook page. On the Facebook page he said, 'I will fight this all the way.', and, 'Your support is appreciated.' This is what he is saying to these people who have just abused my secretary. What does he think about the Attorney-General's comments this week in the budget on the Not Now, Not Ever campaign? The Attorney-General in her budget reply said, and this goes to the heart of the violence everywhere—

violence was one of the most complex, insidious and damaging issues affecting our community—impacting the lives of children, women, men and families, and causing harm across generations.

I thank Karen Kirk for returning alone to the office to first of all see if my staff member was alright and apologise for the behaviour of the man she was with, before the memes and comments were put on Facebook. Karen said that the group did themselves no favours by behaving in this manner. She is right. However, for the potential Labor candidate to participate in such activity is reprehensible. Some of the worst comments have been taken down under warnings of defamation to the Facebook page owner. I have provided some evidence of what it was about, but not all of it. It was all about the cashless credit card. They were trying to hold protests. It was organised by George Seymour, the deputy mayor of the Fraser Coast Regional Council. I will table these documents.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, dated 6 June 2017, titled 'Cashless card protesters to crash minister's meeting' [1033].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, dated 29 May 2017, titled 'Politicians speak out against welfare cuts' [1034].

This is garbage. I do not mind people having a go at me, but not my staff, the people who are trying every day to help people coming into the office. That is what I hate. If you want to have a go, have a go at me, not my staff—not the women in my office. If you want to play politics like that I will fight back harder than you can ever believe because I am not going to tolerate that sort of rubbish—not one ounce of it! I rang her today and she is still crying. On Tuesday she was not game to go in without police protection. That is the sort of crap that went on.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, I draw your attention to that unparliamentary remark and ask you to withdraw.

Mr SORENSEN: I withdraw that remark.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: Do you support that then?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr COSTIGAN: I rise to a point of order. We just heard the member for Maryborough use the words 'you're a dog.' I am not sure if I am speaking on my own here, I doubt it, but I find those comments offensive. I am sure the member for Hervey Bay finds them very offensive.

Mr SAUNDERS: I withdraw that remark, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Maryborough. I call the member for Hervey Bay.

Mr SORENSEN: I do not care, but to come into my office in a set-up situation over this cashless credit card, which they know is a federal government issue not a state government issue, and for my staff to have to cop that abuse on Facebook by this group of people who organise these protests is a low level of politics. I do not mind them having a go at me, but do not go calling my staff the filthy names that were on that Facebook page. It is getting down to a low, low level of politics. I will leave it at that before I say something I should not say.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (5.35 pm): I commend this budget, the effects of which are already being felt across Queensland but especially so in my electorate of Springwood. This is a budget which delivers jobs and security to the people of Queensland.

I want to talk about my community of Springwood first of all. The Daisy Hill State Forest is the living, breathing heart of Springwood, a piece of natural bushland in the middle of a city which is home to a precious koala population. It is a beloved place for many people of the electorate of Springwood, me included, and I have been working with and listening to the people of Springwood who have told me how much they value Daisy Hill and want to see it protected and enhanced, particularly for the benefit of future generations.

I am pleased to be able to say that this Labor government has listened to the people of Springwood in the preparation of this budget and delivered \$3.3 million for the first stage of a 10-year project to grow Daisy Hill State Forest into the leading urban conservation and recreation destination in South-East Queensland. I want to thank everyone who took the time to share their vision of Daisy Hill with me and the department and I would also like to thank my good friend Minister Steven Miles for also listening to the views and aspirations of that community in the development of the plan for Daisy Hill.

Turning to portfolio matters, I want to discuss the 10-year Queensland Housing Strategy. On Monday, as the House knows, I stood with the Premier of Queensland, the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer to announce the Palaszczuk government's new \$1.8 billion Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy will have an immense impact on our economy in Queensland. It will open up opportunities. It will also transform the lives of tens of thousands of Queenslanders. This is very much down to the hard work and dedication of the staff of the Department of Housing and Public Works.

The policy that sits behind the Housing Strategy was 18 months in the making, and I am advised that my department ran one of the most extensive consultation programs the state has seen. They engaged heavily with stakeholders from the homelessness sector right through to the property sector and everyone in between. We set ourselves a significant challenge to build a housing strategy for all Queenslanders, and that is exactly what we have delivered. In saying that, I particularly thank my director-general, Liza Carroll, my deputy director-general, Christine Castley, general manager of housing services, Trish Wooley, executive director of strategy, Emma Ogilvy, and executive director of corporate communications, Janine Scott. I thank them for their tireless efforts over the development of the strategy and their continued commitment to its implementation.

While most Queenslanders will go on with their lives without thinking too much about what each line of the budget says, those lines will change for the better the lives of millions of people. Through the efforts of the staff of the Department of Housing and Public Works, we have challenged our stakeholders over the past year. As a result, we have redefined our approach to housing. We have challenged the way that we in government do things and, critically, challenged ourselves to find a much better way of delivering for people that matter: everyday Queenslanders.

This week, the Premier and I launched the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017-27. It is based on the fundamental principle that every Queenslander deserves a safe, secure and affordable place to call home. Of course, we all know that many rely on the help of our departmental staff to achieve that outcome.

Our government is making a significant investment in the Housing Strategy, \$1.8 billion over 10 years. It is an investment that recognises the importance of the workforce of the Department of Housing and Public Works across the state—together, of course, with our partners in the community sector and the private sector, whether they are developing in partnership with us, delivering our construction program or working closely with local governments and Indigenous councils across the state.

The department's reputation for delivery was an enormous support in helping me secure the funds for the Housing Strategy. It is a reputation that has been well known in Queensland over many decades and generations. It was a reputation confirmed recently yet again when every Queenslander saw how effectively and compassionately the staff of the Department of Housing and Public Works assisted those displaced by Cyclone Debbie and, of course, how quickly and skilfully our department repaired the schools and other government assets so they were available to the community soon after. In particular, I thank the men and women of Housing and Homelessness Services and, of course, Building and Asset Services for their extraordinary effort during the Cyclone Debbie response and now recovery.

I place on record that it is because of the commitment and dedication of those staff that now we have the opportunity to support even more of our fellow Queenslanders to enjoy lives of dignity, security and full of opportunity. A cornerstone of our new direction is taking a person centred approach to delivering high-quality and tailored housing response services which will be flexible and personalised to meet the needs of individuals. People will be empowered to make decisions that take control over those outcomes that impact their lives. We are undertaking a quite significant agenda and, of course,

will not be able to do it alone. The Housing Strategy includes a new approach to building collaborative partnerships with local government, industry, service providers and the community which will allow us to transform the way that we deliver housing and homelessness services across Queensland. The strategy is a significant investment in building over 5,000 new homes over the next 10 years. The good news in addition to that is that that creates 450 jobs in the construction sector each year across those 10 years. Again, the efforts and effects of this budget are already being felt across Queensland.

Expressions of interest opened, coinciding with the Treasurer's budget speech, to be part of the Palaszczuk government's housing construction jobs program which underpins the Housing Strategy. From small builders through to the state's largest developers, this program will deliver one of the strongest pipelines of work in the construction sector that Queensland has seen and will support the 200,000 subcontractors, tradespeople and their families who rely on the building and construction sector. The budget will deliver an historic investment to build at least 5,000 new homes in the next 10 years, so that will see good news for plumbers, carpenters, earthmovers, electricians, concreters, brickies and the finishing trades who all will benefit from what is a record spend.

Regional and remote communities, of course, are fundamentally important to a successful statewide economy. They will receive a triple benefit from our \$144 million government employee housing construction and upgrade program. That will see our front-line teachers, nurses, doctors, police and policy officers in remote and regional Queensland housed in accommodation befitting of their contribution and commitment to service delivery in some of the most remote places in the country. The Palaszczuk government will also make a long-term investment in tourism infrastructure, with \$176 million to extend the Cairns Convention Centre. That effort will see that Convention Centre precinct become one of the top entertainment hubs in the nation.

The Treasurer mentioned this earlier in the week, but the effort in respect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is significant. We will be supporting the effective move towards home ownership with \$75 million to address the entrenched disadvantage that currently exists in terms of a very low rate of home ownership. We will turn that around as quickly as possible. This is an important step towards reconciliation with our state's first people. It will help open the doorway to independence and continue the good work being done by all of my colleagues and successive governments in closing the gap on Indigenous disadvantage. The state budget has been a direct result of consultation across the state. This Labor budget will deliver jobs for Queenslanders, deliver security and see investment.

I want to touch on sport. The budget delivers for Queensland sport. I am sure everyone agrees that Queensland is a powerhouse for sport. We absolutely punch above our weight not just on the national stage but internationally. Our female athletes equal our male athletes in terms of talent, ability and sheer dedication. But it is time that we supported Queensland's girls and women with the infrastructure they deserve. That is why in this year's budget we have committed \$15 million over two years to the Palaszczuk government's Female Facilities Fund. We have done that because far too many barriers still exist for women's participation. One of the simplest and most fundamental barriers I believe is a lack of female change facilities at sporting facilities. We will support our female athletes from young children just starting out right through to our elite sportswomen such as our Brisbane Lions champions and our Sunshine Coast Lightning to whom, of course, we all send our best wishes for the inaugural netball league final tomorrow night.

We also are supporting sport right across the state. We will invest \$64.3 million in grassroots sport and recreation. It is so important to encourage young people to lead active and healthy lifestyles. There is \$10.8 million into the state development program, \$20.6 million in new funding over four years for Stadiums Queensland to ensure that we continue to have the nation leading sporting facilities that host extraordinary sporting and entertainment events, and \$4.9 million for the Indigenous Community Sport and Recreation Program and the Torres Strait community sport and recreation program.

All in all, it is a budget for all Queenslanders. It is a budget for the community that I call home. It is a budget that delivers both strength and stability to Queensland businesses and it is a budget which recognises that what really makes Queensland special is its people. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise to contribute to the Appropriation Bill 2017. May I say from the outset what an absolutely disappointing budget it is from this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government. The unfortunate result of this accidental government is its clear lack of planning prior to entering government. It meant that once again their budget makes a lot of announcements for which there will be no money. As we see time and again from this Labor government, there is very little substance and tangibility to anything they say, none more so than their budget announcements. In fact,

it is absolutely evident from their previous two budgets that Labor are great at announcing jobs, jobs, jobs and new projects but only wherever they are trying to salvage their declining voter base. Do those opposite take Queenslanders for fools? If they think that, they are wrong. Queenslanders can see that this is nothing more than a con job to win back the voters deserting them in droves. Of course, we all heard about how the Treasurer's—or as he's increasingly known by others, 'Captain Risky'—get-out-of-jail card for the budget has been Cyclone Debbie.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! Member for Gaven, you will refer to the Treasurer by his proper title.

Mr CRAMP: I apologise. Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. We have heard that the Treasurer's get-out-of-jail card for this budget is Cyclone Debbie which has apparently blown all of his surplus away.

What does this budget hold for the Gaven electorate? Yet again, it is not looking good for the good people of Gaven. Unfortunately for our electorate, the only announcements are rehashed announcements. Surprise, surprise, Gaven has once again missed out on much needed funding for police resources, road infrastructure and community infrastructure that the electorate desperately needs to keep pace with our continual population growth.

The announcements for the Commonwealth Games precinct at Carrara are nothing more than a follow-on from last year's announcement. That was, in fact, a follow-on from the previous year's budget. This is just old news from Labor. As I stated in my speech in the debate on last year's budget, Labor cannot lay claim to these announcements because they are LNP announcements. Labor has simply tried to hand in the LNP's homework.

The same can be said for the funding of the Nerang mountain bike trails—just another regurgitated idea by Labor from their budget last year and which, again, was actually a decision during the LNP government in the previous term of government. I will, however, provide credit where it is due. The decision to bring international mountain biking to the beautiful Nerang hinterland area actually occurred due to the effective lobbying of one of our absolute champions of the Gaven electorate, former local councillor Tracey Gilmore. Tracey's foresight and passion for our local area has always been exemplary. For me personally, Tracey has always been a role model for what can be achieved when one works tirelessly for one's local community. I am very proud to be able to credit her in my parliamentary speech and also to consider her a friend.

Let us recap. After going through the budget papers, it appears that all of the proposed funding for the Gaven electorate is only rehashed Commonwealth Games announcements, originally announced by the LNP. There is not a single new item for the Gaven electorate—an electorate that continues to grow in population and, as part of the northern Gold Coast, is one of the fastest growing areas in Australia. Labor's neglect of Gaven is absolutely shameful and I will be doing everything I can to ensure that it is not forgotten by my community.

As locals in the Gaven electorate are very well aware, I have been working hard for the past three years to improve our community, so it is obviously devastating to see no funding available for community safety, including expanded police resources for a commercial police hub in Pacific Pines or a refurbishment and increase in personnel for the Nerang Police Station, which is so desperately needed.

Even though the Minister for Emergency Services stood up in the parliament this week to spruik Labor's alleged support for the fire service, he continues to deny funding for desperately needed road safety upgrades to the Nerang Fire Station. On Tuesday of this week I placed yet another question on notice to the emergency services minister to commit to and approve this project after the Minister for Main Roads passed the buck on the issue.

Our area continues to miss out on much needed infrastructure for sports clubs and interest groups.

Mr Costigan: You're not alone.

Mr CRAMP: It seems to be a common theme right across every LNP seat in Queensland. First and foremost, we have missed out on funding for floodlighting at the Pacific Pines AFL club to allow children to continue to play the sport they love, or actually even be involved in sport, after 15 years of age and into adulthood. So many sports clubs require extra field space, thanks to the burgeoning population, and infrastructure to keep pace with this population growth—clubs such as the Pacific Pines Football Club, the Pacific Pines Netball Club, the Nerang Eagles Soccer Club, the Magic Football Club at Carrara, the Nerang RSL Netball Club, which may not even have fields soon, and Nerang BMX.

Groups such as our world championship hip-hop group Hy-Fidelity Dance and the national and international championship Gold Coast Dragons dragon boat paddling club, both located in Nerang, and the national award-winning Australian Air League Gold Coast Squadron at Pacific Pines and the Carrara Saints AFL Club all require building facilities. Some do not even have the facilities to store their basic equipment for training.

Gaven is proudly home to so many community groups that not only service the Gaven electorate but much of the Gold Coast. Kiwanis Pacific Pines, Healing Hooves, Let's Have a Chat, Liberty Connect, Nerang Meals on Wheels all service Nerang but service many other areas on the Gold Coast as well. We are very proud of that in our local area.

There is an ever-increasing demand for assistance throughout the Gold Coast and the fact is that Labor just does not care. Labor is neglecting the Gold Coast and the associated issues for some of our most vulnerable citizens. I know it has been said earlier tonight, but a case in point is Labor's promise of more money for housing and homelessness which is a real and growing problem on the Gold Coast. They have promised less than in recent years. Next year, the Gold Coast will only receive \$8 million for this issue. By contrast—and this is by no means taking away from these areas—there is \$96 million for Cairns and \$41 million for Townsville. This is absolutely disgraceful and shows that Labor are not serious about the Gold Coast and definitely not serious about homelessness in our city.

There is an increasing need for roads and transport corridors for our area as it continues to expand in population size. Amazingly, when one looks at a map of the road infrastructure projects in this year's budget there is a large blank section in the middle of the Labor map—in the centre of the Gold Coast region or, as we like to call it, the Gaven electorate.

Infrastructure like rapid transit lanes on the Nerang-Broadbeach Road from Nerang to Metricon Stadium, which could be utilised as bus lanes during event times such as perhaps the Commonwealth Games, are required. The extra lanes could then be used for the ever increasing traffic flow outside of events. There is the need for an upgrade of the Panitz Bridge over the Nerang River to allow two lanes each way with a detached pedestrian and bicycle bridge. I also mention the extension of the slipway at Binstead Way Pacific Pines onto the M1 northbound. Even though the Minister for Main Roads refused on multiple occasions—after constant lobbying by the member for Albert and I—to provide any joint funding for this project, it is good to see that the project will be going ahead thanks to the Gold Coast City Council.

The Treasurer spoke about Labor doing the hard work. I say to those opposite and the Treasurer that it is not them who is doing the hard work but rather Queensland taxpayers who yet again have to watch as another Labor government squanders their money. Debt will increase by nearly \$9 billion, resulting, for the first time in Queensland's history, in debt going over the \$80 billion mark.

Employment growth forecasts have been substantially cut, with unemployment growing to 6.25 per cent. Despite paying more in taxes, fees and charges under this Labor government, Queenslanders are seeing more and more issues with child safety, Queensland Rail, soaring crime rates and, unbelievably, the return of ambulance ramping. As an ambulance officer of 14 years, I can attest to the out-of-control ambulance ramping that occurred during the previous Labor government—under Anna mark 1. That placed so many Queenslanders in danger. Now under Anna mark 2 we see ramping increasing again. I never thought we would see the Ambulance Service go back to such dark times in patient care.

This is not a jobs budget, it is a con job. Queenslanders can see through it. As I have stated previously, Gaven misses out completely in this budget. I would like to take a moment to look at places that received funding. We see that Brisbane Central gets a school and South Brisbane gets a school. Inala, where the Premier is, gets a counterterrorism training facility. It really is an election budget.

The Treasurer amazingly claimed on Brisbane radio on Wednesday morning that this is just a coincidence. It must also just be a coincidence that the Gold Coast gets virtually nothing in comparison to other areas with smaller populations. The Gold Coast loses out on a massive \$92 million in infrastructure funding compared to the 2014 budget. That is schools, roads, basic necessities for every Gold Coaster. This government does not care about them. It cares about votes in inner Brisbane. I would like to point out to the government that we cannot all live in 'Tradland' and 'Graceville'.

Queenslanders know that this Palaszczuk Labor government is soft on crime and there are now more statistics than ever to prove it. The fight against organised crime is being softened at a time when gangs are re-establishing themselves on the Gold Coast. I have heard many other Gold Coast members speak about this. We know, because we are Gold Coast locals, that it is a real issue facing Gold Coasters. The LNP introduced tougher laws, cracking down on organised crime with an increased

investment. We saw crime rates reduce and bikies flee Queensland. Now under Labor, with less funding and softer laws, the safety of Queenslanders is being put at risk by this hapless Labor government and nowhere more so than on the Gold Coast.

Crime continues to rise under Labor. As a result, this year will be the last year that individual crime statistics as a budget measure will be recorded as that measure is being discontinued. To say that measuring crime is not an important service standard for the Queensland Police Service is absolutely ridiculous and smacks of a complete cover-up by an increasingly desperate Labor government. Crime is increasing, yet there was an underspend in the allocated QPS budget in 2016-17. Those opposite in this chamber have their priorities completely wrong once again.

The massive investment by the LNP in 2012 that saw 1,100 additional police over four years is well and truly over. Our front-line police are not getting the support and equipment they need to keep Queenslanders safe. Only an LNP government will create employment, build the infrastructure Queensland needs, be fiscally responsible, provide tougher laws, build better police resources and reduce crime across the state to provide safe and livable communities. Only the LNP can build a better Queensland.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (6.00 pm): The 2017-18 budget of this Labor government has already registered as a disappointment to the people of the Cleveland district. The budget fails in so many ways. Labor's budget does nothing to tackle Cleveland's unemployment and underemployment and will cause cost-of-living increases to car registration, power and water, among other areas. In fact, the RACQ condemned the government for continuing to charge, in their words, the 'highest or second highest' registration in Australia. In contrast to Labor's increased cost of living, the Liberal National Party has announced in response to that that a Liberal National Party government would freeze family car registration.

Despite Labor's raids on public servants' super in last year's budget, we are still hurtling towards an \$81 billion debt. Again, I contrast that with when the LNP were in government and debt came down. A standout bad measure in the current budget is the \$400 million cut to road funding, and Labor must hear the vote of the parliament that condemned them for it. I also note that the RACQ condemned the government for the same cut to funding and investment in roads.

The state budget has very little in it directly for Cleveland residents who have once again been left out in the cold. North Stradbroke Island workers are being sacked and sent to Labor's burgeoning unemployment queue. Unemployment, especially youth unemployment, has worsened in Redland City under Labor's watch. Unemployment across the state will remain at six per cent, offering little to the unemployed and underemployed in the Cleveland district.

The sacking of the 30 per cent Quandamooka Aboriginal workforce from the mine is absolutely disgraceful. Labor cannot claim to care for Aboriginal people while they are sacking Indigenous workers and cutting Indigenous jobs on North Stradbroke Island. Thirty per cent of the workforce are Indigenous at the mine and are being sacked from very good and dignifying jobs. Thirty per cent of them are being sacked because of Labor's laws. Everyone on that side of the House voted for legislation that will sack 30 per cent of the workforce that are Indigenous. The Quandamooka people are having their jobs taken from them and are being sent back to the unemployment queue, and that is an absolute disgrace and shame.

Labor's infrastructure freeze on major projects to the Cleveland district has now extended for three budget years and has set in as a permanent ice pack. For three long successive budget years now, very little has been invested in areas such as Cleveland's public transport, state arterial roads or the Redland Hospital.

The LNP in government delivered essential infrastructure and services for the people of Cleveland such as at Redland Hospital. At Redland Hospital we invested in a new palliative care service. Smaller waiting lists were achieved for dental care and elective surgery. We built a new ambulance station and completed construction of the emergency department extension, including a paediatric section and 10 new short-stay beds. In addition to that, we funded the new nurses and staff who were needed for the new expanded ED facility that Labor forgot to budget for. We were opening a new extended emergency department but Labor forgot to plan for the nurses and the other medical staff who would be needed.

We boosted rail services, with 450 additional peak hour seats. We built critical school buildings like the Cleveland High year 7 building and the Bay View State School hall. We invested in fishing and boating and marine infrastructure such as the new boat ramp and pontoons at the William Street boat ramp, Cleveland, and we upgraded the Wellington Point boat ramp. We protected jobs on North

Stradbroke Island, among other achievements—all while repairing the unsustainable state finances of debt and deficits left behind by Labor. Sadly, Labor's third budget does very little. The people of Cleveland do not want three or four more years of a do-nothing Labor government, with higher taxes, higher cost of living, higher cost of doing business, a ballooning Public Service and record high levels of debt.

Much more is needed to fix, however, the congested state arterial roads in and out of Cleveland. Labor's cuts to train services on the Cleveland line are hurting and need to be reversed, peak and express services need to be restored, investment in tourism needs to be boosted and job-creating infrastructure on Straddie like the Dunwich harbour redevelopment is required. Sadly, the infrastructure freeze on major projects extends widely throughout the electorate, with no new major projects confirmed in health, transport and roads, police and emergency services, among other things—with the only exception being a hall for Cleveland high school. The huge majority of residents of Thornlands, Birkdale, Ormiston, Wellington Point, North Stradbroke Island and Cleveland will get very little value from this budget. There is nothing major in health, public transport, main roads or marine and boating infrastructure.

What about the freeze on health infrastructure? There is no major commitment to any aspect of Redland Hospital that is visible in the budget. The hospital provides health services to a growing and ageing region. It is important to continue progressing the planning to expand the hospital precinct footprint on government owned land north of the current site. The LNP in government took the view that it is critical that this state land be set aside for the long-term expansion of the hospital and to not be sold off. Locals are worried that a broke Labor government will get desperate and flog off the land as another Labor asset sale, just like they did when they sold the income-producing Mount Cotton driver training centre, after the member for Capalaba gave assurances that there would not be any asset sales of land or anything that would impact Redland City. After that commitment, that was then sold. This land north of the Redland Hospital is far too important for the future health needs of the ageing and growing Redlands community. I will continue to fight to protect that land from another Labor asset sell-off.

With no new hospital commitments in three budgets, health has stagnated in the Cleveland district and is at risk of going backwards under this government. There is no clear commitment for items such as the needed intensive care unit, a rehabilitation area or a beds wing. There is not even a plan for an extra single car park that has been announced. I call on the government to reverse their infrastructure freeze at Redland Hospital.

I turn to the government's failure on public transport and road projects. The infrastructure failure of this government to the Cleveland district is also evident in the failure for three years in a row to invest in road funding—and it is clear in Labor's rail fail on the Cleveland line. There should have been funds to fix congestion on major arterial roads that are important to Redland City commuters, such as Cleveland-Redland Bay Road, or to go towards upgrading the increasingly dangerous intersection at Shore and Wellington streets. Instead, it has taken the federal LNP to help fund state road improvements like the \$3.5 million commitment to a basic intersection upgrade of Shore and Wellington streets. Again, I call on the roads minister to cooperate with the federal government and Redland City Council and to consider investing a small amount of funding to optimise the project. Why would you look a gift-horse in the mouth—another level of government largely paying for your road?

With regard to Rickertt Road, which is a Brisbane City Council road and one that is very important to commuters in the northern part of the Redlands in suburbs like Wellington Point and Ormiston and Birkdale, I want to acknowledge the role that federal LNP member Andrew Laming has played in the past, delivering the duplication of this road on the Redland City side, or the Bowman electorate side—his electorate—of the bridge over Tingalpa Creek. To go even further, the federal LNP government and federal MPs Ross Vasta and Andrew Laming have teamed up with the LNP Brisbane City Council to deliver an upgrade to the Greencamp Road corridor, including the duplication of the intersection with Rickertt Road. Again, we see only the LNP doing the heavy lifting on delivering roads while Labor watches, does nothing and criticises those who are doing something, to the point where the Mayor of Redland City, Karen Williams, stated of the last budget—and it is also applicable to this budget I believe—

... the absence of funding in the State Budget for Redlands roads highlights the need for alternative and innovative options to be considered to clear traffic congestion hotspots.

Mayor Williams went on to say that residents have—

... made it very clear to us ... that congestion was a major issue, and we know the worst choke point is Cleveland-Redland Bay Road.

Sadly, the mayor reluctantly had to conclude—

While this is a State-controlled road, we do not expect it to be on the State Government's roads agenda any time soon so we need to find other ways to upgrade the road, which is one of the major links within our city ... The reality is we just cannot afford to do nothing. As this road does not seem to be a priority for the State, we have to convince them that it is for us and we are ready to work with them and the private sector to complete the work.

In other words, they have to find some other innovative way to solve it because the state will not do what it should do. Mayor Williams stated that a report previously commissioned by a cross-boundary working group showed that the worst traffic congestion within the Redlands was identified as mainly on state controlled roads. For 16 of the last 19 years, Labor have been in government at a state level and those roads have fallen behind in that time. That is, for 80 per cent of the time, Labor have been in government and the roads have fallen into disrepair.

The report also identified Cleveland-Redland Bay Road as a priority for consideration. Not surprisingly, no progress has been made by Labor over three budget years to ease congestion on this state road. When the roads minister was asked in parliament, he did not even know the road existed. This is a major arterial thoroughfare through the Redlands City area and the Minister for Main Roads did not even know that it existed. No wonder there is no attention to the state roads in the Cleveland district.

This budget fails to address Labor's cuts to train services on the Cleveland line. Labor's failure to heed early warnings about train driver shortages and closed shop union practices resulted in huge cuts to services on South-East Queensland lines. The Cleveland line was one of the hardest hit of 12 lines by Labor's cuts to services. Cleveland commuters who need the train to get to work in the city or to get their children to school are angry as they have had to reschedule their lives around reduced services. In some cases, they have been left stranded at stations, their children have been left stranded on their way home from school and others have not been able to utilise the reduced services and have reverted back to driving to work in their cars, further clogging our already congested roads. Labor's rail fail has been an unmitigated disaster for Cleveland commuters.

To reverse Labor's cuts to services, I have initiated Cleveland's 'save our rail campaign'. This campaign has the support of the local community who want Labor to achieve the following: one, ensure there are no further cuts to services; two, reverse all current cuts; and, three, restore previous services, starting with peak and express services, until all services have been returned. Locals and I have been hindered from restoring services by the incompetence and division that exists within Labor. First, there have been three transport ministers in two years. Second, when I raised the matter in the House in question time about cuts on the Cleveland line and impacts to my commuters, I asked the Premier to meet with affected local residents. She refused to be available to listen to the reasonable concerns of local residents, and instead she offered for the Deputy Premier, the transport minister, to meet with them. She basically said that we should see the Deputy Premier about it.

I was disappointed that the Premier did not care enough to come for herself, but I followed her advice and sought a meeting with the Deputy Premier. After waiting for weeks, the Deputy Premier finally replied to say that she would not be meeting with me and my community because she was too busy. We were not told, 'I'll meet you in a month or maybe two months. You'll have to wait because I'm so busy.' There was no time for me and my community to be able to meet with her. This was in complete disregard to the clear instructions of the Premier in question time.

Why would the Deputy Premier ignore the instructions of the Premier? I think we all know why. The Deputy Premier believes she should be the Premier herself. She refuses to work in a team with the Premier. We saw this with the Carmichael mine, where she led a cabinet revolt to force the Premier to soften her position on the mine. Again, I ask the Premier: will she meet with my commuters, as I asked in the parliament many weeks ago, now that the Deputy Premier and Minister for Transport refuses to follow her instructions?

While we are still on rail, the government have completely mishandled the Cross River Rail. Both major parties know that a rail solution across the river is needed. The Liberal National Party had a cost-effective solution, but sadly Labor rejected it and went their own way. Labor slapped together a business case, one that did not address all of the issues, had flaws in it and was kept secret from Queenslanders. The plans did not synchronise or integrate well with the Brisbane City Council's plans. Further, despite some funds being provided in this budget, the project is massively underfunded and cannot at this point head towards any idea of completion. The government also have kept the full cost of the more than \$15 billion from the public and have no plan about how they will pay for it. These

matters rightly saw the federal government not be in any hurry to approve this secretive, flawed, non-integrated, underfunded and expensive solution. Labor have been so caught up dreaming about Cross River Rail that they have taken their eyes off other important aspects of public transport, like the duplication of the rail line from Cleveland to Manly and the Eastern Busway.

Regarding the Eastern Busway, Labor withdrew state funding for the project in their 2011-12 budget—I believe it was roughly then—prior to the LNP forming government. The LNP government discovered that there were no funds set aside for the Eastern Busway. As such, Labor had killed the busway. This reality was at odds with the promise made by Premier Bligh, together with then transport minister, Annastacia Palaszczuk, that if the federal government did not help with the funding, the Labor state government would go it alone and build the busway from state funds only. Does that sound familiar to anyone? They were going to fund a piece of public transport infrastructure themselves. Did they do it with the Eastern Busway? No, they dropped the whole project. However, both I and Mayor Karen Williams never gave up on the Eastern Busway to Capalaba. We do not need a rolled gold solution, just a practical busway.

I want to give a precis on this. Unfortunately, some confusion still exists about whether the Eastern Busway is in Labor's plans or not. The member for Capalaba is spruiking that it is, but when transport officers are asked they say that it is just the transit way, the bus lanes. That needs to be clarified for the member for Capalaba before he continues to spruik the Eastern Busway returning. I would be very excited if it is being returned, but we need to clarify that. I would be happy for the minister or the Treasurer to do so.

The government seem to have no interest or plan to improve facilities or provide more car parking at Birkdale station and Cleveland station. They took the previously budgeted park-and-rides away from those stations and gave them to Thorneside to prop up the current member for Capalaba. For them to do that means they must be very worried about him going into the election. The people in Cleveland would like to see those car parks put back. The theft of those car parks from the Cleveland station has made the Cleveland station redevelopment unviable in my view and in the community's view.

Labor's cheap and nasty North Stradbroke Island plan via their still secret ETS is way behind schedule and grossly underfunded. The 2,000-plus residents, the mayor, the Redland City Council, businesses, business groups, community groups and Indigenous traditional owners have called on the government to dramatically increase funding to plug the gap that they left when they prematurely closed the mine and started sacking 150 workers—30 per cent, as I have mentioned, who are Indigenous—and putting a further 150 jobs at risk with their job-cutting and job-destroying legislation.

I could go on further, and perhaps at another time I will highlight the further impacts on the people of North Stradbroke Island. I am glad that they are a resilient people. They do have a bright future in terms of their own potential, but it is very important that governments get on board and support that and not make it more difficult.

We see the situation with recreational fishers and boaters. We delivered so many things in terms of boat ramps, pontoons and artificial reefs. We still have an artificial reef that we would like to see in the Wellington Point area.

We see a freeze in many other areas. As I have already mentioned, in education I am very happy to be part of delivering the Cleveland State High School hall. The tender process is underway and will be finished soon. Construction will commence later in the year. I will say one other thing in terms of education. The member for Capalaba has claimed that the TAFE was run down under the LNP. I have had eight years of dealings with the Alexandra Hills TAFE. It was never run down. Over that time it always had its struggles and its ups and downs. Steve Davies and I certainly continued to support our local TAFE. It is incumbent on the member for Capalaba to produce the evidence. I have asked on notice for the facts and details, but they have not been provided. It is now a challenge to him. This government has failed in terms of this budget.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.20 pm): It gives me much pleasure to rise and speak to the 2017-18 budget. Before I speak on the budget, I take a moment to pay my respects and send my condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Sergeant Brendan James Poustie. The community of Mackay have in their thoughts and prayers his wife, Jakki, his children, Liam and Lucy, and also his police family. Earlier this week Superintendent Bruce McNabb told me that his colleagues are devastated by his loss.

This week my electorate of Mackay and the surrounding regions have millions of reasons to smile, all because we have fared well in the third Palaszczuk Labor government budget. I thank Treasurer Curtis Pitt for his work on this jobs budget. Roads, health, education, the Mackay port, social services and emergency services are all big winners with job-creating spends.

The budget is a true jobs and infrastructure budget, with 2,300 direct jobs created through regionally funded programs, which is just what my electorate has asked for and needs. Unemployment peaked at eight per cent on the back of a downturn in the mining and construction industries. Mackay was left high and dry by the former Newman-Nicholls government, which had no plan in place for the regions when mining came off the boil. All mining towns and communities that service the mining industry were abandoned by the former LNP government. It has no plans, no support and no infrastructure builds to get my community back on its feet. The only infrastructure build we in the north heard about was a building at 1 William Street, Brisbane. The regions were abandoned.

Under the stewardship of the last two Palaszczuk Labor government job-building budgets, the unemployment rate in Mackay has dropped to 5.8 per cent. The people of the Mackay electorate and the wider community know that to grow employment and business opportunities and to future-proof ourselves from future industry downturns, we need to diversify our current industries and find new and modern markets. To develop markets and businesses, you need a quality and reliable transport chain. Labor is building the transport infrastructure that those opposite neglected in Mackay while in government.

Under the Palaszczuk government, the Mackay bulk port has had breakwater wall upgrades, breakwater bulk cargo set-down areas constructed, power lines placed underground and this budget will see \$7 million spent on wharves 4 and 5 fenders to increase the ability to bring freight in and out. This will also increase our ability to develop export possibilities from our own port.

To access the port, vehicles need to travel across the Vines Creek bridges. Previously I have spoken about the shocking state in which the previous LNP government was prepared to leave those bridges. The bridges are literally crumbling. The LNP solution was to restrict two two-lane bridges to one lane each, cut the speed limit to 40 kilometres per hour and reduce the load limit. Labor's solution is a complete rebuild of the bridges with a capacity for heavy mass limit.

Mr Costigan interjected.

Mrs GILBERT: Unfortunately, the member for Whitsunday has not noticed the signs that are up and the work that has already started on the bridges, just as he missed the sod turning for the information centre project. He has moved into the seat of Mackay, but he does not notice what is going on. He should get on the page.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs GILBERT: The member should read the paper.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Elmes): Order! A couple of people in the chamber are very lucky, as it is close to dinner time. There will be no more chatter across the aisles.

Mrs GILBERT: Labor's solution is a complete rebuild of the bridges with capacity for heavy mass limit. That shows the difference between them and us. The rebuild is a \$28 million project that will generate over 45 jobs. This year's spend is \$6.8 million of the total spend.

Of course, one of the most significant projects in the history of the region is the Mackay Ring Road. To support this vital transport supply chain, the Palaszczuk government has partnered with the federal government to build the brand new Mackay Ring Road. There is \$70 million in continued funding for the ring-road in 2017-18, which is part of a total cost of \$497.8 million. The Mackay Ring Road will also deliver a section of the Walkerston Bypass. Another \$150 million has been allocated for the construction of the remainder of the Walkerston Bypass. Apart from the obvious infrastructure benefits the ring-road project will deliver, it will also support around 600 jobs, which will be a tremendous economic and employment boost for our local community. As there is more I would like to put on record, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Key benefits from Stage 1 of the project will include:

- reduced congestion on the network as traffic is transferred to the Ring Road
- reduced traffic demands on Nebo Road, with a two lane rural highway deviation approximately 11.3km in length

- reduced travel times by avoiding 10 signalised intersections from Stockroute Road to Bald Hill
- 80km/h and 100km/h speed limit (compared to a 60km/h urban network)
- improved safety by removing fuel and sugar trucks from travelling through built up areas
- major bridges over Pioneer River and the Fursden Creek floodplain
- overpasses of local roads and rail network
- Improved connectivity for industry to the Port.

Mr Speaker, the Mackay Ring Road is an example of the huge investment the Palaszczuk Government is delivering in road infrastructure across my region and across Queensland.

The Palaszczuk Government has granted \$8.64 million assistance for Mackay's proposed \$50 million bio refinery to help accelerate the project's development and construction.

The initiative could create up to 115 jobs and will position the Mackay region as an emerging bio-industry hub.

"Bio Processing Australia's facility is proposed to be co-located at one of Mackay's Sugar Mills and would deliver up to 70 construction and 50 skilled operational jobs and attract significant investment and further jobs in the region.

Mackay is looking for skilled jobs, this project in operation will require, bio chemist's electricians, fitters, plant operators, truck drivers and labourers.

It is a game changing concept for Mackay and exactly the type of project we've been targeting to generate jobs and economic activity in Mackay.

The government has put sensible commercial conditions on the funding to ensure it delivers and we will be releasing the funding in stages on the completion of agreed construction milestones."

The \$8.64 million funding will come from the \$130 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. A fund that helps facilitate private sector projects that will create employment and economic growth opportunities in the regions.

The Palaszczuk Government has beaten out international competition to reach agreement with Bio Processing Australia to pursue Mackay exclusively as the potential location for a new integrated bio refinery. The intellectual property of this new industry was being bid for in Asia.

BPA will complete a full feasibility study with a view to making a final investment decision and potentially commence construction of the bio refinery in 2018.

This is another step towards our vision for a \$1 billion sustainable and export-oriented industrial biotechnology and bio products sector, creating the high skill jobs of the future. I am so pleased Mackay is part of this exciting future for Queensland.

The wider Mackay region felt the effects of Cyclone Debbie, I am pleased that the Government is providing to the Mackay Regional Council \$14.7 million for recovery and reconstruction projects in partnership with the Australian Government. It is important to get our businesses and social structure back up and running fast.

Small business and tourism operators will be able to access grants to help rebuild tourism infrastructure or the 'Go Local-keep Queensland going strong' campaign to encourage Queenslanders to buy from local businesses. The \$12.3 million funding is in partnership with the federal government.

The Mackay fishing community, both professional and recreation anglers were in upheaval during the implementation of the very successful net free zone north of Mackay. Both groups recognise more needs to be done to ensure a modern fishing industry, to be managed to ensure jobs are maintained. Mackay will get one of the new 20 front line compliance officers, this program is funded over 4 years at a cost of \$30 million this year delivering \$9.9 million of funding.

\$1.5 million spend on the River Street boat ramp will be undertaken including a floating pontoon to make the launching of boats safer.

The Mackay Hospital and Health expenditure of \$415.1 million is welcomed. The ongoing expenditure brings the construction of the much needed mental health transition Step Up Step Down facility closer to fruition. Since the Federal Government's slashing of funding for transition housing it is a facility of great need for the ongoing health for patients transitioning from acute care back into mainstream living in a safe environment.

Frontline services make the liability of our community better. I am pleased my region will see an increase in doctors, nurses, and teachers, extra 91 nurses up 12.%, extra 56 doctors up 27.3% and an extra 68 teachers up 3.2%.

Deputy Speaker the tender for the Mackay's \$7 million new fire station will be announced next month. This will be another boost for local jobs.

This is a budget for jobs, now and for the future.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (6.26 pm): I rise to speak on the appropriation bills. In the past four days, the budget news for the Gympie electorate has been a circus. It has been a circus because of what is omitted, what is committed and what is not there but could be there. We have been subjected to rebranding, reannouncements and recycling of previous commitments. We have seen funding for projects completely disappear off the map and, mysteriously, the same amount of funding redirected to

a Labor seat in the same region. We have claims of funding that was not announced but that the minister insists is there. Does that sound confusing? Members should imagine what the electors feel. This is a farce.

The government does not know what it is doing and what it is supposed to do and that relates just to the announcements. The government is supposed to be in charge of the budget. They have had months to prepare their documents and their priorities. Tuesday's shiny glossy brochure for the Wide Bay region showed that the Gympie electorate has not received one new project—not even a crumb. Everything in that brochure showed our share of the multibillion dollar budget was rebadging, reannouncements and recycling of previous commitments. However, it gets worse.

Within hours the situation looked even worse because a comparison of that shiny brochure with the one produced last year shows that not only did Gympie fail to get a crumb; it had funding disappear. That is right: without any notice, the budget documents show that the government has callously and cynically withdrawn funds scheduled for the new Rainbow Beach Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Station and redirected those funds to the Bundaberg Fire and Rescue Station. Not only did we fail to receive a crumb; the government has taken away money from the region in a desperate attempt to cling to power.

In last year's glossy shiny brochure, the government trumpeted that it had allocated \$300,000 to the Rainbow Beach project out of a total \$1.3 million spend to replace the station. The community was waiting on the final \$1 million to complete the project. This year, there is nothing. In last year's glossy brochure, the government also announced \$7 million to complete the \$7.2 million Bundaberg Fire and Rescue Station. Despite only needing \$200,000 to complete the Bundaberg project, the Labor government has allocated another \$1.3 million to the station, meaning that they have ripped that \$1 million from Rainbow Beach and redirected it to Bundaberg.

This is nothing more than a blatant display of pork-barrelling. It is a low blow from a cynical government that is desperate to prop up the state Labor member in Bundaberg, who has been under siege. The government has no shame and is clinging to office by its fingernails. In an attempt to spin their way out of this cynical vote chasing, the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services stated, as quoted in today's *Gympie Times*—

'The Public Safety Business Agency on behalf of QFES are currently negotiating the purchase of land adjoining the existing Rainbow Beach Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Station to allow for redevelopment of the station.'

'\$1.8million has been allocated to (buy) the additional land,' ...

While the figure of \$1.8 million is not related to any previous estimate, this news resulted in some serious eyebrow raising in the district this morning.

Interruption.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

 Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.30 pm): I advise honourable members that the House can continue to meet past 6.30 pm this day. The House will break for dinner at 6.30 pm and resume sitting at 7.30 pm.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL APPROPRIATION BILL REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed.

 Mr PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (7.30 pm), continuing: There are only two house blocks next to the station. For that price the government must be buying the entire park nearby, because for \$1.8 million you can purchase anywhere from seven to nine blocks. It is staggering just how much money can be squandered by this government. It is either that or the government is just throwing figures and money around to shut down the outcry. It is clearly paying lip-service to investing in the regions and is incapable of addressing the serious issues of stalled growth and unemployment.

Out of the 40 projects identified for the Wide Bay region, all that Gympie gets is a rewrite and a swindle. While I welcome the \$6.1 million to complete the new administration block and additional classrooms at the Gympie Special School, this is a continuation of last year's commitment and indicates a cut of \$400,000 from the total spend on the project of \$7.8 million.

The \$40 million commitment to construct a four-lane realignment of the Bruce Highway upgrade from Traveston to Keefton Road is not new: it is the final instalment of a project which is 80 per cent funded by the federal government. The documents are cleverly worded to make it appear that the federal government's contribution is from the state. I welcome the commitment of \$279,300 to construct a community hall in Curra, just outside the electorate, but this was part of last year's 2016-17 Local Government Grants and Subsidies Program.

The central plank of the budget is about saving the Deputy Premier's inner-city seat of wealthy, unproductive green zealots at the expense of the regions. The most disgusting display of their desperation to cling to power is \$2.9 billion for a highly controversial rail project to save the Deputy Premier and commuters a few extra minutes getting to work in Brisbane. Since the Deputy Premier is obviously dictating the agenda, it is disappointing that instructions were not given to the Premier to let the rest of the budget be an opportunity to provide real and tangible investment in valuable long-term regional infrastructure instead of making announcements about works that have been ongoing for a number of years.

Talk about regional jobs and supporting regional infrastructure is just hot air. While Gympie is expected to pay second, third and fourth fiddle to save the member for Bundaberg and the Deputy Premier, the state debt will balloon to an unprecedented \$81.1 billion. This equates to a debt of \$15,795 for each and every man, woman and child in Queensland. There is virtually no support for the 4,298 small businesses in the Gympie region which are at the heart of the local economy. Imagine what Gympie could have done with a fraction of the \$2.9 billion which we have thrown away on a shiny project which has a business case in an utter mess, has not been released for public scrutiny, six secret taxes and missed deadlines.

Despite repeated representations and speeches in this parliament about Gympie's needs, the list of missed projects is long. After this week's outcry there was no specific mention of funding towards the upgrade of the intersection of the Wide Bay and Bruce highways at Bells Bridge. Yesterday the minister advised that the state will commit its share. I welcome that announcement. Last month the federal government committed \$11.2 million, or 80 per cent, to the project, which meant that the state was to provide its 20 per cent, or \$2.8 million, of the estimated total cost of \$14 million.

When we all know that the government takes every opportunity to spin an announcement, it is strange that it did not announce its commitment; it somehow overlooked the \$2.8 million in funding. It was overlooked in the glossy brochures and it was overlooked in the mountain of ministerial press releases. The only reference to the project can be found by poring through the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program document for Wide Bay, where it is noted at the bottom of page 83. The mystery continues, because last month I wrote two letters to the minister identifying specific road and bridge projects for consideration. Interestingly, the first response was a dated letter which was emailed on Monday. The second letter, which was about funding for this intersection, was undated, posted and not emailed. It arrived yesterday. Cynics could say that the government wanted this to fly under the radar.

As I said earlier, the list of missed opportunities is long. The government has once again failed to support the expansion of the Gympie campus of the University of the Sunshine Coast to lease the empty and unused TAFE building at the Gympie education precinct, progress the Gympie Hospital master plan, remove restrictive red tape and regulations from small business, or continue the LNP's rigorous and successful school maintenance program regime, which saw backlogs significantly reduced.

This week the Minister for Training and Skills refused to explain why since 2015 the government has continuously refused to allow the USC to lease a building so it can increase the enrolments and courses on offer in Gympie. TAFE has even said that it does not want the building. Given that only 13.5 per cent of Gympie residents have a tertiary education qualification and the local unemployment level is 2.6 per cent above the state average, it is inexcusable that the minister callously could not care less about the impact this is having on local students. The minister arrogantly told this House that we are not going to have our TAFE campuses 'given away to private enterprise'. I have news for the minister: a lease is not giving away a building, a university is not a private enterprise, and a lease on an empty and unused building returns something to the taxpayer. This is the same minister who in late

2015 oversaw a cut to nursing education studies at short notice at the Gympie TAFE. This is the same minister who took eight months to respond to me regarding the closure and still refused to rule out any further closure of courses at the Gympie TAFE. Students will miss out again in 2018 because of absolute incompetence or sheer bloody-mindedness. The treatment of Gympie's students and the unemployed is arrogant and callous.

This goes to the core of how the government treats taxpayers' hard-earned money. The minister's refusal is a reckless waste. The minister stonewalled, saying the decision is dependent on the release of a 10-year strategic plan of TAFE facilities. This plan has already cost \$1 million and has not seen the light of day, even though it was due for release in July last year. The government's rhetoric about helping struggling students is false. It is beholden to appeasing the Education Union, which does not want anyone to use TAFE buildings even if they are empty or unused. Gympie residents are not shocked at how much money Labor can waste through incompetence, ignoring sound business advice and chasing fringe group activists with cash.

Late last year we finally learned that successive Labor governments squandered half a billion hard-earned taxpayers' dollars on a project that was doomed to fail from the start. That is right: more than half a billion dollars was wasted on the failed Traveston Dam fiasco. This waste has been relegated to a footnote on page 24 of the Service Delivery Statements for the Department of State Development. The government admitted that it expected to lose more than \$300 million on the resale of properties in the Mary Valley which were purchased by the failed Labor government. That figure represents a loss of more than 50 per cent from the purchase price and subsequent resale of those properties. Add to this the estimated cost of wasted reports, strategies, impact statements, management costs, design work and investigations. The \$500 million does not even include the loss of revenue from businesses which closed down or moved away. For a government that is prolific in issuing media releases, this is another one that it let slip through. While it hoped that no-one would notice, I can tell you that everyone in the Mary Valley and Gympie have noticed.

The government disclosed that it expects to lose \$320 million from the resale of 13,000 hectares for which it paid \$520 million. It will sell 592 of the 655 properties it purchased. It has transferred 53 to other government departments for infrastructure works and 10 to the Gympie Regional Council. This was presented in government speak as—

The total resale is expected to be in the vicinity of \$200 million ... The government has successfully divested properties to the general public at or above market value and implemented a range of economic development strategies resulting in a revived community and economic stability for the region.

That is rubbish. The extent of Labor's culpability is compounded when you add to this the estimated \$200 million which was spent on reports and investigations. In 2009 it was calculated that the Bligh Labor government had spent more than \$200 million in preparing an environmental impact study, a supplementary statement, preliminary dam design, geotechnical investigations, design for roads and other infrastructure, preparation of access road design, property maintenance, weed control, cultural heritage survey, Indigenous land use agreement, investigation for community and recreation facilities, trial tree plantation and local training initiatives. It boils down to this: Labor governments just do not treat taxpayers' dollars with respect.

The Traveston Dam proposal was a disgraceful display of a Labor government devoid of an achievable framework for water security, with no intention to be prudent and respectful of taxpayers' dollars and riding roughshod over regional landholders. We may never know the final cost of the failed dam. Wasting half a billion dollars is an atrocious and immoral example of the appalling contempt Labor governments have for taxpayers' dollars. Imagine if that amount was injected into Gympie. The squandered money is more than the total budget of 20 of the 29 government departments. Conservatively, it could have been spent on building 10 new schools or 100 new ambulance stations. As I said earlier, it was relegated to a footnote in the department's Service Delivery Statements. The government tried to destroy the social, economic and environmental fabric of Mary Valley communities and the broader Gympie region. Then after buying properties it ignored its responsibilities as a landholder. It failed to suitably manage the properties, allowing noxious and invasive weeds to grow and assets to deteriorate.

The previous LNP government put a stop to this gross mismanagement and started selling the land back into private ownership through the Mary Valley Economic Development Strategy. The future for the region now looks much brighter, but it is a pity that it cost Queensland taxpayers so much. The Mary Valley community has been battered by the insensitivity, callousness and complete disregard for its future.

Labor is incapable of being a wise and prudent spender. This budget shows that it is only capable of splashing cash, chasing votes and preferences and sandbagging seats. Despite the last two budgets promising jobs now and jobs for the future and this budget being a so-called jobs bonanza, it will do nothing to reduce unemployment levels. Gympie's unemployment rate was 8.7 per cent in the December quarter. That is 2.6 per cent above the state average. Instead of wasteful spending and spin we need targeted direct expenditure on a number of local infrastructure projects, maintenance and improvement of existing facilities and the provision of support and incentives for local businesses that want to grow in the area.

The key challenges for our region are addressing the high levels of unemployment, making safer our road network, raising the education levels of locals, providing training opportunities so that people have better chances of securing meaningful work, differentiating ourselves from other regions in attracting tourists and providing quality facilities for health and education.

Despairingly, after three budgets and 2½ years, the do-nothing incompetent Palaszczuk-Trad government gets an 'F' for fail. It is disappointing that this budget has ignored the Gympie region and failed to deliver our fair share.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—PHON) (7.43 pm): I rise to speak in response to the 2017-18 budget handed down by the Treasurer. I was very interested to read on Saturday that the Treasurer, the member for Mulgrave, had conceded that there are elements in his budget that are aspirational in terms of Labor's growth forecast. The Treasurer's crystal ball is out, as it was last year when the government predicted in its budget a net operating surplus of \$867 million for this current financial year and state economic growth of four per cent.

The *Weekend Australian* reports that the state account figures for December show economic growth was 2.6 per cent. Analysis showed that Queensland Treasury forecasts of economic growth have been up to three times the growth that occurred in that year. I note that the newspaper said the Treasurer blamed the impact of Cyclone Debbie this year for wiping 0.75 per cent from economic growth for the current financial year. That is a familiar theme. I can recall another Queensland Labor premier blaming Cyclone Larry and the price of bananas for the state of the budget in a previous year.

The issue of appropriate budget funding enhancing Queensland water security is something that concerns all Queenslanders. I am particularly concerned about the apparent lack of interest by this Labor government when it comes to new water infrastructure such as dams in Queensland. I read back through the 2016-17 Service Delivery Statements for the relevant departments. They make very interesting reading when you consider them alongside comments by the Deputy Prime Minister in federal parliament only two weeks ago, on 1 June 2017. Page 5 of the 2016-17 Service Delivery Statements for the Department of the Premier and Cabinet states—

In 2016-17, the service area will:

- coordinate, develop and provide leadership and implementation for whole-of-government initiatives including:
 - ...
- Queensland's participation with the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund

Page 3 of the Service Delivery Statements for Queensland Treasury from the 2016-17 budget states—

The major external factors that could impact on Queensland Treasury in 2016-17 include:

- Australian Government funding decisions, including for Northern Australia large scale water infrastructure

Page 6 of Treasury's Service Delivery Statements states—

The service area's key priorities for 2016-17 are to:

- work with stakeholders to progress energy and water sector reforms in line with Government objectives and to further understand Queensland's requirements for future large scale water infrastructure

I also looked back through the 2016-17 Service Delivery Statements for the Department of Energy and Water Supply. This government had no vision last year and it seems to have even less vision this year when it comes to building new dams. On 1 June 2017 in the House of Representatives

in Canberra the member for Kennedy, Bob Katter, asked a question without notice of the Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce, regarding the Hell's Gate Dam project. Having read the Service Delivery Statements, it is a really good question. It states—

Commonwealth funding of \$15.6 million is anticipated in 2017–18 for the delivery of feasibility studies under Part 1 of the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund.

The Service Delivery Statements from the Premier and Cabinet states—

In 2017–18, Policy Advice and Coordination, and Cabinet Support will:

...

- develop a coordinated approach to bulk water infrastructure initiatives throughout Queensland's participation with the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund

After all the talk in the Service Delivery Statements regarding water infrastructure, it is worth noting that the Deputy Prime Minister, in answer to the question on notice, in part responded—

But of course what we want to do is pursue—in fact, Member for Kennedy, you would be interested to know that this year we have been accepting applications from state governments for further construction funding. How many dam projects has the Queensland Labor government come through with? None. Zero. Not one.

I also read through this year's Service Delivery Statements for the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. How many mentions of the word 'dam' would members think there are in those documents in the context of new construction? To quote the Deputy Prime Minister from a couple of weeks ago: 'None. Zero. Not one.'

Labor's Service Delivery Statements wax lyrical about water infrastructure and security but the government has not submitted any applications to the federal government for funding to construct a single dam. Not one application has been made. I am very concerned that this Labor government is not serious about water security in Queensland.

In some respects I can understand the current Labor government being somewhat hesitant about dam construction. I remember the Traveston Dam. The last Labor state government, of which the Premier and a number of the other members of the frontbench were ministers, purchased 494 Mary Valley properties to acquire 4,000 hectares of land to build a \$1.8 billion dam.

They booted out 494 families from their properties in order to construct a dam that was doomed to absolute failure, and then the Labor federal government environment minister vetoed the project. The whole thing was an absolute shambles. I cannot find in the Service Delivery Statements details of ongoing costs of running the Tugun desal plant costings, but I would imagine it is costing tens of thousands of dollars per day and currently it is not producing any water for drinking purposes. It is sitting there rusting away and has only been used for making water for treatment plants. I would be very interested to learn the cost of electricity to the taxpayer when the Tugun desal plant is running at full capacity.

I have looked through the Service Delivery Statements tabled on Tuesday for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning; Main Roads; Treasury; Premier and Cabinet and there is absolutely no mention of the Mooloolah River interchange connector. I first raised the issue of this piece of infrastructure in 2009—almost eight years ago. At the time I remember saying that the new proposed alignment for the corridor had come as a great shock to local residents, that it meant the potential resumption of some 50 homes or properties and that building much needed infrastructure was never without any pain. Unfortunately, sometimes land needs to be resumed for the greater good. Some people have had their lives put on hold for eight years. At the time I called on the minister to urgently look at the issue. The value of their properties had fallen through the floor. Ultimately though, through that process over 100 houses were resumed so that we could make way for this essential piece of infrastructure. The department needs to do preloading for that particular road network and it will take up to two years for that soil to settle before bitumen can be laid. I can recall meeting with senior representatives of Transport and Main Roads in 2014, confirming that the earthworks and compacting would need to be undertaken two years prior to the actual construction. Now here we are in 2017 and what has been done? Absolutely nothing! Some residents of Hideaway Waters are still living in limbo thanks to this Labor government.

I want to revisit the issue of the duplication of the Beerburum-Nambour rail line. Recently I asked the Deputy Premier a question on notice about this and the answer from the Deputy Premier states—

Building Queensland has recently completed the Business Case for the Beerburum to Nambour Rail Upgrade Project.

The project has been identified as a 'near-term priority initiative' in Infrastructure Australia's Infrastructure Priority List since 2016. The Queensland Government is assessing the Business Case.

I am still trying to get to the bottom of what a 'near-term priority initiative' is, but I am getting closer to that definitive answer. As there is absolutely no mention anywhere in any of the 2017-18 budget papers regarding the rail duplication that I can see, I am taking a 'near-term priority initiative' to mean 'never' by this Labor government. Again, it has let the people of Queensland down.

Under this Labor government electricity prices and gas prices have continued to rise, but there must be an election looming because the Premier was out there last week with the old chestnut in the form of 'we're putting downward pressure on electricity prices'. I see it reported that the Queensland government hopes to put 'downward pressure' on power prices with a plan that includes directing electricity generator Stanwell to change pricing policy. In this place on Tuesday the Deputy Premier said 'downward pressure' four times, the member for Yerongpilly said 'downward pressure' two times and the Treasurer, during his budget speech, said 'downward pressure' three times. Apparently the government is planning to spend \$386 million for a transmission line in the north to connect renewable energy projects and a hydroelectric power station at the Burdekin Falls Dam. Anyone who knows anything about energy prices knows that renewable energy does not put downward pressure on energy prices. Last week I heard the member for Yerongpilly reaffirm Labor's commitment to a 50 per cent renewable energy target. I am sorry, but that will not put downward pressure on energy prices.

On Tuesday the Treasurer also reaffirmed Labor's commitment to a 50 per cent renewable energy target, citing that the state's transition to a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 will deliver significant economic benefits to Queensland. Only this week the federal government's Chief Scientist and the federal minister have been spruiking about clean energy targets, and let us not forget the Liberal federal energy minister's attempt, the day after parliament wrapped up at Christmas, to slip through an emissions intensity scheme on to the agenda, even though former prime minister Tony Abbott said that the proposed clean energy target is just a tax on coal-fired power. A tax on coal-fired power will push the price of energy upwards.

Federal Labor has a preference for an emissions intensity scheme, and that must be music to the Premier's ears and also the member for Yerongpilly. On the other side of the chamber the federal minister's call for clean energy targets—a carbon tax by stealth—must have the Leader of the Opposition and member for Clayfield very nervous with a Queensland election looming. We know where the current Liberal Prime Minister stands on emissions trading because in 2010 he crossed the floor in federal parliament to vote with the Labor Party to support an emissions trading scheme. The Premier says that \$386 million for the powerline and the Burdekin power project will come from state owned energy power company dividends. The Premier is telling Queenslanders that this will mean a secure energy future for Far North Queensland and a jobs bonanza, and I will have a little bit more to say about jobs later and the way in which some are overexaggerating certain numbers of jobs in one particular project. On Tuesday the Treasurer said—

People will continue to benefit from the government maintaining its commitment to not introduce new taxes, fees or charges on Queenslanders.

We do not need to introduce new taxes, fees and charges; he just keeps increasing the ones that he already has now. Car registration has increased under this Labor government and will increase again on 1 July. I see it reported that Queensland vehicle registration will jump by 3.5 per cent—almost double the rate of inflation—and the cost of a driver's licence will also increase.

The 2017-18 Service Delivery Statements for Health mentions 'Australia's first medical cannabis guideline to provide safe, controlled access to medical cannabis under the nation's most progressive medical cannabis laws', but the SDS makes no mention of the degree of funding for these guidelines. I would like to know how much the Queensland government is investing in terms of funding for any medical cannabis programs. I was advised not long ago that only two medical practitioners had signed on to become prescribers of medical cannabis in Queensland. How much is the government investing in encouraging and recruiting doctors to get them on board with medical cannabis? To again quote the Treasurer from Tuesday—

We are recording positive growth in business investment after a sustained period of contraction—11 consecutive quarters—following the unprecedented \$60 billion investment in LNG.

If the Treasurer was referring to Curtis Island, I understand the cost was more like \$70 billion. I am concerned about the fate of Curtis Island's LNG plant. The three plants at Gladstone were built at a cost of \$70 billion and demand from Asian countries for LNG was very strong a few years ago. Last

week it was reported that demand by the world's largest LNG importer, Japan, has been shrinking and that growth in China and other emerging markets has failed to keep up with the boom in supply. In 2016 LNG was significantly oversupplied at 29 per cent above demand and the gap between supply and demand widens over the year despite a very low price. Apparently, even though there is growth in some emerging markets and some developed markets like South Korea and Taiwan, the global LNG market remains significantly oversupplied. There is apparently a real concern that the \$70 billion plant will be mothballed in the future.

While on the subject of energy related matters, we are constantly hearing about the federal coalition and the state Labor government and the Queensland economy depending on Adani and its Carmichael mine for jobs and investment and a figure of 10,000 jobs is quoted as being at risk. Adani's own expert witness in a court said that Adani's own figures have the number of jobs to be created at 1,465. Some have raised concerns about the royalty deal of \$5 million per year struck between the state government and Adani. That is less than \$100,000 a week, and there is talk about deferment or delay in the paying of royalties. Delaying and deferment of the payment of royalties is in fact a taxpayer funded subsidy.

Questions have also been raised over the taxpayer funded rail line between the mine and the port of Gladstone that Adani will control. I also understand that Adani will charge \$10 per tonne cartage on the rail line, and that means that Adani could make anything up to \$600 million in cartage charges from other carriers to use this line. Nineteen banks have refused to finance Adani. Westpac is the latest. Indian banks, financiers and even the Indian government will not finance the project because they view it as a bad risk. As reported in May, there are some very real questions over the Adani Carmichael mine. One report stated that the latest result from Adani Power revealed a US\$954 million loss—that is A\$1.3 billion—for the latest financial year and it is its fifth loss in a row. I am also concerned about the report that the Adani mine might use up to 27 million litres of groundwater per day every day for the next 60 years. That must have an adverse effect on the water table.

I cannot find anything in the budget in terms of new money for the Sunshine Coast. The government is just maintaining the status quo. Recruiting seems to be just coping with the attrition rate of police and other emergency service workers. The issue of terrorism is firmly in the forefront of most thinking people's minds these days. I note that the New South Wales Premier announced last weekend that New South Wales will be building a specialised terrorist-only jail at Goulburn that will be built next to the SuperMax jail in that location. The jail will feature soundproof cells, a deradicalisation program and a new counterterrorism team. The high-tech security prison will cost \$47 million and house 54 segregated inmates. One Nation prefers to deport them, but as an alternative measure I urge the Queensland Premier to give careful consideration to establishing a similar terrorism specific jail here in Queensland.

The cost of living is through the roof under this Labor government. Whether it be bills for electricity, gas, water or car registration, I urge all Queenslanders at the next election to take your bill along with you and use them at the ballot paper to vote Labor out.

When you sit in this House for 10 years, as I have, you see the comings and goings of both sides of politics. I see very clearly that energy bills are killing people. They cannot afford to pay their bills. I read this morning in the *Australian* newspaper that energy will be going up between 13 and 20 per cent. That is what is happening in this state. Labor is responsible. They do not know how to run an economy.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Millar): Order! The member for Buderim is not taking your interjections. I ask you to cease so we can hear the member in silence.

Mr DICKSON: Those opposite have absolutely no idea how to run a business. The Queensland economy is an immense business and should be run by professional people, not people who sell assets as they have done in the past. Some of those people are still sitting around the cabinet table. They tell us they will not sell assets, but we know what they are sneakily doing behind the scenes. They are going to do over their union mates. It is no different on this side.

There are options in the upcoming election to change Queensland for the better. That is what this House was created for. In the past people from many different areas of Queensland represented their communities. We do not see that in this House any more. We see the big parties representing the big end of town. We have seen it happen so often in Queensland. It has to come to an end. I see it happening all over the world. The beauty of politics is that governments can change very quickly.

Governments are like the tide: they come in and they go out. What we will see happen at the next election is what happened in France, the UK and in the United States. It will happen here so be ready for it.

Those in this place have not looked after their constituents. They need to care about the people throughout the state. Every electorate should be treated fairly. Money should be spent where it is really needed—not pork-barrelling South Brisbane or particular seats. That is what we have seen in this budget: money shot up the wall. We know what that means—given away, put to those seats to pork-barrel particular members they want to get back in so they can continue to look after their Labor mates. It is no different with big business. We have to look after people who have been disenfranchised and left behind. One Nation will not leave them behind. I am seeing the same from the Katter's Australian Party and the Independents. They are out there fighting for people like those in the taxi industry. In the vote on the bill there were our five votes to the rest of the House. The major parties did not look after the taxi industry. They do not care about those 3,400 families. They let them go to the wall. They let a multinational come over here and export the money overseas. They kicked all those families in the guts. They let them down.

The people of Queensland have had a gutful. They are looking forward to change, as we are looking forward to change. There are great things that we can do in this parliament. I think those who are here forgot how to do that. The future is in their hands. They can beg their constituents to vote them back in. I am proud to represent my electorate of Buderim. I have great people. I will bleed for those people. I walked away from a party for those people. I wish some of those in this House had the guts to do the same thing.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (8.03 pm): It gives me great pleasure to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2017. Since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected in 2015 we have set about righting wrongs and getting Queensland back on track. Where the LNP government sacked workers, we have reinstated them. Where the LNP cut front-line services in health and education, we have restored them. Where the LNP breached the trust of almost every member of our community—the doctors, the nurses, the teachers, the teacher aides, the paramedics, the furies, and all the other public servants you could think of, the lawyers, the judges; you name it, they attacked them—where the LNP breached the trust of these good people, we have worked to restore respect. Where the LNP planned to sell assets, we have retained them. Where the LNP talked down Queensland, we have been talking it up. Where the LNP trashed the environment, we have worked to protect it. Let us not even go there about an LNP leader who announces in his budget reply speech that if he is elected he will use taxpayer funds to build a new coal-fired power station. That is troglodyte territory. As someone said on my Facebook page last night when I talked about it, 'What next? Steam trains and treadle sewing machines?' Flabbergasting. Where, under the LNP, unemployment in this state reached the highest levels in 11 years, we have created 69,000 jobs since we came to power. This budget will deliver an additional 40,000 jobs in this financial year.

Where the LNP trashed our TAFE system and dumped the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program—which is hugely successful in anyone's terms—we have restored those services and programs, giving promise to our young people and equipping them for real jobs. Where the LNP broke promises, we have kept them. Where the LNP had no plan, we have a brave and ambitious plan for Queensland which is getting our state back on track. And we are back on track! Even before the Treasurer delivered this year's truly excellent budget—and I want to congratulate him for that budget—we could boast of huge gains for our economy on the back of our prudent management. Regardless of how the members opposite like to pretend they are financial experts—in fact, some of them were quite embarrassing trying to prove their financial credentials—and regardless of how they naysay our achievements, it is the assessment of highly regarded independent bodies like Moody's and S&P Global that I think most people are interested in and they are giving us a big tick. Queensland is showing the highest levels of business confidence of any state in Australia and the highest levels of consumer confidence, with Moody's restoring our outlook to a Aa1 rating and moving us from the negative outlook of the last five years, that the LNP government delivered to us, to a stable outlook with the creation of 69,000 jobs since we were elected. What a wonderful achievement!

Now we have this brilliant budget that will record a net operating surplus of \$2.8 billion in 2016-17, the biggest surplus in a decade, and will maintain a surplus in each and every year of the forward estimates. It will deliver for people across Queensland. There is something for everyone: investment in jobs, infrastructure, health, education, housing, energy, innovation, skills and training, environment, tourism, law and order measures, small business, industry and investment, the arts, roads, the fight against domestic and family violence, addressing the cost of living, child protection and disabilities.

Our budget delivers for the regions and it delivers for the cities. That is where I have a special interest. While I respect the needs of every single electorate and region in this state—unlike the members opposite—I am an inner-city member. I care about what happens in the inner city. I advocate for the inner city. I am constantly incensed at the derision those opposite show for the inner city and our interests, the contempt they show for what is important to us, the disrespect, the disparaging of our values and priorities and the lack of any sort of priority for the inner city. Speech after speech from the LNP shows what they really think of the inner city. I am here to tell them that people in the inner city are noticing.

As an inner-city member I am thrilled with this budget. On top of the priorities for the regions, this budget delivers on things that are important to me and my constituents in the inner city in the Bulimba electorate. It delivers on Cross River Rail, the No. 1 infrastructure priority for Queensland that will make a real difference to travel time on public transport and to traffic congestion, which is the biggest issue facing my electorate. It will mean 1,500 jobs a year for the seven years of its project life.

We waited for Malcolm Turnbull to deliver his share of this project—just to deliver back to us what Queenslanders have paid to the federal government in taxes. He was happy to give to every other state but not Queensland. He was happy to give 46 per cent of his infrastructure budget to New South Wales—that was some of Queensland taxpayers' money—but not to Queensland. We could not wait around any longer for Malcolm Turnbull. We could not wait to see if the member for Clayfield or anyone else opposite from the LNP would put up their hands for Queensland. We are just going ahead with it ourselves, and what a magnificent project it is!

There are a million other things I could say about this budget and why it is good for Queensland and the Bulimba electorate; however, at this point I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I confirm that I have leave from an acting Speaker, that I have emailed an electronic copy to Hansard and that I will give this paper version to the attendants.

Leave granted.

And what else Mr Speaker?

On Education—This Budget will deliver a record Education Budget of \$13.7 billion to give our kids the best chance in life, and our teachers the support that they so deserve. It will deliver 230 additional teachers to make sure those kids from the first Prep cohort of 2007 aren't disadvantaged in their subject choices as they complete their senior phase of schooling.

It will mean every prep class gets a teacher aide.

It will mean schools for the growing populations of the inner city—new schools in the inner city, for the first time since 1963.

And for us locally it will mean we get a piece of the Advancing Education Budget, with a \$3 million commitment to a multi-purpose hall at the mighty Balmoral High. I can't tell you how ecstatic not only that particular school community were, but school communities all over our local area who use the Balmoral High facilities so often and who so value its place in our local area.

The Budget means we finish work at Murarrie State School to provide outdoor learning to Block B and that we replace the air conditioning at Cannon Hill State School that is such an integral part of the noise mitigation program there—something I fought hard for in my first term to help mitigate the effects of aircraft noise to which they are so much more vulnerable than other schools.

And on public transport Mr Speaker, I can tell you we are thrilled in the Bulimba electorate. Because we not only have \$1.8 million in this budget of the \$3 million allocated to upgrading the park and ride at Murarrie station. And that's on top of the funds allocated to smartening up that station generally. We also have \$250,000 of the \$2 million allocated for the upgrade of the Cannon Hill Park and Ride. Mr Speaker Murarrie commuters were delighted to have their zoning changed in the Palaszczuk Labor Government's Fairer Fares initiative so they were paying the same fares as Cannon Hill commuters—something I fought really hard for. This, along with the upgrade of the station is going to make to a much more appealing and safe option for Murarrie commuters and will take pressure off Cannon Hill. I really want to thank the current and previous Transport Ministers for being so responsive to the public transport needs of our local area.

On other Budget initiatives for our area Mr Speaker, we have:

- Grant funding of \$5,199 to the wonderful Friends of Balmoral Cemetery as part of a \$14,855 commitment over a 3 year period to provide an honour board and guide for the Balmoral Cemetery in commemoration of the 266 Great War soldiers memorialised or buried in the cemetery
- And grant funding to them again, of \$2,629 as part of a \$10,516 commitment over a three year period to produce research booklet identifying 300 soldier laid to rest at the Balmoral Cemetery
- \$301,217 as part of a \$576,980 commitment over two financial years to construct backflow prevention devices at Jamieson St, Bulimba
- Grant funding of \$0.18 million as part of a \$0.55 million commitment over 3 years to provide non-clinical support services to people with mental illness, their carers and families
- Grant funding of \$140,000 as part of an overall \$600,000 collective commitment to QLD Hockey, Morningside AFL and Morningside Tennis.

- Grant funding of \$122,750 as part of a \$245,500 commitment over 1 year provided to Assured IT towards an innovative idea: Tru-Motion Simulation Platform.

Mr Speaker there is so much more to tell, and I look forward to doing the telling over the coming year—both in this house and in my electorate.

I thank the Treasurer again for looking after the interests of Queensland, and more specifically for delivering a Budget which is good for the people of the Bulimba electorate.

I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (8.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Appropriation Bill 2017. The third budget of the Palaszczuk government needed to address the unemployment crisis facing both north and outback Queensland. The Katter party believes that the government has failed to address this and therefore takes a negative view of this budget. The fundamental drivers of these unemployment figures are firmly entrenched in declining industry conditions around many of our great and once proud industries in North Queensland. Not only are these industry conditions affecting our existing industry but they also limit emerging other industries in our patch of the world. It is frustrating beyond belief to continue to watch these opportunities remain immaterial.

Unemployment says so many things about the state of the economy. I often hear in the economic commentary, in this House and out in the public domain, comments about why would we talk ourselves down and why use the word ‘crisis’? It only breeds negativity. That can be a good point of view to have if one is confident that every now and then the government will come in with the cavalry in terms of big infrastructure spends and change the policy to pick things up. But I cannot say that we have that confidence, certainly not in outback or in North Queensland, because all we see in those fundamentals is the sand falling from under us in those towns and cities in those areas. I do not think anyone out there feels that no-one cares; I just think that so many times we seem to be forgotten in the mix.

I shall go through what I mean in that respect. Please know that what is happening in North Queensland and the outback is very bad. Despite terrific enterprise and effort from many individuals and councils, there is no reason to expect much change in the future from this budget unless, of course, there are strong counteractions and moves from the government, not all of which require budget capital; some just rely on policy changes.

I refer to some of these unemployment figures, because they very strongly form the basis of our position. The average unemployment across Queensland is six per cent but I turn now to youth unemployment, In Cairns it is 21 per cent, in the Queensland outback it is 41 per cent and in Townsville it is 21 per cent. Over the last two years there has been some consistency with these figures. Outside Brisbane city, with the odd anomaly, unemployment is stuck in double digits. That is what we see on the ground and it is very consistent with the adversity faced in those areas.

The ugly face of some of these hardships is a rise in job cuts. Although about 60 job cuts does not sound like a big number in here, I assure members that has had a devastating effect from Charters Towers in the member for Dalrymple’s electorate and out to Mount Isa. That has wreaked devastation on local economies. The Lady Loretta mine closure in 2015 saw 450 jobs go, most being FIFO jobs for Townsville, but that still represents a big blow. Century Mine closed down and with it 850 jobs. Mount Isa Mines has endured hundreds of job cutbacks.

I refer to Public Service cutbacks. We all know there was a big load of those cutbacks in the last parliament under the Newman government. The number of public servant FTEs who returned to the field equated to about five per cent in the regions, but in outback Queensland it stayed at 2.1 per cent. Hardly anywhere is below five per cent but we are stuck at 2.1 per cent in terms of people returning to the regions. It has been very evident that a number of those officers and positions that were taken have never returned. That has been a big blow to our economy in those areas. There is a lot of pain in those areas.

To give people a bit of a sense of what it is now like for someone living in Mount Isa, if they go to the doctor, want to visit family in hospital or need to attend a funeral, the last few flights I have paid to get to Brisbane were never less than \$500 or \$600. It costs over \$1,000 at least to fly down here. If one has a wife and a couple of kids, it is easily \$4,000 or \$5,000 to visit anyone. I can barely afford these flights now, so I do not know how anyone on normal wages can afford these prices. We are losing all our jobs out there and the future does not look good in industry out there. There is not the job security that there used to be.

In terms of driving on the roads out west, it is not just the rail charges but the way the rail has been managed that means more and more mines are looking at putting ore on the road. It is less safe to drive on the roads if one does not have enough money to fly to the coast. The roads are more and

more cut up, because ore is not on the rail. I am particularly angry about that, because as a taxpayer if it is not on the rail I am not getting any revenue from it. I do not get any revenue when the ore goes on the road and it is ripping up my road and making it unsafe for me to drive my family to the coast. We see hundreds of thousands of tonnes of ore on the road, because that has not been managed effectively and it ruins viability. There are mines, too, mind you. Obviously if one lives in these areas, one faces a lot of adversity as it is. Flight costs are high and job security is not what it used to be. There are some big problems.

I spoke about some of these core issues that industry faces. I do not want to gloss over that too much, because it is important that I put my name to something that I think is a real problem. One issue that I have talked about in this House for five years, and certainly with this government, is energy prices. In the north-west, that is a really good conversation to have because we have a stranded base-load power station that is 100 per cent reliant on the price of gas. The price of gas has increased significantly over the years. In some cases, mines face increases to one of their biggest costs, which is power. It is often 20 per cent to 30 per cent of operating costs and is usually the highest cost after wages of operating a mine. In many cases that cost has increased 100, 200, even up to 350 per cent, for people trying to get long-term gas contracts in those areas.

If a mine is paying \$100 million a year for power, try taking that up to \$200 million, \$250 million and even \$300 million and see how the viability goes. That is why we are getting signals from some of these mine companies. Glencore raised the issue with the Prime Minister and then sent out a letter warning the public about winding up their operations. Many other mines are crying out about the same issues. They have been ignored for far too long. In the House, we talked about a north-west task force. At the start I was very pleased to have some association with that. We were supposed to see some action on that in the House in September last year, but it did not happen. I have raised that in the House a couple of times since. We see an announcement in this budget, but some of these outcomes needed to be on the ground and running last year to have any effect.

A lot of people might think that it is all out in Mount Isa and ‘what the hell do we care about that; it is not that big a part of the Queensland economy.’ Perhaps it is not that big a part of the Queensland economy. I feel it is. It is worth about \$4 billion in activity and about \$300 million a year in royalties. Mount Isa Mines was voted the most significant business in Queensland’s history. A lot of hospitals, bridges and roads around Queensland were built from the wealth contributed from that area, but nonetheless I believe it still continues to be an economic powerhouse in the state of Queensland and one cannot neglect these issues.

Having task forces or conducting feasibility studies means nothing unless there are outcomes and something comes into this House that results in action. When that happens and when the mines are responding and industry is responding that is when we know we are doing our job properly. Until that point it is all rhetoric and hot air. Until governments grab these industries by the ankles, refuse to let them go anywhere and force them to invest back in these areas, then we are wasting our time with studies and consultants. There must be action.

I need to be grateful for some of the things announced in the budget. The airline price subsidies will help those in the gulf communities of Doomadgee and Mornington Island. The member for Cook, who is sitting beside me in the chamber, has been a great champion of those subsidies. Perhaps in some way I have been a beneficiary of some of the efforts of the member for Cook. That is an important issue for me. I am grateful for that amount that will help people in those areas. Airline prices in the north-west—that is, prices to fly out of Mount Isa—continue to be the most burning issue for people out there. Prices for the commercial route remain unaddressed. There are operators out there price gouging on that route.

There is a \$1 million allocation in the budget for the Lake Julius solar project. That is an initiative that I would like to think I very much played a part in from its inception. It has been pursued well by the council and other proponents in the Mount Isa area. We have great water supplies in the north-west. We have Lake Moondarra and Lake Julius. The problem is the cost of pumping. Having a solar pump will be an advantage to that water supply. I am grateful for that.

Sadly there is very little by way of roads funding in this budget for my electorate. There is still some carryover roads funding from previous years, but there is nothing new. That makes it very difficult to support this budget.

We were happy to receive continued funding for the North West Minerals Province Taskforce. My understanding is that there is some recognition for exploration and drilling. If that is true and that is a tangible part of that funding—and I am yet to be convinced of that—that would be a good thing for the area. I would be grateful for that funding.

I am grateful for the \$5 million in funding for the hospital at Julia Creek. That is an area in the midwest that has been doing it very tough. They would have not seen any new buildings on that site for the last 50 or 100 years. People will be grateful for that. I pass on my thanks for that funding.

There is an economic crisis in North Queensland and outback Queensland. It would take herculean efforts from any government to try to turn that around. That is not evidenced in this budget. It would not take one budget to turn that around; it would take a couple to turn that around. We find this budget lacking in terms of addressing what is desperately required in that area.

I was asked the question the other day: do you think this budget delivers for North Queensland and for the outback? We cannot have both. The government cannot take \$2 billion out of the budget for a project and expect there to be enough in that budget to deliver what is needed in other areas. Cross River Rail is fine. I am happy for the people of Brisbane to get what they want to address traffic issues. I wish the same was applied for people in my area. I fail to see how spending \$2 billion to address traffic issues in the city is a priority for Queensland when there are industries falling over in the regions left, right and centre—industries that desperately need some help.

It is very difficult to understand. It has been a KAP policy for a number of years now that, in this instance, the \$2 billion allocated to Cross River Rail would be much better spent on a rail line through the Galilee Basin so that Adani does not own the rail line but the people of Queensland own the rail line. We would then be the owners of that revenue stream for the extent of its life. That funding would be much better used on an asset that would generate an economic return. That is something we certainly feel very strongly about. Any other mine that opens up in the Galilee Basin will be paying the price for that incorrect decision for many years to come. I might add that the Galilee rail line is about 300 kilometres of rail line not 10.2 kilometres of rail line as is the case with Cross River Rail.

Earlier I alluded to the energy crisis that is affecting the north-west region. Obviously energy is a burning issue across Queensland. Industries in north-west Queensland are a lot more exposed to energy issues because the government failed to build the transmission line when it had federal funding to do so. There was federal funding of about \$340 million to construct the CopperString project. Xstrata, as it was then known, or Mount Isa Mines, had money to put towards that. The remaining third was to come from the state budget, but that was never put up. We were never connected to the national electricity grid. We are completely exposed to the price of gas out in Mount Isa. We desperately need to create a special energy zone around the north-west to recognise that fact. As I have said before, if people want businesses in that region to be there in the future then we have to make a decision about energy. We cannot take for granted that the \$4 billion of economic activity generated in that region will be there.

We believe the balance of the \$1 billion State Infrastructure Fund should be quarantined for those areas that are doing it most tough. Undeniably, the unemployment figures speak for themselves. Areas in outback Queensland and North Queensland are the ones that are in desperate need of some attention. It does not make sense—and quite frankly I am sick of hearing it from people—that we have to spend money in Brisbane to make the rest of Queensland sing.

It does not make sense when we know that the money votes gravitate to this area. We have to make a conscious effort to get things happening out in remote areas where some of this industry exists. It is a tough thing for any government to do. If those efforts are not made then industry is not going to be there. Having access to those infrastructure funds is something we feel strongly about.

The remaining funds should be quarantined to address unemployment in North Queensland, particularly youth unemployment where we are seeing figures as high as 40 per cent. They need to see that there is a future for them there. That certainly does not exist now. That should be of the upmost interest to this parliament wherever we are from. We should be lending a hand to the areas where we have the biggest problems. That is why we will always say that there needs to be a fair go for all of Queensland. In the current context, that applies strongly to North Queensland.

To that end, we believe that the balance of the state infrastructure funds should be focused on large projects in North Queensland until such time as unemployment is addressed. Further to that, we believe that a North Queensland budget equity board should be established which would operate from year to year so that politicians are not coming down here and using whatever leverage they can every budget cycle. This would ensure that funding is allocated on a fair basis, with rotating council chairs who get to gloss over the budget and appreciate the fact that we have been underdone in the past but we can balance it out in the future in a fair way that is equitable for the whole state.

 **Mr GORDON** (Cook—Ind) (8.30 pm): I start by acknowledging the commitment, the hard work and the passion of my fellow crossbench members, particularly those from Far North Queensland, and thank them for their passionate advocacy over the last few months for a better deal for Far North Queensland and regional north-west Queensland. This week I was hoping for ‘third time lucky’—that we would have a state budget for the whole of Queensland. Unfortunately, this did not happen. The explanations for why it was necessary to spend big in the south and so little in regional Queensland, particularly in North Queensland in my electorate of Cook, is an attitude that strikes at the very heart of those living in regional North Queensland and motivates them to demand a greater deal and self-determination for their future.

The swan song, the flagship, the Southern Cross guiding the budget presented to this House, is a railway that will cross a river in Brisbane to ease traffic. ‘Jobs’ it is meant to hark, supporting 40,000 jobs and creating new ones—but jobs for whom and jobs where? In my electorate of Cook I have the two oldest living cultures in the world residing in the Torres Strait Islands and on Cape York. Jobs for people in these remote and isolated communities cannot be anything short of real jobs. No-one in my communities sends their kids to school, buys a new car, pays off a mortgage on Work for the Dole schemes. We need real jobs.

Twelve months ago in this very building I spoke with the Premier of Queensland, the Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk. The Premier and I met and she asked, ‘Billy, what are we going to do about the Aurukun problem?’ This was just after Christmas a couple of Christmases ago when there was a lot of unrest and trouble in the community. I said to the Premier that we need to develop that mineral resource in the bauxite mine sitting outside that community. It is only going to be through real jobs and economic development activity that we are going to lift my people out of poverty and disadvantage in communities like Aurukun and across the cape. We have been sitting on that deposit, stalling and baulking at its development for too long. My people come and go. They die waiting for that mine to be developed, waiting for a job for themselves, for their children and for their grandchildren. We cannot continue on this trajectory.

It is not a fair budget, nor is it any more forward looking to drive investments and jobs in regional Queensland, and it is not equitable. Looking beyond the figures and the statistics, the government is thin on humanity. Yes, it is a great plan to restore services cut by the previous LNP government, but it is hardly a plan to attract investment and jobs where they are most needed in regional and remote Queensland, other than those jobs that we know exist in the extraction of natural resources. It is here where humanity fights with the high cost of living—paying so much for electricity, water and food—and with natural disasters of droughts and floods and rising tides, and where humanity must prevail to end welfare and marginalisation. More needs to be done soon.

We have to be astonished—indeed, astounded—by a \$2.5 billion spend in one electorate in the south-east corner of this state. I repeat: \$2.5 billion. I can think of better projects and more meaningful projects to spend that \$2.5 billion on that would help everyday Queenslanders. This is one-seventh of the Santos LNG project in Gladstone, but that project in Gladstone actually exports gas to South Korea. It generates revenue for the state.

Adding up all of the projects announced in the budget for the people of the Cook electorate, I do welcome some commitments from the government. There is funding for the Horn Island Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Services centre and funding for the local airfare subsidy scheme that will be rolled out and continued to be rolled out in the Gulf Country in Weipa, which I am really happy about, as well as on Cape York and in the Torres Strait. I do have to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Jackie Trad, and her ongoing commitment to making sure that this valuable and precious cost-of-living measure is rolled out. She has been with me from day one when I was elected and she still remains committed to making sure that people in regional and remote Torres Strait and Cape York are offered this valuable cost-of-living measure.

There is funding for the NPA Bamaga junior campus—the northern peninsula area of the Bamaga campus; the Mer health centre on Murray Island; the Mareeba State School; the Cape York tenure resolution project; and the widening of the Burke Development Road and so forth. It sounds like a grinner’s list, doesn’t it, but it is an illusion when it comes to the real expenditure in the grand context of Queensland. What the budget promises for Cook’s regional and remote communities does not come close to even half the amount of funds allocated to that one single project in the southern belt going over a river.

There is no funding for important projects, which in my time in this parliament I have been continually speaking to government about. These projects include the sealing of the Chillagoe to Almaden road; a ring-road from Mareeba—a heavy vehicle bypass to take heavy vehicles out of the main street of Mareeba; a dialysis unit for Mareeba Hospital that would serve the Cook electorate, bar those that depend on Thursday Island's hospital dialysis service; a social services hub in Mareeba; and a better radar system for Horn Island's aviation operators.

More importantly—and this is something close to my heart—in a visit to the Torres Strait island of Badu Island over 12 months ago, I met with elders, senior women and elected leaders in the community who talked to me about their very urgent need for a police presence—a bona fide police station with proper police officers stationed on the island. The land has been freed up. The council and the community have gifted land to the state government to build a police station there. They talked about the high incidence of domestic and family violence that is emerging on this island. They talked about the drink-driving that happens on this island. They talked about the noise pollution, the illegal gambling and other law and order issues. Badu Island is the state's most northern populated community, with a community of 1,000 people. It has a fully licensed pub. My question to the government is: why is it okay to support the sale and consumption of alcohol on an island, but it is not right to put a bona fide police station there to keep the community safe and to keep our women and children who are suffering in silence safe?

There is funding to address the dire public housing demand at Mossman in the Douglas shire—I want to acknowledge that. There is funding for agricultural development on Cape York for Indigenous communities, and there is funding for tourism infrastructure for the Cape York Peninsula—although there is a paved road going through, it is funded jointly by the state and Commonwealth.

This is not a strategic budget for regional Queensland because it relies—in fact, it depends—too much on one source of new future revenue, and that is coal. 'Developing Northern Australia' is a myth. You have to be kidding me when you say that this is happening or is going to happen, even with the best intentions presented in this budget.

The budget is a displacement of focus again—third time unlucky. It is indulgent outside of regional Queensland—indulgence by and for the big cities. I cannot see how and where this budget will stimulate economic activities, build industries, encourage commerce and sustain new businesses to develop and diversify Queensland's economy, particularly in my electorate of Cook. The spot fire funding that has happened there belies the fact that more substantive investment in the region needs to happen.

For all the promises of diversification and growing the state's economy, the budget is not appealing for future investors to invest and reinvest in regional North Queensland and create valuable long-term jobs. In saying that, I wish to outline five budget commitments that I welcome. I do that with a preamble that I will request more clarity from the government on the breakdown of these figures and what this entails for the people of the Cook electorate. The list is for *Hansard* so I will not present them here, but I will hand in my statement for the record. The five commitments are: the Indigenous water infrastructure program, \$120 million; Queensland reef water quality, \$175 million; the Burke Development Road widening from Normanton to Dimbulah, which is part of the Northern Australia Beef Roads Program with the Australian government; the Cape York tenure resolution program, \$14.2 million out of \$81.3 million; and the \$50 million Back to Work funding. However I stress that my definition of 'work' once again is real work, not ad hoc CDEP type transitional arrangements with training for training sake's under conditions demanded by Centrelink, particularly in Indigenous shires in Cook.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the Treasurer for his third budget. I acknowledge the government for restoring vital services that the previous government slashed away in social, education, health and Indigenous affairs. I commend the government for a commitment to a carbon economy in Cape York, a plan that recognises the value of environmental goals and sustainability, a balance between protecting our natural environment and creating economic development opportunities. As I earlier alluded to in my introduction, the imbalance in the budget is telling. Though I will exercise due care in my duties as a legislator, I have reservations on the budget presented. Hence, I will partake in the deliberations of the Appropriation Bill accordingly and respectfully.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (8.41 pm): I rise to speak on the budget in 2017. We received \$250,000 to address the issue of sedge. Sedge has been a big issue for us. The previous agricultural minister came to the Tablelands to visit the farmers and see firsthand the devastation that sedge grass is causing to that region and the northern region. Sedge is a devastating weed that is costing the cattle industry and the dairy industry hundreds of thousands if not millions of dollars each year and it needs to be addressed.

We had a number of questions to the minister, and the Treasurer went up to have a look at it. It is disappointing to see the devastation caused by this weed. The cattle cannot eat it. If they do eat the sedge, it stays in their stomachs and they cannot digest it and they die. Even in a period of drought, amongst the springs, we see this nice looking green grass everywhere. Even though it is nice and green in the middle of a drought when everything else is dead, it is left there because the cattle cannot eat it. This has taken over the Atherton Tablelands. It is an insult to receive a lousy \$250,000 for something that is causing massive devastation right across the northern regions and is taking over our good grazing country. It is even taking over our football fields.

That \$250,000 was committed to the Tablelands Regional Council and the other councils, but that \$250,000 commitment by the state government will only be matched if the TRC can find \$250,000 from their budget and a further \$250,000 of private investment. Sedge impacts the fruit bowl of Queensland. The agricultural industries on the Tablelands are worth upward of \$500 million. Sedge will destroy all of these industries.

The TRC have already spent \$100,000 on sedge eradication, which is 44 per cent of their biosecurity budget on one weed. To raise this kind of money, the TRC will have to increase rates by four per cent across the entire council to fund the government's planned contribution. The TRC asked for \$1.5 million and they have been told to stump up half a million dollars for only \$250,000 in return. The TRC believe this is not feasible, given that they hand down their budget in five days and currently there is a parliamentary inquiry into the feasibility of local councils because of the deficits that local governments are currently running at. Sedge does not just affect the Tablelands Regional Council; it affects councils right across North Queensland.

It was quite insulting to receive only \$250,000 when it is a massively destructive weed. I hope the Minister for Agriculture and the Treasurer can come up with some sort of solution to this because it is impacting this whole region and it is devastating. We need to combat this. All they wanted was some funding for R&D through the department of agriculture and Biosecurity Queensland so they could find a way to kill the sedge and then combat the pre-emergent weed that is coming up. That is all they are asking for.

In regard to other funding in the budget, we appreciate the \$590,000 for the H block hall and tuckshop at Ravenshoe State School. That money comes through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program. That is good dollars well spent, but we went to the school three years ago with the P&C, and we worked with facilities Queensland and lobbied for that funding and it has taken three years to get that money. The Ravenshoe community, the Ravenshoe school, the principals, the past principals and the present and previous P&C are very appreciative of this money that has come to them. It did not come on a silver platter; there was a lot of work behind this.

I also acknowledge the money that will go towards B block at Yungaburra State School. This is another area where we worked very hard with the P&C, facilities Queensland and the minister. The prep room is too cluttered and they do not have a sick bay area. They have \$70,000 for the walkways going up to the school, which was falling to pieces. Those funds will go to that. We are very appreciative of that, but it is not something that was just pulled out of a hat; it is something that we worked extremely hard for.

There is \$280,000 to refurbish B block through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program at Charters Towers. The P&C came down here and wrote to the government and the education department. They have secured some air conditioning and shade cover which is needed. The air conditioning was run down and some classrooms had no air conditioning at all. At the moment, the Charters Towers community are rejoicing because they have those funds. It is a similar story in that there was a lot of work behind this funding.

Milchester State School will receive \$285,000 to refurbish D block. This is important for the Charters Towers region because they are the hub of the education industry. There are three private schools, three primary schools—Milchester, Central and Richmond Hill—the School of Distance Education and the Charters Towers State High School. It is a hub of the education industry and it is very important that those funds go to that region.

I also acknowledge the \$6.1 million to replace the Atherton Police Station. Seven years ago, I walked into that police station and found that the station and the watch house were cluttered and the police could not carry out their police work. The police were unhappy because their conditions caused problems for them. When they were interviewing people who had not done the right thing by the law, everyone could listen to all of the conversations because that station was so cluttered. This is good for the Atherton Tablelands. We also have two extra police officers at Malanda who were inducted three weeks ago.

I also acknowledge the \$5 million upgrade to the section of the Flinders Highway between Charters Towers and Townsville. I am quite disappointed that the Irvinebank Road received \$595,000 to resheet it. It is very important that we upgrade and seal that road. We do not want to keep resheeting it. Year in and year out, the resheeting gets washed away. There are massive ruts in the road between Irvinebank and Petford. There have been five accidents in three months on that section of road. Cars that continually travel down that road bump themselves out of alignment and sustain a lot of damage. As I said, there are also serious accidents, all because of insufficient funding. All people want is for the bad sections of that 15-kilometre stretch of road, that is, four or five kilometres of it, to be sealed. They do not want it resheeted or graded, because the rocks project through the road. They just want the government to get in there and do the job properly. I have tabled a petition from 392 residents, which states—

Residents of the Atherton Tablelands draw to the attention of the House, the urgent upgrade required for the Herberton to Irvinebank Road. This road is a main arterial road connecting the communities of Watsonville and Irvinebank and extends through to Petford require immediate attention to upgrade the road to a sealed standard. Every year this road deteriorates to an unuseable standard that requires continuous grading however this causes rocks to project out through the road which leads to significant vehicle damage and unsafe driving. Herberton-Petford Road is also a designated school bus route that places children's lives at risk.

Since February this year there have been seven reported accidents. Five of the accidents resulted in personal injury. These statistics do not take into account unreported accidents. All road users fear for their safety when travelling this road due to the poor conditions.

Your petitioners, therefore, request the House to prioritise the immediate upgrade to a sealed standard for the Herberton to Irvinebank Road.

Although I tabled that petition this morning, I table it again.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition requesting the House to prioritise the immediate upgrade to a sealed standard for the Herberton to Irvinebank Road [1035].

There are not a lot of residents at Herberton, but the school bus travels down that road and picks up school kids. It costs up to \$20,000 each year to repair the damage done to that school bus because it travels on that road. The road is a shortcut from Herberton to Petford, from Herberton to Dimbulah and from Herberton to Chillagoe, saving up to 30 kilometres. That means fewer cars travelling through the Tablelands area, causing less damage to that road. Sealing the Irvinebank Road makes sense. We are sick of the crumbs. We want the black stuff. We want the road sealed.

My community has a lot of concerns about the funding that we receive, year in and year out. In the past 30 years, there were probably only one or two budgets that North Queenslanders have benefitted from. Robbie Katter, the member for Mount Isa, talked about a budget equity commission so that North Queensland can receive its fair share of funding. Two years ago, the Townsville and Cairns areas were \$500 million short in terms of the State Infrastructure Fund. We believe that there needs to be something tangible to ensure that there is a balance for our regions. In this parliament we fought for four extra seats in the redistribution, but those seats are now going to be in Brisbane. Obviously, that means that voting power and numbers are decreasing in the north and increasing in the south-east. North Queenslanders believe that we need a budget equity commission, because we want to see balanced funding.

When it comes to infrastructure, the government talks about the rail line under the Brisbane River, Cross River Rail, which is a project worth up to \$5 billion. As I said before, we seem to believe that the private sector must fund everything. However, all we need to do is build the \$2.5 billion railway in the Galilee Basin and up to 27,000 jobs would be created. We would own that railway line. We would have control of the Galilee Basin, which means royalties for life and transport haulage for life. Do we want to see Adani going to the federal government and the state government for royalty relief or do we want the money to build that railway track? Let us have the intestinal fortitude to make the decision to build the railway track.

We have a feasibility study for the Hell's Gate Dam, which is a tangible project that would breathe life into the North Queensland region in terms to jobs, water security and development in the region. The dam would gravity feed water to Townsville, resolving water supply problems there. It would gravity feed water to the Charters Towers region, opening up that area to more development. It would provide continuous water security to the Burdekin region. Instead, we are talking about upgrading the wall in the Burdekin Dam, which sounds great. As you lift up that water, you have to keep the hydropower generation operating, but in the north the landowners and irrigators need that water. There will be a lot of pressure for that operation to continue to provide 50 megawatts a year, which is not much in terms of power generation. You would still have to pump water uphill to Townsville to provide water security.

If we constructed the Hell's Gate Dam, water would be gravity fed to Townsville. The project would mean jobs for the Charters Towers and Townsville regions. It is much closer. Being able to gravity feed water would open up the area and provide water security to the Burdekin. It is a win, win, win for all. The Labor Party has decided not to take this option because they have a no-new-dams policy. They do not want to cop flak for building another dam so have had to find another option, which is to raise the dam wall. I do not know if we will even receive that funding. I am very disappointed that we are talking about this, because the Burdekin Dam is in my electorate. My community leaders and those in Townsville are pushing for the Hell's Gate Dam, so to see it being ignored is very disappointing.

North Queensland needs a budget equity commission so that we can have balanced funding. We also need to support jobs and water infrastructure within the region. I have had a lot of communication with the Department of Natural Resources about the Big Rocks Weir, which is a \$20 million project. It costs \$33 million to build an average bridge and we are looking at only \$20 million to construct the Big Rocks Weir, which would hold 10,000 megalitres of water. That project would provide opportunities for development and water security in the Charters Towers region. It is such a simple thing. We have a choice: of course we need bridges, but we could spend \$33 million on a new bridge or \$20 million on a weir that would provide water security and jobs for the region. Let us get out there, have a go and make an effort to do something. I wanted to bring those matters to the attention of the House.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (8.59 pm): This budget delivers on our promise to Queenslanders to strengthen our economy, restore front-line services and create jobs. We have a strong economic plan that invests in the infrastructure we need to create jobs and grow Queensland's economy.

Our government will build Cross River Rail. This will transform our city, making Brisbane a more attractive place to live, work and visit, and it will take more than 18,000 cars off our roads. It will give us a world-class public transport system and drive investment in our city. We can build transformative public infrastructure like Cross River Rail because we have managed the economy responsibly. In this year's state budget we delivered the biggest surplus in 11 years. We have seen business confidence return after the dark Newman years that made the Queensland economy grind to a halt. In fact, the Sensis Business Confidence Index for SMEs puts Queensland at the highest level in seven years, and unemployment continues to decrease after reaching an 11-year high during the Newman-Nicholls years.

As the Minister for Education, I am proud to deliver another record investment in our schools—in total, \$9.8 billion to drive improvements to education across Queensland. We believe that every child, no matter where they live, deserves access to the best education that we can provide. That is why our budget will enable us to employ more teachers, continue our reforms to senior secondary and build major new school infrastructure where it is needed most. Through our Building Future Schools fund we are investing \$500 million over five years to build a new high school at Fortitude Valley; a new high school in Brisbane's inner south; major expansions at West End State School; and purchase land for new schools in high-growth areas across Queensland. We are planning ahead to build new high schools in Logan South, Mount Low in Townsville, North Lakes and Mango Hill and Calliope. We are also investing—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. We are also investing \$250 million to get our high schools ready with the space they need to accommodate six full cohorts of students when they come online into high schools in 2020.

We are also continuing to deliver our extra teachers commitment to employ 875 additional teachers above growth over three years. We have more teachers working in our classrooms than ever before. I am so pleased that this state budget also delivers an additional 4,000 teacher aide hours in prep classrooms across Queensland every single week. This investment will support our youngest students, our little preppies, and with \$24 million over four years to boost prep teacher aide hours we will deliver a full-time teacher aide in our prep classrooms.

When it comes to education, the choice between the Palaszczuk government and the LNP under Tim Nicholls is stark. We will not forget that as treasurer Tim Nicholls cut 500 teachers from classrooms and shut down our schools. We are providing more classroom teachers, more specialist teachers, more teacher aides and more additional guidance officers to support our students and their learning. We do not see education as a cost; we see education as an investment.

We are also investing in the booming Queensland tourism industry. As a proud fifth-generation Queenslander, it is a real privilege to serve as the Minister for Tourism. This budget delivers ongoing funding to continue to grow Queensland's tourism industry. We invest in tourism because we know that tourism supports thousands of jobs across Queensland, and that is why in this budget we are providing an extra \$47 million to extend our \$400 million four-year funding guarantee. This will provide Tourism and Events Queensland with the funding certainty they need to grow visitation to Queensland. As we know, when we came into government there was no funding in the forward estimates for Tourism and Events Queensland, which meant they could not go into good faith negotiations to secure major events or new campaigns to Queensland. We have fixed this.

We are standing by our commitment as well as rolling out the four-year \$33.5 million Advance Queensland: Connecting with Asia Strategy. We have also moved quickly to provide funding for Tropical Cyclone Debbie recovery efforts with more than \$9 million for the tourism industry and small businesses. I want to give a big shout-out to Craig at Tourism Whitsundays. He has been quite sick after all the hard work that he has done after the cyclone and—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms JONES: Oh, my goodness. I just wanted to acknowledge a really hardworking Queenslander who works in the Whitsundays. He has been in hospital and I wanted to wish him well.

When it comes to the Commonwealth Games, we will continue to roll out funding to ensure that preparations continue for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games. We know that this is on time, on track and on budget. It is so exciting to think that we are now down to the final countdown for the Commonwealth Games. It will be transformative for the Gold Coast and Queensland when you think about the audience of more than 1.5 billion people from around the world who will see what we all know: that Queensland is the jewel in Australia's crown.

As part of this year's budget we will contribute \$525 million to the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Corporation to complete the final preparations and delivery of the games. Our investment in the games is an investment in jobs. Between now and the games we expect to employ a further 800 people at Goldoc. In total, the games will support around 30,000 jobs. But more than that, what is exciting me as I travel around Queensland and talk to people about the Commonwealth Games—and I know it is the same for all members of the House—is that the excitement is growing. We are starting to see the athletes of the future—the ones who will have the opportunity to compete on home soil in front of a home crowd for the very first time. We are going to make lifelong memories when we deliver the Commonwealth Games in Queensland in April 2018.

I am also very proud to be standing at the next election in the new seat of Cooper. Cooper retains the suburbs of Ashgrove, The Gap and Bardon but also includes Red Hill, Paddington, Kelvin Grove and Milton. I lived in Barton before we moved to Ashgrove when I was a girl. I attended Rainworth State School and Kelvin Grove State College. It is a vibrant and beautiful part of Brisbane, with Mount Coot-tha at its heart and D'Aguilar National Park as our backyard. I am very proud that I was the minister that declared D'Aguilar National Park when I was the environment minister. We have many families that, just like mine, love living in the inner west, and we know that education is fundamental to the prosperity of our children's lives. That is why I am very proud to be not only the candidate for the Labor Party for Cooper but also the Minister for Education who is delivering record investment: \$6 million for the Kelvin Grove sports hall, which is something they have been lobbying for for years; \$1.5 million for the hall upgrade at The Gap State School; \$200,000 to upgrade the old preschool classrooms at Payne Road State School; \$100,000 to refurbish the hall at Ithaca Creek State School; and construction work will commence within a matter of weeks on the arts block expansion at The Gap State High School. Of course all schools in my local community will benefit from the extra prep teacher aide hours that we have funded in this budget.

Locally, we also benefit from the continued investment in Walkabout Creek at D'Aguilar National Park, with a further \$1 million allocated in this budget as part of the redevelopment to encourage more local families and visitors to come and see this beautiful part of Brisbane. I have already received good feedback from locals about the \$11 million allocated in this budget to transform the Sciencentre at the Queensland Museum into an interactive hub for STEM. For all the parents in the room—member for Keppel, this will soon be your life—as a mother you spend many, many hours walking around the Queensland Museum and the Sciencentre, and this \$11 million upgrade to that facility is not only going to be welcome by parents but also educators and teachers. All the parents in the room are nodding.

Other highlights that will benefit locals in my community include: the extension of the \$20,000 First Home Owners' Grant; the apprentice and trainee payroll tax rebate; and the Fairer Fares policy, which significantly reduces the cost of public transport for commuters. In fact, if you are a commuter who lives at The Gap and you travel into the city every single day, you save up to \$300 a year on your bus fare. I have had great feedback from my community. I want to thank the member for Sandgate for initiating this when he was the minister. It is a great initiative that makes public transport affordable and encourages people to use it which, in conjunction with this huge investment in Cross River Rail, will continue to see traffic congestion-busting policies from our government.

Finally, this budget funds a clean energy future for Queensland. When it comes to clean energy, green energy and our future, the contribution from Tim Nicholls and the LNP—

A government member: Was woeful!

Ms JONES: I will take that interjection—woeful! It was all about a coal-fired power station and going backwards. We know that there are jobs in renewable energy. Unlike those opposite, we believe that we can reach a renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030 for Queensland. We know that we can deliver this because Queenslanders want it. They want a clean energy future for their children and for our economy. Our \$1.16 billion Powering Queensland Plan not only puts downward pressure on electricity prices but also will drive investment in new energy sources.

Our policy transition to renewables by 2030 is all about green energy and creating jobs in Queensland. We know that the LNP does not like solar. I remember when Campbell Newman wanted to cut the solar rebate and the heat he got in our local community. My local community has one of the highest rates of uptake of solar energy in Queensland. My community believes in solar energy. My community believes in renewable energy. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering that plan for Queensland. I will always fight for a cleaner, greener future for Queensland. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr POWER (Logan—ALP)** (9.10 pm): It is always a pleasure to speak after the member for Ashgrove and future member for Cooper. I know that she is really passionate about the investment we are making in the Yarrabilba State School this year. I look forward to being with her at the opening of the school. I also acknowledge her interest in higher education in the area. We will continue to have that conversation.

I rise to speak in support of the appropriation bills for 2017. Disappointingly, last night in this place the member for Beaudesert made very serious accusations against me regarding the funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway. I took this very seriously, for is not the honourable member for Beaudesert an honourable man? He said that I had misled the House when it came to my statement that the three years of the Palaszczuk Labor government had budgeted for 10 times as much new spending as the former Newman-Nicholls government. That was the government of which the member for Beaudesert was a member and of which the member for Clayfield was the treasurer. Page 1756 of *Hansard* shows the member for Beaudesert claiming—

... the LNP budgeted and delivered and allocated at least \$25 million—

you always have to be suspicious of a budget claim when it is 'at least'—

for the Beaudesert Town Bypass project ...

He also said that I should look up my history properly. I was shocked and concerned for I did not wish to mislead the House, so I did as instructed by the member for Beaudesert and I had a look at the history. Firstly, if the Beaudesert bypass was truly 'budgeted and delivered and allocated' then every member of this House would expect it to appear in budget documents. After all, the member for Beaudesert would surely not mislead the House! I dug up the 2014-15 QTRIP statement and found nothing for the Beaudesert bypass.

In his speech last night the member for Beaudesert suggested that we have 'trouble dealing with numbers'; however, as the Minister for Main Roads knows well, the number the member is looking for is not in QTRIP. If the member for Beaudesert cannot read the numbers then the *Beaudesert Times*, his local newspaper, can help him out. On 6 June 2014 the *Beaudesert Times* read 'Queensland budget 2014: Beaudesert bypass misses out on funding'. For the benefit of the member for Beaudesert, I table the article so he can understand it.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Beaudesert Times*, date 6 June 2014, titled 'Queensland Budget 2014: Beaudesert bypass misses out on funding' [1036].

If it was not in the last Newman-Nicholls budget—if the member for Clayfield did not care about it—then it could not possibly be ‘budgeted and delivered and allocated’.

What could the member for Beaudesert mean? Could he mean this press release from the member for Callide well after the budget? This October 2016 press release does reference a Beaudesert bypass, but does it meet the member for Beaudesert’s test that this project was ‘budgeted and delivered and allocated’? In the press release the member for Callide uses the most woolly and vague language about the funding. The press release states—

... we will partner with the Scenic Rim Regional Council, the Department of Transport and Main Roads, Mirvac and Eureka Funds Management to fund the Beaudesert Town Bypass.

No-one could make the claim that that was ‘budgeted and delivered and allocated’. On the same day the member for Beaudesert made a statement in the House on the project. He claimed that the bypass ‘will be funded’—as in, ‘It will be done at some time in the future after we stitch up a few vague deals with multiple partners who have not agreed to anything.’ No reasonable person would claim that this meant ‘budgeted and delivered and allocated’. From reading the member’s statement we get further evidence of how the project would eventually be budgeted for. I quote the member for Beaudesert explaining how the Beaudesert bypass might be funded. He said—

Utilising proceeds from the lease of some state assets to remove this cost from small business is just like a farmer leasing a spare paddock ...

He stated further—

It is the strongest option to free up—

by this he means sell off for 50 years—

that \$1.3 billion ...

He went on—

That is the equivalent of 52 Beaudesert town bypasses.

From looking at the history it is clear that there was no budget, no allocation and certainly no delivery of the Beaudesert bypass. Instead, the member relied upon a yet-to-be-worked-out contribution from multiple contributors—

Opposition members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Members on my left, you are being disruptive. If it continues I will have to issue a warning.

Mr POWER: I can understand why they are embarrassed by this. It also relied on the future sell-off for 50 years of state assets to the value of 52 times the cost of the bypass. No reasonable person could claim the project was ‘budgeted and delivered and allocated’. Instead, it is the member for Yeerongpilly and Minister for Main Roads who budgeted and allocated and is currently delivering. He is doing it without selling off assets. It is this government that delivers for the Mount Lindesay Highway. I anticipate that the member for Beaudesert will promptly apologise to the House. Anything else would be, as he said, a con job.

When it comes to the Mount Lindesay Highway north of Beaudesert we are delivering 10 times as much as the last government. I will keep fighting for more, but there are some positive projects. When the member for Yeerongpilly was returning from Beaudesert, where he had just announced the contract on the Beaudesert bypass, he took the time to see the details of the intersections on the Mount Lindesay Highway—the recently completed Camp Cable Road intersection upgrade but also other intersections. The minister and I walked the St Aldwyn Road intersection and Greenbank Road intersection. That is why when the opportunity arose the minister could recently announce that the service road between Chambers Flat opposite Greenbank Road through St Aldwyn all the way to opposite Greenbank Road would be upgraded and the Greenbank Road intersection upgraded.

In Logan we keenly feel every accident that happens on our roads, especially the recent accident at St Aldwyn Road. The funding cannot come soon enough to make this road safer. I am also working with TMR to make sure that St Aldwyn and Olley’s country market are as safe and convenient as we can make them. Close to 4,000 people have signed the petition to advocate for this service. I am on their side. I know that the Minister for Main Roads is listening to them, too.

Even better is the announcement of funding for four-laning from the end of the four lanes at Rosia Road through to the Granger Road and Stoney Camp Road intersections. This means that drivers heading south—

Mr Cramp interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Gaven, I warn you under standing order 253A.

Mr POWER: They do not like to hear about great road projects. This means that drivers heading south will no longer need to merge together then weave away to exit if they are using Granger Road or Stoney Camp Road. This makes this section of the road safer and faster. There is much more to fund on the Mount Lindesay Highway. I apologise to the minister, but I will continue to push for more funding at every opportunity.

Further, I have campaigned hard for extra funds for the Waterford-Tamborine Road. In the member for Clayfield's last budget, the one that Queenslanders so completely rejected, there was little funding for the Waterford-Tamborine Road. With local councillors—here I recognise Councillor Laurie Koranski and Mayor Luke Smith—we pushed for better roads to cope with the growth in Yarrabilba. The minister listened and brought forward the \$40 million in funding and now in the budget has announced \$8 million in new extra funding to upgrade the North Street intersection. It is a key bottleneck as the roundabout fails to cope with the traffic from the main road and the two side roads. This is vital, and the community consultation and design should begin immediately. The upgrade will reduce congestion at this bottleneck.

There are positive investments in our local state roads, but with them being ignored by the LNP for three years we need to play catch-up and continue to fund them. That is what I will be fighting for. This budget does not just deliver for roads, even though I have spoken extensively about roads in Logan; it is a strong budget that can still invest in the vital services that our growing areas of Logan and the growing families in Logan need.

Recent Tropical Cyclone Debbie floods hit Logan families hard. The farms, businesses and family homes will take some time to recover. It is estimated that the cyclone will cost the Queensland budget, but the state budget is still robust and it will stand with Queenslanders in need, and this budget accounts for the cost of supporting Queenslanders in need. People in Logan know that they live in a state where mates do not let their mates down. Recently I was with the Treasurer in Logan as he visited an innovative Dutch company, Vadain, that had chosen to set up a new factory, employing 40 people making high-quality curtains—an innovative company well matched with the innovative Logan community. Later that day I also attended the mayor's Logan Innovation Summit. I know that when the Treasurer drafted this budget he had in mind the hard workers of Logan, the innovation of Logan, the future of Logan. I feel confident that we should support the Appropriation Bill. Madam Deputy Speaker, I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker our schools in Logan are vital as families seeking a great education for their children settle in Logan. We are investing in that great education. The Yarrabilba Primary School was brought forward recently when both the Premier and Minister Kate Jones visited the Yarrabilba site. This budget completes this funding for the construction of the school.

It also delivers the funding for Special Education building and classrooms for the Flagstone Community College, refurbishing the Library at Browns Plains State School, pathways and ramps for the Regents Park State School Education Program and a refurbishment of Block B at Jimboomba State School. I'll continue to put on the agenda the future Yarrabilba High School which is so vital for the Yarrabilba and Logan Village area.

It isn't just the physical infrastructure; this budget delivers 3095 more teachers than when we formed this government and in a new announcement this budget delivers extra funding to ensure that every prep class will have a full-time Prep teacher. As the father of a excited and curious recent Prep graduate I wholeheartedly support this policy that improves the educational outcomes in this critical foundation year.

Mr Speaker Logan Families want their families to be healthy. This budget invests in our health services, funds the Community Health Action Plan, continues to fund the expanded Emergency Department and funds the Logan Hospital car park with 500 new car spaces to make it easier to access the Hospital.

Mr Speaker this budget funds the city defining Cross-River Rail project. Some mistakenly see this as only an inner city project but nothing could be further from reality. It delivers great benefits for Logan. Faster travel on the Beenleigh line but also it paves the way for the line that will serve Flagstone and Greenbank a vital future project that simply cannot be realised without the extra river crossing that the Cross River Rail project delivers.

Mr Speaker this is a budget that delivers for jobs in Logan. In 2017-18 there will be significant investment in infrastructure including the Logan Motorway Enhancement project that delivers the flyover for traffic going from the Mt Lindesay to the Gateway and underpass for traffic going from Brisbane to Ipswich so that northbound traffic from Logan can proceed north without traffic crossing the Mt Lindesay Highway. Vital is the duplication of Wembley Rd which will drive jobs not just in construction but also drive local jobs because of better local connections. This budget continues to invest in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program that has such a strong return for the state and for job seekers.

The budget makes clear there was a net operating surplus of \$2.8 billion in 2016-17, the largest surplus since 2005-06, which will strengthen the ability of this government to invest in future infrastructure. The forecasts show that economic growth will continue to rise.

Mr Speaker Logan continues to be a place of hard work, of strong families of new developing areas. This budget shows a government that backs the Logan community with investments in our roads, our schools, better health and provides the platform for jobs growth.

I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (9.20 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Appropriation Bill 2017. As the smoke and mirrors slowly clear and we can start to see this budget for what it is, the first question we need to ask ourselves is: what exactly is a budget for? It is to tell the people of Queensland how the government plans to spend their hard-earned taxpayers' dollars delivering services and facilities for them. The question is: what sorts of services and facilities do the people of Queensland deserve and does this budget deliver on that? I put it to members—and the Minister for Education spoke about young children before—with a deficit growing to over \$80 billion, I wonder if those children will see that deficit cleared before they graduate from school to retirement, because with a couple of billion dollars a year surplus it is going to take maybe 40 years to pay back the deficit that Labor has racked up over the years. It is very important that people understand that that is seriously now starting to inhibit Queensland's ability to be able to provide the services, facilities and infrastructure that the people of Queensland might want.

In my electorate the question is: what do people want? There has been a lot of talk in this place about a railway crossing, and I am sure that that railway crossing in the south-east corner will be a fine thing for people to be able to get to work maybe 15 minutes earlier and home 15 minutes earlier and may take some cars off the road. The question is: is that the best use of our \$80 billion debt and the climb to that \$80 billion, or should we really be prioritising other things across Queensland? Will the children in grade 7 or 8 now be happy that when they are in their 50s and 60s they will be paying tax for these facilities and this infrastructure to be built?

In my region there is serious federal government money available for inland rail. The corridor needs to be finalised and the investment needs to begin, yet I do not see any great information or anything across these documents that talks about inland rail. The problem I have with that is that inland rail would actually unleash the productive ability for companies to be able to compete internationally and therefore pay more tax and be able to help our economy grow and therefore help us pay our bills that we have been shackled with by the Labor Party over the years. We have a government now that certainly has the reputation of doing nothing and talking about what it might do or what it is thinking about doing but actually achieving very little.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Logan, you are a serial interjector. If you persist, I will warn you under standing order 253A.

Mr WATTS: I think your reference with regard to the member for Logan was extremely polite, Madam Deputy Speaker. The question the people in my region have is: does this budget outline their fair share or does it really just give them the bare minimum—the scraps that are left—after the budget has been plundered by the south-east corner?

I turn to a pet project of mine—one that is interesting because, as the smoke and mirrors are placed around these things in the move towards an election, there are people who are trying to claim credit for various achievements, particularly in my electorate. I refer to the Wilsonton school hall at Wilsonton State High School. If we go to the record—that is, publications, questions and statements from various people—there have been countless articles with me talking and fighting for this and working very hard with people such as David van Tricht, who is the real hero of this project, in making sure that it gets delivered for the kids of Wilsonton. This is one of the harder areas in my electorate—areas where people do not have a lot but who are very proud of what they have—and it now has a wonderful school separate from Toowoomba State High School. It has its own independent identity and the school hall that is being delivered is a great thing for the school.

However, for a former member who really had absolutely nothing to do with it—in fact, they put out press releases saying how it could not be achieved—to start claiming credit because it is now being delivered is a long stretch. The person who should claim credit is David van Tricht. I was pleased to be able to be his strong voice representing our region in this place to make sure that his voice was heard, but I take no credit for it myself. I place the credit at his feet and that of the P&C and the community that fought for this facility. Just over 10 months ago the minister started talking about how this would be delivered, and in that time we have had a lot of talk about how it is going to be delivered and the fact

that it will be wonderful and everything else. One of my concerns when it was said that it would be in the 2017-18 budget was that it would not be available for the 2018 academic year. When I wrote to the minister asking if we could get this hall—because that is what David and other people were asking me—ready for 2018, I was told that it would open late in term 2. Again, we pushed hard and we put leaflets into the community and started to make it a political issue so that the minister would feel the pressure. I am pleased to say that under that pressure from the community we will see this hall open for the academic year 2018, and that is a good thing. The P&C and the other community members involved in that should be very proud of that achievement.

Another thing that I am told that my community should be very pleased about—again, there are people out there trying to take credit for it—is the Highfields high school. There were claims made by someone who was in this place for 11 years who said, ‘I was going to do this and I was going to do that.’ The first time there was a serious commitment made to buy the land for the high school was seven days after Lawrence Springborg came to the electorate when I was the candidate in 2009 and we announced that if we won government we would be buying the land for the high school. A week later—after years of inaction—it was announced that the Labor Party would buy the land for the high school. To its credit, it did buy that land. It took just over two years I think from memory, but then it just sat there and did nothing. There was no progress, there was no allocation, there was no money, there was no opportunity. Quite cynically, in the lead-up to an election all of a sudden that high school—and the real champion of that cause was Bronwyn Cairns, who had been fighting for many years, but polling would have indicated which way the 2012 election was going to go—was miraculously going to be built after years of inaction.

This is another example of more smoke and mirrors. The school was funded and built by the LNP. I am pleased to say that there is funding in this budget for the next stage. I am concerned about that funding because there is only \$1.86 million and the school is very well attended and has many students going into year 10. In the forwards there is \$9.3 million in the outyears, but I believe that money should be spent sooner than that on the campus because the campus is going to be bursting at the seams very shortly. It is a good thing that people such as Bronwyn and others who fought hard for that school can see that going forward, even though her children sadly missed the opportunity to attend that school because it took the former member so long to get the job done. It is a good thing that we have \$1.86 million in the budget, but let us not get too excited about it.

Something else I am completely cynical about, and I have been told not to be churlish about, is that in the lead-up to an election it is announced that we are going to get a police station at Highfields. I absolutely support a police station at Highfields. It is a \$2.9 million project. I would ask members to be a bit quiet if that would be alright.

Mr Furner interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): Member for Toowoomba North, if you could direct your comments through the chair, please, and Minister for Local Government, if you could not have conversations across the chamber.

Mr WATTS: The amount of \$100,000 out of a \$2.9 million project has been announced. I support the \$100,000. If they were serious about getting this done and if it was not just a political grab for an area where my political opponent was slaughtered for his inaction at the last election one would suggest that maybe they would allocate a bit more money than that. I would ask the minister to consider that. That \$100,000 is welcomed and will move the project forward. The land has been sitting there for a period of time. In fact, there were two blocks of land for it when we came to government. But I digress.

I would like to talk about the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, which is noted in the budget. I see the \$1.2 billion or so of federal government money is counted in the budget figures. I am sure the federal government is very pleased that that money is counted in the figures here. It should be celebrated that this project got up. Interestingly enough, I did some research on my predecessor in relation to that as well. I found that in the 11 years in his time in this place there were three questions about the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. I am told now that it was delivered by him and everything was in the bag. The last press release we see is trying to shrink it down to a three-lane road, compromising because the poor member could not get any support out of the Labor Party in this place. I felt a bit sorry because, try as he might, he was not taken seriously.

This budget is a south-east-corner-centric budget, with billions of dollars to be spent on a project here. Obviously that affects projects in other places. The range crossing is a good project. Interestingly enough, one of the statements that was made in here was celebrating the tunnel being drilled. Ian Macfarlane should be thankful because the land purchase for the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing

was 100 per cent funded by the federal government at \$30 million, the exploration tunnel was 100 per cent funded by the federal government at \$5 million and the study to look at all of the geotech was 100 per cent funded by the federal government. That did not stop the Labor member from taking credit for achieving that. One needs smoke and mirrors when one is trying to present himself to an electorate with empty hands.

We do not see anything great coming out of this budget. We should be focusing on creating jobs and better management of our finances. One of the greatest job-creating opportunities that exists is inland rail and what do we have? Crickets! It is a great opportunity for us to become productive in our region and for our exporters to reduce their logistic costs forever. Is there a couple of billion dollars in the state government budget for that great job-creating project? No, there is not. As to better management of our finances, we are cracking through that \$80 billion debt. It will be 40 or 50 years before the kids in high school today can finally pay that off. They are looking forward to paying off the debt for all that those opposite have delivered.

What is fantastic about Toowoomba is its great families. It is a livable community. The former deputy premier worked hard with me to get a priority development area up. That priority development area needs catalytic funding to get it underway. There is a wonderful opportunity for a 10-hectare inner-city parkland that would encourage the priority development area to take off, but what have we seen since this government came to office? Not much. It has finally, begrudgingly given a few dollars for the goods shed, but that priority development area that the former deputy premier worked so hard to deliver in the heart of Toowoomba cannot thrive and take off until there is some catalytic investment which would unleash the economic potential of the surrounding areas and, in fact, would start to come back in land tax and other forms as people started to develop. That would have helped create a good, strong family area for our communities to go and enjoy in the inner city.

We have spoken about building roads and infrastructure in our region. I will list off a couple that we did and then I will go to—actually, there is not much happening so I will not waste my time going through that. We spent \$54 million on flood works and building the Victoria Street bridge, a project that languished for 12 years as the No. 1 infrastructure priority for the Toowoomba Regional Council. Whilst Labor were here they would not help them. That job was funded and finished. There were the flood works to protect the CBD. There was the \$6 million railway bridge to help protect the CBD that allowed the waters of West Creek to travel underneath it.

There is also the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. There are many, many people to thank for that. Both Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, and the deputy premier played a massive role, along with Scott Emerson, the member for Indooroopilly, in ensuring that project was funded and delivered. The Labor Party machine goes into action and airbrushes itself into history. When the pictures were taken they were not standing there, but all of a sudden they appear like a cryptic ghost in the background. Suddenly they were the catalyst for it happening after 11 years of complete inaction. I digress again.

The next question is how best we can run the government. This government cannot even meet its own target for a Public Service. We see the Public Service growing like Topsy. I am all for making sure the people of Queensland are well served, the question is who pays for it? At the moment it is our children and our grandchildren who will be paying taxes to pay for these increases that are beyond our reach.

What do we see coming from our side? We see a freeze on registration. Earlier, the member for Brisbane Central scoffed at \$200. That might be the case if you are earning a ministerial salary, but for families in my region a \$200 saving from the freezing of car registration would be wonderful. Certainly for my children, who recently bought their first cars, it would be wonderful, because they do not have hundreds of thousands of dollars as the minister does. It is very important and very valuable. It shows that we are serious about trying to reduce people's cost of living.

In summary, we find a lot of smoke, a lot of mirrors, a bit of airbrushing and the claiming of other people's work. If someone at university started doing this they would be done for plagiarism—copying other people's work and handing it in as their own. I forgot to mention the \$130 million cut in road funding in my region. That is just a drop in the ocean when compared with the \$2 billion being spent down here! This budget is a lot of smoke, mirrors and airbrushing to ensure nothing ever happens with regard to the good LNP projects in my region where all the groundwork was completed. Going forward, I am very concerned for my region without the investment we need from this government.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (9.41 pm): It is an honour to rise to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget and the associated appropriations. I congratulate the Treasurer on delivering this budget with the focus on supporting job creation while recognising the need to support families and households across the state struggling with cost-of-living issues.

This third surplus budget furthers the Palaszczuk government's commitment to jobs for Queensland by continuing to turn our state around—away from the job-destroying policies of the former LNP government toward the careful and considered economic plan that will continue to strengthen and diversify Queensland's economy and support and grow jobs now and into the future. This economic plan is focused on job creation, and this Labor government is more than happy to compare our record on job creation with that of the opposition.

Importantly, this budget is also aimed at helping families and households to ease cost-of-living pressure through a variety of measures. Queenslanders will benefit from the government's \$1.16 billion Powering Queensland Plan, which will ensure we have a secure and affordable supply of electricity now and into the future. Eligible older people in the community will also be able to access other cost-of-living support through the Electricity Rebate Scheme, Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme and Pensioner Water Subsidy Scheme.

Commuters in my electorate and throughout South-East Queensland will benefit from measures such as the Palaszczuk government's guarantee that the lower fares, as part of the Fairer Fares program, will remain frozen at 2017 levels. This is great news, for example, for the commuters taking trains from Shorncliffe, Sandgate and Deagon stations, who will continue to save up to \$578 a year under this measure. It is also good news for commuters using a bus to travel from Bracken Ridge into the city for work. They can continue to save up to \$889 a year. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government freezing the lower fares in 2017, people in my electorate of Sandgate using public transport will continue to have more money in their pocket thanks to these fare savings.

Locals in my electorate appreciate these cost-of-living measures, but they also value the commitments to projects that will enhance our community and deliver job opportunities—projects such as Cross River Rail and the Gateway Upgrade North. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which is delivering Queensland's highest priority infrastructure project, Cross River Rail. The Palaszczuk government has committed to fully fund the \$5.409 billion required to deliver the project over its city-shaping life. This budget is a jobs budget, and the Cross River Rail project will support more than 1,540 jobs each year and 3,000 at peak over the construction period.

I have told the House before that I am all about modernising Queensland. Noting the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply, I therefore welcome the contrast between the alternative major commitments to the future. A Nicholls LNP government would build a coal-fired power station. A re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government will deliver the city-shaping Cross River Rail. The Cross River Rail project will contribute to easing congestion, increasing accessibility to the CBD and improving network capacity and reliability across the whole network. This will benefit South-East Queensland commuters right across our region, including those from my electorate of Sandgate.

Cross River Rail will deliver more frequent services. Residents in my electorate will see a train every six minutes on average during peak periods on the Shorncliffe line. That is why Queenslanders expect Malcolm Turnbull and the Australian government to come to their senses and come to the party on this city-shaping project. With the funds for Cross River Rail committed and frozen fairer fares, the Palaszczuk government is laying the foundations for a high-quality public transport system for South-East Queensland—something that honest observers acknowledge those opposite had damaged during their time in office.

Equally, I am pleased to inform the House that the Gateway Upgrade North project has now reached the halfway mark. This is a project which demonstrates perfectly how a partnership between all levels of government can deliver for the people of Queensland. It is how Cross River Rail should be. With regard to the upgrade, the Palaszczuk government has allocated \$236.3 million in 2017-18 to continue the works to widen the Gateway from four to six lanes from Nudgee Road to the Deagon Deviation. This road infrastructure is vital to the north side of Brisbane in reducing congestion issues and travel times as well as improving safety for motorists on one of Queensland's busiest motorways.

Again, not only will this project provide significant commuter benefits; it will also deliver jobs, with over 4,300 individuals employed thus far, just halfway through the project, and an average of 1,000 workers on the job at any one time. It is something I have seen delivering great benefits to the local businesses in my area as well. I also am pleased to note that the project has been recognised with an 'excellent' design rating by the Infrastructure Sustainability Council of Australia. It is the first major road project in Queensland to gain this rating.

I commend to the House this budget, which provides for Queenslanders in an array of areas across community too numerous for me to mention in one speech. I seek leave to have the remainder of my speech incorporated in *Hansard*. I confirm that I have approval of the Deputy Speaker and have provided an electronic copy to Hansard and a hard copy to the attendants.

Leave granted.

Mr Speaker, I am pleased to now speak more particularly about how my constituents and electorate will continue to benefit in this third Palaszczuk Government budget.

Locally, I and other residents have watched with great excitement as the Gateway Upgrade North project has progressed and it has recently reached the halfway mark.

This project, as well as supporting thousands of jobs, has so far seen 75 kilometres of concrete barriers installed, 260 bridge deck units installed, 47 bridge girders installed, 135 bored/driven piles installed, 12,000m³ of concrete poured for structures, eight major traffic switches.

Importantly, the project also has had significant flow-on benefits for local small businesses.

Such is the interest in the project that around 200 people have visited the Visitor Information Centre.

It is pleasing to see this joint State-Federal partnership, which was fought for by our local Federal Member for Lilley, Wayne Swan when he was Treasurer of Australia, as well as former local Federal MP for Petrie, now Attorney-General and Member for Redcliffe in this place, Yvette D'Ath, reaching this significant project milestone.

Further to the Gateway Upgrade North project in this 2017-18 budget is the allocation of \$3.4 million to complete provision of permanent speed enforcement and heavy vehicle stopping lane on the Gateway Motorway North, south of Nudgee.

These additional measures further contribute to motorist safety as well as congestion and travel time reduction on this key north Brisbane road corridor.

Local communities like mine need this Government's continued responsiveness and support.

Local commuters in my community are also benefitting from the investment of \$3.4 million in the 2017-18 budget for the restoration of the historic Shorncliffe railway station, with a total project cost of \$4.8 million.

I'm pleased to have recently continued my consultation with local commuters at the station regarding this project to ensure the most appropriate outcome for the community.

This year, the Minister for Education with the Treasurer has again delivered a record education budget to ensure Queensland children receive the quality education they deserve.

IT services for our State Schools better funded than ever before and Teacher Aides for all Prep classrooms.

In our local schools it is great news that Nashville State School and Shorncliffe State School will share in around \$450,000 of funding to deliver school infrastructure projects in this 2017-18 Budget.

I am pleased to advise that Nashville State School will receive \$200,000 to refurbish Block A and \$100,000 to resurface the Multi-Purpose Courts through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program.

Shorncliffe State School will receive \$150,000 to refurbish Block B through the School Infrastructure Enhancement Program.

I acknowledge the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and also the Minister for Disability and Seniors for the allocation of over \$10 million in 2017-18 to fund important community and disability services in my electorate of Sandgate.

Domestic and family violence services continue to be a priority and this allocation including funding to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, provide child safety services, support for people living with a disability and their families and other community support services.

The local providers delivering these services include groups, such as:

- Sandgate and Bracken Ridge Action Group, known as SANDBAG;
- Jabiru Community Youth and Children's Services Association in Bracken Ridge and
- Kyabra Community Association and St John's Community Care in Taigum

Other community support in the form of the vital Home Assist Secure services in my electorate continue to be available, with an allocation of \$293,000 in the 2017-18 budget.

These services assist eligible older or disabled residents with home maintenance, modifications or security work.

The Government is not only continuing to provide these important community services but is also supporting the housing sector in Queensland.

In acknowledging the importance of the housing sector to not only our economy, in creating jobs but also the importance of a home to individuals and the community, the Palaszczuk government has launched its \$1.8 billion 10-year Housing Strategy.

The Strategy will see over 5,500 social and affordable homes built supporting 450 full-time jobs each year over the life of the plan.

The practical rollout of this strategy will, no doubt, learn from the experience and example development of the Fitzgibbon Chase residential estate over the past 6 years on underutilised state land.

This has delivered opportunities for local tradies as has the Government's commitment to the First Home Owners' Grant.

For eligible Queenslanders, including of course in my electorate, the Government is continuing to assist people to get into their first home sooner.

This 2017-18 budget provides additional funding of \$30 million to extend the temporary increase of the Queensland First Home Owners' Grant from \$15,000 to \$20,000, for an extra 6 months to 31 December 2017.

Small businesses in Queensland are supported through a range of measures in this 2017-18 budget including increasing the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees from 25 percent to 50 percent encouraging employers to employ and continue to develop of a highly skilled workforce.

This will further provide greater opportunities for job seekers looking at going into an apprenticeship or becoming a trainee.

As I've mentioned before this is not only a jobs budget but also recognises issues Queenslanders have around cost-of-living.

Living in the Sandgate electorate are a significant number of older people, to whom assistance with costs-of-living and access to timely and quality health services is of the highest importance.

This Budget provides measures such as the Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme which provides assistance pensioners to remain in their own homes where possible, in the Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget, by providing eligible residents with a 20% subsidy, up to \$200 per year, towards local government rates and charges.

It further provides assistance for eligible pensioners and seniors, under the Electricity Rebate Scheme, by way of a rebate of up to \$341 per year towards electricity costs.

Eligible pensioner property owners in South East Queensland will also be able to access the Pensioner Water Subsidy Scheme which provides a subsidy of up to \$120 a year to reduce the impact of increased water prices.

Queenslanders will also be happy to hear that the 2017-18 Queensland Budget provides a record \$16.6 billion health spend as well as a \$916.1 million capital program.

This record spend on Health helps to ensure Queenslanders can access the world-class health and hospital facilities they need, when they need it.

I am proud to say there is an incredible level of participation in local sporting clubs within my electorate of Sandgate.

Clubs like the Sandgate Hawks AFL Club, Sandgate-Redcliffe Cricket Club—known as the 'Gators' and the Brighton Bulldogs have significant membership from young players thru to seniors and are keenly supported by the local community.

These clubs in my electorate such as these are continuing to experience a significant increase in sign up of women and girls, no doubt encouraged by the example of players such as 'Gators' cricketer Jemma Barsby—the hugely talented all-rounder for the Brisbane Heat.

Thanks to the Palaszczuk Government sporting clubs can access funding to improve or build new infrastructure and facilities to continue to accommodate and encourage this increased membership.

Through the Get Playing Places and Spaces program, grants of up to a boosted amount of \$150,000 for the current round, which opens on 19 June, are available for clubs to apply for new or upgraded infrastructure such as change rooms to accommodate and encourage female participation, upgrading of lighting or building a new club house.

In this current Budget, under the Get Playing Places and Spaces program, my local sporting clubs the Brighton Bulldogs and the Brighton Roosters Junior Rugby League Club have been received funds to improve their facilities.

The Bulldogs have received up to \$100,000 to upgrade the lighting at Wakefield Park and the Roosters have received \$88,287 to help resurface their main playing field.

I know these funds are greatly appreciated by the very active and engaged sporting clubs in my electorate and I am proud that this Palaszczuk Government is continuing to support these clubs.

Mr Speaker, this is a budget that helps strengthen the Queensland economy, as well as continuing to deliver key infrastructure priorities, build key frontline services and provide support to members of our community who need it the most.

I congratulate the Treasurer for this Budget and commend the Bills to the House.

 **Mr SEENEY** (Callide—LNP) (9.48 pm): As is traditional for the Leader of Opposition Business, I rise to conclude the budget reply debate on behalf of the opposition. Given the length of the debate and the hour, I hope that I will not take a long time to do that. However, I have to begin—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SEENEY: Absolutely. It depends entirely upon the encouragement I receive! I have to begin by joining with my colleague the member for Southern Downs in observing how shallow the budget debate has become. In the years that he and I have been here, the nature of this budget debate has changed fundamentally. As he said quite rightly, former Labor governments could come in here with a financial plan which had some rigour and it would be the subject of examination in the debate in the parliament. Over the last two days the debate of the budget introduced by this Labor government has

probably been the shallowest and the most unfulfilling or uninformative I have seen in this place. There is an obvious strategy. I think Steven Wardill referred to it in one of his columns in the *Courier-Mail*. He referenced the fact that propagandists the world over believe that, no matter how big the untruth, if you repeat something often enough some people will believe it.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Mr SEENEY: It is true. Thank you, Leader of the House. It is also true that that is this government's strategy. It is the government's strategy to take obvious untruths and repeat them endlessly to try to give the government's claims some sort of credibility through repetition. We have seen it here in the House from a whole range of government members.

The champion of that strategy, the member who best illustrates the absurdity of that strategy, would have to be the member for Stretton when he stood up in here and, despite all of the evidence that is presented in the budget and despite the reality of the budget, made the most absurd and ridiculous claims, culminating in the claim that this was the best budget that had ever been introduced—the best budget ever. He took a debate that was about a budget that, as the Leader of the Opposition observed in his budget reply speech, disappeared without trace after a single day—that is the measure of the extent to which it captured the imagination of the Queensland public—a budget that was supposed to be a jobs budget that did not provide for any new jobs and actually provided for a similar unemployment rate, a budget that was supposed to be an infrastructure budget that cut infrastructure spending to the extent that, for the first time in living memory, this parliament condemned the budget that had been introduced into the House by the executive government. The Treasurer came in here on behalf of the executive government, introduced a budget and this parliament, representing the people of Queensland, condemned it in a motion. I have not spoken to anybody who knows of anything like that happening before. It is an indication of the extent to which this budget has been a failure.

Yet the young, cocky member for Stretton comes in here and jumps up and down on the spot and says that it is the best budget that has ever been introduced into the Queensland parliament. Talk about a propaganda strategy! Saying it does not make it so, my young friend.

Mr PEGG: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The member for Callide is misleading the House. I am certainly not—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Miss Barton): That is not a point of order. Resume your seat.

Mr SEENEY: The other feature of this budget and its consideration here in the parliament and in the wider public—the Leader of the Opposition referenced it when he gave his budget reply speech—that is somewhat unique is the extent to which the Treasurer disappeared. It is the first time in living memory that a treasurer has come in here, delivered the budget and then disappeared in a cloud of smoke. Usually after introducing—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. The Leader of Opposition Business is very well aware that there is a convention and standing order in this place that one does not reflect upon the absence of a member.

Mr SEENEY: Of course I am aware of that. That is not what I am referring to. I am referring to the extent to which the Treasurer was invisible in the public debate.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Callide, are you speaking to the point of order or resuming your contribution?

Mr SEENEY: I am resuming my contribution. Normally budget week is a huge week for the Treasurer. Usually when the media gurus compile the media figures they are huge. This is the Treasurer's week in the sun. This is his moment in the spotlight.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SEENEY: As the member for Kawana says, normally treasurers do live crosses out the front of the House. Normally they are on all the television news. Normally they are out there. For the first time in living memory the Treasurer was—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SEENEY: I think it is misinformation to say that he disappeared in a puff of smoke. I think what happened was that he walked outside the chamber and they threw a tarpaulin over him and wrapped him up so that he could not appear. We have certainly seen some firsts in the budget debate this year. None of those firsts are elements that should be emulated in the future. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to be at the forefront of the explanation of the budget to the people of Queensland.

It is critical, in my view, that the executive government introduce a budget that is not condemned by the parliament. One could argue that at the point when this budget was condemned by the parliament it should have been withdrawn and the Treasurer should have come back and introduced another budget that was acceptable to the parliament as the representatives of people from all over Queensland.

Budgets are by their nature all about figures. Our shadow Treasurer, the member for Indooroopilly, went through those figures in his contribution. A few of them stand out. A few of them stick in my mind. Revenue growth is estimated to be 1.1 per cent, but expenses growth is estimated to be 2.1 per cent. That must stick in the mind of anybody who understands revenue and expenses. We do not go much past there. We do not have to delve into the spin and nonsense that members over there have repeated eternally. If revenue growth is less than expenses growth then they are on a downward trajectory. They are heading for trouble. It is as simple as that.

It is reflected in other figures in the budget. There will be \$11 billion in fiscal deficits over the next four years, culminating in a debt figure of \$81 billion worth of debt. I am not going to repeat the analysis that was done by the member for Southern Downs about that debt figure because he went through that at some length. The significance of that \$81 billion in debt has to be seen against the background—where the debt trajectory figure has been over the last five or six years, as the former Bligh government was thrown out of office and the LNP set about reducing that debt figure only to have it climb again under the stewardship of the member for Mulgrave to a level that must be of concern to every Queenslander.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, spoke about the issue that is most important to those of us in regional Queensland: that is, the cuts in infrastructure spending. It is down \$2 billion. I have said many times in this place and outside this place that for those of us in regional Queensland the word infrastructure means roads. That is what it means. Road funding has been cut across all of those regions. That was at the heart of the motion that was moved by the member for Glass House causing this parliament to condemn the budget in real terms. It was those savage cuts to infrastructure spending and to road funding across regional Queensland.

There is no greater example of that than a road in my own electorate that was the subject of a petition that I presented to the House yesterday—the Monto-Mount Perry Road. To understand the significance of this one has to understand the geography. Monto is about two to 2½ hours from Bundaberg. Everyone who needs to see a regional specialist or do any major shopping or who is referred from the local doctor for any sort of medical test has to travel from Monto to Bundaberg. It has been a notorious gravel road for so many years. It has been the cause of a number of tragic accidents. In one particular case, a very popular and well-known local schoolteacher, Lionel Cavanagh, was killed on that road.

That road was funded under the Royalties for Regions program to complete half of the 30-odd kilometres of gravel road. There is absolutely no indication that this government is going to fund the completion of the last 15 kilometres. Even though the Deputy Premier, the member for South Brisbane, came up and told the local council, ‘Of course we will do it. Of course we will finish it,’ there is nothing in the budget. There is nothing in QTRIP that would indicate that this is going to be funded from the departmental budget. Of course it will not be funded from the pale imitation of the Royalties for Regions program that this government has introduced.

Our Royalties for Regions program was about building roads like this. It was about putting in place the economic infrastructure. It was about using the \$500 million we allocated under the Royalties for Regions program to build infrastructure that was catalytic. It generated another \$200 million in matching investment. We spent \$700 million under the Royalties for Regions program putting infrastructure in place in regional Queensland. This one road is a great example of the work that we did. It is not going to be funded by this Labor government. It is not going to happen. That is the reality of this budget. The people of Monto will have to wait until an LNP government is elected so that road can be finished.

The Royalties for Regions program is still creating jobs in regional Queensland. I was at the Mareeba airport not so long ago. The redevelopment of the Mareeba airport that I approved under the Royalties for Regions program when we were in government is still creating jobs on the Atherton Tablelands. It is still creating jobs for local people. It is creating the jobs that the current Labor government only talk about—and so it is with so many things that the LNP did. If anybody wants to see the evidence of that, they only need to walk out onto the side veranda of Parliament House and look at the Queen’s Wharf development.

The Queen's Wharf development has already provided thousands of jobs for Queenslanders. It provided thousands of jobs in the construction of the catalytic 1 William Street, which the members over there try to score cheap political points over. As everybody who looks at the development understands, 1 William Street had to be built first before the Queen's Wharf development could go head—and going ahead it is. It is going ahead in leaps and bounds. It is not just the people who are working on the site—and you can walk up the street and see the people who will be employed on that site for the next five years; it is the people who have been employed ever since we started the redevelopment of that government precinct. It is the architects, the lawyers, the accountants and the planners who have all been involved, who have been working away on that project for 3½ years now since we took the decision to redevelop the government precinct.

They are the sorts of decisions that this government does not take. Does anybody really think that this government would have developed Queen's Wharf on its own from scratch? The site has sat there for the last 20 years while successive Labor governments came in here year after year with budgets about what they were 'gonna' do. They are always 'gonna' do it. The people of Queensland can see what the LNP government did and they can see that this Labor government is desperately trying to take credit for that, and the budget is propped up by the economic development that those sorts of projects created.

I say to the member for Logan—because I heard his pathetic attempt to attack the member for Beaudesert—that the Beaudesert bypass was one project that was funded from what we called the catalytic infrastructure fund. We understood the catalytic nature of infrastructure. We understood that if you spend money on those catalytic type projects which Royalties for Regions did—Royalties for Regions was aimed at catalytic infrastructure, but we had a catalytic infrastructure fund that funded the Beaudesert bypass.

Mr Power: Not in the budget.

Mr SEENEY: There was \$25 million I say to the member for Logan, and I signed the document. What happened was that when his crew won government they took the money from my department and shoved it back to Treasury. The member for Beaudesert was dead right: it was funded and it was ready to go.

One of the most pertinent remarks that I heard in this whole debate was one that was made by the Leader of the Opposition when he said, talking about creating jobs and building infrastructure, that the people of Queensland know the LNP can do it because we have done it before. We have done Queen's Wharf. Go and have a look at the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing. Drive up to Gympie and have a look at the Bruce Highway and the Cooroy to Curra development.

The other thing that we did was to advance the Galilee Basin project. I well remember and I have spoken many times in this House about the mess that the former Bligh government had made of the Galilee Basin. Remember the spaghetti junction of railway line proposals? Remember the 35 million cubic metres of dredging that had been approved by the member for Ashgrove, who comes in here batting her eyelids and butter would not melt in her mouth—35 million cubic metres of dredge spoil they were going to dump at sea—and the huge multipurpose facility that they were going to build? It was all designed to fail. It was all so big that it was designed to fail. I say to the people of Queensland tonight: be very aware because the government's support for the Adani project, I think, comes from the same people. I do not think this government's support for the Adani project is genuine. I think they are setting it up to fail. They are on the one hand standing up here and talking about how much they support it. On the other hand, the member for South Brisbane and her Left faction are in there in the departments making sure it is designed to fail.

Like this whole budget, it is about getting from here to the next election. It is about creating some sort of impression, false as it may be, resting upon the false foundation of repetition only to try to create that perception that the government are creating jobs and can create jobs. The truth is that they cannot. The truth is that they do not. The truth is that they never have. They never have paid down the debt. They never have brought down a budget that has become a reality. This one will not be any different. This budget will be proven to be as false and as shallow as many previous Labor government budgets in this House.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.08 pm), in reply: I thank members for their contributions to this debate on the appropriation bills and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. I even thank the previous speaker for his contribution because he did make a good point. He talked about a word. He talked about something being so ‘unprecedented’. I will not respond to everything he said, but one thing I do know is that if you have the biggest majority in Queensland history and you lose it after one term, that is unprecedented.

Over the last two days this House has been considering a budget that supports 40,000 jobs in 2017–18. It delivers a record spend in health and a record spend in education and training. It delivers funding to get Cross River Rail off and running. We are building the infrastructure Queensland needs to drive economic growth, attract investment and create jobs now and for the future. This budget also provides the essential services that all Queenslanders need right across our state.

We on this side of the House often talk about our commitment to the better way for Queensland that we put to the people at the last state election—a better way that reduced debt, created growth and restored front-line services. This budget and the previous two I have delivered are evidence of that better way. We on this side of the House are proud that our budgets make the whole of our balance sheet work for Queenslanders. None of them have been based on selling our income-producing assets. Nowhere in any of those three budgets will members find a clinical and cold-blooded decision to wipe out 14,000 jobs. Nowhere in the framing of these budgets are there decisions to slash front-line services. All three budgets I have delivered have enhanced front-line services and put on more police, teachers, nurses, paramedics and other essential staff on the front line. That is what the third Palaszczuk budget delivered.

I want to thank all members who have participated in this debate. In particular, I want to thank those government MPs who have recognised the benefits and initiatives this budget delivers directly or indirectly to their local communities. I thank those who spoke of the record allocations this budget makes in the areas of health, education and training, or the massive \$42.75 billion four-year infrastructure program we have set out in this budget, or the funding and ongoing efforts we have made and continue to make in responding to communities hit by Tropical Cyclone Debbie and related flood events.

I know many members in this House spoke about the initiatives this budget includes to support employers in hiring jobseekers. In particular, regional MPs mentioned how well our Back to Work program has worked in their communities since July last year. Some members mentioned the extension of the program into South-East Queensland where it will see thousands of jobseekers gain employment in the coming year.

There are many positive aspects of this budget, which is all about jobs for Queensland. We committed to Queenslanders that we would make job creation our priority. We have done that in this budget and yesterday’s ABS labour force figures show this. Our trend unemployment rate remains steady at 6.3 per cent, below the 6.6 per cent we inherited. The ABS figures show we have created net 69,300 jobs through our economic plan that includes our three state budgets. That is more than double the 29,100 jobs created by the LNP in their term in office. In fact, we have created more new jobs in just the last year than they did over their entire term—contrary to the LNP’s alternative facts which say we have lost 30,000 jobs. That brings me to the opposition speakers in this debate.

The LNP made pledges but there are unanswered questions. Never has this House seen a more negative and destructive approach taken by an opposition—no policies, no economic plan and nothing good to say about Queensland. The Leader of the Opposition’s budget reply yesterday did not just disappoint when it came to predictable negativity and baseless claims; it disappointed on a number of fronts. For instance, the LNP continue to peddle the misleading claim that we are down 30,000 jobs. To achieve this misleading figure, they use the 2016 calendar year and deliberately ignore the figures for the past six months. All of those figures are out there readily available, but they do not use them for two reasons. The first reason is that they are too lazy to dig them out. It really takes just a few clicks of a mouse and the facts are there but, no, that is too much effort for those opposite. No wonder they gave up so quickly on their four per cent stretch target for unemployment. The second reason is that the facts do not suit their campaign of negativity. If there is one remote, obscure or just plain misleading figure they can ferret out, they will do it. All we heard from the Leader of the Opposition yesterday was more negativity and more LNP pledges that they have made in the past but have never kept. Queenslanders know the value of LNP pledges; they simply cannot be believed.

Before the 2012 election, Campbell Newman and Tim Nicholls swore black and blue that public servants had nothing to fear. The 14,000 public servants who lost their jobs know what a promise from the LNP is worth, yet the LNP are here trying it all again. Government workers know all too well they

cannot trust the LNP on job security. Queenslanders know all too well they cannot trust them on asset sales. A leopard does not change its spots. The funniest thing is that the Leader of the Opposition likes to say that past behaviour is an indicator of future behaviour. If he believes that, he would know exactly where Queenslanders stand with the LNP—that, is, they cannot trust them.

Our challenge to the LNP and to the opposition leader in particular is very simple: do some work. Do not come in here like yesterday and give a glib grab bag of whinges and uncusted and unfunded promises. Yesterday we heard from the opposition leader who, after years of being Mr Strong Choices, tried to convince us they are dead, buried and cremated. On top of that, they have sworn that public servants have nothing to fear and that there would be no forced redundancies. Let us see their economic plan. Let us see their plan to grow our economy. In particular, let us see their revenue plan, because the only option the LNP have left is to massively raise taxes, fees and charges.

Remember, the Leader of the Opposition a few years ago was saying that the only choice was a strong choice. We know that when he was the Treasurer, the Leader of the Opposition gave Queenslanders three options when it came to state finances—raise taxes, cut jobs or sell assets. If he is to be believed that he has ruled out cutting jobs and selling assets, I have some bad news for Queenslanders. The only option left in the LNP plan is to raise taxes. Yet there was absolute silence yesterday on how the LNP plan to hike taxes, fees and charges to fill the budget black hole they had planned to plug with asset sales.

Let us see their revenue settings, or do they plan to do what they did in 2012 and make all sorts of soothing and harmless promises before election day and then bring out the axe once in office? The very simple question is left hanging. If we take the LNP's word for it and believe them on their pledges yesterday, key questions remain. How are they going to pay for their promises? How high will they lift taxes, fees and charges? What projects will they not support? We are all waiting for an answer.

This budget recognises that Queensland is a \$327 billion economy which is diverse and resilient. This shone through this year after Tropical Cyclone Debbie and the related flood events across a number of our regions. This budget shows Queensland is expected to record a net operating surplus of \$2.8 billion for 2016-17. This is the biggest surplus in a decade and largely reflects the boost to our revenue from coal royalties that improved the budget position in 2016-17.

It is important to remember that the 2016-17 budget contained a forecast surplus when it was delivered. We did not need to wait for the temporary spike in world coal prices and the following royalty revenue jumps. The budget will also remain in surplus for the 2017-18 year. However, it is forecast to be reduced down to \$146 million because of the impact of natural disasters. The first two budgets I delivered were in surplus, this budget is in surplus and budgets across the forward estimates are forecast to be in surplus.

The budget shows the per capita tax in Queensland is estimated to be \$2,691 in 2017-18, which is nearly \$1,000 lower than the average of the other states and territories. Households and businesses in our state continue to benefit from this government maintaining its commitment not to introduce new taxes, fees or charges impacting on Queenslanders. In contrast, those opposite could not get enough of increasing taxes. They increased insurance duties, the emergency management levy, the transfer duty and gaming machine taxes. Taxes went up, services went down, jobs got cut and our economy paid the price. This budget continues our track record of pushing debt down.

The benefits of our Debt Action Plan are particularly evident if you look at the general government sector debt to revenue ratio. As I said earlier this week, this ratio now sits at 60 per cent for both 2016-17 and 2017-18. That is significantly down from the dizzying peak of 91 per cent it reached in 2012-13. General government sector debt is estimated to be \$9.3 billion lower than the peak under the LNP in 2014-15 of \$43.1 billion. The 2017-18 debt is also \$14.7 billion less than the forecast for 2017-18 at the time of the LNP's last budget in 2014-15.

Those opposite like to say they are a friend of business. When it comes to the economy, with friends like the LNP, business does not need enemies. This government has brought confidence back to Queensland businesses and consumers. Take the Sensis Business Index. It currently shows business confidence of Queensland's small to medium businesses at +44 points in the March quarter in 2017. This is the highest level in seven years—higher than any time under the Newman government.

The budget contains \$42.75 billion worth of capital works over four years, including \$10.2 billion in 2017-18 alone. Nearly half of that \$10.2 billion is earmarked for regional communities, where unemployment and youth unemployment in particular need the special attention we are giving them. Almost half of that—\$4.8 billion—is for regional projects.

On a per capita basis, the capital spend in the south-east is \$1,634 in this budget. In regional Queensland, the capital per capita spend is nearly twice as big, at \$3,075. Plus we have delivered \$400 million for Works for Queensland, \$375 million for Building our Regions and \$150 million for Back to Work programs. That is over \$900 million combined for regional Queensland. When the LNP claims we are short-changing regional Queenslanders, they add \$500 million to their claim of Royalties for the Regions. The facts are there but those opposite cannot add up the sums. When the opposition leader was treasurer, maths was not his strong suit anyway. The regional spend we are providing for jobs in the regions dwarfs that proposed by the LNP. We are providing: \$176 million for the Cairns Convention Centre; \$250 million for the North Queensland Stadium which is creating 750 jobs; \$200 million for the Burdekin Falls Dam safety improvement program; \$200 million for the Capricornia Correctional Centre which is creating 170 jobs; \$225 million for Townsville's water security; and \$70 million for the upgrade of the Mackay Ring Road—just to name a few.

I do not get much of a chance to talk about my electorate when I am giving the budget speech, so I will briefly talk about my electorate in Far North Queensland. The budget's focus on regional Queensland is also shown in my electorate and surrounding areas. In Mulgrave, in 2017-18 we will be providing \$2.25 million for the construction of valuable infrastructure, catalysing the development of the Mount Peter master planned area. I know local teachers and students are excited by the new upgrades at Gordonvale State High School and Bentley Park College. Gordonvale State High School students will benefit from a new \$4.5 million multipurpose hall and indoor sports facility. At Bentley Park College, the community can look forward to \$1.5 million to upgrade their hall and get it in great shape for events. Those projects are set to kick off very soon, which is great news for jobs and our local construction industry.

Since the last budget, great roadworks have got underway between Robert Road and Foster Road. The new Gordonvale Fire Station is already under construction and the new Gordonvale Police Station will kick off soon. Those are all exciting projects, creating and supporting jobs in my local area.

More broadly in the Far North Queensland region, the capacity and potential of the Cairns Convention Centre will be completely reimagined courtesy of the \$176 million in funding contained in the budget. This is the centrepiece of a \$819 million infrastructure spend in the region to reimagine the Convention Centre's potential and continue its international standing as one of the best facilities in the world. If we are going to have larger conventions with large numbers of people coming through, estimates are that we will need another five to six hotels to cater for that expansion. It is a catalysing project, and then some.

We will also be unlocking new tourism and maritime opportunities with our commitment to the \$120 million Cairns Shipping Development Project. This will develop our port to improve access for mega cruise ships, allowing for future naval expansion. We see a bigger, bolder future for Cairns and we are investing now to make that potential a reality.

We will continue to rebuild confidence in Cairns after the LNP ripped \$100 million in infrastructure spending out of our region in their first budget. In the Far North, our budget initiatives will directly support around 3,800 jobs. We promised to focus on job creation and that is exactly what we have done in the previous two state budgets. It is also what this week's budget is all about—that is, jobs for Queensland. Despite what those opposite would have us believe, this is a government that has again—I repeat, again—created a net 69,300 jobs since we came into office in 2015—that is, 2,470 jobs on average each month. Under Labor, we have created around 220 full-time jobs per month, compared to around 320 full-time jobs lost per month under the LNP. We create jobs; they cut jobs.

By contrast, we still have not seen or heard any sign of a comprehensive economic plan from the LNP, just more negativity. The people of Queensland will never forget their most notorious budget in 2012. Queensland economic confidence was sapped by the cuts to front-line services and it set the tone for a dead economy under the LNP. It set the scene for the worst job growth under any term of government in a generation.

What happens to a political party that runs out of ideas? They go back to the past for inspiration. Campbell Newman may not be in this chamber anymore, but Frankenstein's monster is. One more dead idea was building a coal-fired power station in the north. It is time to wake up. The Leader of the Opposition needs to get with the times and listen to the leaders in the electricity industry. Existing generation companies, banks and investors all agree that no one is willing to put money into coal generation. An ultra supercritical coal-fired power station does not make any economic, environmental or energy sense.

Our government has released its comprehensive Powering Queensland Plan. This plan shows how the Palaszczuk government will clean up our electricity supply and increase security and reliability, while keeping downward pressure on electricity prices. The private sector is backing our renewables plan, investing heavily in the jobs of the future. Beyond the \$770 million investment in driving prices down, we will also deliver a \$386 million investment for North Queensland to strengthen and diversify energy supply in the north. We are also directing our government owned corporations to increase supply and undertake strategies to place downward pressure on wholesale prices. That is something that could not have been done if assets had been sold off to the highest bidder.

In wrapping up, I want thank a few people. I thank the Premier for her strong and ongoing leadership, and also other members of the CBRC: the Deputy Premier, Minister Jones and previously Minister Bailey. I take this opportunity to thank the Treasury staff for all their hard work in preparing this year's budget. Every year, we ask more and more of our Treasury staff, who never fail to deliver. While I cannot thank everyone personally, I make special mention of Under Treasurer Jim Murphy and deputy under treasurers Mary-Anne Curtis, Dennis Molloy and Warwick Agnew. Thanks also go to Drew Ellem, Ashleigh McMahon and Nicole Quayle, who led the Treasury budget preparations at different stages and provided invaluable advice. I thank them and everyone in their teams in Queensland Treasury.

I thank my own chief of staff, Jason Humphreys, and the terrific team in my office for their support and hard work throughout the budget process. I thank the parliamentary staff involved in the preparation and staging of the annual budget day media lock-up and the stakeholder briefing event. I thank my wife, Kerry, and my children, Tristan, Layla, and Kobi, for being patient while I have been working on this budget over the past few months.

There is no debate about which side of the House has an economic plan for the future of our state and the creation of jobs. Only Labor has a plan to keep our income-generating assets, a plan to improve frontline services and a plan to deliver disciplined fiscal management of debt and our state finances. This is the third budget in a row that provides evidence that only Labor has a plan for job creation, because we have already created nearly 70,000 net new jobs since coming to office. The LNP just gave up. In just over two years, our net new jobs number is more than twice the LNP's in a full term.

Those on this side of the House are rightly proud of a budget that delivers for Queensland, that provides record spends in health and education and that delivers those services that Queenslanders need. They can be proud of a budget with a massive capital works program and job-creating programs such as Works for Queensland and Back to Work to generate more jobs across the state. Under our economic plan, business confidence is up, unemployment is down, debt is lower and our economic growth is higher. Through this budget, the Palaszczuk government is getting on with the job of creating jobs. I commend the bill to the House.

Division: Question put—That the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill be now read a second time.

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106.

Referral to Portfolio Committees

Mr SPEAKER: In accordance with standing order 177(2), the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill stand referred to the portfolio committees.

Second Reading

Question put—That the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill

Clauses 1 to 33, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.34 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will ring for one minute.

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

Resolved in the affirmative under standing order 106.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.37 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.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contempt of Parliament

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I refer to the matter of privilege raised by the Leader of Opposition Business this morning regarding the security of the parliamentary precinct and the security of all members and staff.

Honourable members, I need to emphasise that security on this precinct is a collective matter. All members and staff must ensure that procedures regarding security are followed. In recent weeks there have been a number of incidents where members and/or staff have not followed security procedures. These incidents have included: members allowing visitors cars into the level 2 car park—on one occasion I understand the entry caused a security alert because of the contents of material in the vehicle; members giving their staff a security card to access the precinct or areas of the precinct to which they normally do not have access; members signing in guests and not ensuring that those guests are accompanied at all times. In the world in which we live, these actions and similar are not acceptable. Next week I will be issuing a detailed reminder to all members and staff of their security obligations.

In relation to the matter raised by the Leader of Opposition Business this morning, the Clerk has undertaken preliminary inquiries and I have also received correspondence from the branch secretary of United Voice. It is clear that union representatives were unsupervised for periods during their time on the precinct. This is unacceptable. I emphasise that the member or staff member who is responsible for signing in guests is responsible for them for the entire period they are in the precinct and cannot pass them over to another member without first signing them out. I will be taking this matter up with the responsible member. However, at this time there is no evidence that any member provided their access card to the union representatives and this is denied by the branch secretary.

I remind all members that our security system tracks and records card access in the precinct including the car park, annexe and other parts of the precinct. Electronic records do not indicate anything untoward and do not support some of the scuttlebutt regarding this matter. No member approached by the Clerk has alleged harassment and no member has come forward to report harassment.

Without any further evidence I intend to take no further action in respect of this particular matter. Going forward, however, I make it very clear that I am of the same view as the member for Callide and the Leader of Opposition Business. A breach of our security procedures is a very grave matter because of the risk it poses to members and all staff. I will consider forwarding any future breaches to the Ethics Committee for its consideration.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.41 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 8 August 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.41 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10.41 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams