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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 10 August 2017

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THURSDAY, 10 AUGUST 2017



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of the Clerk of the Parliament



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I advise the House of the unavoidable absence of the Clerk of the Parliament for the remainder of this week's sitting due to illness.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 26 June 2017 the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning wrote to me alleging that the member for Nanango deliberately misled the House on 15 June 2017 in her contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2017, the Appropriation Bill 2017 and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The member for Nanango's statements were that the Deputy Premier had spent a further \$93 million on spin doctors in her infrastructure department and that 31 spin doctor positions were hired to mock up the glossy brochure for Cross River Rail. I note that yesterday the member for Nanango rose on a matter of privilege and indicated that she had inadvertently misled the House, sought to correct the record and apologised to the House for her error. Accordingly, I consider that the member for Nanango has made an adequate apology. Therefore, I have decided that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to matter of privilege regarding alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP [\[1287\]](#).

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable members,

On 26 June 2017, the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning wrote to me alleging that the Member for Nanango deliberately misled the House on 15 June 2017 in her contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill 2017, the Appropriation Bill 2017 and the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 when she said:

In this budget it was revealed that the Deputy Premier has spent a further \$93 million on spin doctors in her infrastructure department. That is \$93 million of expenses blowout which this government could have used to actually build infrastructure—to build roads, to fix up bridges, put towards the dams across this state—but instead this Labor government has hired an extra 31 spin doctors in Brisbane to mock up a glossy brochure for Cross River Rail with propaganda pamphlets delivered to half of South-East Queensland.

In her letter to me, the Deputy Premier contended the Member for Nanango's statement did not reflect the information in the Service Delivery statement, as the \$93 million in additional expenses was attributed to Funding Programs and Community Initiatives for Councils and the functions of the additional staff were outlined in footnotes, which referred to corporate staff. The Deputy Premier argued that the Member for Nanango selectively used the information to support a statement the Member for Nanango knew to be incorrect and therefore she intended to mislead the House.

I sought further information from the Member for Nanango about the allegation made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

I note on 9 August 2017, the Member for Nanango rose on a matter of privilege indicating that she had inadvertently misled the House and sought to correct record and apologised to the House for her error.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

In considering whether the matter should be referred to the committee, the Speaker shall take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter. No matter should be referred to the ethics committee if the matter is technical or trivial and does not warrant the further attention of the House.

On the evidence before me, I consider that the Member for Nanango has made an adequate apology.

I have therefore decided that this matter does not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Local Government Representative

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.33 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. I want to address the scurrilous and the fanciful comments made in the media today by Fraser Coast council mayor Chris Loft. Elected representatives at all levels should be held in the highest possible standards of ethical and legal behaviour. This includes councillors, mayors and all parliamentarians. I am advised that the independent Regional Conduct Review Panel determined that a complaint of alleged misconduct—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, one moment. I just wonder if it would be more appropriate in the personal explanation stage.

Mr FURNER: Okay. I will proceed during that stage.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

PETITION

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

Little Mulgrave, Gillies Range Road, Speed Limit

Hon. Pitt, from 15 petitioners, requesting the House to consider reducing the road speed limit on the Gillies Range Road to 50 km/hr, between Appaloosa Street and Little Mulgrave Road, Little Mulgrave [[1288](#)].

Petition received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MEMBER'S PAPERS

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

Member for Cairns (Mr Pyne)—

[1289](#) Nonconforming petition regarding the provision of funding for Auslan interpreters for the FNQ Deaf Community and funding for participants to enrol in Auslan interpreting courses locally.

[1290](#) Letter, (with redactions), dated 26 July 2017, from unknown, to Minister for Local Government, Hon. Furner, regarding Moreton Bay Regional Council.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.34 am): My government keeps its commitments from Coolangatta to Cape York and the Torres Strait. Before the election we made 553 commitments to the people of Queensland. The progress report I table today shows that in office we had delivered 484 or 87 per cent of those commitments by 30 June this year.

Tabled paper: Progress report on government election commitments, June 2017 [[1291](#)].

Yesterday I told the House that in 2½ years more than 80 per cent of our election commitments have been completed and delivered. As I stated earlier, it is in fact 87 per cent. Another 50 commitments are in progress and 19 were superseded. Today the Attorney-General will address another commitment with the introduction of legislation to re-establish the Drug Court in our state. Our commitments to Queenslanders reflect our commitment to our great state. We have restored front-line services in our hospitals, in our schools and in our vital emergency services across Queensland. We have retained those assets paid for by the public in the ownership of the public which allows us to put maximum downward pressure on electricity prices. We have regained confidence in our economy: 77,300 new jobs have been created, exports are at a record \$65.9 billion and key industries like tourism, agriculture, mines and energy are performing strongly and attracting new investment. We have returned the values of dignity in work, fairness and respect for others in our state. We have reinforced the separation of powers and we have re-established trust in how our government works. My government makes decisions in consultation—not confrontation—with Queenslanders.

We returned portfolio estimates hearings to seven days to allow proper questioning of ministers. We appointed directors-general through a merit based selection process. We restored much of the arts funding that had been so cruelly slashed by the Newman government. We reviewed public transport fares to provide for Fairer Fares for Queensland consumers. We established a Business Development Fund to allow our best and brightest small to medium businesses make their ideas and innovations a commercial reality. We have honoured our commitment that there would be no new or increased taxes, fees and charges. We implemented a Nursing Guarantee with legislated nurse-to-patient ratios. We reintroduced civil partnerships, legislated for equal age of consent and made an apology on behalf of the government for historical homosexual convictions.

We have employed more than 4,400 extra teachers and teacher aides to improve education in Queensland state schools. Our commitment to the growth of tourism in Queensland has been evident through the boost to the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund and the Advance Queensland: Connecting with Asia Strategy that has seen increased flights and frequency of services to various centres from Cairns to Brisbane. We honoured our commitment to provide funding for a new stadium in North Queensland. We reinstated third-party objection rights for mining lease approvals and restored the rights of individuals and communities to object to development applications without the prospect of harsh financial penalties. We established Jobs Queensland to provide advice to government and industry on skills demand and future workforce planning. We reinstated Skilling Queenslanders for Work to assist young people to get a job. We supported the declaration of a world surfing reserve on the southern end of the Gold Coast. We established Advance Queensland to support innovation, technology and science and our entrepreneurs of the future. We have restored the rights of workers and improved the safety of Queenslanders at work.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Forty-three per cent under you—43 per cent.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment. Who is trying to talk over the top of the Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is the member for Kawana.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No, I do not think it was the member for Kawana that time! Thank you, members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have increased police numbers, bringing the total size of the Queensland Police Service to 11,900 officers. We have committed funding for a new residential centre for young people with severe mental health issues to replace the Barrett Adolescent Centre, which was closed by the previous government without providing any appropriate alternative care for vulnerable young people.

As I travel across the state and meet Queenslanders, I see a new spirit of optimism, confidence and unity. By working together, we can ensure that all Queenslanders share in our future. The fabric of Queensland society is strong. No longer is there the fear of cuts or retribution. Those who talk down Queensland are a minority and they do it only out of self-interest. My government's ongoing commitment to Queenslanders is to continue to work hard and, where necessary, fight for them.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; Local Fare Scheme

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.40 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government has been working hard to deliver on its election commitments. We delivered a statewide infrastructure plan—the first since 2011—which has been widely welcomed by industry. We have restored planning appeal rights, which were scrapped by the LNP government. We have cut public transport fares through our Fairer Fares initiative, making public—

Mr McArdle interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I can see you, member for Caloundra.

Ms TRAD: I think the member for Caloundra is only one of four people the LNP do not want other LNP members to meet with. We have cut public transport fares through our Fairer Fares initiative, making travel cheaper for commuters every day and included concessions for jobseekers and asylum seekers. We have also taken action to keep our assets in public hands. We have stopped the outsourcing of public—

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Hinchinbrook and Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Ms TRAD: I think they have been hanging out with the chickens too much. We have stopped the outsourcing of public services, which was rampant under the previous government. We know what the LNP had in store for public transport in Queensland.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. We are becoming unruly. Member for Hinchinbrook, you are warned under standing order 253A. I will continue along that line if it continues.

Ms TRAD: They cut 14,000 jobs—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. If you persist, you will be warned.

Ms TRAD: In QR alone, they cut more than 1,400 jobs, because they were getting it ready to be broken up and privatised. We stopped the LNP's implementation of the Costello Commission of Audit to open up bus and rail services to outsourcing, privatisation and competitive franchising.

Today, I can announce more good news that builds on our commitment to make regional air travel more affordable. We know the importance of connecting people with their families and their employment, education and other essential services. That is why we made an election commitment to investigate reinstating the Cape York airfare subsidy in consultation with Cape York communities—a commitment that we delivered in our first budget.

This Labor government reintroduced the Local Fare Scheme, which was cut by the member for Clayfield, to directly tackle the issue of high airfares in remote communities and to improve connectivity. The Local Fare Scheme reduces the financial burden of travel by subsidising return flights within the region by up to \$400 so that long-term residents can enjoy cheaper travel. I know how important local fares are to many Queenslanders in remote and regional areas. It was one of the first issues that the Labor candidate for Cook, Cynthia Lui, raised with me. I know that the member for Cook in this place has also been a strong advocate for it for many years. Since the Palaszczuk government reintroduced the scheme in 2015, more than 11,000 discounted bookings have been made.

The initial success of this program is why this government committed more than \$8 million to continue the Local Fare Scheme for the next two years across the original trial areas in Cape York and the Torres Strait. In this year's budget we went even further. We made the decision to expand the scheme so that it can benefit even more remote communities, with \$2 million invested in a 12-month trial to Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Weipa. We have worked closely with the communities of Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Weipa to successfully roll out the scheme. To help residents sign up for the scheme, we recently held community information sessions in Doomadgee, Mornington Island and Weipa. Today, I am pleased to inform the House that local residents can take advantage of the reduced airfares when they are launched on 14 August.

The Local Fare Scheme has successfully reduced travel expenses for residents, which directly reduces the cost of living for them. The extension and expansion of the scheme ensures that residents will have more access to vital health, education and employment services as well as opportunities to visit family and friends in other communities.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements



Hon. CW PITT (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.45 am): The Palaszczuk government promised Queenslanders that it would restore front-line services, grow the state economy and support innovation in new industries and traditional strengths, such as agriculture, resources, tourism, manufacturing, education and health. We said that there was a better way to run our state economy and our state finances. We continue to see evidence that our approach is paying real dividends for Queenslanders.

In our economic plan we promised that we would focus on job creation. So far, we have seen the creation of more than 77,300 net new jobs since the 2015 state election. Our trend unemployment rate is 6.3 per cent compared with the 6.6 per cent rate that we inherited and the 6.7 per cent peak it hit for four months in late 2014.

We are generating jobs and investment through our \$42.75 billion infrastructure program over the next four years. The 2017-18 budget will drive more growth and support round 40,000 jobs in 2017-18 via the infrastructure program and other initiatives, such as Works for Queensland, Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Back to Work—our direct employment scheme—initially focused on regional communities, but it is now available statewide and has seen almost 6,300 people secure jobs as a direct result of this program.

We know that the Queensland State Accounts show a 1.2 per cent trend GSP growth in the March quarter compared with 0.3 per cent for the rest of Australia. Thanks to our economic plan, that is the best quarterly outcome in five years. In the final full year of the former government, we saw 1.4 per cent growth. In our first full year—in 2015-16—we delivered 2.4 per cent growth. We have moved to 2.7 per cent growth and we are expected to reach three per cent growth across the forward estimates.

We have lowered general government sector debt by \$14.7 billion—more than what was expected and forecast under the last budget of the member for Clayfield. We saw how the fake budget emergency scare tactics backfired when the ratings agency Moody's applied a negative outlook to our state after the first budget of the former government. In contrast, our disciplined and deliberate approach has paid off. Moody's has affirmed its Aa1 rating and upgraded us to a stable outlook. S&P Global has affirmed its AA+ rating and upwards rating pressure could occur for the next two years. Given the detailed analysis that both agencies applied to our state finances and our economic plan, these are significant outcomes.

We have kept our commitment not to sell our income-generating state assets. They remain in public hands and we are making them work for Queenslanders, especially in the energy sector, where government ownership has allowed us to put downward pressure on prices. On that subject, I reject the comments made by the Prime Minister yesterday. He repeated the false claims about Queensland's government owned generators gaming the system. The facts are that the southern states have privatised power bodies. They are facing 19 per cent price rises in the ACT and South Australia, 11 per cent in New South Wales and nearly 10 per cent in Victoria. It is because we have kept our power generators in public hands that Queensland has the lowest average price increases in a broken national electricity market at 3.3 per cent.

If we did not own Ergon and Energex, we would have been unable direct those businesses not to appeal against an AER ruling in late 2015 that, if successful, would have seen prices jump. We would not have been able to direct Stanwell to examine its operations in the national market. How can the Prime Minister attack Queensland when our state has had the lowest wholesale prices since March this year and they will be the lowest for the next three years in the wholesale futures market?

To tackle housing affordability we boosted the \$15,000 First Home Owners' Grant to \$20,000 for people buying dwellings up to the value of \$750,000. Around 5,700 grants worth more than \$114 million have been approved, with more to come as purchases proceed. This helps lift home ownership and support building industry jobs. More than \$650 million of investment has come under our MLP framework and we have successfully launched our Social Benefit Bonds Pilot Program. Under the Business Development Fund we have delivered \$40 million to invest between \$125,000 and \$2.5 million, matched by funding from the private sector, to help businesses. We have now seen 13 Queensland businesses receive investments totalling nearing \$15 million.

This government has kept the commitments it made to Queenslanders and as a result we can very clearly say Queensland's growth is up, our domestic economy is recovering, unemployment is down and we have created 77,300 net new jobs, debt is down, three state budget surpluses have been delivered, confidence is up, exports are up and front-line services have been restored. Queenslanders have a lot to be proud of and a right to have a real sense of optimism. We are looking forward to the future.

North Queensland Stadium

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (9.50 am): I am pleased to update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering on its jobs for North Queensland and our election commitment to contribute to the \$250 million North Queensland Stadium in Townsville. We told the people of North Queensland at the election that we would contribute \$100 million towards the stadium and we have, in fact, delivered even more, with a total of \$140 million. This game-changing project is now well underway and today I can advise that the first sod will be turned on site next Friday, 18 August. This exciting milestone will officially kick off the construction phase of the project, following early preparation works on site over the past couple of weeks.

Managing contractor, Watpac, has been calling for tenders from shortlisted companies who expressed interest in early works packages. As of Monday this week, the first five packages worth a total of three quarters of a million dollars have been awarded. These packages include temporary fencing, shade cloth supply, project survey and demolition. Importantly, all of the five packages have been contracted to local companies. We already have locals working on the Saunders Street site. Later this month we expect Watpac to award the biggest of the early works packages, the civil works and roadworks package.

We are continuing to do everything we can to give local businesses and workers every opportunity to work on the stadium. By the time the North Queensland Stadium is completed for the start of the 2020 NRL season, Watpac estimates that more than 2,000 people will have worked on the stadium project during design and construction. Of these jobs, Watpac has committed to targeting 6.6 per cent of the workforce to be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

It has been said before—and I am going to keep saying it because it is important—that this stadium is going to be built by the people of North Queensland for the people of North Queensland.

Health System

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.52 am): Since our election in February 2015, the Palaszczuk Labor government has been resolutely focused on delivering on our election commitments. One of those election commitments was to overturn the decision made, when the member for Clayfield was the Treasurer, to close the Wynnum Health Centre, stripping healthcare services from that community. In the 2016-17 budget, we allocated \$13 million towards the construction of a new integrated healthcare centre and I am pleased to inform the House that that centre is close to completion. One of the great and consistent champions for this project has been the member for Lytton. I look forward to attending the opening of that facility with the member for Lytton in the near future.

Another of our critically important election commitments was to establish a commission of inquiry into the LNP government's decision, against advice and with tragic consequences, to close the Barrett Adolescent Centre without a replacement. As members will be aware, we went to the last election with a promise to build a replacement facility and we have delivered. A new facility has now been built on the campus of the Prince Charles Hospital. The Palaszczuk government's 2017-18 budget has allocated \$68 million to that project, along with two new step-up step-down facilities in Brisbane and further refurbishments to mental health facilities at Logan and the Gold Coast.

We are not only keeping our election commitments; we are also delivering more for all Queenslanders. Confronted by the impacts of the rushed opening of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital by the LNP, we also undertook a full review of that project. The LNP are fond of criticising reviews, but those involved in the commissioning of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital were grateful to receive that review and implement its findings in the safe commissioning and opening of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. We learned from those mistakes that were made and we were committed to ensuring they were not repeated. We have funded improvements at Atherton, Alpha,

Aramac, Aurukun, Boulia, Bundaberg, Cairns, Caboolture, Caloundra, Cloncurry, Dimbulah, Gladstone, Hervey Bay, Ipswich, Kingaroy, Kowanyama, Logan, Mackay, Mer, Maryborough, McKinlay, Palm Island, Rockhampton, Roma, Sarina and Townsville.

The LNP candidate for Broadwater, David Crisafulli, when he was in the cabinet with the members for Clayfield and Nanango, told the South Burnett community that the people of Kingaroy would only get a new hospital in exchange for selling the Stanwell Power Station.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Nanango for her strong support of the Labor government's project to rebuild the hospital in Kingaroy. As I have often said in this House, there is no greater friend of health care in the bush than the Australian Labor Party. The Kingaroy Hospital is a perfect example of that. We are delivering budget surpluses and new hospitals for Kingaroy and for Blackall without selling the family silver. We took a commitment to the people of Queensland to not sell assets and we kept our promise. Our capital program supports 1,200 jobs across Queensland. We are delivering health care for Queenslanders wherever they live in our great state.

Tourism Industry

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (9.56 am): We love tourism! We made an election commitment to restore long-term funding to Tourism and Events Queensland to grow the industry and to grow tourism jobs. I am proud to say we have delivered for Queensland. As treasurer, Tim Nicholls ripped \$188 million from the tourism budget forward estimates. That meant that TEQ could not negotiate long-term contracts for Queensland. They were hamstrung for growth because they did not have funding certainty. That is why we have made a commitment to the board that we would restore funding to TEQ. Our funding guarantee was a commitment that we made in our first budget to give Tourism and Events Queensland the funding and confidence they need to get a better deal for Queensland and bring new major events to Queensland.

Since we were elected we have committed more than half a billion dollars to the tourism and events industry here in Queensland. This investment is delivering results. The industry is now worth more than \$25 billion and supports more than 230,000 Queensland jobs. Record visitors are coming to Queensland from overseas and Australia. We have grown our events calendar by more than \$200 million from \$600 million a year and we have secured additional flights bringing \$640,000 worth of new inbound seats to Queensland generating up to \$480 million for the economy each year. We will keep on delivering for tourism.

Aquaculture

 **Hon. WS BYRNE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (9.58 am): There is no question that Queensland's aquaculture sector has the capacity to play an increasingly important role in supplying high-quality protein for a hungry world. In 2015-16 our farms producing prawns, barramundi, freshwater fish, red claw and oysters had a combined value of production of around \$120.2 million. They employed 528 full-time equivalent workers and were responsible for 40 per cent of the total state fisheries production. That is an important figure and I can confidently predict that the day will come shortly when they will produce more than half of the state's total fisheries production. That is a fantastic contribution with huge potential for the Queensland economy and I am convinced that the conditions are right for aquaculture to make a much greater contribution in the future.

Queensland has a low population density, ideal climate and great reputation for producing safe, high-quality food. The Palaszczuk government is focused on giving operators the certainty and support that they need to take full advantage of the opportunities for growth. Our aquaculture policy paves the way for more innovation and a larger industry. It includes the creation of a terrestrial aquaculture development area, or a number of them, and the identification of 450 hectares suitable for expanded operations. We are also developing assessment codes, providing certainty around offsets and investigating the potential for further marine aquaculture. Over the past few weeks, Fisheries Queensland officers have been meeting with industry and local governments to identify locations that might be most attractive to investors. We are also working actively to reduce barriers to entry and encourage further investment.

Last week, I had the privilege to address the Australian Prawn Farmers Symposium on the Gold Coast. I assured them that, despite the devastating impact of white spot disease on their industry, they could look ahead with some considerable optimism. I told the prawn farmers that, so far, the Palaszczuk government has spent more than \$15 million on the biosecurity response to white spot and we expect to spend an additional \$9 million over the next two years as we work with industry to return the closed farms to disease-free production. I assured them that the Palaszczuk government would do everything possible to protect them, and we are. However, I share their dismay that the Commonwealth government has repeatedly failed to show the same commitment to biosecurity. The industry is concerned, and rightly so, that the Commonwealth has sanctioned the recommencement of green prawn imports without consultation with either prawn farmers or the Queensland government. That is nothing new. I have written personally to the federal minister, Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, to express my concern about the state of federal biosecurity systems and the inadequate protection of our national borders. I do not expect to hear anything sensible from that quarter.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.01 am): Unlike those opposite, jobs will always come first under a Palaszczuk Labor government. We went to the election promising jobs and that is what we are delivering. We have delivered 77,300 new jobs since the state election in January 2015. We are investing \$177.5 million in the Back to Work jobs support program, which has already delivered 6,279 new Queensland jobs, with more on the way. We support the creation of jobs. All those opposite are ever interested in is a cut, sack and sell approach.

Also honouring our election commitments, we have restored the rights of injured workers to access common law rights, which now enables miners suffering from black lung to claim common law damages denied to them under the LNP. Additionally, we will ensure coal workers with any concerns about coal workers' pneumoconiosis can access a medical examination through our WorkCover scheme. We have introduced provisions that deem certain diseases for firefighters to be work related and implemented a National Injury Insurance Scheme for those catastrophically injured in the workplace. We promised and we delivered Labour Day back to its rightful place in May.

Our new and balanced Industrial Relations Act includes paid domestic violence leave, making Queensland the first Australian jurisdiction to do so. We have bargained a 2.5 per cent wage deal for public sector workers and successfully settled 40 agreements so far, bringing an end to an LNP imposed wage freeze that was due to their inability to bargain in good faith. We have also improved the health and safety rights of workers and their unions in the workplace.

Our racing industry reforms are light years ahead of those opposite, enacting the Racing Integrity Bill that is now being followed by other states but was opposed by those opposite. We are delivering the \$21 million Queensland Country Racing Support Program, recognising the integral role racing plays in regional communities.

In line with our election commitments, we have also enacted the Multicultural Recognition Act, including the charter and the Queensland Multicultural Advisory Council. Our new multicultural policy and action plan, Our story, our future, outlines the benefits of multiculturalism while promoting a united, harmonious and inclusive Queensland, free of any form of racism.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.04 am): There is nothing more important to the Palaszczuk government than the safety of the people of Queensland. It is central to every decision we make, every piece of legislation we introduce and every policy we pledge. That is why, before the last election, we made specific and concrete commitments to keep our communities safe. I can report that every single one of those commitments in my portfolio area has been delivered without the LNP's methods of sacking, cutting and selling.

Our delivered commitments include delivering better police safety equipment, such as \$5 million for body worn cameras. We have done it. We have also delivered a fair and reasonable enterprise bargaining agreement for our police. We have done it. We have increased police numbers and returned them to the front line. We have delivered that. We have discarded the former LNP government's plans to privatise and civilianise policing operations. We have done that as well. We have poured more

resources into targeting crime hotspots, organised crime, alcohol fuelled violence and the drug ice. We have done that too. We have also ensured that both our police academies continue to operate and we have given local residents more say on crime issues with the creation of community policing boards. We have done that. In fact, we have gone even further by rising to the threat of terrorism and providing more than \$16 million to improve the Queensland Police Service's counterterrorism capability and \$46.7 million for a world-class counterterrorism training precinct right here in Queensland.

The world-class skills of our emergency services were well and truly on display earlier this year when Cyclone Debbie and the flooding aftermath devastated much of the state. To guarantee that our emergency services have everything they need to face future challenges, we have also delivered on the following commitments. We have amended the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service Award to ensure auxiliary firefighters have their own award. We have done that. We have provided our State Emergency Service volunteers with more equipment and training. We have also ensured our rural fire brigades have a role in the early preparation of bushfire ground. We have reviewed the structure of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services to ensure that our organisational structure is professional and there are safe work standards.

The Palaszczuk government could not be more grateful for the hard work of our police and Fire and Emergency Services teams across the state. We will continue to support them as they continue to keep Queenslanders safe.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; Retirement Villages



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (10.07 am): Before the election, this government made a commitment to review all housing policies for fairness after the savage attacks by the previous LNP government. We have restored fairness to the public housing system. We have removed the opposition's nonsensical rules to prevent our tenants from taking a holiday. We have introduced a fair rent policy to roll back the LNP's cruel tax on people with disability and their disability allowances, and the tax on pharmaceutical benefits. We put people first and we are continuing to put people first. Today, we will take fairness in housing a further important step forward.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. I apologise for interrupting. Member for Everton, you are warned under standing order 253A. If I can identify members on the other side, I will do so.

Mr de BRENNI: I am pleased to inform the House that later today I will be introducing a bill to bring fairness to Queenslanders in their retirement years. The *Four Corners* program on retirement living drew many of these issues into public awareness. Sadly, the stories raised in the program reflected much of what residents of retirement villages have told me during consultation over the past 18 months: that contracts are long and unwieldy; fees for exit and reinstatement massively draw upon retirement savings, often at the most difficult life stages; and all too often residents feel operators are unresponsive and find it difficult to have issues resolved.

The last point was highlighted for me when I was drawn into the orbit of Mrs Margaret Gampe from a retirement village in Ashmore. Mrs Gampe, who is with us today in the gallery, is perhaps the fiercest advocate I have ever known. Mrs Gampe has spent considerable time and energy with fellow residents campaigning for the provision of life-saving defibrillators in her village. Those simple, inexpensive and life-saving devices are now commonplace in places such as shops, gyms, service stations and sporting clubs. I do not think any member of this House would think it unreasonable that, in a community of some 400-plus seniors, those life-saving devices be installed.

Despite the year of representations, the support of local media and the community, the residents were stonewalled. Eventually Mrs Gampe and the residents prevailed, but that was largely dependent on the generosity of the local pharmacy. This is just one small issue, but the experience that these residents have been through demonstrated the need for change. Our new laws will give power and a voice to residents in this sector. The laws will introduce simplified, standardised contracts. They will provide for fair reinstatement and they will make exit processes fairer.

I would like to thank Margaret and all those others around the state for their advocacy to bring fairness to retirement living. People should be able to enjoy their retirement, and that is what our new laws will deliver.

Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Portfolios

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.10 am): I am proud to say that, unlike those opposite, we are a government that keeps our word. Some 2½ years on, our record speaks for itself when it comes to my portfolio areas of Local Government and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Our government has been righting the wrongs of the past, particularly for our Indigenous people.

We have delivered on our commitment to establish a \$21 million reparations scheme to compensate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders who had their wages stolen or controlled under previous government acts. So far we have made around \$11 million in payments to more than 4,300 eligible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. As part of this commitment, we established the Reparations Taskforce, and we are implementing the recommendations of this independent group.

I am excited to announce today that we are launching a new \$200,000 Indigenous scholarship partnership with Griffith University, delivering on another one of these recommendations. Under the new agreement, we will be offering jointly funded PhD scholarships to two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, allowing them to have a louder voice in national policy, research and academic conversations. We know a collaborative approach is needed in our journey towards reconciliation, and we need local solutions to local issues.

In May I held a meeting with 15 Indigenous leaders in Cairns to share their knowledge and experiences on a range of issues impacting their communities. The Mayor of Palm Island, Alf Lacey, a fantastic mayor, was thankful for such a constructive forum that facilitated genuine discussion on desired outcomes—something he said he had not seen in a long time. A consistent theme I keep hearing as I meet with mayors across the state is how consultative this government is.

Since being appointed as minister, I have also met with executive members of the LGAQ on four separate occasions, which is in line with our commitment. Finally, my department has published best practice guidelines on fairness and equity principles to assist local councils. That is another commitment delivered. That is what we do; we listen to Queensland communities and work with them to deliver the outcomes they need.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Comments by Local Government Representative

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.12 am): I rise to make a personal explanation. I would like to address the scurrilous and fanciful comments made in the media today by Fraser Coast Regional Council Mayor Chris Loft. Elected representatives at all levels should be held to the highest possible standards of ethical and legal behaviour. That includes councillors, mayors and indeed all parliamentarians.

I am advised that the independent Regional Conduct Review Panel has determined that a complaint of alleged misconduct by Fraser Coast Regional Council Mayor Chris Loft is sustained. The independent panel is just that—independent. As Minister for Local Government, I have no involvement in this process; nor does the member for Maryborough. It is absolutely outrageous to suggest otherwise.

The Palaszczuk government is introducing a suite of reforms to local government in Queensland to improve transparency and accountability. This includes the proposed office of the independent assessor, which will be given greater powers to assess and, if appropriate, prosecute complaints. Importantly, under the new model identified, the independent assessor will also be able to deal with frivolous, vexatious, out-of-time complaints—a process Mayor Loft has previously praised.

My patience has really worn thin and, quite frankly, I have had enough of these vexatious claims. All councils should get on with the job they are elected to perform.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Schools, Drugs and Weapons

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (10.13 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to address the number of incidents of drugs and weapons in Queensland schools.

Safer Waterways Bill



Mr KNUTH (Dalrymple—KAP) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

1. that under the provisions of standing order 136 the Agriculture and Environment Committee report to the House on the Safer Waterways Bill by 2 October 2017; and
2. that so much of standing orders 136 and 137 be suspended to allow the Safer Waterways Bill to be declared an urgent bill to enable all remaining stages to be completed by 12 October 2017.

Mr SPEAKER: We have two proposed notices of motion for the six o'clock motion. I propose to have discussions with the Leader of Opposition Business and the member for Dalrymple immediately after question time to try to resolve this matter.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Ekka



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.15 am): As we all know, and particularly those on this side of the House, it is the beginning of the great Ekka week. What an exciting time it is for everyone in rural and regional Queensland. It is a time of the year when the city meets the country—that is what we hope happens out there—and we celebrate the important role and everything that country people do to feed and clothe us and the rest of the world.

In advance of this very successful week, I would like to congratulate Justice David Thomas and his RNA committee for what I know will be a fabulous week. Ekka week kicked off with the annual Rural Press Club breakfast. It was wonderful that so many LNP members were at that breakfast. We heard about leadership from David Foote from the ACC. It was very enlightening.

I am sure the Labor front bench will dust off their RM Williams boots, take the plastic off their hats and stroll around the Ekka and gladhand our Queensland farmers and cattlemen and pretend that they actually know what they are talking about. They have more front than Myer when it comes to their representation of rural and regional Queensland.

Labor has proved time and time again that they do not get regional Queensland. They simply do not understand it. They are more interested in shoring up the inner-city green votes in the suburbs than in looking after those people who feed and clothe us. There is no greater example than the fact that those opposite—the inner-city green-led Palaszczuk government—is planning to scrap the common-sense native vegetation laws.

We all remember this time last year when shadow minister Andrew Cripps led the charge with AgForce on the street out here to get across to people that those opposite were going to prance around the Ekka and then try to overturn the common-sense native vegetation laws. I challenge anyone at the Ekka when they see any of those opposite walking around to ask them what they are going to do with the native vegetation laws and what they are going to do in terms of sugar marketing. Those opposite, led by the Deputy Premier and, disgracefully, the agricultural minister, will try to overturn the fair marketing laws that protect farmers against the big guys. Only the LNP support regional Queensland.

Liberal National Party



Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development) (10.18 am): Hallelujah! It is always good to follow the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I will hopefully get to special mentions later on. If I use the word 'whitewash', if I use words like 'rewriting history' or 'revisionism', who or what could I be referring to?

Opposition members: Trains!

Mr BYRNE: There you go. The ones who have answered are the ones who have the vulnerabilities, aren't they? It is always the ones with the vulnerabilities who always open their mouths.

I want to lay to rest once and for all this bizarre notion that the Liberal National Party is good for rural and regional Queensland. It is a complete hypocrisy to suggest that it is even true. The real legacy is known to all Queenslanders. During the time the member for Clayfield was Campbell Newman's willing job destroyer in regional Queensland—I want to use the example of my electorate.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Premier and your sparring partner in the opposition, I ask you to stop please.

Mr BYRNE: There is one advantage to being industrially deaf: you cannot hear any of that. When they were in government, my region, particularly Emerald through to Rockhampton, was suffering a massive impact from the mining downturn—10,000 jobs lost in that area. What did they do? They did not do a single thing. At the same time we had the drought kicking in. What did they do? They did virtually nothing. How did they help us out in regional Queensland in the likes of places such as Rockhampton? They brought in massive job cuts. They pulled thousands of jobs out of regional Queensland when the mining downturn was at its peak and biting and when the drought was kicking the insides out of us. It was the equivalent of kicking a man on the ground when he is down. That is their legacy. That is the action of those opposite—thousands and thousands of jobs cut in rural and regional Queensland.

It is not as though I am the only one saying that. There have been any number of Liberal National Party figures saying that publicly to try to separate themselves from the legacy of the Liberal National Party. We saw promises in 2012. Four per cent unemployment was promised by the Leader of the Opposition. What did we see? We saw 6.6 per cent unemployment. A reduction of \$330 was promised in terms of power costs—the subject they have been rabbiting on about here for the last umpteen weeks. What did they give us? We saw a 43 per cent increase in power prices in three years.

The people of Queensland know full well the legacy that those opposite deliver. This government has been reflecting this week on proper policy and election deliverables—all of the things that we have achieved and the promises we have committed to and delivered, unlike those opposite. All we have seen from those opposite in the last 12 months has been a policy vacuum, an intellectual void. Whenever a tory has nothing to say, all we see is personal attack. They have nothing else to contribute to public policy. They have nothing else to contribute to Queensland. Queenslanders will never forget their legacy.

(Time expired)

Criminal Motorcycle Gangs

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (10.22 am): As part of Labor's fly-in fly-out week to forget on the Gold Coast last week, we had an inconvenient truth emerge about the softened bikie laws under Anastacia Palaszczuk. In a *Gold Coast Bulletin* article entitled 'Patch me if you can', it was revealed that only 27 bikies have disassociated themselves from criminal motorcycle gangs in the eight months since these new weakened laws were brought in by the Labor government, compared to the tough LNP laws of the previous 2½ years, which saw 434 in the time frame covered by the LNP laws.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for—

Mr Stevens: Logan!

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, thank you. Member for Logan, you are warned under standing order 253A.

Mr Stevens: If he can do it, I can do it.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not know if you want to do it, member for Mermaid Beach. No. You have not been playing up this morning.

Mr Stevens: I was just helping you, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: No. We will move on.

Mr MANDER: As I was saying, in the time frame covered by the LNP laws, 434 bikies disassociated themselves from criminal motorcycle gangs. These figures clearly show that the laws under the LNP were three times tougher on criminal motorcycle gangs and three times more effective.

I thank the Premier and the police minister for acknowledging the success of our laws in a number of parliamentary statements they have made in recent times. No matter which way they try to spin it, our laws were more effective and they got results. Last week there were questions being raised by the police on the beat about the ineffectiveness of the consorting laws. It was confirmed in estimates a fortnight ago that to be convicted or charged with a consorting offence you have to be in the company of two other people, the same two people, on more than two occasions, and those two people have to have been convicted of an indictable offence—that is, a prison sentence of over five years—and that is if that offence has not been expunged under the rehabilitation of offenders act. It is as clear as mud. No wonder they are so ineffective.

Last week the *Gold Coast Bulletin* talked about a conviction of a so-called former bikie who pulled a bus driver out of his bus, punched him in the jaw, dragged him down the stairs and then kicked him right in front of a bus load of people. Who was in the bus? It was a bus load of tourists coming straight from Coolangatta airport. Welcome to the Gold Coast! Welcome to where the Commonwealth Games are going to be!

It is more than obvious that the LNP is the only party that has a track record of cracking down on organised crime with actual results. The LNP will favour community safety every time over the civil liberties of criminal motorcycle gang members.

Liberal National Party

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.25 am): I welcome the opportunity to follow the member for Everton. We always know when the LNP has nothing left to argue because they go back to bikies—except now it is just the LNP laws, not the VLAD laws. Notice they do not use the word 'VLAD' anymore? I wonder why that would be!

The LNP and the Leader of the Opposition are known for one thing—cut, sack, sell. That is their motto—cut, sack, sell. That is what they are known for. Just this year Tim Nicholls, the Leader of the Opposition, said in his budget reply speech when talking about public servants and redundancies—

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.

On 14 September 2012, Campbell Newman said—

Despite all the hype and hysteria, not one permanent employee has been 'sacked' as a result of the budget process. That is right—not one permanent employee has been 'sacked' as a result of the budget process. It is simply not true to say that this government has 'sacked' or 'cut' 14,000 people.

Three days earlier, he said, 'Today I can confirm the total number of FTEs to be lost in 2012-13 will be 14,000.' Tim Nicholls, the then treasurer, said this year at the Queensland Media Club on 7 March, 'I wasn't in charge last time.' On the same day, 7 March, Campbell Newman tweeted—

Leaders take responsibility for hard decisions that have to be made—I did. Time for @TimNichollsMP who drove asset sales & cuts #qldpol.

On 7 March, again Campbell Newman tweeted, 'If Tim Nicholls had no role in the policies of my govt (yeh right) what are his policies now and how do they differ?'

We know that Campbell Newman and Tim Nicholls are cut from the same cloth. They say one thing and do another—cut, sack, sell. Let us not forget the beauty of Campbell Newman in 2016 saying that many public servants now thank him for sacking them: 'What is often missed is that people were given generous severance packages and many people often thank me for giving them an opportunity to start a new business or new career.' I know what they say to me. Some still do not have jobs because of what they did.

The question for Tim Nicholls, the Leader of the Opposition, is: do they still stand by their comments that there was no sacking under the LNP when they were in government? Do they still stand by that comment that there were no public servants sacked? Do they now acknowledge that they broke their election promise when they said to public servants before the 2012 election that every public servant has nothing to fear under them? They have everything to fear from the Leader of the Opposition.

(Time expired)

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.29 am): Queenslanders are waking up to the failures of this government and the failures of this Premier. Labor keeps telling Queenslanders they have never had it so good, despite Queenslanders saying they are doing it tougher and tougher every day. Under Labor their costs of living are going through the roof. They feel less safe in their homes and their communities, and they worry about keeping a job or finding a job. We saw it again today: Labor telling Queenslanders they have never had it so good despite what Queenslanders are saying out there.

On Tuesday we saw the Premier and the Treasurer use the state accounts to tell Queenslanders they have never had it so good, but the reality is that business investment continues to decline and infrastructure spending has been cut. The reality is that the state's domestic economy has shrunk since

the government came to office. Labor claims that we have never had it so good when it comes to employment, but the statewide unemployment rate is 6.5 per cent—almost a full per cent higher than the national average. That is 1.7 per cent higher than the New South Wales unemployment rate. The jobless queues are getting particularly bad for young Queenslanders. Queensland lost 10,000 youth jobs over the last year—more than any other state. The problem is particularly bad in regional Queensland. In outback parts of this state the youth unemployment rate is 56.2 per cent. More than half of young people in regional towns such as Mount Isa, Cloncurry, Longreach and Charleville cannot find a job.

What does this government tell those young Queenslanders looking for work? In the words of the employment minister, ‘Sorry, there is not much we can do about youth unemployment. It’s been around a long time.’ What an admission of failure by Labor! Businesses and families are struggling as power bills go through the roof. What did the Treasurer say yesterday? We had another claim that in terms of electricity Queenslanders have never had it so good—another feeble attempt to try to convince Queenslanders facing power bill shocks that electricity prices are lower under Labor.

Queenslanders know that this Labor government is gouging them on electricity in what amounts to a secret tax. The Treasurer’s own figures show dividends at the power generators increasing by a whopping \$665 million over the coming years. Over the last year wholesale prices in Queensland have spiked by more than 60 per cent. This spike in prices is pushing many Queensland businesses to the brink. Have a look at the figures from the Chamber of Commerce & Industry today. Eighty-five per cent of businesses say that their bills have jumped up by more than 50 per cent, but Labor keeps telling those businesses they have never had it so good. Queenslanders are telling Labor that it is not good enough and that something has to change. Only the LNP can deliver the change to see more jobs, lower the cost of living and build a better Queensland.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.32 am.

Regional Queensland



Mr NICHOLLS (10.32 am): My first question is to the Premier. The member for Mirani says in a Facebook quote that the Palaszczuk Labor government ‘shows no concern for thousands of workers, families and small businesses across the Central Queensland Region who depend on a secure employment environment’. Premier, why does the Palaszczuk Labor government, in the words of the member for Mirani, show no concern for regional Queenslanders?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. The member for Mirani stands up for his community. At the moment he knows, as well as everyone on this side of the House, that his community is going through some really tough times. With the downturn in the resources industry there are people who are doing it very tough there. I am looking forward next week to visiting some of those communities with the member for Mirani to hear firsthand how the women, families, children and workers are feeling. I said very clearly from the moment I was elected as Premier of this state that I would govern for all of Queensland, no matter where Queenslanders live.

This weekend I will be attending the Royal Queensland Show, and tomorrow I will be visiting the Country Women’s Association to wish them a happy 95th birthday and congratulate them on the extraordinary work that the Country Women’s Association is doing in our state. Not only that, at the end of this weekend I will be travelling to Mount Isa where I will be meeting with community members to understand more of the issues that are happening in the north-west.

Next week I will be in the member for Mirani’s electorate visiting members of his community. Next Friday I will be in Townsville turning the sod on the Townsville stadium that is being delivered by this government. That is what I do as Premier of this state. I travel across regional Queensland. I will be going to Kingaroy as well. I know that the *South Burnett Times* is looking forward to my visit. It is this Labor government that is delivering for all Queenslanders no matter where they live. That is why we are delivering on our election commitments and we are delivering for the people of Queensland.

Tonight my cabinet will be attending the annual RNA cabinet dinner which I am looking forward to. The Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House will also be attending the dinner. We look forward to that because it is great when the bush comes to town.

We have some school students in the House today. It is lovely to see them here today. Everything we do is about the future of these young people. It is about ensuring that they get good quality education. That is why the Minister for Education and the Treasurer have delivered a record budget for Education, and that is why we are going to ensure that these young kids get jobs in the future.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Leader of the Opposition, I might pick up on the interjection from the member for Kawana that the member for Mirani might have a chat with the students in the gallery because, believe it or not, the students in the gallery are from the St John's Catholic School in the electorate of Mirani. Welcome.

Regional Queensland

Mr NICHOLLS: The students from Mirani might also like to know what the member for Mirani said about what is going on in regional Queensland. My second question is also to the Premier. Premier, the member for Mirani also said of the Palaszczuk Labor government—

Families are shattered, small businesses have shut and community is running on empty across the regions coal sector and frankly not a thing is being done to show we care.

Premier, why is the Palaszczuk Labor government doing nothing to show they care for regional Queenslanders? I table the Facebook page.

Tabled paper: Screen shot from Facebook page in name of member for Mirani [\[1292\]](#).

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. If he wants to talk about caring, let us talk about caring. This is the man who is cut from the same cloth as Campbell Newman. He is exactly the same. What you see there is what you get. Where was the care from this man when he sacked 14,000 workers? Where was the care when he cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work? Where was the care when he cut workers from the agriculture department? Where was the care when he cut funding for community groups? We have a whole list of those.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Just one moment, members. Premier, it is not an opportunity to debate the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am talking about the care factor. As I said, everyone on this side of the House cares, and the member for Mirani cares about his community. He has always been passionate about his community. Every time I have been to his electorate, whether it is talking about biofuels, small business or industry, he will stand up for his community because he understands that different parts of the state—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms Trad: Did you care when you closed the Barrett centre?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection.

Mr Bleijie: Someone help her out.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No-one helped you out. They hid you away from public view. They should think about doing it again.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, honourable members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much. I acknowledge now that the students are also from the member for Mirani's electorate and they have a great local member. They have an absolutely outstanding local member who will continue to serve in this House for many, many years to come. I am looking forward to going there next Thursday. We are going to be sitting down talking to the community and listening to their concerns, because on this side of the House we understand that with the downturn in the mining community some communities are doing it incredibly tough. A lot of those communities have been impacted by the savage cuts caused by Tim Nicholls.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have made many comments this morning about people speaking over the member who is on their feet. The Minister for Education was obviously trying to outshine the Premier's contribution in answering this question. I suggest that the Minister for Education deserves a warning.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide. I can assure you there is fault on both sides of the chamber. Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: No.

Housing Affordability

Mr HARPER: My question is directed to the Premier, who cares about housing affordability. Will the Premier please outline what the government is doing to improve housing affordability and if there are any alternative strategies?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Thuringowa for that question. I am looking forward to coming to Townsville next Friday and I thank you for caring about your community. I know you have done that as a former paramedic working in the local community as well.

On this side of the House, we understand that housing affordability is a big issue for families across our state. That is why we have put in place a \$1.8 billion housing strategy over the next 10 years to build more houses across Queensland—over 4,500 houses—and at the same time create jobs. Unfortunately, we saw under the former LNP government what they did in relation to housing. We want to talk about care today. I can clearly remember when the former housing minister told residents in social public housing that they would be forced to share their houses with strangers and that they could not take holidays. That is the record of the former government when it comes to housing in this state.

It came as quite a shock to me when I saw that the LNP candidate for Greenslopes had put out a flyer saying 'Labor expanding public housing units in our area'. This is shameful. I know the member for Greenslopes will be absolutely horrified to have this type of misinformation being spread in his local community.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So it is true. You do not want—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What we do know is that people do it tough. On this side of the House, we want to ensure that people who are going through tough times have a roof over their head and have housing.

I thank the member for Thuringowa for asking the question today because we know what important work Orange Sky Laundry does in this state. I want to make special mention of Nic and Lucas who were named Young Australians of the Year. They will be here today as they prepare to unveil their new service that will be going to Townsville. These are young people who are also caring about people with their Orange Sky Laundry. I also want to thank them for the outstanding work they did with Cyclone Debbie. I caught up with them in Cannonvale where they were helping communities recover after the cyclone.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Procurement Policy

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier confirm that her government has slapped a Queensland manufacturer and their employees in the face, rejected their tender and bought nearly 9,000 king single mattresses from China for the Commonwealth Games athletes village?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I understand that was the situation that happened with a local supplier under a Goldoc contract. What I will say is that from 1 September our procurement policy will be backing Queensland jobs. It is a policy that is putting Queenslanders first. That is exactly what I want to know from those opposite today. Do they support our policy or not? Do they support Queensland or do they not? Do they support Queensland or do they support Steve Ciobo? We are still waiting to hear from the LNP opposition. Do they support our policy or not?

As the Minister for State Development said in this House this morning, 80 per cent of local contractors have been awarded work through the building of the new Townsville stadium. As the Deputy Premier has stated this week, with the early work on Cross River Rail preference will be given to local contractors. What do we hear from Canberra? All we hear from Steve Ciobo is criticism. I announced the policy in Townsville and on the Monday I was on the Gold Coast and Mr Ciobo was there. Steve Ciobo was given every opportunity to talk to me about any issues he had. We were there for an hour. He did not actually speak to me for—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: He did not actually raise one single issue about our procurement policy for the whole hour that I was with him. I also offered him the opportunity to speak to the media. I stepped aside and I said, 'Minister, would you like to speak to the media?' 'No thanks. All good.' I find it quite hypocritical that there is now this tirade of abuse coming from Canberra when it comes to our procurement policy.

Cross River Rail

Mr POWER: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier inform the House how Cross River Rail will improve public transport congestion for commuters in Logan? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative positions?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Logan for his question. I do want to acknowledge that he is a very big supporter of Cross River Rail because he knows it means an additional 30 minutes a day for people in his community catching the train from Logan into the CBD. It also means more frequent and reliable public transport services for the people of Logan. He also understands that without Cross River Rail we actually cannot build a rail connection to Flagstone, and this is a project that I know the member for Logan is incredibly passionate about.

It is not just the member for Logan and this side of the chamber who are passionate advocates for more public transport infrastructure, particularly Cross River Rail. We know that the view of Engineers Australia on Cross River Rail is: 'The only alternative to building this project is to allow that road congestion to escalate and I don't think that is helpful for our community.'

Engineers Australia gets it. RACQ gets it. Infrastructure Queensland gets it. The Labor Party gets it. The only people who do not get it are the LNP. In fact, only last week we gained a new supporter in Alan Jones. Alan Jones said, 'It seems infrastructure is a personal preference these days.' Brisbane needs a second crossing across the Brisbane River but Malcolm Turnbull says we do not need it. His guest at the time was former Liberal leader John Hewson. John Hewson in response said, 'The short-term politics of this are ridiculous.' Do honourable members know what? John Hewson is right. It is a ridiculous position from a ridiculous federal LNP government. Ridiculous!

We know that the LNP is playing short-term politics with critical infrastructure for our state. We also know that the only way that the Turnbull government will even start entertaining putting money on the table is if we start selling our assets. As I referred to yesterday in the House, we know that this is being backed up by Infrastructure Australia, which is saying that potentially Queensland should look at funding Cross River Rail by privatising and franchising its passenger services. I table a copy of the report for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Report by Infrastructure Australia, May 2017, titled 'Improving Public Transport: customer focused franchising' [[1293](#)].

We will not be privatising our passenger services. We will not be privatising rail services in Queensland, unlike those opposite, who only know three modes: cut, sack, sell. Those opposite only know: cut, sack, sell. That is all they know: cut, sack, sell.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have had a pretty good go. If you persist you will join the list.

Queensland Rail

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Information has come to the opposition that since 24 July Queensland Rail have been paying thousands of dollars a day to ferry Queensland Rail train crews by taxi all across South-East Queensland, for instance, from the Gold Coast to Ipswich and back daily. I ask the Premier: are the trains really so bad that even Queensland Rail cannot rely on them?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy to check out that information that the member has referred to. I am more than happy to look into that for the member. I am quite sure that the Minister for Transport and Deputy Premier will in fact check that. I will tell honourable members one thing. Under our new policy we will not be spending \$4 billion buying trains from India, as the former government did, that have problems associated with them. Let's be very clear on that. We will not be spending

money on those trains because in future the trains will be built in Maryborough; they will be built here in Queensland. Honourable members should not come in here and have a go about mattress contracts, which is a local supplier issue, when \$4 billion went overseas and those trains could have been made here. That is the clear choice.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Question to be Taken on Notice

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.53 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I ask the Premier, noting her initial answer, to confirm that pursuant to standing order 113(3) my question is taken on notice and an answer will be provided to the House in accordance with that standing order.

Mr SPEAKER: She has advised she is happy to provide that information.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. I refer to the Treasurer's earlier ministerial statement and the commitments delivered by the Palaszczuk government, and I ask: will the Treasurer detail the differences in approach taken by this government compared with other governments?

Mr PITT: I thank the member for the question. As the member knows, our economic plan has helped build jobs, build better front-line services, build business confidence and build growth. By contrast, the LNP's budgets were all about cutting: cutting jobs, cutting front-line services and cutting confidence and growth. Cuts and constant negativity is all that they could ever deliver and asset sales were their only answer. Of course when the member for Clayfield was Treasurer he said, 'We only had three choices which were to significantly increase taxes, fees and charges; to reduce services or to sell assets.' He said that the only way was selling assets.

We know at least one thing that they did not cut and that was the price of electricity. They did not cut the price of electricity despite promising people would save \$120 each year. What happened? It went up by 43 per cent. Just like the state LNP, the Prime Minister is showing his desperation, and his anti-Queensland attitude was on display yesterday when he repeated false claims that Queensland's generators were gaming the system. Other jurisdictions have sold off their energy assets and they have lost control of the sector. Another great achievement of this government is keeping our income-generating assets in public hands. Compared to other jurisdictions, Queensland has made smart, strategic decisions which allow us to put Queenslanders first. That is what we are doing: we are putting Queenslanders first. Of course, the results are there for all of us to see.

We know the Prime Minister is attacking the Queensland generators. He is trying to hold our state owned generators to a higher standard than all of the privately owned generation companies for the rest of Australia. Why would he do that? We know that when those businesses are sold off by governments we get poorer outcomes for consumers. We know that they put profits ahead of consumers. That is not what we do; we put Queenslanders first. We saw this in the aftermath of the Hazelwood closure. We saw this when the Snowy Hydro appeared to change their bidding behaviour for its Murray power station to influence wholesale prices and of course that increased its returns. It is very interesting that the Snowy Hydro's shareholders are the governments of New South Wales, Victoria and the Commonwealth, with each shareholder having equal voting rights. This is the real reason why the Prime Minister and Josh Frydenberg are talking trash about Queensland's generation companies. We know it is about deflecting attention away from Snowy Hydro. We know that there are other bidding practices going on. We all play under the national electricity market rules but apparently there is a separate set of rules for Queensland.

It is pretty galling when we know that Queensland earned \$328 million from sending electricity down south to keep the lights and the heaters on in Sydney in New South Wales when there would have otherwise been load shedding. The Prime Minister should be saying thank you to Queensland for keeping the lights on at his Point Piper mansion. Just like Tim Nicholls and Campbell Newman are cut from the same cloth, so is Malcolm Turnbull. They want to sell; they want to be anti Queensland.

Criminal Motorcycle Gangs

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. Given reports last week in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that three times as many patched criminal gang members surrendered their gang colours under the LNP than under Labor, how can the Premier honestly defend her claim that Labor's laws are more effective?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition because under the VLAD laws there were no convictions—zero convictions. My government made the very clear decision to tackle all forms of serious organised crime. While they were just focused on one area, we have said no, as a state and as a government we are going to be tackling all forms of serious organised crime. That means child sexual exploitation, illicit drugs and also outlaw motorcycle gangs, and that is exactly what we are doing.

I would like to thank all the hardworking police men and women on the Gold Coast and throughout Queensland who are doing their job—

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I will take that interjection. They are always getting attacked by those on that side of the House. We want to ensure that our communities are as safe as possible. When we went down to the Gold Coast last week it was really clear to me that the police were working cooperatively right throughout those communities on the Gold Coast.

I want to thank the minister for always coming to the Treasurer and the government to ask for additional resources. We are continuing to deliver extra resources, including the new counterterrorism area at Westgate. We will continue to support police throughout our state. We are giving them all of the equipment, the tools and the laws that they need to enforce those laws right across the state. We are rolling out body worn cameras and ensuring they have the updated vehicles and technology that they need. Of course, the police are also working incredibly hard to ensure that our Commonwealth Games will be safe. I was pleased that the Police Commissioner came to our Commonwealth Games subcommittee on the Gold Coast to give us a very thorough briefing on the preparations for the Commonwealth Games. Once again, thank you very much to the hardworking police men and women right across our state for everything they do.

Mr SPEAKER: I am informed that we have another group of students in our gallery from the Varsity College in the electorate of Burleigh. Welcome!

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; Health System

Mrs LAUGA: My question to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister please update the House on the progress of the Palaszczuk government's election commitments in the Health portfolio?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Keppel for her question. I know that she is as proud as I am to be part of a Labor government which delivers on its commitments and delivers for Queenslanders wherever they live, including in the great central part of our state in the Capricornia region.

Before the last election we promised Queenslanders that we would rebuild Queensland's health services which were so brutally cut by the Newman government, and that is what we have done. We made 66 election commitments and every one of them has been completed, upgraded or is underway. What a strong record of achievement it has been from a government that knows how to keep its promises. The safe opening of the \$1.8 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital: delivered. Our \$361.2 million specialist outpatient strategy: delivered. A 63 per cent cut to those Queenslanders waiting longer than clinically recommended for a specialist outpatient appointment: delivered. The lowest monthly elective surgery long waits in Queensland ever recorded since this measure first began being recorded 15 years ago: delivered. Contracts awarded for the commencement of a new adolescent mental health facility to replace the Barrett Adolescent Centre to be located at the Prince Charles Hospital campus: delivered. There have been 121 nurse navigators employed with a further 129 to be rolled out this year, a nurse graduate guarantee and safe nurse-to-patient ratios: all delivered. The nation's first sexual health strategy: delivered. The nation's most progressive medicinal cannabis laws: delivered. The nation's strongest antismoking laws: delivered. Standardising the age of consent: delivered. Most importantly, rebuilding the front line of health care through the employment of thousands of new doctors, nurses and allied health professionals: delivered. The members for Southern Downs and Callide leaving the parliament: delivered.

How does that compare with the Newman government, which used their record majority to bludgeon the Queensland health system to its knees? They delivered 4,400 health workers to the scrap heap, 1,800 nurses and midwives to the dole queue and cuts to mental health funding. They swung a wrecking ball through the economy, loaded up the howitzer of austerity and left a smoking ruin in its place. Their legacy was warring with doctors, fighting the nurses and attacking public servants. Every day there was a fresh assault and every opportunity was seized to cut. It was a rancorous and arrogant government that spent its time in office taking the 'care' out of health care. Poll after poll tells us that the Queensland community only trusts the Australian Labor Party to deliver for health care, and when you compare our record to theirs you know why.

Child Protection

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, I table a graph showing a record 10,334 child abuse investigations now taking longer than the required 60 days to complete, which is a more than 20 per cent blowout in just 12 months and the highest it has ever been in the past six years.

Tabled paper: Graph of numbers of child safety investigations taking 61 days or longer [1294].

Premier, is this not further proof that Labor does not have a plan to keep Queensland's most vulnerable children safe?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Let us recap on a bit of history. First of all, as I have said publicly—and I know that the Minister for Child Safety has said this publicly as well—in many instances children coming into care have come from families in incredibly complex situations—not just domestic and family violence, but either one or both parents being ice addicted. As we know, and as I have stated publicly, one in three children coming into care have either one or both ice addicted parents. The cases are getting more complex. The staff have been stretched to the limits. Why are they stretched to the limits? Because the former government cut 225 front-line staff. That is your record.

We are restoring the staff that are needed to do the job by putting more capacity out there. As the minister announced recently, there is extra funding for the Triple PPP Parenting Program to ensure that families get the support they need. Not only were front-line positions cut by the former treasurer; peak bodies were cut as well. Under the former government Foster Care Queensland was cut by \$241,000; PeakCare Queensland was cut by \$175,000; CREATE was cut by \$159,000; QCOS was cut by \$320,000; the Domestic Violence Prevention Centre on the Gold Coast was cut by \$152,000; the Domestic Violence Resource Service Mackay was cut by \$39,000; and the Ipswich Women's Centre Against Domestic Violence was cut by \$50,000. That is your record. Under my government over \$300 million is being put into domestic and family violence prevention in this state. For the first time a minister has been dedicated to this issue.

On this side of the House we will continue to give the NGOs the support they need to work with government for the protection of our children. Do not come in here and criticise when you so savagely cut 325 front-line service staff out there who were doing great work. We will always support the workers in this state. We will support the doctors, the child safety officers, the nurses, the teachers, the teacher aides, the firefighters and the ambulance officers no matter where they live in this state. Let's go out there and debate your track record against our record—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you continually talked during the Premier's answer to your question. If you wanted to rise on a point of order in relation to relevance you could have done so. You did not do that. You are warned under standing order 253A.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; Schoolteachers

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Education and I ask: the Palaszczuk government went to the 2015 election with a commitment to restore the front-line teachers who were cut from Queensland schools by the LNP government. Will the minister inform the House how the Labor government has worked to restore the teachers cut from Queensland classrooms?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. That is right: he knows full well that every school in Queensland was affected by the LNP cuts to teachers on the front line. They promised one thing before the election—

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Ms JONES: That is right; they did not even do that. They went to the election saying that public servants, teachers, nurses, midwives and doctors had nothing to fear, yet they cut 500 teachers from schools that are growing here in Queensland. We said very clearly that a vote for the Palaszczuk government would be a vote for more teachers in our classrooms, reducing class sizes, and that is exactly what we have delivered: 875 teachers above growth. In total, more than 3,400 extra teachers have been employed in state schools.

I know that LNP members want to talk down state schools and our teachers—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms JONES: You are tonight. We know that it is a Labor government that has put in more teachers and put downward pressure on class sizes. We know that those opposite have form. Tim Nicholls and Campbell Newman are cut from the same cloth. Their record is to cut, sell and sack. That is what they did, and nothing was immune. In relation to state schools across Queensland we saw cuts and closures. Schools were shut down and sold off with no consultation. That is their track record and we know it. Every single Queenslander knows that a vote for Tim Nicholls is a vote to cut, sell and sack.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Ms JONES: That is right, and it works. Labor will always fight for education. We will always invest in education. I note the presence in the gallery of students from Varsity College. I was there with the Hon. Dean Wells at the turning of the first sod, when we started building that school back in 2000. We are still building schools on the Gold Coast and across Queensland in high-growth areas, including in Townsville. I see the member for Townsville nodding. I know how passionate he is about schools.

There is a strong choice when it comes to the difference between us and them. This is a government that will restore front-line services and make a record investment—\$9.8 billion—in Queensland schools this year, because we understand that an investment in education is an investment in Queensland's future.

We know that if Tim Nicholls ever got back on this side of the parliament he would go back to his same old script of 'cut, sell, sack'. We also know that the honourable member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls, is cut from the same cloth as Campbell Newman. They cut, sacked and sold. That is their record. Labor will fight the LNP cuts every single day of the week. We will restore front-line services in Education, just like we have done in Health.

Hospitals, Unexpected Deaths

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. What is the procedure for handling the evidence of unexpected deaths of patients in Queensland hospitals? Is the Premier aware of any recent breaches of this policy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy to take that question on notice. The health minister is here. I am quite sure—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Honestly, it is a very technical question and I am happy to get the answer for the member. I do not have that level of detail at my fingertips.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Question to be Taken on Notice

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (11.12 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. I ask the Premier to confirm, pursuant to standing order 113(3), that my question is taken on notice and an answer will be provided to the House in accordance with that standing order.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I know that opposition members have this on their script for each question, but if the member listened to the Premier when she answered the question he would know that the Premier said that she would take it on notice and get back to him. She said that she would take it on notice. She said that.

Mr SPEAKER: I find that it is reasonable for the member to seek clarification of whether the Premier will provide a response under the standing orders. That is in order. I think the Premier has indicated that she will provide that by the next sitting day.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Resumed from p. 2169.

Mentoring for Growth

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and the Minister for Small Business. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is continuing to help small businesses through the successful Mentoring for Growth program?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Greenslopes for his question. I acknowledge his incredible advocacy for small business in his electorate. I have visited his electorate numerous times now to speak to small businesses, and I know that he is doing an outstanding job.

The Palaszczuk government's economic plan is setting the right conditions for small business growth after the disastrous cuts of the Newman-Nicholls LNP. While we know that there is still work to be done, we are making great progress under our \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business Queensland Strategy. Last financial year we allocated 604 grants to small businesses worth nearly \$3.1 million in funding. We have seen our small business numbers grow from 406,000 as at 30 June 2015 to more than 414,000 one year on. Actually, maybe I should say 414,001 after we heard about the business plans of the member for Callide! That is the highest growth in small business in four years. We have also seen an increase in the number of businesses that still exist after four years of operation. This is as a result of our government listening to small businesses and delivering programs to meet their needs.

Let us contrast that with the appalling record of the Newman-Nicholls government. In his first state budget the member for Clayfield slashed small business support, including by abolishing the small business commissioner. He also oversaw more than \$700,000 in cuts to a number of programs, including the successful Mentoring for Growth program. Last night at a reception in Parliament House we celebrated 15 years of this program. These cuts in the LNP's first budget saw 14,034 small businesses lost from Queensland. That is a loss of 269 small businesses per week in the first year of the LNP government.

The Palaszczuk government is serious about small business and the very important role the sector plays in this state. We are committed to improving connection to telecommunication networks for Queenslanders, because we know that mobile phone black spots, for instance, are a huge concern for small business. To help reduce black spots, the Queensland government committed around \$24 million over two funding rounds. It has been going from strength to strength.

That brings me to the parliament's own version of the NBN—that is, the LNP's 'nothing but nonsense' shadow minister, who has a limited understanding of her portfolio areas and has shown that she has a black spot in her understanding of how the program is being administered. Once again she has publicly demonstrated her complete ignorance of critical digital infrastructure programs being delivered in Queensland. If she bothered to do any research at all she would know that this is a federally administered program, with the rollout timetable for the mobile towers being determined by telcos.

(Time expired)

Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, Milk Supply

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Two weeks after Tablelands milk farmers launched a 'buy local' campaign to save their industry, the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service withdrew its contract for supply of milk from the local dairy farmers in Malanda in favour of a company a thousand kilometres away. What action has the government taken to reinstate the contract with local suppliers Lion dairy farmers?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Dalrymple for a very sensible and important question. We often do not get these in the House from members on the other side of the chamber. I know how passionate he is about protecting the interests of dairy producers on the Tablelands, and I thank him for how he has been engaging with this issue and engaging with the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, Queensland Health and me on this issue.

Along with the local member, I want to make absolutely certain that Tablelands dairy farmers are treated fairly. I am advised that the current local supply contract has been extended for a month as we further examine this issue. We are keeping those suppliers and they continue to supply the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service, which is the entity responsible for negotiating and contracting the milk supply contract for that part of Queensland.

I am further advised that the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service is in discussions regarding local supply arrangements with the new contractor in an effort to ensure that local producers who currently supply are not disadvantaged. Those negotiations and that work continue. I am hopeful that we can find a long-term solution that provides certainty for local producers. Under both the current supply contract and the proposed supply contract, both of those companies obtain milk from Tablelands suppliers. The issue is: what do we do about the existing producers under the current contract? That is what we are looking at.

I am hopeful that we can find a long-term solution that provides certainty for those local producers and a process that meets the needs of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service. I will keep the member for Dalrymple advised and informed as these negotiations and discussions continue.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Pine Rivers, I am informed that students and teachers from the Tallebudgera State School in the electorate of Currumbin are observing our proceedings in the gallery. Welcome.

Emergency Services, Volunteers

Ms BOYD: My question is directed to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services, and I ask: will the minister please outline how he is supporting emergency services volunteers throughout the state?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her question and for her support of her local emergency services volunteers. I know the member for Pine Rivers loves volunteers, just like our government—we love them—unlike those opposite who, when in government, turned their backs on emergency services volunteers.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr RYAN: Wait for it; wait for it—just wait! Our government has made a record investment in our State Emergency Service volunteers by providing them with the equipment and the resources that they need to get out and about and do their volunteering work but most importantly to keep Queenslanders safe. There is no better example of our government's support for our emergency services volunteers than this year's state budget. This budget—our great Labor budget—prioritises our emergency services volunteers and our emergency services workers to ensure that Queenslanders are kept safe and, as I foreshadowed, highlights the stark difference between us and them when it comes to support of our emergency services volunteers. In this year's budget we saw a record investment in our Rural Fire Service appliances, with a \$30.1 million investment in renewing and replacing our Rural Fire Service appliances. That program will deliver 60 new or replaced rural fire appliances this year and more in the next financial year. I had the privilege of getting out and about last week to officially hand over some Rural Fire Service appliances. I was able to go to the Greenbank Rural Fire Brigade with the member for Logan, and gee it was excited to get its new appliance! I was also able to hand over two new appliances to the Currumbin Valley Rural Fire Brigade and the Mudgeeraba Rural Fire Brigade and introduce our candidate Georgi Leader, who is going to make a great member for Currumbin. She is going to be a cracker! She is a hardworking, dedicated, professional woman.

Our budget also supported an investment in our State Emergency Service with over \$2.6 million for grants and subsidies to State Emergency Service groups right across the state as well as a record funding package for Surf Life Saving Queensland: \$17 million over the next three years which represents the first increase for surf lifesaving clubs across Queensland in 30 years—a big investment by our government in our surf lifesavers. That is in stark contrast to those opposite who in government had a pain score when it came to cutting, sacking and selling. We saw them turn their backs on our emergency services volunteers when they tried to sack Rural Fire Service support staff, when they cut funding for the If It's Flooded. Forget It program, when they cut funding for the Road Attitudes and Action Planning program and the—

(Time expired)

Gold Coast University Hospital, Mental Health Reports

Mr WALKER: My question is directed to the Premier. Premier, given this Labor government's history of keeping reports into failures in mental health secret, will the Premier guarantee that any system investigation into a recent matter at the Gold Coast University Hospital is made public in a timely manner to maintain confidence in the system?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. My understanding is that under the act I think a report is provided.

Mr Dick: It's always done in relation to incidents—always done.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Always done, so there we go. That would have been the practice when they were in office as well?

Mr Dick: Correct.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The same practice applies now. The member rose and spoke about mental health issues, but let us go back to what the former government—

Mr Dick: It's not necessarily associated with mental health either. There's no allegation it's associated.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, that is right.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr Watts interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No. I take that interjection: that is right; there is no—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, the member for Mansfield has asked a question. The Premier is getting assistance from the minister responsible for that very portfolio.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. What the minister was trying to clarify—and I will report this to the House—is that there is no allegation at the moment that it does involve mental health. I also reiterate to members that if they have a specific issue about a specific case the normal practice in this House is that they can actually approach a minister to have a discussion about those issues. There are times when these matters are before the courts as well, so I remind members that they have that opportunity to do that. The same practice that applies now under my government—the same act is there—applied to the former government.

Mr Dick: It's been reported to the Coroner.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, and it has also been reported to the Coroner.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Indigenous Councils

Mr CRAWFORD: My question is directed to the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the minister advise the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to support Indigenous councils in Queensland and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Barron River for his question and his ongoing support for our first nations people in the cape. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting our Indigenous councils and one way we are doing this is through the State Government Financial Aid program set up to provide Indigenous councils with funding to provide essential local government services in lieu of rate rises. I am pleased to say that the Palaszczuk Labor government is ramping up this program over the forward estimates, with an increase of \$3.4 million this financial year totalling more than \$34 million—and we are increasing that in the next year and the year after that. This is in stark contrast to the approach taken by the Leader of the Opposition when he was treasurer in the failed Newman government. In short, every year over the forward estimates the financial aid program will be higher than the \$33.7 million, the \$32.6 million and the \$31.17 million those opposite allocated to the program. We know that Tim Nicholls was a cutter and a seller when he was treasurer of Queensland. Those figures prove it.

This is a program which helps Indigenous local governments deliver better municipal services. The LNP cuts mean Indigenous councils have less money to spend on things like waste collection, maintaining existing infrastructure and many more basic services and, as a result, they have to use funding which would have otherwise been spent on new and improved infrastructure and new programs and schemes to benefit their communities. Labor is boosting the financial aid program funding while the record of the LNP and Tim Nicholls shows that they cut this program, but that is true to form and that is certainly a move that also is echoed by their federal colleagues. At a Commonwealth level the LNP has

also failed to support local Indigenous councils in Queensland. I have written to the federal Indigenous affairs minister, Nigel Scullion—I know the Minister for Housing has also done this—and I spoke to him on Monday asking him to continue the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing which will end in 2018. This is an agreement that is delivering better outcomes for our remote Indigenous communities with more housing options supporting local jobs for local people. Just recently on Palm Island I along with the member for Townsville and Mayor Alf Lacey visited some of those wonderful foundations and outcomes that those housing projects are delivering that are supporting Indigenous apprentices in their careers in those communities. One thing is clear: whether it is state or federal, Newman or Nicholls, all we can expect from the LNP is cutting and selling.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, I just counsel you: you are already under a first warning under 253A. Before I call the member for Moggill for his question, I am informed that a group of students from St John's Anglican College in the electorate of Algester is in the gallery observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Turtles and Dugongs

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Premier. Is it good enough that the Labor government does not keep records or data on the cultural slaughter of endangered turtles and dugongs? I ask: what is the Premier doing to rectify this situation? I table an article titled *On the brink of oblivion*, in which Bob Irwin raises this issue.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 31 October 2016, and attachment titled 'On the brink of oblivion' [1295].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. My understanding is that this is regulated under federal legislation. It is under the federal native title laws. The member should direct the question to his federal colleagues in Canberra.

State Budget, Priorities

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I note that this year's budget prioritises both increases for Child Safety and Communities, including the prevention of domestic violence. Can the minister detail these priorities and how they compare to the priorities set by the previous government?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. The way a government constructs its budget is a good indicator of its priorities. Of course, with our \$200 million injection—the biggest injection—into front-line staff in Child Safety and continuing our record budget in domestic and family violence, our priorities are very clear. We know that, when those opposite were in government, they loved to cut.

Today, we have heard the Premier talk about the 225 permanent jobs in Child Safety that were cut as well as the 170 temporary jobs that were cut, 55 of which were from child safety service centres. We have also heard about the cuts to non-government organisations—

Ms Davis interjected.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I counsel both the member for Aspley and the member for Burleigh. They will follow others on a warning if they persist.

Ms FENTIMAN: We have heard about the cuts from NGOs that support vulnerable women, children and families. The architect behind all of that was the then treasurer, the member for Clayfield, now the Leader of the Opposition. The LNP love cutting so much that it seems that it is now cutting its own MPs. The LNP's website has a facility where people can meet its MPs.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you want to table that?

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I am happy to table that. It seems that you cannot meet all of them.

Mr SPEAKER: Now?

Ms FENTIMAN: We know that the poor old member for Gaven had some problems with some neighbours.

Mr SPEAKER: Would you like to table it now? It is a prop.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I table that.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, showing LNP candidates [1296].

It is not only the member for Gaven people cannot meet but also the poor old member for Whitsunday, the member for Caloundra and, of course, the poor old member for Broadwater, because that invitation is now with David Crisafulli.

The LNP loves cutting so much that it is even cutting invitations to members of the public to meet its own MPs. We know that it does not want the member for Gaven—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Question time is over.

CORRECTIVE SERVICES (NO BODY, NO PAROLE) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 9 August (see p. 2142).

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

Clause 4—



Mrs D'ATH (11.34 am): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 4 (Insertion of new s 193A)

Page 6, lines 15 to 23—

omit, insert—

- (a) an offence against any of the following provisions of the Criminal Code—
 - (i) section 236(2);
 - (ii) sections 302 and 305;
 - (iii) sections 303 and 310;
 - (iv) section 307;
 - (v) section 309;
 - (vi) section 314A;
- (b) an offence of becoming an accessory after the fact to an offence mentioned in paragraph (a)(i), (iii), (v) or (vi);
- (c) an offence of counselling or procuring the commission of, or conspiring to commit, an offence mentioned in paragraph (a) or (b);
- (d) for a prisoner serving a period of imprisonment in Queensland for an offence against a law of another jurisdiction, having been transferred to Queensland under the *Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Act 1982*—an offence against a law of another jurisdiction that substantially corresponds to an offence mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c).

I table the explanatory notes to my amendment.

Tabled paper: Corrective Services (No Body, No Parole) Amendment Bill 2017, replacement explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [1297].

I foreshadowed in my second reading speech that it was proposed to move an amendment during the consideration in detail of the bill. This amendment also incorporates amendments that were to be considered during the consideration in detail that were circulated by the member for Mansfield.

Amendment No. 1 amends section 193A(8)(a) of the Corrective Services Act 2006 as inserted by clause 4 to include the Criminal Code offences at section 236(2), that is, misconduct with regard to corpses, and section 314A, that is, unlawful striking causing death. The amendment also amends section 193A(8)(b) of the Corrective Services Act, as included by clause 4, to ensure that the offence of becoming an accessory after the fact will apply to all of the prescribed homicide offences in the bill. Currently, clause 4 of the bill defines a homicide offence to mean the Criminal Code offences of murder, manslaughter, accessory after the fact to murder or conspiring to murder, or an offence of counselling or procuring the commission of, or conspiring the commission of, any of these offences. The amendment will ensure that, upon commencement, applications for parole from offenders who have been convicted of becoming an accessory after the fact to any of the prescribed homicide offences in

the bill, or an offence of counselling or procuring the commission of, or conspiring to commit any of these offences in circumstances where the body or remains of the victim have not been located, will be captured by the no-body no-parole framework in the bill.

Amendment No. 1 also amends section 193A(8) of the Corrective Services Act, as inserted by clause 4, to capture offences from another jurisdiction that substantially corresponds with a Queensland offence prescribed in the definition of 'homicide offence'. The amendment will ensure that the no-body no-parole framework in the bill applies to those prisoners who are serving a period of imprisonment for an offence that substantially corresponds with a prescribed homicide offence for which they were convicted and sentenced in another Australian jurisdiction and have been transferred to a Queensland prison under the Prisoners (Interstate Transfer) Act 1982. These amendments are consistent with the core objective of the bill, which is to actively encourage the cooperation of particular prisoners to assist in finding and recovering the remains of a victim.

I thank the opposition for working with us to find an agreed solution for these amendments. Once again, I thank Fiona Splitt and her family and Gary and Leanne Pullen and their family for their ongoing advocacy and support. I acknowledge them in the gallery today.

Mr WALKER: I thank the Attorney-General for those comments. It follows from what the Attorney-General says that the amendments that I circulated yesterday will not be pursued. The Attorney-General says correctly that the second version of her amendment takes into account the amendments that I had proposed. We thank the Attorney-General for her cooperation and her departmental officers in resolving this matter so that we could proceed in an agreed way.

It was important for the LNP that the offences covered by this provision were as wide as possible. The bill as it stood did not include the unlawful striking causing death offence and that is a possible offence that could lead to no evidence of a body post conviction. The situation was similar with the offence of interfering with a corpse, or the disposal of a corpse, and the accessory offences. We wanted to broaden the accessory offences to ensure that the legislation applied to accessories to any of the homicide offences mentioned in the bill.

The amendment as it now stands does that. Therefore, it progresses what we in the LNP were seeking to do and that is to have the broadest umbrella possible to ensure that there was no longer a situation such as the Splitt and the Pullen families have faced already where, in relation to a homicide offence, the convicted offender is out on parole but the body is not discovered. That would be unacceptable and these amendments are a watertight way of dealing with the breadth of provision that was needed.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 5, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (11.40 am): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (11.40 am): 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.

EDUCATION (ACCREDITATION OF NON-STATE SCHOOLS) BILL

Resumed from 9 May (see p. 967).

Second Reading



Hon. KJ JONES (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (11.40 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak on the resumption of the debate on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. This government supports the valuable contribution non-state schools make to educating the children of Queensland and the work of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board in accrediting and regulating the non-state school sector. On 9 May 2017, I was proud to introduce the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017 into the Queensland parliament. The purpose of the bill is to continue the board as an independent statutory body responsible for the regulation of non-state schools; streamline the accreditation processes; streamline the processes for government funding eligibility; strengthen the functions of authorised persons to investigate offences under the act; and provide for the review of decisions by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal rather than by the minister.

The bill was referred to the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee for consideration. The committee tabled its report on 12 July 2017, supporting passage of the bill. I would like to thank the committee for its thorough consideration of the bill. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of stakeholders from the non-state school sector for their valuable input into the development of the reforms to the regulation of non-state schools and to the committee's consideration of the bill. I would like to refer particularly to the input by the executive director of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Dr Lee-Anne Perry, and David Robertson, the executive director of Independent Schools Queensland, and their staff.

The committee has prepared a comprehensive report on the bill. I am pleased that the committee unanimously recommends that the bill be passed. I table a copy of the Queensland government's response to the report and will talk briefly to the two recommendations the committee has made for amendment of the bill.

Tabled paper: Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 36, 55th Parliament—Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017, government response [[1298](#)].

The committee recommends that clause 7 of the bill be amended to ensure that a governing body of multiple schools is not prevented from using some income to support the operation of some, or all, of its schools. The government accepts this recommendation. I propose to move an amendment during consideration in detail to amend clause 7. Clause 7 of the bill provides that a school is operated for profit if any part of the income arising from the school's operation is used for any purpose other than the operation of the school. The current Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001 provides when a school is not operated for profit. Under the current act, a school is not operated for profit only if any profits made from the school's operation are used entirely to advance the school's philosophy and aims as stated in the school's statement of philosophy and aims.

The policy behind the change was to provide clearer guidance to the board about when a school is to be considered to be operating for profit. A school operated on a for-profit basis is not eligible to receive government funding, both under the current act and the bill. As noted by the committee, stakeholders identified the potential for there to be unintended consequences as a result of clause 7 that could restrict the existing legitimate arrangements of schools. For example, clause 7 could restrict how governing bodies of multiple schools can distribute income received across those schools.

In response to these concerns I propose to move an amendment during consideration in detail of this bill to amend clause 7 to provide that a school will be operated for profit if any profits arising from the school's operation are used for any purpose other than to advance the school's philosophy and aims as stated in the school's statement of philosophy and aims. This proposal will continue existing arrangements and ensure that governing bodies of multiple schools are not prevented from using some of its income to support the operation of other schools that it operates. The board will be asked to monitor the operation of this section and report to government on its effectiveness in ensuring that schools that are operating on a for-profit basis do not attract state government funding.

There is also a minor amendment to clause 119. The committee recommends that clause 119 of the bill be amended to correct a minor drafting error. The word 'under' is missing from the clause. The government accepts this recommendation. I will move an amendment in consideration in detail to correct a few other minor drafting and typographical errors in the bill, including in relation to clause 119.

This bill makes important improvements to the legislative scheme for regulating non-state schools by reducing red tape and streamlining the accreditation and funding eligibility processes. Throughout the development of the bill we have listened carefully to stakeholders and have taken on board their feedback where possible. The bill has the general support of the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, Independent Schools Queensland and the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (11.46 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. This bill will replace the existing Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001 and will be the principal legislative instrument for accreditation of non-state schools to operate and receive government funding in Queensland. This bill is about contemporising and streamlining a piece of legislation and comes from a review commenced in 2014 under the LNP. The LNP will not be opposing the bill and we will be supporting the recommendations made by the committee to make two amendments to the bill. I note further that the minister has made a number of minor and technical amendments to achieve the objectives of the bill.

When we consider that there are around 500 non-state schools operating in Queensland that provide education services to over 260,000 students, it is an important piece of legislation and one that we need to get right. The LNP's 2014 review was welcomed by non-state schools in Queensland and as the Independent Schools Queensland noted in its submission, that review was timely. The bill maintains most of the current arrangements for accreditation of non-state schools and the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. However, it proposes a number of changes, including to simplify the accreditation process by removing provisional accreditation and the issuing of accreditation certificates; provide for decisions about eligibility for non-state school funding to be made by the board, provide that the board is responsible for monitoring of compliance with the act and adds to the powers of authorised officers to facilitate this function, and provide for an independent review mechanism of decisions by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

We are lucky here in Queensland to have great non-state schools. I have had the very great pleasure of visiting many and seeing firsthand what they are doing to provide a positive education experience for their students. Just last week I visited the Australian Trade College North Brisbane in Redcliffe to meet with grade 10 students participating in the new SWELL cadet program. It was wonderful to speak to this inaugural group of students and have them tell me about their aspirations for the future. Only one month into the program the enthusiasm of these young people to try something new and to really invest in their future was fantastic. I congratulate Garry Woodford and Mick Roberts for this initiative to help young people achieve their goals, whether it is through continued studies, to excel in sport, to start a trade or to go on to qualifications like young Kelvin who I met who has an ambition to become a civil engineer.

The bill makes no changes to the construct of the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board, which will continue to be the statutory body responsible for upholding the standards of accreditation for non-state schools in Queensland. The board has served its functions well, but it is time to streamline and contemporise some of those functions. I note that, as part of its work last year, the board received over 100 applications for government funding, oversaw 31 complaints and issued two show-cause notices, so the work that it does is very important.

Two additional board functions have been included in the bill, being an increase to the board's function to clarify its new role in monitoring and investigating offences under the act, and monitoring compliance with the act and enforcing compliance of persons who fail to comply with the act. The changes to the act will also mean that the board will conduct investigations about contraventions of or non-compliance with the act. All decisions made by the independent statutory board will now have review mechanisms through QCAT, rather than, as it currently stands, through the minister. This is an important mechanism to maintain public confidence and transparency.

Streamlining the accreditation process by removing the provisional accreditation process is another key provision in this bill. Currently, the board is required to decide to grant provisional accreditation and then decide on full accreditation at the end of that period. Under the bill before the House, the board will no longer be required to issue certificates. The explanatory notes state that this will reduce the regulatory burden on the school's governing body and on the board as the regulator to

issue and return certificates at the outset and each time there is a change in the school's accreditation. In the event that a school is not compliant with the criteria come commencement day, the board will have the ability to issue a compliance notice giving the school time to address the concerns and if the school is unable to satisfy the requirements the board is able to cancel their accreditation.

The bill also streamlines processes for eligibility for state government funding. Rather than the current two-tier process, a government body will automatically be eligible for government funding for a school upon its accreditation provided the board is satisfied that the school will not be operated for profit. The explanatory notes tell us that, although the decision about the eligibility for government funding will now sit with the board, the Queensland government, through the minister, will remain responsible for the payment of funding to eligible non-state schools. Presently, the minister can withdraw eligibility for government funding if it is found that the school is operating for profit. A process of withdrawal of funding eligibility is continued in the new bill. The new proposal sees the board now responsible for making the decision to withdraw funding eligibility and the minister's funding policy will outline what happens to state recurrent funding when funding eligibility is withdrawn. The bill also includes a power for the minister to ask the board to reassess a school's eligibility.

Another key change streamlines processes of monitoring directors of school governing bodies. Currently, the board must assess whether a school's governing body is suitable and satisfy itself that each director holds a current blue card, otherwise known as the working with children card. This is very important. At present, a non-state school's governing body is not required to notify the board when the directors of the school's governing body change. Rather, the board sought an annual update of each director, which meant that the status of directors was not known in real time or in a timely manner. To correct this, the bill includes a new requirement that a school governing body must notify the board about changes in directorship in real time and, when a new director commences, provide a copy of the new director's blue card to the board. The bill also provides for a streamlined process for eligibility for government funding. Rather than the current two-tier process, automatic eligibility of government is provided upon the school's accreditation.

The committee recommended amendments following feedback from stakeholders during the inquiry into the bill. The first relates to clause 7 and the unintended consequences of the existing wording around the interpretation of 'operated for profit' and 'operation of a school'. Both the ISQ and the QCEC raised concerns around governing bodies that operate on behalf of more than one school. The department recognised the potential for unintended consequences that could restrict some existing legitimate arrangements of schools in relation to the operation of more than one school. The committee resolved unanimously that clause 7 of the bill be amended to ensure that a governing body of multiple schools is not prevented from using some income for the operation of some or all of its schools. The second amendment related to clause 119 of the bill, which the committee recommended be amended to correct a minor drafting error.

The hallmark of a great education system is offering choice for parents and students. Non-government schools play a vital part in this system. I acknowledge the contribution they make to educational outcomes for Queensland's future. Like the minister, I was pleased to visit Cairns, along with the member for Broadwater, to attend the launch of Catholic Education Week recently. It was a wonderful gathering, as I am sure the minister would agree. It was a coming together of students, teachers, parents and friends of Catholic education, all of whom were enormously proud to showcase the great things that Catholic education has to offer. There is no better education system than one that offers choice, streamlines processes and cuts red tape, while still offering robust protections for our children.

I acknowledge my colleague, the member for Surfers Paradise, who, as the former education minister, took the initiative to review the act, which has resulted in a more streamlined and contemporary piece of legislation. I thank Independent Schools Queensland, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, the Queensland Law Society and the Independent Education Union of Australia, Queensland and Northern Territory branch, for their submissions to the committee, which ultimately led to a number of changes during the inquiry process. I also thank the members of the committee for their consideration and deliberations during the inquiry into this bill. In particular, I thank my colleagues the member for Broadwater, the member for Albert and the member for Hervey Bay for their commitment to the education of Queensland students through their work on the committee and their work in their communities.

In closing, I highlight how lucky we in the Aspley electorate are to be home to terrific state schools and non-state schools. Under the recent boundary changes, we have welcomed five new schools, including two non-state schools: St Dymphna's Catholic Primary School in Aspley and St Kevin's Catholic

Primary School in Geebung. Along with St Paul's Anglican School at Bald Hills, St Dymphna's and St Kevin's will provide local parents with educational choice for their children. I very much look forward to working with them in the best interests of our children's education.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (11.56 am): Today I rise to speak in support of the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill as the chair of the education committee. Firstly, I thank the secretariat staff for all of the work that they did in putting together the research for this bill. I recognise the committee members from both sides of the House. The bill was agreed to unanimously. It was great to work together on this one. I acknowledge all of the stakeholders who made submissions and came to the public hearings to present their perspectives. From that, we were able to develop a small number of amendments that have been taken on board by the Minister for Education.

We have heard the member for Aspley say how proud she is of the non-government schools in her electorate. I believe I can safely say, with hand on heart, that every single member in this House is proud of the work that the non-government and government schools do in our communities, because we know that to invest in education is to investment in our future. I want to make sure that I have done absolutely everything that I can for the kids, because one day one of those kids may be looking after me, so I want to make sure that I did it right, right from the get-go. One day I may live in an old-age home and I do not want to hear the words, 'Remember me, Mr Stewart? I'm going to get you back!'

I will take a leaf out of the book of the member for Aspley. She gave a free kick to a couple of her schools and I will do exactly the same thing. St Patrick's College on The Strand and, in particular, Principal Paulina Skerman are doing an absolutely sensational job. Ms Skerman is really driving the students hard and they have achieved some outstanding and excellent results in NAPLAN this year. Earlier in the year we were fortunate to have the member for Algeester attend a school assembly. The students sang a welcome to country, which was a very moving and emotional experience. Things such as that showcase the talent of students in each and every one of our schools.

I would also like to give a free kick to St Margaret Mary's College, and particularly the principal, Kathy Park, who is doing an outstanding job with her students. Every time I go into my schools—and I am sure I can say this for every member in the House—I am welcomed and the schools love displaying the outstanding work they are doing. They are proud of the work they are doing with their kids.

We have already heard from the Minister for Education that investing in our schools, and particularly the early years, is key. As a government we are investing \$10.6 million to support access to vital early education, family support and maternal health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families through Queensland's children and family centres. That is investment in the future. We are partnering with the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health to promote the importance of early childhood education in 18 locations across the south-east corner through the Deadly Kindies program. That is an investment in education. This week the minister has introduced a new bill into this House.

Through this year's budget we are investing \$27.6 million this year or \$72.9 million over five years to implement the new senior assessment and tertiary entrance systems for students entering year 11 from 2019. That will have an impact on students not only in government schools but also across the non-government sector. It is great to be part of a government that makes sure we are doing everything we can to get the best outcomes for students right across Queensland.

This bill simplifies the non-state school accreditation process by removing provisional accreditation and the issuing of accreditation certificates. It also provides for decisions about eligibility for non-state school funding to be made by the board rather than by the Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee as is the case under the current act and for automatic eligibility for accredited schools operating on a not-for-profit basis. The bill also provides that the board is responsible for monitoring compliance within the act and gives powers to authorised officers to facilitate this function. Finally, this bill provides for the independent review of decisions by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, QCAT.

This bill is about reducing red tape. It is also about empowering the functions of the board with regard to these schools. The bill provides three new functions for the board: to assess and decide applications in relation to whether governing bodies are still eligible for government funding; to monitor and enforce compliance within the act; and to conduct investigations about contraventions of or noncompliance with the act.

The submitters basically said to the committee that these are great changes which they welcome, except for clause 7. They identified that there could be some key issues with clause 7 and the meaning of 'operating for profit'. I note that the minister has stood up in this House today and explained what the amendment will look like that addresses those concerns. I congratulate the minister for doing that. The

role of committees is to scrutinise bills before the House to make sure the legislation meets the needs of people and is squeaky clean. That is exactly what has happened in this case. I congratulate the minister for foreshadowing those amendments. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.03 pm): I rise to speak to the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill. At the outset I acknowledge my colleagues on the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee. We have been a very busy committee in recent times. It is enjoyable, even if we do not always agree. I think we would all acknowledge that we somehow manage to find a way to work through the legislation and bring something back to parliament so that we can debate it. I also acknowledge the secretariat for the work they do.

One of the great things about education in Queensland is the strength of all three sectors. Both sides of the House acknowledge that if it were not for the strength of the state sector, the independent sector and the Catholic sector we would not be able to see the great outcomes that we see for the next generation of leaders right across this state. Like many members of this House, I am incredibly proud of all of the schools in my electorate, whatever sector they come from.

I would like to acknowledge the work of some great advocates for their sectors—David Robertson from Independent Schools Queensland and Lee-Anne Perry from the Catholic Education Commission. I know Lee-Anne very well, as both the member for Aspley and the Minister for Education know, having had Dr Perry as my high school principal. That means I know the value the Catholic education sector brings, not only seeing it now as a local member—seeing the fantastic work of St Francis Xavier Catholic School; a great Catholic primary school in my electorate—but also having gone through the Catholic education system myself and seeing the value of making sure that parents are offered choice. Parents need to be able to choose the right school for their children and their circumstances.

I join the shadow minister for education, the member for Aspley, in acknowledging the great work that we saw recently at St Andrew's in Cairns when celebrating Catholic Education Week. We were able to celebrate mass for Catholic Education Week and acknowledge those who work in the sector who really do embody the spirit of Catholic education.

As someone who was educated by the Sisters of Mercy it was touching to see that one of the winners of the awards was a Sister of Mercy. It was lovely to chat with her and the other sisters from that religious organisation about what the Sisters of Mercy have done for education here in Queensland.

I acknowledge the Catholic parents and friends association and thank them for inviting me to their annual dinner held at Nudgee. It was great to be able to go, particularly as the member for Aspley was terribly unwell that night and was not able to go. I was able to take a gift on her behalf that I know they were able to use as a lucky door prize.

Interestingly, I was saying to someone just before that it was great to go back to Nudgee. I had not been there since my school days. I went there as a young student looking forward either to school dances or making a decision about whether I would cheer on Terrace or Nudgee in the annual Terrace-Nudgee rugby grudge match.

Mr Hinchliffe interjected.

Miss BARTON: Nudgee always wins.

Mr Millar interjected.

Miss BARTON: I hear the member for Gregory talking about Toowoomba Grammar. I know that he is incredibly proud of his alma mater, but there is something special about those who go to the Nudgee-Terrace annual grudge match. There is very much a rivalry between the two St Joseph's schools in Brisbane.

I would like to touch on the independent sector before I talk about the substantive detail in the bill. I represent one of the few electorates that does not actually have an independent school in its electorate. I think that actually reflects the demographics of my electorate. More than half of my electorate are over the age of 50. We have only five schools. Four of them are state schools.

Ms Davis interjected.

Miss BARTON: They are all fantastic schools. We also have St Francis Catholic School. A number of parents in my electorate, having chosen their local primary school—whether it is the local state school like my mother chose for me or whether it is the local Catholic school—then make a decision to choose a Catholic high school or an independent high school out of the electorate. I think that is reflected by the fact that there is only one high school in my electorate.

There are a number of things being done in this bill that ultimately stem from a review that was started by the former minister for education, John-Paul Langbroek, the member for Surfers Paradise. It is lovely to see when we are talking about education and the strength of the three sectors that we have bipartisan support in this state. We know how important a quality education is for the next generation of leaders.

Early on in our consideration of this bill the committee realised there were some concerns around the changes with respect to operating for profit. I would like to acknowledge the government and their amendments with respect to clause 7. We know that it was never the intention to capture schools that are operating as a sector. Catholic schools are a prime example of schools that operate as a sector. All their funding comes in together and they use money from other schools to support a collective group of schools, whether it is for cultural endeavours or sporting endeavours or where Catholic schools are perhaps in areas where parents do not have the capability to make a contribution to the school in the way that others might. We know that the Catholic sector in particular looks to make sure that they work collaboratively as a sector. They had concerns about the wording of clause 7.

Indeed, the independent sector also had some concerns about clause 7. Whilst some schools in the independent sector are independent of other schools, there are schools within that sector that do work together. I know that the Anglican Schools Commission is an example of a collaborative group within Independent Schools Queensland where they do try very much to work together. Certainly the department had indicated in their initial briefing that it was never their intention for Catholic schools or independent schools where events and activities were being organised for students to be captured by this. It is good to see there is some clarification so we can make sure that there are no unintended consequences.

The other matter I wanted to touch on was the changes to board membership being notified as soon as practicable rather than making an annual statement once a year. The member for Aspley has touched on this. There are some very good reasons as to why this must be done. Unfortunately, sometimes there might be people who are appointed and the school is not aware of concerns that might rightly be raised about that person or whether or not they have the appropriate documentation like a blue card, for example. By making sure that those changes are known sooner rather than later means that we can ensure that all the independent schools and the Catholic schools across Queensland are operating at their most effective.

The other matter I wanted to touch on was the streaming of funding eligibility. Given that independent and Catholic schools are funded via grants from the Commonwealth, there was a bit of double-up when it came to accrediting non-state schools. It is good to see that we have been able to streamline a lot of that, because reducing bureaucracy and reducing red tape is something that both sides of the House should work towards.

The other matter I wanted to touch on was the review of decisions going to QCAT. Previously when decisions of the board were being reviewed they went to the minister. No-one is suggesting that ministers previous—whether it was the member for Woodridge or the member for Surfers Paradise—were making decisions that were not appropriate. By ensuring that the review of these decisions now goes to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Appeals Tribunal, there is an arms-length process between the people who are making decisions and the department who are making decisions about accreditation and funding. It means there is an appropriate level of accountability and transparency.

I did have some concerns about whether or not this would mean that there was an increased cost to the relevant schools. When I raised this with both the Catholic Education Commission and also Independent Schools Queensland they indicated that they were of the view that schools would be able to appropriately respond and appropriately manage any appeals of decisions and that they would continue to offer schools counsel and advice, as they had previously done and continue to do on a range of issues.

It is really lovely to see the bipartisan nature in which we as a parliament are able to talk about schools and the next generation of leaders. Education is one of those areas where we are making sure kids have access to a quality education, where we are making sure that the schools are offering the curriculum in the most appropriate way and where are making sure that children are being taught. It is lovely to see that we are coming together so that we can make sure that the next generation of leaders, as I say, have access to the best quality education. I look forward to joining with my colleagues in supporting this bill as it passes through the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (12.14 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution to the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. As always, firstly, I would like to thank my fellow committee members—the committee chair, the deputy chair, the member for Maryborough, the member for Hervey Bay and the member for Pumicestone. I also thank the secretariat staff for helping us to consider this bill. As the member for Broadwater touched on, I would like to thank all those who participated in the public hearing—people like Mr Robertson from Independent Schools Queensland and Dr Lee-Anne Perry AM from the Catholic Education Commission. It was great to have them come along and give their opinions about this bill, which, as other members have highlighted, will streamline the process when it comes to seeking government funding for these important schools.

I think it is fitting for me to mention my local private schools, my local independent schools and one of my local Catholic schools. They do such a fantastic job. I have quite a few in my area—Rivermount College, St Stephen's College, Coomera Anglican College and Assisi Catholic College. They are four very, very good—

Miss Barton: How did Michael Crandon let you get a school named 'Coomera' in your electorate?

Mr BOOTHMAN: With the redistribution, the member for Coomera will take the majority of these independent schools off me. These schools have done an absolutely fantastic job over the years. The principal of Rivermount College is an exemplary individual who is very passionate about increasing the education outcomes for his students.

I have said on many occasions that I would love to see a few more private schools pop up in the area simply because of the massive development we have on the northern Gold Coast. As the member for Coomera and I have said in this chamber many times, we have experienced a 20 per cent population growth in the Pimpama region. Having more independent schools to share the burden of this population and having legislation to make it easier for them to create new campuses would go a long way to catering for this massive population growth. I note that in the latest NAPLAN results my local schools are certainly up there near the top. They are doing a fantastic job and they should be very proud of what they have achieved.

The review into the non-state school sector commenced back in 2014 under the previous LNP government. This legislation has taken a little time to make it to parliament. Going by what the independent schools and the Catholic schools were saying, they do appreciate what has transpired with this legislation. The need to modernise and streamline non-state school accreditation is long overdue. The bill replaces the current act, while continuing the majority of the current arrangements for accreditation of non-state schools. Under the current act, recommendations about the school's eligibility for government funding are made by the board, then proceed to the eligibility committee and then to the minister. This includes deciding whether a school will be operated on a not-for-profit basis, whether the governing body deals with any for-profit organisations on an arms-length basis and whether there are any potential conflicts of interest. This bill simplifies this process while still making sure that schools are truly acting as not-for-profit entities.

One issue picked up in the committee hearings which members and the minister have highlighted is clause 7 and the impact on schools with one or more campuses that wish to expand to another campus. That is something I have mentioned to one of my local schools. I would like to see an expansion in the Albert or Coomera region because, as I said, we have a massive and growing population. Our local private schools are pretty much at capacity. I have been pushing to help these schools financially to expand to another campus in another area.

The committee examined the clauses of the bill and the vast majority of the process is exactly the same except for one major aspect, and that is the eligibility committee. Clauses 78 to 85 govern whether the school is suitable to receive government funding if proven it has followed the eligibility criteria.

To wrap up, this has been a while in the making. When I spoke to my local schools, their boards and committees about it, it is something they were very interested in. It is important that we streamline these processes to make it easier for schools—these not-for-profit organisations—to expand and build additional schools on the northern Gold Coast.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (12.21 pm): I rise to contribute to the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. I will give my colleges and private schools a bit of a plug as well. Everyone else is doing it, so why not?

Miss Barton: You've got 20 minutes.

Mr SORENSEN: I have got 20 minutes.

An honourable member: How many schools have you got, Ted?

Mr SORENSEN: I have got a few. One of the first private schools in Hervey Bay was Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School. That would be going on quite a number of years now. The population in Hervey Bay continues to grow and these schools make a huge contribution to the education of children in Hervey Bay.

The next one was the Fraser Coast Anglican College at Doolong South Road. That has been going since 1993-94 and it has grown a lot over the years. The college also has a childcare centre and a kindergarten. Quite a number of students at the college go from kindergarten right through to grade 12.

The next one that came along was Xavier Catholic College. It has been there for only about 10 years and it has well over 1,000 students now. It has grown a lot more than expected. With the population growth in Hervey Bay continuing all the time, they will cap the number of students very soon.

St James Lutheran College has had the same growth spurt as Xavier Catholic College. It has grown to about 500 to 600 students and it has a kindergarten on site as well. Riverside Christian College is starting to make a presence in Hervey Bay. I really do not know what we would have done without these private schools in Hervey Bay, because I do not think we have kept up with the growth of Hervey Bay in the government sector over the years.

This bill, especially clause 7, will make a difference to the boards. I thank the minister for her proposed amendments to the bill because that is what the private sector asked for when we sat down with them. It is good to see that the minister has listened to what the committee had to say. That does not happen very often sometimes.

During the examination of the bill we put out for private submissions to stakeholders and there were four submissions accepted by the committee. We had public hearings which were attended by Independent Schools Queensland and the Queensland Catholic Education Commission. We received a public briefing on the bill from the Department of Education and Training and took written advice from the department about safeguards for the powers of authorised persons on issues raised in the submissions. If there are disputes, the bill provides a right to go to QCAT. It takes it away from the responsible minister, and I think that is a fairer and easier way to do those types of things.

The change to clause 7 is especially great to see. There were unintended consequences as a result of clause 7 and it is great to see that being changed. I think other members have said it all. I thank Scott Stewart, the chairperson, committee members and the secretariat. When he was in the chair the other day he showed us what being a principal was all about.

Miss Barton interjected.

Mr SORENSEN: Yes, he will be calling us all to attention soon. We have a lot of fun in the committee. Today two bills will be passed with the support of both sides of parliament. At the end of the day this is all about education. It is great to have private schools in our communities. We have to do all we can to provide the right climate for them to operate in and to keep funding those private schools because they are so important in our community. They save the government a lot of money at the end of the day. A lot of people do not realise that but they do, and it is great to see that happening out in the community. I would like to publicly thank the private schools in Hervey Bay for all the wonderful work they have done over many years now.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.27 pm): I rise to give my support to the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. I would like to thank the chair and deputy chair of the committee and the members of the committee—the members for Albert, Hervey Bay, Pumicestone and me. It is a great committee. This is a very good bill. I would like to thank the Minister for Education for doing a fantastic job in this state of Queensland. As we all know, education is key to lifting the standard of living and improving communities. That is what the Palaszczuk government and the minister have been doing.

I agree with my colleagues on the committee about private schools. Everyone else has been giving a plug to their private schools, so I will take a leaf out of the book of the members for Broadwater, Hervey Bay, Townsville et cetera to talk about my schools. St Mary's in Maryborough is a fantastic primary and high school. The principal of St Mary's College is Graham Meertens. Graham is a fantastic man and so are the teachers and staff. It is a great school. I go to all their open days. The school opened on 3 September 1888 and it is still going now. St Mary's in Maryborough has been around a long, long time. It started off with the Christian Brothers and in 1979 it amalgamated with the Sisters of Mercy and became St Mary's. It has turned out many great citizens in my electorate, and it is a very good school.

Catholic schools all around Queensland provide a top education and they do a tremendous job for communities from Cape York right down to the border. I agree with the member for Hervey Bay: I do not think the public realise the important job these schools play in the community in what they do and how they turn out great students right across-the-board.

Another school I have in Maryborough is Riverside college, which is a great independent school. Anne O'Brien is the principal there and she is a fantastic lady. That school has grown to over 800 students, and it also has a great distance education policy which has grown dramatically over the years. The school started with about 40 students and over the years it has grown to over 880 at the moment. It is a fantastic school with great education outcomes. When we see the students in these schools and what they can do, we are proud to say that we represent that community. These schools turn out some great students.

It was great that the minister listened to the committee and changed the bill. This is what happens when we have a government that listens to people. There were changes, and this is what can happen with recommendations from a committee. I would like to thoroughly congratulate the minister for doing that because the minister did listen to the committee. We had a lot of input from stakeholders and I listened to them and their points of view. We had some really good briefings and talks on the bill and we listened to the stakeholders who came and addressed the committee. The standard of education in Queensland is high because of these very dedicated people. They are dedicated not only to their schools but also to the students and the parents who attend them.

Like the member for Townsville said, I think we are in pretty safe hands going forward with some of the students, teachers, principals and people on the different boards. We are in very good hands moving forward because these people are looking after the education of our state. It was interesting to listen to some of the stakeholders. As a committee, we discussed the bill and I believe we have come up with a very good bill.

As other speakers have said today, when we go out into the community, people say to us, 'All we hear is that politicians fight, argue and carry on,' but the education minister put this bill to the House, the committee went through it, it went back to the minister and she has listened, and I believe we have a great bill now that moves forward with the education for this state. It has been said many times today that everyone on both sides of the House wants the best for students in schools to make sure they get the best education so they can improve their lives or do what they want to do in life. As the member for Townsville said, we are not getting any younger so we have to make sure we look after these younger students coming through and give them the right education and the right bill because, as we age, they are the ones who could be our future brain surgeons or doctors operating on us. We need to make sure they are educated well.

Mr Stewart interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: I will take that interjection from the member for Townsville. We have to get it right. Being an ex-principal, you know how crucial education is to the young people of our state and to our future. Education is the backbone of the way we are going to move forward here. We know that jobs will change over the next few years. There will be jobs that go and new jobs will come that we have never heard of. With a changing work environment, we have to make sure that our students are educated to move forward with the new economies, with the digital interruption, as they call it, with STEM and with everything like that. We have to make sure that our young ones are educated.

I believe we are doing a great job in Queensland in educating the youth and moving them forward and getting them ready for the new economy. There will be a lot of changes in the new economy that a lot of older people will not come to terms with because it will be completely different. It will be like the Industrial Revolution that happened in England which turned England on its head. With the digital interruption that is coming, we have to make sure that our students are educated and ready to embrace the new economy. This is very important. I know both sides of the House want to make sure that our students are educated and ready to move forward for the new economy.

The schools have changed a lot since I went to school. When I went to school, we were interested in football and cricket. Our education came last on some days because it was more interesting to play a game of Rugby League, cricket, tennis or whatever we wanted to play. In the swimming season, we would go to the pool. We would make sure we got our exercise in, or we would hide under the building for a couple of hours so we did not have to attend class. It is a different world today, and that is why we have to make sure the future of our state and nation is educated well.

I am proud to be part of the education committee and proud to be part of a government that is putting a record amount of funding into education. It is the biggest budget we have ever had in this state and that shows the government understands that education is the key to moving this state forward. It is great to see that we are getting some great results in NAPLAN and things like that from the money we are spending across this state on education.

I would like to thank the members of the committee, the secretariat and the staff who put a lot of hours in. I especially thank all of the stakeholders who came in and spoke to us. The education minister and her staff were always there to answer questions. If there was anything we wanted to know, they were very amicable and would talk to us to make sure we had the right information so we could make the right decision for Queenslanders. This is what it is all about. It is about the right decision for Queenslanders. I would like to once again thank the chair and the deputy chair for their fine leadership on this committee and how they directed the committee. I thank everyone who was involved. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill. I think it is fair to say that all of us here in this chamber—indeed, all of us across the state of Queensland—appreciate the importance of education. I suspect all of us are here because at some point in our lives we have had strong educational input into who we are, into our knowledge, into our learning, into shaping what we have become.

I reflect that during the LNP's term in government we undertook the Queensland Plan. Quite surprisingly, what came out strongest during that consultation with all of Queensland was the importance of education. It was not so much the traditional educational models, national curriculums and so on. The people who engaged in that process identified that education is so vital to our future and our kids' future in terms of preparing them for a flexible, changing, dynamic world—a world where the jobs they will be undertaking have not even been invented yet. What came through very strongly was that we need to try to teach them more general skills of being able to adapt, to learn quickly, to watch technological change and to move with that.

I think that is why in a state like Queensland and a nation like Australia we do want choice when it comes to our educational basis. No two kids necessarily learn the same. Every kid has different ways of receiving input and turning that input into opportunity. It is vital to have an education system that is based on state schools, non-state schools, distance education, homeschooling, skills trade training centres, technical colleges, universities and on-the-job experience because we need to be tapping our children as appropriate into each and every one of those.

Throughout the course of the eight-plus years that I have been the member for Glass House I have been extraordinarily fortunate to represent 18 schools. Thirteen of those schools are state primary schools, one is a P-10 at Woodford, one is a state high school at Maleny and there are three non-state schools in my electorate. There is the Ananda Marga River School in Maleny, the Caboolture Montessori School just north of Caboolture and the Australian Christian College, Moreton also in Caboolture. I have two non-state schools right on the boundary of the electorate of Glass House: Glasshouse Christian College at Beerwah and also my alma mater, Grace Lutheran College; their Caboolture campus is just across the road from the boundary of the electorate of Glass House.

It has been my real privilege to be engaged in each of those school communities over the course of eight years. Unfortunately, with the redistribution and the changes to those boundaries should I have the honour of representing Glass House after the next state election, I will lose two of those schools and I will lose the immediacy of two more of those schools. I will literally be representing only one non-state school across the entire electorate of Glass House, which will be the Ananda Marga River School. I want to spend a moment reflecting on those other four schools and the great work that they do.

The first one is the Caboolture Montessori School. Had standing orders allowed me, I would have worn my friends of Caboolture Montessori School T-shirt into the chamber today. I am a huge fan of that school; they are a fantastic pocket rocket of a school ably led by Yvonne Rinaldi. My connection

goes right back. On one of my first visits they raised with me concerns about some eucalypt trees on the school property. The term was used—and we use it very widely—widow makers. We could foresee limbs from these trees falling on the kids. We got together a group of young people to come in and help that school drop those trees and remove them from the precinct. Every time I go back and look at their soccer field and play equipment I recall that that has only been possible due to that first interaction we had with Yvonne and the Caboolture Montessori School.

I go back there regularly, whether it is when they install their chook pen, they open a new building or to speak to the kids in one of the cycles. They are such an engaging group of kids. Seriously, addressing the kids at Caboolture Montessori School is harder than question time as a minister. They are so switched on, so engaged and so aware of the broader context of the lives that they are living. They really have a great time asking adults tough questions. To Yvonne Rinaldi I say that it has been truly a great honour to represent the Caboolture Montessori School. I do look forward to introducing her to Simone Wilson, our cracker candidate for the seat of Pumicestone as that school will fall within the boundaries of that electorate after the next state election. I know Simone will continue to represent them in the same passionate way that I have.

The other school is the Australian Christian College, Moreton based at Caboolture. I want to acknowledge Gary Underwood, the principal there, and the great work he has done in reshaping that school. It started with a very small day school component but a very large distance education component. That day school has now grown and grown. I reflect back to April this year when I was privileged to be at the opening of their new \$3 million building. I would love to table this article because if honourable members see what this school looks like it will blow their minds.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Caboolture Shire Herald*, dated 20 April 2017, titled 'Australian Christian College Caboolture unveils new \$3 million building with high glass walls and polished concrete floors' [[1299](#)].

I have never seen a school look like this before in my life. It is like an office building. It is all open plan with glass from floor to ceiling. It is two storeys and has 11 classrooms and a cafeteria. It is absolutely amazing and a real testament to what many of the non-state schools can do with a relatively small amount of money to provide educational facilities for our kids. I was there at that opening with school captains, Leah Pavey, Arien Gill, Elizabeth Forster and Joshua Gale. It was fantastic to see that school go from strength to strength. I will let honourable members in on a little secret. Despite that school moving out of the boundaries of my electorate, my connection will continue as my daughter is currently enrolled at that school, so we will continue to be close friends of that school community.

I now turn to the two schools that are currently on the border but will shift to being a bit further away. There is Glasshouse Christian College, another fantastic institution in the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast. Mike Curtis has done a stellar job of growing this school to the point where it has become one of the pre-eminent educational institutions on the Sunshine Coast. The kids that we meet there are so mature, so well rounded and so engaged. That is not surprising when we see what they do on the campus and the activities they take part in. It is always a privilege to be there at their awards night each and every year, whether it is watching the youngest preppies all the way through to the year 12 graduates. What is scary is that I recall going to some of the earlier awards nights at Glasshouse Christian College and students who were then in year 4 have since graduated and gone on to university. I now see them around the community, so I have clearly been in this job far too long!

Ms Davis interjected.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Aspley. We will keep going.

I say all the best to Mike and his community. I will continue to stay connected with Glasshouse Christian College as a number of students from the Glass House electorate will continue to tap into that school.

Finally, I mention my old school, Grace Lutheran College. After I left the Rothwell campus they opened up a Caboolture campus. Earlier this year the new principal at Grace Lutheran College, David Radke, and the new head of campus, Warren Irvine, again invited me to their leadership inauguration ceremony. I love meeting the school captains there. This year they are Madison, Sabah, Lucilla and Patrick. I reflect on the fact that back in 1991 I was school captain at Grace Lutheran College. That kind of blows these kids' mind a little bit that someone as old as me can claim some heritage with Grace Lutheran College. They, too, will be moving electorates after the next election, but obviously I will maintain a link to them as an alumni of that fine institution. I wish them all the best. I wish all of the

non-state schools in Moreton and the Sunshine Coast hinterland all the best towards the end of this academic year and into the next academic year. I am pleased that there is a level of bipartisan support for this bill this afternoon. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** We have some special guests in our gallery at the moment. On behalf of our parliament I would like to acknowledge the 2017 *Queensland Country Life* Miss Showgirl finalists and their accompanying officials. The Minister for Agriculture, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I will be joining them for some refreshments shortly. I say: welcome and we hope you enjoy your stay at Parliament House. I say to the member for Gympie that they visited the chooks earlier. We have a few new visitors. The member for Gympie is a former judge of the poultry and his daughter was a Miss Showgirl entrant last year.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (12.48 pm): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House—

1. notes the failure of the Turnbull government to fund its 50 percent share of the \$220 million Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements category D funding package for Queensland's recovery from Tropical Cyclone Debbie, and
2. calls on the Turnbull government to fund its share of the category D package to help rebuild Queensland communities.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.48 pm): by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning be permitted to move at 4.30 pm today the motion of which she gave notice earlier today, with time limits for speeches and debate as follows—

- 5 minutes for each member; and
- total debate time before question put—30 minutes

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 12.49 pm to 2.30 pm.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Notices of Motion

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this morning I was presented with two notices of motion for the private members' debate this evening, one from the member for Dalrymple and the other from the member for Aspley. I have discussed this matter with both the member for Dalrymple and the Opposition Whip. I am informed that there is a roster whereby the crossbenchers are given an opportunity to give notice of private member's motions, and the member for Dalrymple will have that opportunity next sitting week.

Accordingly, I have decided that the motion proposed by the member for Aspley is to be debated tonight during the half-hour segment commencing at 5 pm. The member for Dalrymple's notice will not be placed on the *Notice Paper*.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Planning and Environment Court

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (2.31 pm): I want to take the opportunity during this debate to draw the attention of the House to what I regard as one of the gems of Queensland's legal system, and that is the Planning and Environment Court. The court celebrated its 50th year last year with a dinner in September at which many of the former judges and practitioners within that jurisdiction who attended were addressed by His Honour Judge Michael Rackemann, who presently supervises that court.

It is a court that started off life as the Local Government Court. It has been under the control of a number of judges who have honed it into one of the finest operating courts within our jurisdiction. I will mention a number of those judges. Judge Lindsay Byth was the first judge of the court who set it on its way. I was fortunate enough to practise in the jurisdiction for many years, and I worked under judges Kevin Row, Tom Quirk, Senior Judge Tony Skoien, Judge Alan Wilson as he then was—later Justice Alan Wilson—and now the presiding judge, Judge Michael Rackemann.

It is a court which has achieved an enviable reputation not only around Queensland and around Australia but around the world. In recent months the United Nations has prepared a document about environmental courts and tribunals around the world in which our court figures prominently. I am indebted to Chief Judge O'Brien, who sent me a copy of that report and the details of the reference to our own court. I quote from this international report, which states that our Planning and Environment Court—

... is widely viewed as an outstanding success model, based on the benefits of its administrative structure and its many best practices. As a distinct specialized court within the general state trial court system, it can be easily identified, is highly regarded and—by sharing overhead, budget, courtrooms, staff and facilities with the general court—benefits from lower administrative expenses, less management time and greater efficiency. The PEC judges are located throughout the state, and can hold hearings when appropriate elsewhere in Queensland.

I think that sums up the benefits that this court provides to the community of Queensland. It is an important court. It often deals with controversial matters and matters which are of a high monetary value. It is important that its integrity and competence be beyond question, and I believe that is so. It is an impressive court. It has a very successful clear-up rate: 114 per cent of its cases over the last few years have been cleared up, which is well in excess of its target.

The important thing about the court is that every elected official and every town planner throughout our state knows that the important decisions they make may one day be looked at by that court. That keeps the system honest and it keeps our system's integrity in place. I believe that the court is a wonderful credit to the state of Queensland.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): Before I call the next speaker, I am advised that we have in the public gallery the traditional owners of the land which the member of Keppel represents: the Woppaburra people. We welcome you here today.

ecoBiz

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (2.34 pm): There are about 5,000 small businesses in the Bulimba electorate. They are the backbone of our local economy and the backbone of our local community. I keep in regular contact with them about the many ways in which the Palaszczuk Labor government can support them—and of course I have loved working to promote them through my #di4bulimbasmallbusiness Instagram campaign, which has gone absolutely gangbusters—which is exactly why I was so thrilled to see the revamped ecoBiz program receiving \$916,000 in funding from this government in this year's budget.

This new sustainability program is aimed at helping small and medium businesses cut their costs through energy, water and waste-saving actions. I was thrilled to have the environment minister, Mr Steven Miles, and Mr Stephen Tait from the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland—with whom we are in partnership on this initiative—out to the Bulimba Veterinary Surgery just a couple of weeks ago to highlight the new program. Based on the results to date, ecoBiz could see businesses cut their waste by almost half, water use by one-third and energy consumption by one-fifth.

The Palaszczuk government has acted to stabilise energy prices in Queensland, but this program is going to provide additional relief to businesses by giving them simple ways to reduce the amount of energy they use. It will not only deliver financial savings but it will help in our efforts to tackle climate change. I love it that businesses can sign up to become an 'ecoBizness' and get access to free services, including one-to-one coaching, workshops and webinars. Businesses will be able to tout their

sustainability credentials by using the 'ecoBizness' logo and there will be sustainability star ratings. This is a chance for small businesses to reduce costs—which everyone wants, of course—and I think that most small businesses are very aware of being responsible with the environment.

Most small businesses owners that I know—and I have been one of them in the past—are time poor and simply do not have the time and resources to find out the best way to do either. EcoBiz will save them that time and give them the expertise and the moral support to cut their costs and do the right thing by the environment. Dr Judy Harbison of the Bulimba Veterinary Surgery is a case in point. They are always looking at ways to reduce waste and cut energy and water bills. Judy raised their concerns with the minister about what to do with medical waste, for instance, and they do use a lot of energy and water. As part of a recent renovation of the practice they installed a 15-kilowatt solar system to try to alleviate expenses.

Programs such as ecoBiz offer the chance to get expert advice and support on what else they can do around all of these issues. I know they are looking forward to being part of the program, seeing cost reductions and sustainable, more environmentally-friendly practices. The ecoBiz partnership is a great example of government and industry working together to reduce pressure on the finances of small businesses and the environment, and I am so proud to be supporting it.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Traffic Congestion

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (2.37 pm): In my adjournment speech last night I talked about the Mount Ommaney Small Business Awards which will be held tomorrow night. The western suburbs are a beautiful part of Queensland in which to live, and small business is a vital part of the local economy. Our biggest hurdle in the western suburbs is traffic congestion, and it is getting worse. What we know is that this do-nothing Labor government has no plans to address this burning issue. I speak, of course, of the single-lane overpass bridge at Sumners Road. Every morning residents, employees, employers and customers are stuck in traffic trying to get to school, to work and to the shops, and every morning they creep across the bridge at Sumners Road. Tradies are delayed in getting to their worksites; parents are delayed getting their kids to school; and buses are delayed, with passengers missing their train connections at Darra. This congestion spills into other streets and changes traffic patterns across the electorate.

Time is money to business, and the loss of productivity as a result of being stuck in traffic costs businesses. In March, the RACQ's report on travel time performances on major state corridors identified the Centenary Motorway as one of the slowest roads in Brisbane. Motorists are forced to travel on average 78 kilometres per hour below the speed limit in several sections along the motorway, including the section between Sumners Road and Dandenong Road. In some sections drivers are being forced to drive on average 22 kilometres per hour in the morning and 26 kilometres per hour in the afternoon.

We have seen no investment from this state government in planning the upgrade. There has been no investment in building the infrastructure and roads to fix the problem. Mount Ommaney and the western suburbs are again ignored and left out by the Palaszczuk Labor government. With each day that passes without action from this do-nothing Labor government the congestion gets worse, and this time spent in traffic away from home and family gets longer and longer. The LNP committed \$80 million to duplicate the bridge at Sumners Road and fix the problems for the residents and businesses of my electorate, but the Premier has abandoned us to the traffic chaos.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mrs SMITH: I think the member needs to go back to his seat where he belongs, because he is speaking out of place. Residents of my electorate can be assured that I will never abandon them and will continue to fight for the Sumners Road overpass so that this long overdue project can be completed. Only an LNP government will build our roads and build a better Queensland.

(Time expired)

Keppel Electorate, Woppaburra People

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.40 pm): I am so incredibly proud to acknowledge the presence in the gallery today of representatives and our beautiful elder Aunty Glenice of the Woppaburra people. It is a great honour and a privilege to acknowledge the traditional owners of land I represent in this place, the Woppaburra people, who are the traditional owners of the Keppel islands. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

In the spirit of reconciliation, the Woppaburra people and the North Keppel Island Education Environmental Centre have been working in close partnership since 2011. In 2013 a statement of intent was signed. It acknowledges the Woppaburra people's right to protect, preserve and revive their law, language and sites of cultural significance. It facilitates education and reconciliation practices through mutual respect and recognition of Woppaburra ancestors. Every year hundreds of school students visit Principal Roger Searle and the team at the North Keppel Island EEC to learn about the shared histories and cultures and the respect for each other that is modelled by Woppaburra and the EEC staff.

One significant change which has occurred through this partnership is the reconnection of Woppaburra elders to their country, demonstrating the Woppaburra people's sovereign ancestral and traditional ownership over country and demonstrating the five dimensions of reconciliation: race relations, equality and equity, unity, institutional integrity and historical acceptance. This access and connection are vital for Woppaburra people's dreaming and sense of belonging, identity and health. I congratulate the Woppaburra and the North Keppel Island EEC, whose work was acknowledged earlier this year by the awarding of an esteemed Queensland Reconciliation Award in the education category. That award was presented by the Premier and was an acknowledgement of the work undertaken by both the EEC and the Woppaburra people towards reconciliation.

On 24 June this year there was another historic chapter written for the Woppaburra people with the official celebration of the declaration of Balban Dara Guya—'mangroves', 'creek and fish' in Woppaburra—as a fish habitat area on Great Keppel Island because of its important environmental and cultural significance, which is now protected from the impacts of coastal development. In many ways Balban Dara Guya is an iconic milestone for Queensland's declared fish habitat area network. It is the first fish habitat area declared on an offshore continental island. It is the first to have Indigenous wording as its name and the first to incorporate Indigenous interpretation material on site. I thank island resident Carl Svendsen, who saw and appreciated the spectacular environmental values Leekes Creek holds and who first nominated the area for declaration as a fish habitat area in 2006. The collaboration between state and federal agencies, such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Marine Parks and the department, and the Woppaburra was pivotal to the success of this venture. I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the Woppaburra for their dedication to reconciliation.

Southport Electorate



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (2.43 pm): I rise to talk about just how Southport is thriving. Investment over the past five years has been absolutely stellar. Much of this has come off the back of the priority development area declarations that were made under the LNP over the Southport CBD—in particular, the Parklands area adjacent to Griffith University. These declarations have propelled growth and investment confidence, but there is still so much more that needs to be done.

Our local schools are absolutely at quota in terms of capacity. There are some 18 schools within the current electorate. I am told by many of the principals that most of these schools are either at or over quota. When you consider that next year—once the Commonwealth Games has come and gone and the village is available for people to move into and reside in the precinct—there will be 5,000 to 10,000 additional people living in the area, there will be additional pressure and growth demand put on our schools.

There is a desperate need for an overpass off Smith Street, from west to east, to provide direct access into the industrial and residential estates in Molendinar and for some formal overpass from Molendinar to the new Parkwood light rail station.

There are many challenges within Southport. With growth always comes great challenges. We need to see a continued commitment from government in terms of road upgrades. I particularly mention Southport-Nerang Road between Kumbari Avenue and the eastern end of Queen Street. This section of road has been earmarked for upgrade for many years now. In fact, there are original plans and corridors set aside going back some 10 or 20 years. This road corridor is rapidly becoming a priority. I raise it in the House today simply to put it on the public record that I will begin fighting for this next major upgrade within the Southport electorate.

There is also a significant need for improvements at the intersection of Edmund Rice Drive and Southport-Nerang Road. It provides access to a number of schools, retirement villages, a large residential estate at the back of Griffith University and Griffith University itself.

While I am pleased that the light rail connection will be made through to Helensvale and there is a new massive park-and-ride at the bottom of Napper Road adjacent to the new Parkwood station, I also look forward to the day when we see a heavy rail station adjoin this vital connection at Parkwood to improve access in and out of the suburb and to provide greater access for not just those people living within Parkwood but also those on the west of the highway, in Gaven and Pacific Pines.

Domestic and Family Violence

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.46 pm): I rise to speak about an issue of most serious consequence for women in particular in our community. Domestic violence is a very real problem. DVConnect reports that during the period 2006 to 2012 there was an average of 23 deaths per year in Queensland linked to domestic and family violence and that this figure equated to 44 per cent of the state's homicides for the period. This is clearly unacceptable. I know that many if not all members in this place understand this and are champions on this issue. There is a bipartisan rejection of domestic violence in all its forms. I will single out the Premier and Minister Fentiman for their leadership on this issue by leading their response to the *Not now, not ever* report. In Redlands our mayor, Karen Williams, is a leader on domestic violence. I commend her for her actions on this issue. I have spoken recently about the money she has raised at her annual Diner en Rouge.

It seems that opposition to domestic violence crosses the political spectrum. However, I have been dismayed by the attitude of a councillor in my community that has been brought to my attention recently. I have seen a Facebook post by the elected official of a meme stating, 'This is a terrible day. First, my ex got hit by a bus. Then, I lost my job as a bus driver,' and another referring to his former wife as an 'incubator'. A lot is said and done on Facebook. However, I was recently given a copy of an email this councillor sent to other councillors and council staff in reply to an invitation for a candlelight vigil run by WAVSS. His reply was—

WAVSS is not a 'domestic violence' service. They only cater for women and turn men away. They intentionally tear families apart using lies to justify their government funding. They are a disgrace.

I table those documents for the benefit of this House.

Tabled paper: Extract, from social media pages of Cr Paul Gleeson [[1300](#)].

Not only is this offensive; it is also plain wrong. WAVSS offers services such as the men's information worker on Wednesdays at the Cleveland courthouse. This is not a harmless joke. A United Nations report on cyberviolence found that women are 27 times more likely than men to be bullied online. It is also estimated that 73 per cent of women had experienced cyberviolence and that it could be as damaging as physical violence when you take into consideration mental health factors. This is from a councillor who has a track record of online cyberbullying and is currently under investigation for threatening violence when he went to a constituent's house. I take this opportunity to reiterate the invitation I sent to Councillor Gleeson today: come along with me to meet the hard workers at WAVSS in a safe, neutral location to see the work that they do and the courage that it takes to overcome this decrepit act.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance; Sale of Public Assets

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (2.49 pm): This morning I was warned three times by the Speaker of the House before the end of question time under standing order 253 and standing order 253A. The Speaker is perfectly entitled to warn me under the standing orders because I was interjecting on the member on their feet. All three times it was a minister who was on their feet and under the standing orders that is disorderly unless the member on their feet is taking that interjection. I was continuously interjecting to purposely try and interrupt the minister who was on their feet for a sound reason in my view: because I am elected to this Assembly not to be a wallflower or a shrinking violet. I am here to make sure that the executive of the government is scrutinised and—

Ms FARMER: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, I seek your ruling on whether the member for Hinchinbrook is reflecting on the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Thank you, member for Bulimba. Member for Hinchinbrook, you may continue but, as the member for Bulimba has said, just be careful not to reflect on the chair. I am happy that you have not so far, so please continue.

Mr CRIPPS: Exactly. I have already recognised that the Speaker was perfectly entitled to warn me under those standing orders and I made that statement quite clear, if the member for Bulimba were listening.

I am entitled to hold this executive to account because at the caucus meeting earlier this week they obviously gave all of the members of the caucus a new memo which said, 'Every time you get up, you have to say "cut, sack and sell"'. This is an old ruse that the members of the Labor caucus have been running in this House for the last 2½ years. I thought I had dealt with this issue last year when we considered the Electricity and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, because I went through the list of publicly owned assets that have been sold by the Labor Party in Queensland since 2006 and during the debate on that bill I listed them. Because this nonsense—this dishonest nonsense—is continuing from the members of the caucus who received the memo obviously on Monday at the caucus meeting, I am going to list them again.

The Energy Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Bill 2006 facilitated the sale of Energex's electricity retail business, Ergon's electricity retail business, Energex's gas distribution business, Stanwell and Tarong's wind farms and Enertrade's merchant gas and gas transportation business. In 2008 we had the Airport Assets (Restructuring and Disposal) Act and those opposite sold the Cairns Airport, they sold the Mackay Airport and the Port of Brisbane Corporation's interest in the Brisbane Airport. Then there was the mother lode in 2009 when they had the Infrastructure Investment (Asset Restructuring and Disposal) Bill, where they sold Forestry Plantations Queensland and Queensland Motorways and the Port of Brisbane and Queensland Rail's above and below rail coal businesses and Queensland Rail's commercial rail services such as bulk freight and retail and regional freight and they sold the port corporation of Queensland's Abbot Point coal terminal.

(Time expired)

Bundaberg Electorate, Cashless Welfare Card

 **Ms DONALDSON** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.53 pm): I rise today to discuss an issue in my electorate which is causing unnecessary fear and heartache amongst the most vulnerable. A few weeks ago the LNP federal member for Hinkler, which covers my electorate, called for my area to be a trial site for the Twiggy Forrest cashless welfare card. For those who do not know, this card quarantines 80 per cent of a Centrelink recipient's payment on a card and it restricts what they can and cannot buy and where they can and cannot spend money. The remaining 20 per cent can be withdrawn in cash. For people on a small fortnightly allowance or payment, this means that things like bus fares, school excursions for their children or fresh fruit and vegetables from our local Shalom Markets all have to come out of a tiny 20 per cent of a tiny fortnightly allowance or payment.

Since it was first mentioned I have held community meetings and I have circulated petitions which have gathered thousands and thousands of signatures against the introduction of the card. I have spoken with hundreds of local people who are against the card, but they do not have a voice to be heard by our federal member, who pretends that there is overwhelming community support for its introduction. In fact, the member for Hinkler says that he has consulted the community and community leaders, but I have not been asked to participate and neither has the member for Maryborough and neither has the deputy mayor of the Fraser Coast Regional Council. I suspect that we are not part of the 'yes' group and we will make his questionable stats on support for the card look even more dodgy than they already are. Any question of who has been invited to participate has been met with stony silence or distraction activities.

For those who think it is a good idea to control people by telling them what they can and cannot do and the welfare bashing that seems to become a part of the fabric of conversation from our federal LNP representatives, consider this: for everyone who receives a family tax payment, childcare benefits, gets money back on Medicare when they go to the doctor or receives a rebate or concession, that is also a form of welfare from the government. To vilify those on payments when they should have our support and generosity is simply un-Australian to me.

The money wasted on implementing a system of control over people who would simply do better if they had our support is typical of the direction of the federal LNP government and my community does not deserve it. My community deserves a government that believes in growing our economy and creating jobs—not talking it down, not painting it as dysfunctional or as a broken community when it is simply anything but broken. This card does not belong in my community and the people in my community are saying to me, 'No.' If our federal member bothered to get out and talk to people who are

likely to be affected by this, he would see that the vast majority are not drug addicts, they are not alcoholics and they do not deserve to be treated like second-class citizens and to be judged by others every time they go shopping or venture out in public.

North Queensland, Crocodile Attacks

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (2.56 pm): I rise to speak about concerns relating to the risk of crocodiles in North Queensland. I have been contacted by a lady who lives in Mourilyan. I want to read into the record a letter she has sent me. However, she does not wish me to mention her name. The letter states—

We live on the banks of the South Johnstone River in Mourilyan, NQ. On Tuesday afternoon we lost our 6 month old purebred white Shepherd to a very large crocodile. As we live very close to the river our dog had gone down to the water's edge, failing to call her up to our yard we went down to try and get her when the crocodile just so quietly grabbed her and took her into the water, this was absolutely terrifying for both my partner and myself as we weren't aware it was there and it could of easily been us!

In October last year we lost another white Shepherd to possibly this same crocodile. About a half hour or so after our puppy was taken on Tuesday we were sitting there looking over the river when another 2 crocs showed up! It was like feeding time at the zoo.

A few months back 2 young boys were taking a short cut through our yard, when I asked what they were doing, they said they wanted to go fishing in the river, I warned them about the dangers but they insisted they'd be fine, point is, its private property but you can't always stop people from fishing on our banks, and we're not always here to warn people.

Please help us to do something about these monsters, we need dogs for security reasons, but it's simply too dangerous for them and traumatic for us. I forgot to mention my partner was down not far from the bank poisoning the grass as to keep it down, something made him turn around and look out onto the river to see this monster swimming towards the bank at him.

Something clearly has to be done with these killers as we cannot swim in either our beaches or waterways here anymore ...

There has been an increase in crocodile sightings and also deaths. One headline states 'Crocodile kills and eats family dog on property near Innisfail'. That happened about two months ago. Another headline is 'Crocodile captured that killed spear fisherman Warren Hughes in Far North Queensland' which happened about six months ago. Another headline states 'Crocodile caught and killed in Cindy Waldron search found to have human remains inside'. Another headline states 'Report confirms that Queensland's saltwater crocodile populations are rising'. I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work; Back to Work

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.04 pm): 'When I lost my vision I thought I'd never work again, but this program has given me the confidence and the skills to get back into the world of work.' That is what Helene, one of the graduates from the latest Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, said to me at the graduation ceremony last week at Vision Australia. Nearly 60 per cent of working age people with low or no vision are unemployed. This is the second group to have completed the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program at Vision Australia and I am extremely pleased that the minister has announced that there will be another program funded, along with two other organisations in my electorate, to continue to create jobs in our local community.

Since this program was reinstated by the Palaszczuk government, over 9,000 people have gained the skills and confidence to re-enter the workforce. Compare that to the 14,000 those opposite sacked. Not only did they shut this program down; they also sacked the people who ran it and 14,000 other public servants. I am proud to be part of a government that has put 9,000 people back to work in just this one program alone.

My regional colleagues have been telling me about the Back to Work program and I can see why: 902 jobs in Mackay; 1,279 in Wide Bay; 279 in South-West Queensland. I lobbied the Treasurer about bringing this program to Greenslopes and I am so pleased we have done just that in the recent budget. I have been talking to local small business owners about this great program. Just this week I was speaking to a small business owner in Stones Corner. He has a casual young employee and he told me he would love to give her a permanent job and this program was the incentive he needed to do just that. The Back to Work program will create more local jobs for young people and for people who are long-term unemployed.

I had one of my regular catch-up meetings with Carmel Dalton from the School Community Industry Partnership Service. She was over the moon about the Back to Work program and said that all small business owners she was talking to were really enthusiastic. I know that people like Carmel and organisations like SCIPS will help to achieve results like those in Far North Queensland where 1,427 people have been employed so far.

The Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work programs are just part of the story of creating local jobs in Greenslopes. The Palaszczuk government has put front-line workers back to work. Teachers, nurses, police, doctors and child safety workers are back in our community doing the jobs they love. We did not sack 14,000 public servants. We listened and we put them back to work. The response from principals, P&C and P&F presidents to the announcement of a prep teacher aide in every classroom has been enormously positive. One principal's automatic response when I told him was 'Oh my God, this is fantastic.'

In addition to putting these front-line workers back to work, we are investing in infrastructure like Cross River Rail and investing \$200 million in our schools, creating thousands of local jobs. Skilling Queenslanders for Work, Back to Work, restoring front-line services, building infrastructure—that is how the Palaszczuk government is creating more local jobs.

PENALTIES AND SENTENCES (DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT ORDERS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.08 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code, the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Evidence Act 1977, the Justice and Other Information Disclosure Act 2008, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 [[1301](#)].

Tabled paper: Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1302](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. This bill provides the legislative framework to support the reintroduction of a Drug Court program. This delivers on the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to reintroduce court diversionary processes and programs, which to date have included the establishment of the Queensland Integrated Court Referrals program in five locations across Queensland and the rollout of the Murri Court in 14 locations across the state.

As part of the 2017-18 state budget, funding of \$22.7 million over four years has been allocated for the operation of a drug court program based in Brisbane, and for court referral and support services in Brisbane, Ipswich, Southport and Cairns. This government is committed to introducing criminal justice responses to tackle drug and alcohol substance misuse, which has contributed to the commission of offences, and so turn people away from crime and create a safer community for everyone. The bill also introduces several miscellaneous amendments to a variety of acts that are aimed at clarifying and improving the operation of the criminal justice system in Queensland.

I turn firstly to the amendments in the bill that establish a Drug and Alcohol Court. Queensland's former Drug Court was established as a pilot in 2000 by the then Labor government and was expanded upon and made permanent in 2006 under the Drug Court Act 2000. On 30 June 2013, the former LNP government discontinued the operation of the Drug Court by repealing the Drug Court Act with no consideration of the evidence underpinning the court and no understanding of the link between substance misuse and offending.

The reinstatement of the Drug Court has been informed by a comprehensive review of the former Drug Court's operation and a review of best practice in diversionary courts and drug courts, both nationally and internationally. The review was supported by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and led by Emeritus Professor Arie Freiberg AM, Dr Karen Gelb, Dr Jason Payne, Emeritus Professor Toni Makkai, and Mr Anthony Morgan. The review's final report, which I tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 13 June 2017, included 39 recommendations and found that a drug court

forms an integral part of a criminal justice system to address high-risk and high-needs offenders and concluded that this must form part of a broader justice system response to substance fuelled crime. As noted in the final report—

Drug courts provide a number of cost-related and social benefits to the community, operating as an alternative to imprisonment and addressing the underlying issues related to their offending. Although difficult to quantify, the health and social benefits of drug courts, not just for the offender but for their family and community, are equally important. These benefits include reductions in drug use and associated health issues, easing the burden these offenders place on the health system, the reunification of families, babies born drug-free, the retention of stable accommodation, engagement of offenders in employment, education and training, and a reduction in offending.

Importantly, recommendation 13 of the review is that a drug court program should be legislatively enshrined. However, the recommendation contemplates either a stand-alone act, as was the former approach to the Queensland Drug Court and in New South Wales, or an amendment to existing sentencing legislation, as in Victoria. The bill adopts the approach taken in Victoria and inserts a new part into the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, which will provide the legislative framework for the administration and management of a new sentencing option, called a drug and alcohol treatment order, or ‘treatment order’ in short.

Providing for a new sentencing option in the Penalties and Sentences Act integrates the principles of a drug and alcohol program into the existing tried and tested sentencing framework for Queensland. The treatment order comprises integrated punitive and rehabilitative elements that are clearly directed at the offending behaviour, as well as the offender’s severe substance use disorder arising from their drug and alcohol use. In other words, the treatment order is an option for the court to directly respond to the link between substance misuse and offending, and provides a suitable mechanism to punish the behaviour in accordance with community expectations, as well as treat the cause of the antisocial behaviour.

As part of its strictly punitive element, the court must record a conviction against the person and the offender is sentenced to a term of imprisonment of four years or less which is suspended for a designated period up to five years. In addition, as a part of its rehabilitative element, the offender is required to be subject to an intensive treatment program supported by a range of conditions for a minimum of two years. I would like to emphasise that undertaking a treatment program is not a soft or easy option for an offender and will require the offender to comply with stringent conditions designed to address the person’s substance use disorder and ensure compliance with the treatment order. This treatment program is an integral part of the treatment order and can include, for example, medical, psychiatric or psychological treatment that is aimed at the offender’s rehabilitation; submission to frequent drug or alcohol testing; or participation in relevant counselling or other programs designed to assist the person’s rehabilitation.

The bill provides that, in the administration and management of a treatment order, the court will be assisted by a review team that will be constituted by representatives from the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Corrective Services, Queensland Health, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Legal Aid Queensland. As such, the court will have the assistance of a highly professional body that can assist both the court and the offender to achieve the purposes of the treatment order, which, as stated in the bill, include reducing the level of the offender’s severe substance use disorder, the level of criminal activity associated with that disorder and assisting the offender’s integration into the community.

The introduction of the treatment order represents a smart approach to dealing with criminal offending and provides an opportunity to punish an offender for their crime, assist them to address the underlying causes of their offending behaviour and commit to programs that will help them reintegrate into society. This bill and this treatment order represents the smart-on-crime approach adopted by this government which addresses both criminal offending and the causes of that criminal offending.

Complementary amendments are being made to both the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to provide that the requirement to attend a drug diversion assessment program or a drug diversion program is replaced with the requirement to participate in the respective program. The effect of these amendments will enable a person to use electronic means to participate in and complete the required programs.

I now turn to the other unrelated criminal law amendments in the bill. The bill will also amend the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986, which provides the framework to allow persons convicted of certain criminal offences to lawfully deny or not be required to disclose those convictions after a specific rehabilitation period has passed. The proposed amendment will clarify that a conviction

involving a head sentence of more than 30 months imprisonment can never be a spent conviction and must, therefore, be disclosed. This amendment is a direct response to the concerns raised in the recent Court of Appeal decision of *Dupois v Queensland Television Ltd & Ors*.

The bill also amends the Drugs Misuse Act to recast the definition of 'dangerous drug' to better clarify and prescribe the substances intended to be captured under the extended definition of 'dangerous drug'. This will be achieved by placing established scientific parameters around what substances are captured within the extended definition. The bill amends section 4(c) of the Drugs Misuse Act to omit the existing extended definition of 'dangerous drug' and to replace it with the concept of a drug analogue, which provides a more objective and scientific approach to defining substances to be captured under the legislation. This proposed amendment responds appropriately to the recent District Court decision of *R v Champion* and will also implement outstanding recommendation 3.2 of the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry report, which recommended that the government review the efficacy of the extended definition of dangerous drug under the Drugs Misuse Act in facilitating prosecutions.

Finally, consistent with the government's ongoing commitment to ensuring the highest degree of protection for victims of domestic and family violence, the bill makes an amendment to the Evidence Act 1977 to provide that the alleged victims of the offence of choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting under section 315A of the Criminal Code will be treated as protected witnesses for purposes of part 2, division 6 of the act. This will ensure that an unrepresented accused is prohibited from personally cross-examining the victim of the choking offence. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.18 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (3.18 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 28 September 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HOUSING LEGISLATION (BUILDING BETTER FUTURES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (3.19 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Building Act 1975, the Housing Act 2003, the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003, the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 and the Retirement Villages Act 1999 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Public Works and Utilities Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017 [\[1303\]](#).

Tabled paper: Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [\[1304\]](#).

I am pleased to rise in this place today to introduce the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017. On 12 June 2017 the Palaszczuk government released its comprehensive 10-year Queensland Housing Strategy. The Housing Strategy is a landmark 10-year plan for the investment of \$1.8 billion in new construction and housing services in this state. It is a strategy I am extremely proud to have delivered for the people of Queensland. Access to safe, secure and affordable housing is the foundation on which we build connected communities. With this bill today we are proposing a number of legislative reforms to improve housing outcomes for Queenslanders, especially our seniors.

About 25,000 Queenslanders, mainly seniors, are living in manufactured homes in 182 residential parks. More than 7,000 Queenslanders, many of whom are particularly vulnerable, are living in 266 residential services, such as boarding houses and supported accommodation. Approximately 42,000 older Queenslanders are living in 318 retirement villages. More than 628,000 Queenslanders—that is about 35.6 per cent of the population of this state—are living in private rental accommodation.

It is important that we have robust legislative frameworks that meet the needs of Queenslanders who live in residential services, in manufactured homes or retirement villages or who rent on the private rental market. In that context, I am pleased to introduce the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017.

These are historic reforms which will introduce a new era of fairness for residents of retirement villages, manufactured homes and residential services. Members of this place were shocked to see the stories of exploitation in the retirement village sector during the recent *Four Corners* report. Many of the issues raised in that program are similar to the issues that have been raised with me during consultation on the Queensland Housing Strategy. This bill will introduce a regime of fairness to the retirement living sector in Queensland, making Queensland the national leader in consumer protection for older Australians.

The bill will amend the Housing Act 2003, the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003, the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002, the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 and the Retirement Villages Act 1999. The bill will also amend the Retirement Villages Act 1999 and the Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003 to increase transparency, improve precontractual disclosure processes and introduce new behaviour standards to make it easier to address undesirable behaviour in residential parks and retirement villages. A greater focus on dispute resolution is also included to provide the opportunity for issues to be resolved without having to go into the formal tribunal system.

Reforms to Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Act 2003 also include limitations on rental increases, prohibiting additional fees around utilities and meter readings and ensuring emergency services and health workers have access to residential parks. Other proposed amendments to the Retirement Villages Act 1999 will increase transparency in the relationships between operators and residents, and provide greater security to residents, balanced against ongoing industry viability. Greater financial transparency will be required about retirement village funds, budgets and financial statements, and will address resident and consumer advocate concerns about fees and contracts. Residents will also have greater protections around resales and exit entitlements or when there is a change in village operations. A regulation may also impose a requirement about the provision of equipment in a retirement village for public safety.

Amendments to the Residential Services (Accreditation) Act 2002 will also ensure the regulatory framework protects residents, promotes fair trading practice and encourages the growth and viability of Queensland's residential services industry, which includes boarding houses, some aged rental accommodation and services that provide personal care. The health and safety of these residents has been the driver for these changes.

Our proposed changes are intended to: raise compliance with accreditation standards and registration requirements, ensure that operators are suitable persons and require services to have a fire safety management plan; allow publication of the registered addresses of accredited services to be avoided in cases where safety concerns may arise; and clarify some current uncontentious exemptions from registration requirements. These necessary safety and security amendments will address ambiguity and uncertainty. These amendments will also better ensure that services accommodating women and children escaping domestic and family violence will not have that address included on the publicly searchable register of residential services. Other amendments will provide greater clarity on regulatory requirements to help service providers understand their rights and obligations.

The Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 amendment will enable minimum housing standards to be prescribed for rental accommodation in Queensland. This delivers on the government's election commitment to ensure rental premises are safe, secure and fit for purpose. It is a concern that properties can be rented where amenities do not work, and if tenants speak up they have no guarantee that the landlord will not end the tenancy at the end of the lease. I am concerned that this creates a system where vulnerable Queenslanders can be forced to live in homes where the basic services and amenities do not work and they have little recourse or, alternatively, are too afraid to speak up about it. Therefore, the minimum housing standards will enhance the safety and dignity of Queenslanders who rent their home and ensure any vulnerable community members are supported to sustain their tenancy.

The amendments will provide a head of power for a regulation to prescribe minimum housing standards. Further public consultation will be undertaken about how and what these standards may look like and how they will be enforced, as part of the drafting of any of the relevant amendments to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Regulation 2009. Later this year, I intend to consult more widely about other ways the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 can be amended to make it more contemporary.

The bill also makes clarifying amendments to the definition of 'relevant property' under the Housing Act 2003. This amendment is necessary to ensure that the state's interest in community housing is protected during the transition to the National Regulatory System for Community Housing.

This bill is the result of very detailed consultation. I would like to thank all community groups and organisations and Queenslanders who had their say. The draft bill was circulated for consultation to my Ministerial Housing Council members and additional key stakeholders with an interest in residential parks, residential tenancies, residential services and retirement villages. Over 50 per cent of the items raised in feedback on the retirement village laws have been incorporated into this legislation, with my department continuing to progress a number of other items through their ongoing work.

The amendments in this bill begin the process of legislative reform which will create a better housing future for all Queenslanders, whether renters, owners, retirees or the most vulnerable in our community. Through these amendments we are continuing to deliver a safer, more secure and more affordable housing future for Queenslanders. That is the Palaszczuk government's commitment and that is what we are delivering. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (3.28 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Public Works and Utilities Committee

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

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (3.28 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That under the provisions of standing order 136 the Public Works and Utilities Committee report to the House on the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill by 28 September 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

EDUCATION (ACCREDITATION OF NON-STATE SCHOOLS) BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2187, on motion of Ms Jones—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.29 pm): I rise to address the debate on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. This legislation has come about from a review into the non-state school sector which was commenced by the former Liberal National Party government. It has now been three years since the results and recommendations of that modernising and streamlining reform were handed down and before legislation has actually made it to the Queensland parliament for resultant implementation. This bill will continue the establishment of the board as a statutory body with administrative support provided by a secretariat staffed with employees from the Department of Education and Training.

It is important to note that the non-state schooling sector in Queensland educates approximately a third of Queensland's school-age students which is nearly 266,000 students through 504 schools. Non-state schools must be accredited to operate via the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board under the auspices of the Queensland accreditation of non-state schools framework. Today, the Minister for Education decides on a non-state school's eligibility for Queensland funding based on criteria prescribed in the accreditation act and also upon the recommendations of the board's Non-State School Eligibility for Government Funding Committee, the funding eligibility committee.

In 2014, the then LNP government, together with the Department of Education and Training, commenced a review of non-state school education regulatory arrangements with a view to modernising and streamlining non-state school accreditation, as I mentioned. As a result of this review and associated feedback from stakeholders, this proposed legislation will replace the existing accreditation act with legislation that will continue the board as an independent statutory body that will be responsible for the regulation of non-state schools. It will streamline the accreditation process. It will streamline the process for government funding eligibility by providing for the board to make funding eligibility decisions, rather than the minister, on the advice from the funding eligibility committee.

The revised accreditation act will strengthen the functions of authorised persons to investigate offences under the act and will require governing bodies to inform the board when members cease and new members commence. These measures will strengthen governance arrangements. It also provides for the review of decisions by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, rather than the minister. This bill is not opposed by LNP members, as outlined by the shadow minister, the Hon. Tracy Davis MP.

I am pleased to highlight at this particular point two distinguished high-performing non-state schools in my electorate of Moggill. The Brisbane Independent School and the Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School are both non-state schools in the electorate I represent. The Brisbane Independent School has 82 students. It is heading into its 50th year as one of Queensland's oldest progressive schools. The Brisbane Independent School community is always looking at how to develop, enhance and nurture their children so students can thrive via the development of their innate love of learning. They certainly have a hardworking principal in Ms Jen Haynes, who both is an innovator and also provides significant care for her students. I also wish to congratulate Jodie Jetann, Jeanette Mulherin and many other parents for their contribution to the school's success and achievements.

The other non-state school in my electorate of Moggill is the Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School, which is a Catholic primary school located in the heart of Kenmore. The Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School has a very proud history of serving Kenmore and neighbouring communities since 1963. They have excellent facilities there. They have a very conscientious principal in Mr Andrew Oberthur. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Father Mark Franklin and the broader work of members of the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish as well as the Brigidine Sisters over many years in relation to this school. It is a school that has a very professional team of teachers and support staff who are all united in their passion for teaching and supporting 470 students with respect to learning opportunities. I have fond memories of growing up in Kenmore in Aberfeldy Street in the 1970s and having the opportunity to ride my bike in the school grounds, although I did not attend the school. Certainly they have made an outstanding contribution to the education of young people in my local area over many, many years.

Since I have the floor and we are talking about schools, I would also like to pay tribute to the nine state schools in my electorate. As we all know, all schools make an important contribution to the education of our young people. Significantly, last weekend I was able to attend the Moggill State School's Mogganza and the Kenmore South State School fete. I would like to acknowledge their principals respectively—principals Darren Marsh and Raylee Davies—for the great work that they do, along with teachers, parents, students and their relevant P&C committees. Happy birthday to Kenmore South State School because they are celebrating their 50th birthday. In conclusion, I am very fortunate in the electorate of Moggill to have both non-government schools and government state schools that bring excellent records of achievement in academic, musical and sporting arenas—such schools that provide students with a safe, caring and supportive environment where they can learn and foster unlimited potential for future endeavours in life.

Last night it was terrific to welcome the 2017 Kenmore State High School student school leaders—Charlotte Davies, Caleb Webb, Grace Gilroy and Max Mayer—along with their deputy principal, Andrew Blight, to the Queensland parliament for dinner and for those students to see the workings of one of our great democratic institutions. They certainly enjoyed the opportunity to do that. They did mention to me that they would like me to reinforce to the minister, the Hon. Kate Jones, that an investment in their infrastructure—their library and some suboptimal classrooms—would be most welcomed. It was great to have them here last night. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (3.35 pm): I rise to speak on the Education (Accreditation Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. This bill has its foundations in a review into the sector commenced three years ago, in 2014, by the previous LNP government. In order to modernise and streamline the sector, this bill replaces former legislation and continues to keep the board as an independent statutory body responsible for the regulation of non-state schools.

It streamlines the accreditation processes, for example, by removing the concept of provisional accreditation and the requirement for the issuing of accreditation certificates. It strengthens the functions of authorised persons to investigate offences under the act and requires governing bodies to inform the board when members cease and new members commence. It provides for a review of decisions by the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal, rather than by the minister. It streamlines the process for government funding eligibility by providing for the board to make funding eligibility decisions, rather than the minister, on advice from the funding eligibility committee, and enabling automatic eligibility for accredited non-state schools operating on a not-for-profit basis to receive government funding.

Rather than the current two-tiered process, a governing body will be automatically eligible for government funding for a school upon its accreditation, provided the board is satisfied the school will not be operated for profit. Currently, there are no schools that do not receive funding for at least some of the years of schooling they provide and only a small percentage of students are unfunded. As at August last year, approximately 77 students in seven schools did not attract state government funding. This equates to 0.03 per cent of the non-state school student population.

The statistics support the position that the additional regulatory burden of a separate decision-making process around funding eligibility is not justified. Although the decision about eligibility for government funding will now sit with the board, the state government will remain responsible for the payment of funding to eligible non-state schools. A process for withdrawal of government funding eligibility is continued in the new bill and can be made if the school is operating for profit.

This is about giving parents and students a choice. Unfortunately in Gympie, because of state government narrow-mindedness, choice in education is restricted to the school sector. We all know that a good education is a very precious opportunity that we can give our children. Having choice in that education is an even greater opportunity.

In Gympie we are privileged to have healthy, vibrant, active non-government schools which are part of our broader education sector. St Patrick's College, St Patrick's Primary School, Victory College and Cooloola Christian College are very much a valued and integral part of our community and seize every chance to improve the skills and experiences and learning opportunities for their students. With almost 1,700 students in their educational and pastoral care, their importance in a growing region cannot be underestimated. They are not only investing in bricks and mortar with quality new facilities but also investing in our students, investing in our community and investing in our future.

These schools are active participants in a collaborative network of schools which are involved in the trade training centre at Gympie's education precinct. At the same education precinct the University of the Sunshine Coast has been trying to secure the lease of an empty and unused TAFE building since

the end of 2014. That empty TAFE building sits across the car park from its campus. Out of sheer intransigence, the state government is deliberately and wilfully restricting Gympie students in their choice of tertiary education. The university wants to increase enrolments and the courses on offer to Gympie students. Out of a pig-headed refusal to grant that lease, those students from St Patrick's College, Victory College and Cooloola Christian College who will be finishing high school in a few weeks cannot make a choice to study at the University of the Sunshine Coast and still live at home. Those who cannot move away because of family and financial reasons are not given that choice. For some, that means no chance to gain tertiary qualifications. Just as this bill today is about supporting choice by supporting a strong independent school sector, Gympie students want a choice in the tertiary sector.

As a result of consultation with the board, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission and Independent Schools Queensland, the committee has recommended—

... clause 7 of the Bill be amended to ensure that a governing body of multiple schools is not prevented from using some income to support the operation of some or all of its schools.

Unintended consequences of the existing wording around the interpretation of 'operated for profit' and 'operation of a school' have raised a number of concerns with stakeholders. The ISQ provided the following example—

... where ... a school operating a child care centre (which is within its charitable purpose) could be deemed to be "operated for a profit" with the operations of the child care centre not deemed to be "the operation of the school".

The QCEC argued that the meaning of 'operation of the school' should be clarified to include the operation of a school's governing body to the extent it relates to the operation of the school and expanded on its concerns saying—

... schools which operate within an approved system authority may attract funding which is allocated ... for all its schools. This might be for central expenses like legal costs or targeted curriculum programs.

Anything that helps to ensure that non-state schools are a strong contributor to education opportunities for Queensland school students should be supported. By streamlining processes for accreditation of non-government schools, this bill will make it that much easier to give parents choice for their children. I do not oppose this bill.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (3.42 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. At the outset I want to join with I think every member of this House who has spoken so far on this bill to affirm the importance of the non-state schooling sector. I fervently support the notion that every parent has the right to provide their children with an education of their choice. I was very interested in doing the background reading on this bill to see that the non-state schooling sector makes up for a significant number of those choices, with approximately one-third of Queensland's school students—that is about 266,000—attending 504 non-state schools.

This bill will assist that sector by modernising the legislation around its accreditation. Although a number of members have spoken to the bill, I think it is worthwhile for me to mention the non-state schools in my electorate of Bulimba because many parents in my electorate, particularly of secondary school students, make the decision to send their children to private schools and I know this is an area that will be of great interest to them.

We know from the bill that non-state schools must be accredited to operate by the Non-State Schools Accreditation Board. The Minister for Education decides on a non-state school's eligibility for Queensland government funding based on criteria prescribed in the accreditation act and upon the recommendation of the board's Non-State Schools Eligibility for Government Funding Committee. A review was commenced in 2014 of non-state school education regulatory arrangements with a view to modernising and streamlining non-state school accreditation. As a result, this bill will replace the accreditation act with modern legislation that continues the board as an independent statutory body responsible for the regulation of non-state schools; streamlines the accreditation processes; streamlines the process for government funding eligibility; strengthens the functions of authorised persons to investigate offences under the act; and provides for review of decisions by QCAT rather than by the minister.

I, like all members of this House, cannot let this opportunity go by without mentioning the wonderful schools of the Bulimba electorate. We are absolutely spoilt for choice in my electorate.

Ms Jones: Blessed.

Ms FARMER: I take that interjection from the minister. The minister has been to a number of schools in my electorate and they are always absolutely delighted to see her. It really would be impossible to make a bad choice for schooling in the Bulimba electorate. We have seven state schools and four non-state schools. Even though Carina State School and Camp Hill state school are physically in the member for Chatsworth's electorate, a number of children from the Bulimba electorate attend those schools so I consider myself an honorary member representing those schools.

In terms of our non-state primary schools, we have the wonderful St Thomas' at Camp Hill, St Peter and Paul's at Bulimba and St Oliver Plunkett's at Cannon Hill. Our secondary non-state schools are Lourdes Hill College and Cannon Hill Anglican College. In fact, the minister just referred to Lourdes Hill College this week when talking about Catholic Education Week. Can I say what an absolute delight it is for me to attend those schools. On every occasion that I talk to those students and see what they are doing I walk away thinking how well set up we are for the future. There is always something that amazes me about those schools. The Cannon Hill Anglican College is right at the top of the state results for NAPLAN this year, as it is most years. I was at Lourdes Hill College last week for its annual high tea for the homeless. They had representatives from Orange Sky Laundry, which was here today, and Rosies talking about the work they do. The important part of that event is that it is the students who are actively taking part in those endeavours. They are not only physically putting their efforts forward but also raising money.

I want to congratulate the outreach captains, Liliana and Chelsea, who put that event together last week. They are examples of the sorts of things that I see at those schools every single day. When I recently held my Queensland Day awards, the number of nominations in the under-18 category for students from both of those schools and the wonderful Balmoral State High were amazing. Each morning when my staff and I downloaded the nominations from those schools we had a bit of a cry because we could not believe what wonderful things those students were doing.

Although we are talking about non-state schools I want to acknowledge, as I think most members have, the state schools in my area and say them by name: Balmoral State High School, Murarrie State School, Morningside State School, Seven Hills State School, Norman Park State School, Cannon Hill State School and Bulimba State School. I acknowledge that Minister Lynham is a former student of Murarrie State School. They are very proud to have you in their records, Minister.

I would like to praise the role more generally of the key stakeholders in the non-state schooling sector. I acknowledge David Robertson from ISQ and the QCEC led in this state by Lee-Anne Perry. I have to mention from the Brisbane Catholic Education office Pam Betts, who is the most wonderful education leader, and Carmel Nash from the Federation of Parents and Friends Associations of Catholic Schools in Queensland. I cannot talk about them without noting the appalling treatment that the Catholic education sector has suffered under the hands of the federal government. The Catholic education sector, particularly in Queensland, tried to navigate their way around that in a gracious and constructive way, but I cannot believe the way such an important part of our education system has been treated.

Ms Jones: Particularly in Queensland.

Ms FARMER: That is right, particularly in Queensland. I know both of those sectors had a really significant role to play in getting the legislation to this point. The collaborative approach to legislation in this state from those groups puts us in such a healthy position. I was representing the minister at a P&C Queensland event earlier this year—and I must mention the wonderful Gayle Walters from P&C Queensland at this point too—and everyone was there. There were people from the Catholic ISQ, the Isolated Children's Parents' Association, there were union groups and there were Queensland Public Service bureaucrats. It was so clear from all of the conversations that the level of collaboration across all of those bodies in this state is really quite significant. They were all so complimentary of the role that the minister and this government play in furthering education in this state. I want to congratulate all of them for the way that they work together.

This bill is also a great example of bipartisanship, and there could be no more important bill on which to achieve bipartisanship than an education bill. I want to thank all of the committee members, chaired by you, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, for the way this committee was conducted. Mr Deputy Speaker, you mentioned in your speech that the way this bill has been examined is an example of what the committee system is all about. The committees allow good scrutiny to make sure the bills we pass through this House are good and proper and do not raise any unforeseen challenges. Clearly, the minister has responded to the issues that were raised and she is making sure that this bill is as it should be and it does not pose any of those problems.

I was raised by a father who probably had different politics to me, but he used to always say that education is the tool for social change and I have always been raised to believe that. Any bill which furthers the cause of education in this state, which sets our children up for the future, is an important bill. I take great pleasure in supporting this bill. I want to thank the minister for the tremendous leadership she has shown over so many aspects of education. I thank her for her leadership in that regard and for also paying such attention to the schools in the Bulimba electorate. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.51 pm): It is with great pleasure that I make a short contribution on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, as a teacher yourself, including teaching at the Springsure State School back in the mid-eighties, you understand that small schools in the electorate of Gregory are very important and are just as important as those schools anywhere else across this state. I was certainly glad to read that recommendation 2 of the committee states—

The committee recommends that clause 7 of the Bill be amended to ensure that a governing body of multiple schools is not prevented from using some income to support the operation of some or all of its schools.

The government accepts this recommendation. This is important, especially to schools in Western Queensland where we have non-government schools which do not have a lot of money going through them. They are not there to make a profit. They are not schools with vast amounts of ovals, infrastructure, gyms and swimming pools. They are schools mainly contributed by the Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton. They are the Catholic schools in Gregory. They do it very tough sometimes, especially when we are going through a drought, and they need to be able to continue to get those fees in to continue the schools.

If they do make a profit, they spend that money directly on the school, but they still rely heavily on the P&Cs, on fundraising and on events that are held, such as the Marist racing day which is a very popular event in Emerald at the Marist College. As a member, I represent 54 non-government schools and government schools, and I think it is important that we continue to see an investment in education in those Western Queensland and regional schools. Those students are tomorrow's doctors, tomorrow's accountants, tomorrow's leaders. Amongst them is probably someone who will sit in this chamber as the member for Gregory one day and will play a significant role in advocating not only for education but also for the continued investment in upgrading our education facilities in the seat of Gregory.

I would also like to pay tribute to the non-government schools in the electorate of Gregory. Catholic education in the diocese of Rockhampton is committed to high-quality teaching and learnings for 16,200 students enrolled in kindergartens, Catholic primary schools and colleges from Bundaberg to Mackay and west to Longreach. There are eight kindergartens, 31 primary schools and eight colleges founded on that strong Catholic ethos in all aspects of life in our educational communities. They play a significant role, and I am a product of the Catholic system in Western Queensland at St Patrick's. I was an average student, being more interested in sport and playing rugby league and cricket. Catholic education in Western Queensland has played a significant role in my life, and it continues to play a significant role in my children's life, with my two oldest daughters going to Marist College and my youngest daughter, Poppy, still going to St Patrick's in Emerald, the school that I went to. I am very excited to see them continue there.

I pay tribute to those non-state schools in my electorate. I pay tribute to all of the staff at Marist College, where my other two daughters, Lucy and Ellie, attend. Principal Mark Green does a fantastic job there. The Marist College is a significant educational facility in Emerald and the Central Highlands. It is a significant contributor to the community and in leadership. Marist College won the Ballymore Cup last year out of all non-state schools. They came down here in 2016 and had a surprise win to win the Ballymore Cup, which is the premier rugby event for schools such as Marist College playing against all other non-state schools in Queensland.

I cannot forget the newest school in Emerald, St Brigid's, and their principal, Mick Roach. Mick Roach is a fantastic bloke. He does a bit of rugby league commentating. He has done a great job to make sure that St Brigid's continues to grow and grow. In fact, they are expanding with new classrooms this year and they expanded last year. The design principle around that is fantastic, where they are creating pods as infrastructure and building infrastructure.

I cannot forget St Patrick's where I went and my children went. I need to pay tribute to a very significant person there, principal Max Martin. He has dedicated 17 years to St Patrick's and he is leaving at the end of the year and heading to the member for Keppel's electorate and going to Sacred Heart as the new principal. Max Martin has been a stalwart of not only the faith but also the education

in that school and he will be sorely missed. There is not much that Max has not done for the Central Highlands. He started his career in Western Queensland in Longreach. He will be sorely missed at St Patrick's. To have a principal at one school for 17 years and to play a significant role in not only the education but also the community should be admired, and he certainly needs all of the accolades we can give him. He is a tremendous bloke. He is a bit grumpy on the field when we play touch football together. He gets that headmaster attitude and likes to direct me in different ways and tell me to pick up my socks, to keep going and to take the ball up but he is a great bloke.

There is another non-state school in Emerald which is doing a fantastic job, the Emerald Christian College, with principal Graeme Johnston and his staff. The Emerald Christian College spoke to the shadow cabinet and the LNP state executive when they came out. The college played a significant role in making sure the shadow cabinet knew what was going on with education. It was also an opportunity for the shadow cabinet ministers to go to the college's first fair, which they held when we had our shadow cabinet up there. It is an exciting school and Graeme does a great job.

In Clermont, we cannot forget St Joseph's, and their principal, Matthew Anderson, does a great job. In Springsure, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School is a great Catholic school and the principal, Duane Wann, does a great job. In Longreach, there is a fantastic school called Our Lady's Catholic Primary School with principal Tanya Lambley. That school is getting a massive renovation. I thank the Rockhampton diocese for investing in Our Lady's Catholic Primary School. That process will start in the next couple of weeks and there will be a complete renovation of the whole school with new classrooms. That is something to be excited about, and I am looking forward to local builders being involved in that.

There is a school that the former member for Gregory went to in the town of Quilpie. It is a great school and they have been very, very active in the town. I speak of St Finbarr's and their principal, Genny McNair. Vaughan Johnson was one of the star students to come out of St Finbarr's. He certainly learnt all of his good manners from St Finbarr's and the sisters there. What a good product we found from St Finbarr's in Vaughan Johnson.

It would be remiss of me not to mention some great state schools. All the state schools in Gregory are fantastic. I would like to point out to the minister that the Longreach State High School has been recognised for its hospitality training with the big red truck. It is a fantastic program for kids going into hospitality, especially considering the outback tourism. I call on the government to keep funding it. They also need assistance with the insurance and registration of the truck. It is a semitrailer and is expensive to register. It is certainly worth doing.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge a school that played a major role in my life as a young man and that is Toowoomba Grammar School. I congratulate headmaster Peter Hauser and Scott Campbell, who heads up the junior school. When I was there the principal was William Dent, who was a well-recognised principal at Toowoomba Grammar School and played a significant role in my life as did Ron Bourne, the deputy headmaster. Hugh Rose was the headmaster after I left. He continues to play a role as chairman of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges such as Emerald Agricultural College and Longreach Pastoral College.

Finally, I would like to give a shout out to the ICPA. I thank Tracy Davis, our shadow minister, who attended the Alpha conference with Verity Barton. They were able to sit down with these people and talk about higher education needs. A lot of these parents have students at non-state schools. The ICPA are a tremendous advocate group for education right across rural and remote Queensland. We need to continue to listen to them and continue to invest in education in western and regional Queensland. I thank the committee and the government with regard to the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! I thank the member for Gregory for that rollcall of schools in the Gregory electorate.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.01 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. I would like to thank the committee for their consideration of this bill. I wish to specifically thank the member for Broadwater, who is a member of that committee, and also the member for Aspley, who travelled out to St George to the Isolated Children's Parents' Association conference in St George. Not only did they have the opportunity to meet with many from the non-state schools sector at the ICPA conference; they also had the opportunity to sample some of the roads and distances in my electorate and perhaps the lack of signage on one road in particular.

Ms Davis: We got there.

Ms LEAHY: We did get there. We also had a wonderful visit to the Surat State School, a P-10 school, and also the Wallumbilla State School. I must say I have quite a few dirt roads in between a lot of those schools in my electorate. I was disappointed that none of the elected members of the government actually chose to come out to the ICPA conference in St George this year. There were many members from the non-state school sector at that conference as well as many distance education schools and parents.

The bill results from a review of the current act which began back in 2014 under the LNP when in government with a view to modernising and streamlining the non-state school accreditation. Both the current act and the bill require non-state schools to be accredited by a board and make it an offence to operate a non-state school without that accreditation. Whilst we are talking about non-state schools, I would also like to pay tribute to the non-state schools in my electorate. There are quite a number that will fall under the jurisdiction of this legislation. In Cunnamulla there is the Sacred Heart Primary School, which was established in 1915 and was originally staffed by the Sisters of Mercy, an Irish order founded by Catherine McAuley in 1827.

Miss Barton interjected.

Ms LEAHY: Yes. In Charleville St Mary's School was opened in 1913 by the Sisters of Mercy at the request of the local Catholic families and they are still going strong under the stewardship of Principal Louise Pfingst. These two schools have been providing education in my electorate for over a hundred years. Any reduction in the regulatory burden brought about by this bill on these schools' governing body is most welcome.

In St George St Patrick's School was founded by the sisters of St Joseph and was officially blessed and opened on 19 February 1933. It was originally named St Joseph's convent although today St Pat's is known by the name St Patrick's School in St George.

At Tara there is St Joseph's Primary School, a prep to year 6 coeducational school. I was delighted to join St Joseph's for their golden jubilee. It is really interesting when we attend these celebrations because there are often a few stories about the cane. I met with what might have been the first student of St Joseph's in Tara. He used to hide the cane under the steps of the school so the teachers could not find it to use it. Maybe he had good reason for hiding it.

At Chinchilla we have St Joseph's School which began as a parish school staffed by the Sisters of St Joseph in 1923. I was delighted to join St Joseph's for their Anzac Day ceremony. The school is an absolute credit to principal Aaron Wells, his staff and the parents. Aaron and his wife, Pamela, are no stranger to principal work across the electorate of Warrego because originally he was the principal at Quilpie and he has now moved to St Joey's.

The Chinchilla Christian College, which unfortunately copped a few hailstorms at Chinchilla, was established in 1928 by a group of local Christian parents who had a vision for Christian education in the area. In recent years the college has undergone dramatic growth and in 2014 the college applied for and received accreditation to commence secondary education to year 12. The secondary school currently has students to year 11. I was delighted to join the Chinchilla Christian School community for the opening of their new classroom block. What a pleasure it has been to see that school grow in Chinchilla.

That brings to me some of the complexities in this legislation. If we have a look at the school community at the Chinchilla Christian College we see that they made a contribution of some \$440,000 to that particular classroom block and the state and federal governments contributed \$260,000 each. I am looking here for a clarification in relation to what the bill says about the operation for profit. Obviously the school had to operate for some time with some sort of perception of profit to raise that contribution of nearly half a million dollars worth of funds and they had to hold those funds until such time as they could source sufficient state and federal funding. No doubt there would be a perception that the school might be operating for profit, especially if they have to hold the funds while they go through the processes of sourcing state and federal funding contributions. I would appreciate if the minister could clarify whether in the circumstances where schools have to hold that money—it was nearly half a million dollars that they had to raise for this classroom block—there are not any unintended consequences from clause 7. I do note that the government has proposed some amendments. I would like to hear the minister's clarification on this matter because it does take time for school communities to raise that sort of money and then source the state and federal government contributions.

At Roma we have St John's School, which was established by the Sisters of Mercy in 1881 and provides education from prep to year 12. I am proud to say that members of my family are past students of St John's School at Roma.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to non-state schools that will be joining the Warrego electorate following the electoral redistribution. They are the Dalby Christian College, which was established in 1981, and Our Lady of the Southern Cross College, which is a prep to year 12 college in Dalby. Also the member for Gregory mentioned St Finbarr's School at Quilpie, which will be joining the Warrego electorate. I note that the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, is a past student of St Finbarr's School as well.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the principals, teachers and support staff of all the non-government schools and also the government schools for their dedication to students and education right across my electorate. I really do congratulate the parent communities for the support they give these schools. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.08 pm): I rise to talk on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017. The non-state school sector plays a huge role in education across Queensland and most particularly in Toowoomba. Ensuring that we have a simple accreditation process, that we have a board that is focused on keeping up to date and that the funding arrangements are in place is very important.

I know that in recent times in the great electorate of Toowoomba North we have had some substantial changes in our education provision. Last year Downlands College, one of the great and famous schools of Toowoomba, started to go down to grade 5. I know they were struggling to get funding approval for that for a period of time, so I think having a simplified process is very useful.

Toowoomba, as people know, is a hub for education. You will hear just how big a hub it is because I will list them off for you. I think people will be surprised at how the little provincial seat of Toowoomba North can have so many state and non-state schools. On top of that, this will be the first year that I have not opened a new school in the electorate since I came into this place. We have been going at a rapid pace. Obviously, Highfields State Secondary College was one that was opened, funded and built by the LNP. We have what is now known as TACAPS. The Toowoomba Anglican and Preparatory School was granted its application to become a high school as well, so it is now prep to 12. Mary McKillop at Highfields was granted its application to become a high school, and the Toowoomba State High School and the Wilsonton campus were split so they are each a high school in their own right. I think all of those have been good outcomes for the people of Toowoomba.

You certainly would not miss out on having a choice of education in Toowoomba. Fairholme College is a prep to 12 college. My girls went there, and it is a great school and does a fantastic job for people all over Toowoomba and many of the boarders who come in from out west. We have St Mary's College, which, as many people may know, is where Johnathan Thurston attended and played football for a period of time. St Ursula's College has recently gone through a change, with the Ursulines handling over control to the bishop, basically. They are not quite in with all the other Catholic schools. They are a little independent of that, but they are now overseen by the bishop locally. We have the Toowoomba Christian College, which is a great college on your way out of town towards Highfields. It has been growing steadily and it brings young men and women up with strong faith. It is a school that is well received and respected by many people from around the district. We have the Glennie School, which I must make sure that I mention because my wife teaches there and, if I do not, I will be in a lot of trouble. She probably will want me to mention to the board that they need to increase funding for the sports centre, which they have already given money for. She will be keen to see a little bit of extra funding for sports facilities, which is her area of education. Toowoomba Grammar School, of course, is one of Queensland's oldest schools and a very well known GPS school. My boys went there. It certainly gives boys a fine education, both at a junior and senior level. Just to run them back up, we have: Fairholme, Mary McKillop, St Marys, St Ursula's, the Glennie School, Toowoomba Christian College, Toowoomba Grammar School, Downlands and Toowoomba Anglican and Preparatory School—and that's just the senior schools.

With regard to primary schools, we have some fine non-state schools. Holy Name is a school that has been providing strong Catholic education for many years. It only has a small enrolment, but it has a very dedicated staff and it does a wonderful job. Mater Dei is celebrating one of its birthdays this year, and I know that Chris and the team up there in St Therasas' Parish will be looking forward to everybody coming to their fete this year. We also have Our Lady of Lourdes and Sacred Heart, and all of these are Catholic schools which provide options for people in Toowoomba.

I will take a little bit of liberty because I know this bill is about funding those schools, but I could not continue without mentioning Highfields State Secondary College and Wilsonton. As the minister knows, whilst there may have been a bit of kicking and screaming about the hall being built, I thank the minister for building that hall. It was a shame that the commitment could not have been made in the 2015 election like we did.

Ms Jones: You did not fund it!

Mr WATTS: It was fully funded, Minister. You know that, Minister.

Ms Jones: Start being honest!

Mr WATTS: You know that, Minister. You know that it was funded. You know that I worked for it. You know that the P&C supported me—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order!

Mr WATTS:—for the children and families of Wilsonton—

Ms Jones: It was my money, and you know it!

Mr WATTS:—because they needed it. Whilst, as we can hear, the minister was dragged kicking and screaming to the party—

Ms JONES: I rise to a point of order. I find that personally offensive and I ask you to withdraw immediately.

Mr WATTS: I withdraw.

Ms JONES: You did not fund it. We funded it.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members in the House, there was a point of order. That is when everyone needs to stop talking. The point of order was taken and an apology was given. The minister has now resumed her seat. I will now call the member to continue, and I need everyone else to listen in silence.

Mr WATTS: We of course have Rockville State School, Wilsonton State School, Newtown State School and Harlaxton, which I visited recently. The distance travelled by the students is very important, and they are kicking some really good goals in literacy despite a tough demographic. I went there the other day and planted a tree with the kids, and they were having a fantastic time as part of NAIDOC week. Fairview Heights recently got their best results on NAPLAN, and I was out there visiting them. They were thankful for the Master Teachers program and they thanked us for the funding in the Great Results Guarantee, because it has made a difference to their ability to get those literacy results.

Highfields State School is where I had children attend for primary. Again, that is a great school that was nearly closed back some 40-odd years ago, but now it is one of the biggest primary schools in the district. East State School, which probably is the biggest school in the district, has recently had a principal change. I certainly wish Richard Gibson success in his appointment there. I visited North State School the other day, and they were telling me about the fete they have coming up and some of the fundraising they are doing.

Overall I think people can see that, whilst it is a little electorate in a provincial town, we certainly punch above our weight in terms of educating future generations. I think that streamlining some of the processes involved in the non-state school sector is very important. We have a very strong non-state sector in Toowoomba at both the primary and secondary levels. At the secondary level we host a lot of students from northern New South Wales, overseas and all over Western Queensland in the form of our boarding population. A lot of these kids come to our town after going through remote learning or very small schools, and they are always welcomed into our town. I think they have a good time because a lot of them stick around and think of Toowoomba, if not as home, as their second home.

I would like to say that I think these changes will help the non-state sector continue the great work they do. As we all know, choice is very important to people who live in Queensland, including choice in education to ensure that their children get not just the best option that they can find but one that really suits their personality. I would suggest to anybody raising children in Queensland that, if they are not sure they can find the school they are looking for where they live, they should move to Toowoomba North because we certainly have a school that will fit the bill for whatever their child needs in terms of their educational future.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.19 pm): I join with the member for Toowoomba North in thanking the minister and congratulating her on the fantastic Labor announcement of a great new school hall at the Wilsonton campus. It is a great Labor initiative—a project that was not delivered during the three years of LNP government.

The Palaszczuk government—and this bill—recognises the value of non-state school education alongside our state schools. I know that the minister values the role that non-state schools play in great education in Queensland and the value they place on faith and its role in Queensland. The Minister for Education recently asked me to be involved in the blessing of the new Catholic school in Yarrabilba, St Clare's. It is a fantastic school, inspired by the message of St Francis and St Clare. They call upon students to 'live the light', and the archbishop gave that message to all of the new students. Father John Conway gave the reading from the book of Mark and talked about students not hiding their light under a basket. Principal Chris Thomas undertook unusual preparation for the opening of a new school when he travelled to Assisi in Italy to visit, pray and reflect on the legacy of St Francis and St Clare.

I was also honoured to be able to participate in the opening of the new school hall at Parklands Christian College. The new basketball hall, named after former principal of the school David Baskerville—or 'Mr B' as he is called—is a fantastic new hall with three basketball courts. That will no doubt make the school a powerhouse in basketball, which the Leader of the House will appreciate. I also attended that school's fete along with the new principal, Johannes Solymosi. I built a go-cart with my son as part of the activities of giving back to the community that the school is involved in. I also recognise St Francis', St Philomena's, St Bernadine's and Emmanuel college.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr POWER: I recognise that those opposite have no respect for these schools and wish to interrupt me, but we on this side of the House all value the role these schools play.

This diversity of education provides something that Logan parents value—that is, the ability to take a different course in their children's education and to give students something else through their education. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (4.22 pm): It is great to join this debate in support of the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill. I thank the minister for her work in bringing this bill forward. I thank all of the stakeholders that have been involved in supporting the review and the process that has been going on for some time that has led to this legislation to provide support for our very valuable non-state schools to more effectively and efficiently provide great education to the students of Queensland.

I want to echo the sentiments of not only the minister but also the member for Bulimba when they spoke about how important it is that we value and support choice in schooling, that we value and support the range of choices parents will make about what is right for not only their children but also them and their families and the reflection of their values. I think it is very important that we see that supported very well.

I will join members who have spoken in this debate today in recognising some wonderful schools in my electorate. There is a range of fantastic state schools delivering terrific outcomes for students, including my own daughter. There is also a great range of non-government schools. There are a couple of non-government schools that are a bit different from the ones that have been mentioned in the debate so far. There is the autism school at Brighton and Jabiru Community College at Bracken Ridge. For the minister's benefit, Jabiru Community College is one of those places that is having some struggles with some of its facilities. It is currently working out of some facilities provided by the Brisbane City Council. I am working with it to look for an alternative that may be of assistance in the future in terms of the great services it provides to young people who do not quite fit into our secondary school system.

I also mention the great range of Catholic schools that support people in our community. One of the earliest and oldest, founded in 1893, is Sacred Heart in Sandgate. There is also St Joseph's at Bracken Ridge and St Kieran's at Brighton. I also mention the Catholic colleges. St John Fisher College at Bracken Ridge has been a beneficiary of the Gateway Upgrade North project, with a noise wall for the school. That is something it has been looking for for about 30 years and it is now being delivered. I also mention St Patrick's College at Shorncliffe. I will be there this Saturday supporting my son playing in the firsts basketball team against Marist Ashgrove.

Ms Jones: Go Marist!

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I know that the minister will be supporting Marist Ashgrove, but I will be supporting St Paddy's and the fighting Irish. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (4.25 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contributions to this debate. In the main it was a very civil, factual and accurate debate. I think it is because everybody in this House, particularly the shadow minister and I, absolutely believes that every parent deserves the right to choice when it comes to their child's education. Of course, we know that the non-state schooling sector—independents and Catholic schools—provides education in more than 500 schools across Queensland for more than 266,000 students and is doing a fantastic job.

I will address a couple of points raised during the second reading debate. I will start with the member for Toowoomba North. Given that he went there and he wanted latitude to do so, I will respond. The member for Toowoomba North knows full well that there was no money in the LNP government's last budget for the Wilsonton State High School hall—none, zero, zilch. Furthermore, we know that at their last CBRC meeting in December, just before they called the election, there was not one dollar for the Wilsonton State High School hall—none, zero, zilch. He put out pamphlets saying that he would build it, but there was no money in the budget to deliver it.

I am very proud to be the Minister for Education who has funded that hall. We will build that hall. Kerry Shine and I were there when the first sod was turned for that hall. The member for Toowoomba North wants to go there. The people of Toowoomba North know that the LNP had three years to build that hall but they did nothing. Fortunately, Kerry Shine will deliver that for them. To get back to the substance of the bill—

Mr Mander: He will never get a chance.

Ms JONES: He absolutely will get a chance, particularly with that arrogance. I say to the member for Everton that we have actually had a very nice afternoon.

This bill is about saying that we support all schools in Queensland including independent and Catholic schools. Like all other members, I am very proud of the schools in my local community, including Marist, which I say to the Leader of the House will beat St Patrick's on the weekend. As a result of the redistribution, with Cooper I will pick up two new schools—St Joseph's, Bardonia and St Ambrose's, Newmarket. I have had the privilege to visit these two great schools and have met the P&F representatives, the principals and staff. They do a fantastic job. In fact, with these two new schools in the seat of Cooper I will represent all schools from the Jubilee Catholic Parish. I take this opportunity to acknowledge that in Catholic schooling it is not only the QCEC but also local parishes that play a huge role in education, as well as P&Fs locally. I acknowledge that our local parish priest, Peter Brannelly, has now been promoted and will be the dean of the cathedral—

Mr Power interjected.

Ms JONES: That is right: he went to Clairvaux with you—

Mr Power: And he married my brother.

Ms JONES: He married me and my husband, too—and he baptised my children at the Red Hill church in my electorate. He has been promoted to the dean of the cathedral at St Stephen's Cathedral. I take this opportunity to wish him very well. He has been a fantastic supporter of the schools in the Jubilee Catholic Parish. I know that everyone in our parish will miss his leadership. I am sure he will play a fantastic role as dean of the cathedral.

I want to pick up on the comments of the member for Warrego. My advice is that there are absolutely no concerns about the issue she raised. Of course schools have to raise money and hold money until they can get matching funds, particularly with the way funds are structured.

I thank the shadow minister for her support of the amendment in relation to clause 7. In her contribution the member for Broadwater recognised that there was no intention to change the current arrangements. It was more about any concerns about the wording in clause 7 causing a misunderstanding. I am very pleased that there has been bipartisan recognition and recognition by Independent Schools Queensland and the QCEC that these amendments go to the heart of their concerns and that everyone is happy moving forward. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 270—



Ms JONES (4.30 pm): I wish to make a minor correction to amendment No. 19 to clause 139. The page identifier should refer to page 90 of the bill and not page 89. I seek leave to move the following amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Ms JONES: I move the following amendments—

- 1 **Clause 7 (Meaning of *operated for profit*)**
Page 17, lines 17 to 20—
omit, insert—
7 Meaning of *operated for profit*
For this Act, a school is ***operated for profit*** if any profits made from the school's operation are used for any purpose other than a purpose for advancing the school's philosophy and aims, as stated in the school's statement of philosophy and aims.
- 2 **Clause 8 (Meaning of *prohibited arrangement*)**
Page 17, line 22, after 'arrangement'—
insert—
in relation to a school
- 3 **Clause 8 (Meaning of *prohibited arrangement*)**
Page 18, line 1—
omit, insert—
(b) that is not required to advance the school's philosophy and aims, as stated in the school's statement of philosophy and aims.
- 4 **Clause 31 (Additional assessment of establishment phase school)**
Page 31, line 15, 'body; or'—
omit, insert—
body.
- 5 **Clause 39 (Application to change attribute of accreditation)**
Page 35, lines 11 and 12—
omit, insert—
(a) be made to the board; and
(b) be in the approved form; and
(c) be accompanied by the fee prescribed by regulation.
- 6 **Clause 45 (Proposed governing body taken to have applied to be eligible for government funding)**
Page 38, line 29, 'for eligible'—
omit, insert—
eligible for
- 7 **Clause 46 (Notice of attribute of accreditation no longer applying)**
Page 39, lines 13 to 16—
omit, insert—
(2) The attribute of accreditation stops applying to the school on the day stated in the notice.
- 8 **Clause 64 (Definition for division)**
Page 52, line 3, 'education'—
omit, insert—
schooling
- 9 **Clause 71 (Cancellation)**
Page 56, line 8, 'accreditation,'—
omit, insert—
accreditation for a type of education,
- 10 **Clause 73 (Surrender)**
Page 57, lines 9 to 11—
omit, insert—
(2) The surrender takes effect on the day stated in the notice.
- 11 **Clause 73 (Surrender)**
Page 57, lines 15 and 16—
omit, insert—

- (b) immediately before the surrender, the governing body was eligible for government funding for the school for which the accreditation is surrendered; and
- (c) after the surrender, the school is not accredited to provide any type of education.
- 12 Clause 78 (Governing body of school may apply for eligibility for government funding)**
Page 59, lines 8 and 9—
omit, insert—
- (a) be made to the board; and
- (b) be in the approved form; and
- 13 Clause 96 (Effect of cancellation of accreditation)**
Page 68, lines 3 to 7—
omit, insert—
- 96 Effect of cancellation of accreditation**
- (1) Subsection (2) applies if—
- (a) a school's accreditation for a type of education is cancelled; and
- (b) immediately before the cancellation, the governing body was eligible for government funding for the school for which the accreditation is cancelled; and
- (c) after the cancellation, the school is not accredited to provide any type of education.
- (2) The school's governing body's eligibility for government funding for the school is taken to be withdrawn when the cancellation has effect under this Act.
- 14 Clause 119 (Disclosure of interest)**
Page 79, line 16, before 'subsection'—
insert—
- under
- 15 Chapter 4, part 2, division 3, subdivision 1, heading (Power to enter school premises)**
Page 89, line 3, 'school'—
omit, insert—
- accredited school's
- 16 Clause 137 (Power to enter school premises)**
Page 89, lines 4 to 6—
omit, insert—
- 137 Power to enter accredited school's premises**
- An authorised person may enter an accredited school's premises, during ordinary office hours, after complying with section 138.
- 17 Clause 138 (Notice of entry)**
Page 89, line 8, 'a school's'—
omit, insert—
- an accredited school's
- 18 Chapter 4, part 2, division 3, subdivision 2, heading (Power to enter places other than school premises)**
Page 90, line 2, 'school premises'—
omit, insert—
- accredited school's premises
- 19 Clause 139 (Power to enter places other than school premises)**
Page 90, lines 3 to 5—
omit, insert—
- 139 Power to enter places other than accredited school's premises**
- (1) An authorised person may enter a place, other than an accredited school's premises, for carrying out a function if—
- 20 Clause 151 (General powers)**
Page 97, line 22, after 'authorised'—
insert—
- person

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017, explanatory notes to Hon. Kate Jones's amendments [1305].

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 270, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (4.31 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (4.31 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (4.32 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. notes the failure of the Turnbull government to fund its 50 percent share of the \$220 million Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements category D funding package for Queensland's recovery from Tropical Cyclone Debbie, and
2. calls on the Turnbull government to fund its share of the category D package to help rebuild Queensland communities.

It has now been more than four months—four months—since Tropical Cyclone Debbie ravaged the Queensland coast from the Whitsundays to the New South Wales border. Debbie caused massive damage to so many communities—\$1.1 billion in estimated damage to public infrastructure, a \$450 million impact to agriculture and over \$150 million in losses to the tourism industry. To help the recovery of affected communities, the Palaszczuk Labor government submitted a \$220 million economic recovery and resilience package to the Turnbull government consistent with the NDRRA guidelines—that is, \$110 million each. How did Malcolm Turnbull respond? He duded those communities. He duded those disaster affected communities, and that is not my assessment; that is how the LNP member for Whitsunday described it. He was even more blunt last month when he told the *Whitsunday Times*—

I don't care if the Prime Minister's office gets uncomfortable with what I'm saying here ... we have projects that I believe meet the criteria where Canberra has given us the 'up yours' signal.

Now is the member for Whitsunday's chance to stand in this place and send a very clear message to the Prime Minister by supporting this motion this afternoon. Will he back his local community or will he back the party line? That is the question here this afternoon. The Labor candidate for Whitsunday, Bronwyn Taha—a very fine woman—has led a strong community fightback. Today we will see where the LNP member for Whitsunday really stands. Make no mistake: as Queensland parliamentarians we need to send a strong, unified message to Canberra that the Turnbull government must reassess its cruel position on the category D economic and resilience package. The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Whitsunday must here today stand up for Queensland. They should vote for this motion and put Queensland first for a change, because if they do not—if Queenslanders cannot count on them to be in their corner on disaster recovery—then Queenslanders will know they just cannot count on Tim Nicholls and the LNP to ever be in their corner.

It beggars belief that the Turnbull government could refuse to support its share of this economic recovery package—\$110 million—yet is willing to waste more than this on its ridiculous marriage equality postal vote: \$120 million for a postal vote, the outcome of which—a survey—is meaningless! It will not have an impact on the way that the LNP members within the federal parliament will vote. This is the ridiculousness of the situation. They cry about the federal budget, they cry about not having enough money and then they splash \$120 million on a postal vote that is meaningless and worthless.

When it comes to helping out disaster affected communities, it gives us a piddly \$29 million from a requested \$110 million allocation. This is the ridiculousness of Malcolm Turnbull and the Liberal National Party at a federal level.

This afternoon we need to see whether or not the Liberal National Party here in Queensland has descended to the same level of ridiculousness. Will it stand with the Queensland government—will they stand with the communities in the Whitsundays, in Mackay, in Rockhampton—and send a very strong, united message from this parliament that we expect Malcolm Turnbull and the federal government to come to the party when it comes to getting these communities back on their feet with funding for important infrastructure projects that will mean that these communities can get back on their feet quicker? This afternoon the LNP needs to make it clear: is it going to back Queensland or is it going to back its millionaire mate down in Canberra? That is the question here this afternoon.

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.37 pm): I rise to address the motion moved by the Deputy Premier with regard to the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. The NDRRA is a safety net—a safety net to help communities recover from natural disasters. Over the past decade there has been more than \$8½ billion of NDRRA funding going to the state of Queensland. Of any state we should know what needs to be done to get the funding and get the repairs done, but let us be up-front about Labor's track record when it comes to NDRRA funding. Under its watch Labor mishandled claims, leaving Queensland out of pocket \$800 million. Do not take my word for it. Do not take the LNP's word for it. Do not take Canberra's word for it. Take the word of the Auditor-General—the independent Auditor-General—who levelled a scathing assessment of Queensland's claims under the former Labor government, including that \$153 million of the claim was for ineligible projects.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, you have had a chance. Whilst I am speaking, member for Logan, you were warned this morning. The slate is clean, but I will certainly have no hesitation in giving you another warning if you persist with your interjections.

Mr POWELL: I reiterate: Queensland's own independent Auditor-General said that. These projects were signed off by departments under Labor. Claims were being made for projects without documents backing up a like-for-like replacement. After years of wrangling and trying to sort out this mess, over \$150 million worth of works continued to be ineligible because of the bogus claims of those opposite. It took Tim Nicholls to negotiate with the federal Labor government to sort this mess out.

A government member: Rubbish!

Mr POWELL: It did. And to streamline the NDRRA framework and to begin including betterment works in the recovery funding—something, despite two decades of government, those opposite could not achieve. That national partnership agreement facilitated Queensland's recovery from ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald and the January 2013 floods. That is what working constructively with a federal government looks like. A framework for improvement was developed as part of the agreement to ensure flood prone public infrastructure was rebuilt not only to the same standard but also to a higher standard. That makes communities more resilient.

Do not let this debate distract Queenslanders from the Palaszczuk Labor government's failures. For starters, the Palaszczuk Labor government had failed to deliver the infrastructure not only that Queensland needs now but also that they promised at the last election. They are now looking for someone to blame. What is more, Labor axed the LNP's Royalties for the Regions funds that built numerous flood mitigation projects and built more resilient infrastructure.

I will list just a few. The Balonne Shire Council received \$900,000 in R4R funding for the St George flood mitigation levee; Maranoa Regional Council received \$5 million for the Roma flood mitigation project; Bundaberg Regional Council received in the order of \$2 million for the Burnett River bank stabilisation and Technology Park flood protection levee; flood mitigation works in the Burdekin shire to the tune of \$1.68 million; Diamantina picked up \$400,000; Gympie Regional Council received \$2.2 million; Isaac Regional Council received \$262,000 for its Douglas Creek floodway upgrade project; the Lockyer Valley Regional Council received multiple R4R funding for its Laidley township flood mitigation project; Mackay Regional Council received \$342,000 for the North Mackay levee system; Toowoomba Regional Council received \$1.8 million—and the list goes on and on and on.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has ripped that funding out of regional Queensland. What is more, it has discontinued the LNP's betterment fund, a dedicated fund to improve resilience in a natural disaster-prone state. Because of that action Queenslanders are now looking for the infrastructure they deserve. They know they will not get it under this Palaszczuk Labor government.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.42 pm): It is quite shameful to sit here and listen to the member for Glass House not stand up for his colleague from the Whitsundays who is desperate to get this funding in his electorate. The member for Whitsunday wrote to the Prime Minister begging to have the funding in his electorate. It is outrageous for the member for Glass House to trivialise what actually needs to be done. It is shameful that he cannot support his own member. He needs to get up to the Whitsundays and see the devastation. He should be embarrassed. The member needs to stand up for all of Queensland not just for the south-east corner. The member should get out of his own backyard and see the suffering of the people in the Whitsundays. He should be embarrassed. I table the letter from the member for Whitsunday. He stands up for his electorate.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 July 2017, from the member for Whitsunday, Mr Jason Costigan MP, to the Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm Turnbull, regarding disaster recovery funding for the Whitsundays [\[1306\]](#).

Those opposite do not seem to realise that Cyclone Debbie wreaked havoc across the Mackay region. It was a shocking weather event. It wrecked homes, beaches and our rail and road systems. Thousands of residents experienced power outages for days. My neighbourhood lost power for four days. These communities just got on with it. They know that the power will be put back on and everybody will get in and help.

Many small businesses in my community, even though their businesses were not wrecked, lost income for weeks because they had power outages. They were still paying their staff and they are still struggling today to make up for that lost income. When cyclones hit, it does not just cause trees to come down and roofs to come off, the whole community is affected in a lot of different ways. Those opposite need to understand that.

The Mackay community, the community that I am proud to represent, has had to deal with tough times over the past four months. We did not anticipate that we would have a heartless response from the federal government. The Palaszczuk Labor government was quick to pledge its support for the recovery effort. We put \$110 million on the table to help Queensland communities recover. Malcolm Turnbull's miserable commitment to fund just \$29 million out of a requested \$110 million is a complete slap in the face for my community. To put this in perspective, the federal government's share of the disaster funding equates to just 0.006 per cent of the entire federal budget.

Disappointingly, out of the \$135 million requested for the local council package, the feds stumped up just \$1.5 million to be shared between the Airlie Beach foreshore and the Mackay Blue Water Trail. Needless to say, this will go nowhere near fixing the damage to these assets. I do not think Mr Turnbull would put up with the foreshore of Sydney Harbour being twisted and wrecked with debris all over it. It would be fixed up pretty quickly.

Importantly, of the \$10 million in the economic package which would help businesses to recover, the federal government approved just \$2.1 million, again a huge blow to the cyclone affected economies. When wages are taken out of the community due to shutdowns after cyclones, discretionary spending dries up. This affects all of our small businesses. Our cafes, mechanics and clothing stores are all feeling the pain months after the cyclone. My community deserves better and the federal LNP member for Dawson, George Christensen, knows it. He has been quoted as saying, 'I'm gutted to see the quantum of funding that has been delivered in this area', and describing the federal government commitment as paltry. Everybody agrees that it is paltry except those opposite.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (4.47 pm): I rise to speak on the motion. This government is haemorrhaging from the lack of action and political spin. No better example is the John Muntz Bridge and associated riverbank located on the Tamborine Oxenford Road at Upper Coomera. The flooding event from Cyclone Debbie ripped a section of riverbank from the quarry site upstream from the John Muntz Bridge. Sections of the riverine erosion were up to 40 metres deep. This erosion undermined the connection road to the John Muntz Bridge. I table a photo of that bridge.

Tabled paper: Photographs of bridge in Albert Shire damaged by Cyclone Debbie [\[1307\]](#).

Firstly, it took weeks for this government to get machines on site to start the repair project, which I must say was most disconcerting for residents who were forced to use alternative routes to travel to and from work and drop off and pick up their kids from local school. The blight this caused to local

residents and businesses was horrendous. It would put an extra 30 minutes on a round trip for residents getting to and from their homes in the Upper Coomera area. After many not-so-positive news articles and a parliamentary petition demanding the bridge be opened as soon as possible, the Minister for Main Roads finally ordered construction teams on site.

However, the fundamental problem remained: the riverbank erosion would continue if reinforcement works were not undertaken. Therefore, as any good representative would do, I enlisted the help of experts. I asked Water Technology coastal and environmental consultants to look at the site and give their opinion. Their report stated, 'Left as it is the bank will continue to erode and the failure of the bridge during future floods is highly likely.' Therefore, I enlisted the help of the Premier. I wrote to the Premier on 27 April. The Premier replied—

I acknowledge your concerns around the potential for further erosion, and the associated risks to the structural integrity of the nearby infrastructure. I agree that sensible options for riverine protection and road network safety should be properly considered. As such, I have forwarded your letter along with the contact details for Water Technology Coastal and Environmental Consultants to the Minister for Main Roads Mark Bailey.

I ask the Premier what email address she sent it to, because he certainly did not get the message.

I refer to a *Gold Coast Bulletin* article of 13 May, in which the minister is quoted as saying, 'Mr Boothman needs to let the experts get on with the job.' Water Technology is an expert. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 26 May 2017, from the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, to the member for Albert, Mr Mark Boothman MP, regarding river bank erosion and two *Gold Coast Bulletin* articles, dated 13 May 2017, regarding John Muntz bridge [1308].

On 19 June, posing like Superman, with Labor candidates in tow, the minister announced that the opening of the bridge will be delayed until the end of July for one lane and August for two lanes. That was after months of promising it would be open midyear, which is 30 June. I table an article headlined 'Anger at bridge delay'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 20 June 2017, titled 'Anger at bridge delay' [1309].

After much outcry and massive community pressure, the bridge was opened on 30 June with no minister in sight. However, let me add a twist: now the Premier has changed her mind. A response to a question on notice states—

I am also advised the City of Gold Coast (CoGC) is currently investigating the area upstream of the TMR road corridor and the reinforcement of the embankment that was swept downstream during the rain event. TMR will continue working with CoGC to ensure that any remedial works that may occur upstream support the reinstatement works that it is currently undertaking.

After a quick investigation, on 20 July the *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported that a council spokesman said, 'The Government had not formally approached it about the work.' I table the document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 20 July 2017, regarding repairs to riverbanks and bridges and the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk's response to question on notice No. 902 asked by the member for Albert, Mr Mark Boothman MP on 14 June 2017 [1310].

As local resident and Oxenford Pony Club president stated, 'They're not talking to each other. After the first bit of flooding it will wash away again!' This government does not know what it is doing. They cannot even get the dates right. They play political spin. They play political pork-barrelling. They do not care about Queenslanders and they certainly do not care about the Gold Coast.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.53 pm): So far we have seen the member for Glass House act as an apologist for Canberra and the member for Albert simply not address the question whatsoever. After five minutes, we have no idea whether he stands for Queensland or Canberra.

Four months ago, on the evening of the peak of the floods caused by Tropical Cyclone Debbie, I went from door to door visiting with locals in North Maclean on the Logan River. Residents had to surrender to the flood as the water rose over their makeshift barriers. They were stoic and even cheerful with black humour. They sought to check that friends and neighbours were okay, even as their own homes went under. That is the spirit of Logan. We look out for others first, even in the toughest of times.

I want to tell one story of the hundreds from Logan. On a street near the North Maclean Bridge a family lived in a house with their grandparents on one side. Shane and Sam, the parents of teenage kids, are members of the Greenbank Scouts. I saw them as their house went under. All of their worldly goods were in piles on the street. The next morning when I returned, the whole scout community had rallied to the collective cause. They had a tent set up to feed volunteers and a whole army cleaning, clearing and fixing. It is the spirit of Logan to lend a helping hand to those in need.

We hope the government is like the neighbours and friends of Logan, as we too step in during difficult times to help out our friends and neighbours. The Premier came to North Maclean and took the time to hear Shane and Sam's story at their house. She was amazed at their resilience. She said that this government, the Palaszczuk government, would stand by the Logan community. We have done that. In this budget we have put forward \$110 million to pay our half of the \$220 million economic recovery and resilience package that we need to repair our state. The Premier has been true to the words she said to Shane and Sam.

However, the same cannot be said of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Cyclone Debbie caused enormous economic damage, which has been made worse by the insult the Prime Minister has made to Queensland. This is our chance to send a message to the LNP in Canberra that it is failing Queensland. I agree with something said by another member of this place—

I don't care if the Prime Minister's office gets uncomfortable with what I'm saying here ... we have projects that I believe meet the criteria where Canberra has given us the 'up yours' signal.

I say to the member for Whitsunday: we will see. He acts the lion in Whitsunday, but down here in Brisbane he is the LNP sheep. If he cannot condemn his party's failure through this vote, everyone in Whitsunday will know that he stands for nothing. I support all Queenslanders damaged by this flood and that is why I support this motion.

We know where the member for Whitsunday stands when others were hurt by floods. He described the damage caused to infrastructure on the Albert and Logan rivers—and I note that the member for Albert did not condemn him—as 'irrelevant'. Hearing the LNP member describe their suffering as irrelevant, many locals in Logan wrote to me to express their outrage. I will read to the House what they think of LNP members who say that. Lisa wrote—

I wonder if he would be brave enough to sit in a room and tell the 27 farmers impacted by Cyclone Debbie in Logan, 'You are irrelevant!' The losses on our farm also impacted our 8 staff and their families!

Kirsty-Anne wrote—

We were 'lucky' we only rented so 'only' lost household contents that took nearly a week to clean out with the help of the Mud Army friends and family.

Lennie Chant wrote—

Yes its irrelevant that after many months and still having to pay a mortgage on a house that is completely in shatters, unable to be lived in, yes very irrelevant that many of us are suffering more now than ever.

Judith wrote—

So ... it's irrelevant that some people are still not back in their homes ... come down here & say it to their faces ... you'll soon find out what it's like to be irrelevant!!

Now is the time for this House to send a really clear message to Prime Minister Turnbull that he is irrelevant to Queensland. His lack of commitment to Queensland in our time of need shows that the LNP does not understand the spirit of Logan. They do not get what it is like to be a Queenslanders through thick and thin. I urge all members of this House to send a clear message to the people of Queensland that, if the LNP in Canberra cannot stand up and support Queensland because they think we are irrelevant, it will be the LNP that is irrelevant in Queensland.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (Burdekin—LNP) (4.58 pm): I rise to speak to the motion before the House. As a former police officer, deputy of the local disaster management group and area director with Emergency Management Queensland, I feel I am qualified to speak on this motion and the delivery of assistance to alleviate the financial burden on states and territories. The Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, or NDRRA as it is commonly known, also supports the provision of urgent financial assistance to disaster affected communities. There are four categories of assistance. I note that the member for South Brisbane is referring to category D—that is, an act of relief or recovery carried out to alleviate distress or damage in circumstances that are exceptional.

There is no question that Cyclone Debbie caused massive damage and destruction when it crossed the North Queensland coast near Airlie Beach on 28 March. The clean-up operation which commenced immediately after the cyclone is ongoing. Let me assure all members here tonight that there are residents and businesses in the affected area that are still waiting for tradies to turn up and repair their properties. There are still homes in Bowen that have no power supply and are vacant. They are waiting for tradies to come along and reconnect their power.

Only last week I had the pleasure of attending the Bowen Outdoor Camping and Disposals store owned and operated by Gordon and Anne Little, which only reopened a couple of weeks ago. That is a long time to go without an income. It has been a long road to recovery for these communities in my electorate. For the residents in Bowen and Collinsville it will be some time before they fully recover from this event.

The delivery of assistance following a natural disaster is subject to strict guidelines. Unfortunately, the track record of those opposite leaves a lot to be desired when applying for NDRRA funding. Who could forget their bumbling efforts in the past that left Queensland out of pocket to the tune of \$800 million, including \$153 million which was claimed for ineligible projects. No wonder the Queensland Auditor-General was scathing in their assessment of Queensland's claims. It goes to show that if people do not get it right or try to pull the wool over the eyes of the assessment team they will not be funded. The fact that \$150 million worth of works continues to be ineligible highlights just how wrong the Labor government got it when it came to making those claims.

Who could forget the debacle that unfolded at the Whitsunday Regional Council following Cyclone Ului which crossed the coast in March 2010. The Whitsunday Regional Council, under the watch of then mayor Mike Brunker—that is right, the Labor candidate for Burdekin—made a number of ineligible claims following Cyclone Ului which almost sent the council bankrupt. It took years to pay those funds back and it was the ratepayers who shouldered the burden. There is a very clear message here about the need to get it right.

It is obvious that those opposite did not learn from their mistakes because, as members will recall, this year they again tried to pull the wool over the eyes of the federal government following Cyclone Debbie by submitting claims for category C which were incomplete and then had the hide to cry foul when the claims were initially knocked back. NDRRA is not a slush fund and it is certainly not there to prop up a government that is desperately attempting to access funding for infrastructure projects—projects like a levee bank in Rockhampton. I wonder whose seat is centred around that project? That is a \$60 million capital works project that this government is trying to fund with category D funding. This is being done with the sole intention of propping up the member for Rockhampton at the next election.

My electorate of Burdekin and the neighbouring electorate of Whitsunday were absolutely smashed during Cyclone Debbie. I will fight for every cent we are eligible for under the provisions of NDRRA. I say to the Deputy Premier, 'Send me copies of your applications and I will give you a guarantee here tonight that I will fully support those claims which are legitimate and eligible under the NDRRA criteria.' I will always support genuine claims for disaster assistance that are supported by a well-researched and legitimate business case.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr LAST: This is no laughing matter. This is serious. Those communities in North Queensland that were impacted by this cyclone were absolutely devastated.

A government member interjected.

Mr LAST: Someone over there thinks it is hilarious. During and after times of disaster all levels of government should work cooperatively to ensure affected communities are supported through the recovery phase. I certainly hope the Deputy Premier has submitted the appropriate business cases to support the claim for category D funding in this instance. Our communities need it and our residents deserve it.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

Schools, Drugs and Weapons



Ms DAVIS (Aspley—LNP) (5.03 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to address the number of incidents of drugs and weapons in Queensland schools.

Each and every day it is the education minister's full-time responsibility to ensure we have safe learning environments for the 540,000 students who attend Queensland state schools. It is the education minister's full-time responsibility to ensure that there are no unacceptable risks to the safety

or wellbeing of members of school communities. But, as we know, the Palaszczuk Labor government does not think that is so because the Premier decided Queensland only needs a part-time Minister for Education.

Across communities in Queensland we are seeing an escalation in drug, weapon and violence related incidents. What is even more concerning is the escalation of drug, weapon and violence related incidents on school grounds. If the minister were across her brief she would know these alarming statistics and she would be very concerned. We should not be surprised if she were not aware that the numbers were trending upwards because she is not 100 per cent focused on the Education portfolio. Her lack of action is failing Queensland students and impacting their safety.

The extent of drug and weapon incidents in Queensland state schools was revealed during this year's estimates hearing when I received the minister's response to a question on notice. Her dismissive attitude to these numbers was incredulous. These are the statistics that the minister wants to play down. Some 5,796 drug related incidents were reported in Queensland state schools since she took office in 2015. Some 843 weapon related incidents were reported in Queensland state schools since she took office in January 2015.

In further questioning on this serious problem during the hearing, the minister seemed to think that these sobering statistics were a win for her government. Can you believe it—a win which she bases on the proportion of incidents against student population increases. The facts speak for themselves. School suspensions for physical misconduct with an object have risen by 19 per cent in the two years of this Labor government.

It is why we are debating the motion tonight. This asleep-at-the-wheel Palaszczuk Labor government needs to wake up and address the number of incidents of drugs and weapons in our schools. If they fail to do so they continue to fail every child who has the right to go to school, secure in knowledge that they will be safe and not exposed to any unacceptable risk.

The minister's ad hoc approach to student wellbeing is working. It is clearly not addressing the problems of drugs and weapons being brought into schoolyards and the minister's lack of action is failing every Queensland student. Even local police are saying the presence of drugs in schools is more prevalent. As I have said before, illicit drugs and weapons have no rightful place anywhere in society and they have even less a place in academic environments where young people are living in their most formative years.

I know that my schools are doing what they can to deal with these serious issues, but they are up against it. They want their schools to be places for educating children in a safe environment and they are having to deal with these problems on their own.

This is a government that comes into this House and talks up dealing with the scourge of ice in this state. What are they doing to deal with drugs in schools? We know there is an ice corridor. What is this minister doing to ensure that schools in that corridor have the resources to deal with the issue when drugs present in schoolyards? This is a big talk, no action, glossy brochure government.

Across the state we are seeing increases that need to be addressed. In places like Rockhampton and Mackay weapon related suspensions have jumped to six year highs of more than 379. That is more than one student a day in that region being suspended. Further north in Cairns we saw a massive 13 per cent jump in students being suspended for physical misconduct with an object. It is also clear that when we look at the numbers from the Far North, drugs in our schools is a growing problem. A 48 per cent jump over the last two years for illicit drug related suspensions across the Far North is a terrible trend.

Our school communities deserve better leadership than the government they are getting. At the moment our schools are the ones having to do the hard yards on tough social issues. Perhaps the minister might go back to the Treasurer and ask for the \$266 million she stripped from the education system in the past two budgets and put it towards making our schools a safer learning environment for our kids.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (5.08 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'government' be deleted and the following words inserted—

'to continue to address the rate of incidences of drugs and weapons in Queensland schools.'

Well, haven't we heard it all today? The honourable shadow minister just finished her contribution talking about the wider problems in communities, the children and families who are doing it the toughest—the most marginalised—the families who normally come to the awareness of the child safety department. What did the honourable member do when she was the minister? She cut 220 workers from the child safety department. That is what she did. That is how she supported child safety support services. She cut 220 child safety workers. The honourable shadow minister has form, because we also know that she was part of a government that cut 500 teachers from schools. We know that her solution to addressing this important issue would be to cut teachers and to cut workers from schools. That is what her solution would be. Did it work for her when she was in government? It absolutely did not. This is the data that the honourable shadow minister does not want to talk about. What she does not want to talk about is what happened in 2014. In 2014, the same data on weapons, the same data on drugs—

Ms Davis: It's gone up.

Ms JONES: No, it has not. The publicly available data shows that in 2014 there were 421 incidents; in 2016, those incidents are down to 377. Do you know what the difference is? There are 30,000 more students in state schools and the incidents have gone down. They are the facts of the matter. Similarly, with drugs, which I know is something that she is aware of, we saw under their watch 3,200 incidents in 2014; they are down to 2,800 with 30,000 more students in the system. That is our record. Of course I take it seriously.

Ms Davis: You don't.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. That is why instead of cutting teachers and putting pressure on class sizes—we saw class sizes go up under their watch because of what they did to teacher numbers. There were 14,000 classes above size under their watch, and we have delivered a 30 per cent reduction already. Let me talk about the difference. They cut teachers, they cut front-line services and, even having fewer students, they had more students involved in these incidents.

We will always support our students to complete their education. That is why we went to the election with an election commitment—which they did not match—to put additional guidance officers in schools. That is why under my leadership we have put behaviour management coaches in every single region to work with schools to address behaviour management issues in schools to make sure that every child gets the education they deserve. In actual fact, we had a conference three weeks ago now where more than 500 educators came together to talk about best practice and how we can support behaviour management in our schools. That is why we have inclusion coaches in every single region to support the work that is happening in schools.

The big difference between our government and their record is that not only do we not cut staff and we restore front-line services but you will never catch me talking down state schools. I will never use my job to come in here and trash talk state schools. The QTU know it and every teacher and principal knows it—that the LNP are not their friend, that the LNP use every opportunity they have—

Ms Davis interjected.

Ms JONES: I table the press release from the honourable shadow minister where she says '... instead of stopping Glucks'.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Please attribute the following to LNP shadow education minister Tracy Davis, regarding violence in schools [\[1311\]](#).

Do you think there has ever been a Glock, a semi-automatic weapon, in a state school? Not once has that happened, but you put it in a press release. You tell me that is not talking down state schools!

Mr Speaker, we had the best NAPLAN data ever, particularly in numeracy, and do you know what the shadow minister said on the day? She said, 'At a time when academic achievements in literacy and numeracy are slipping.' Can she not read NAPLAN data? Does she not read NAPLAN data? The LNP will trash talk state schools. We will fight for state schools.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.13 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the honourable member for Aspley and condemn the inaction of the Palaszczuk Labor government. 'Gold Coast schools become crime zone with record drug and violence suspensions'—that was the heading of an article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* earlier this week, on 7 August, yet this soft-on-crime Labor

government sits on its hands and does nothing. Rather than endless reviews and more discussion like we have seen from the Premier, who told attendees at her fake town hall meeting in Currumbin last week that she was 'currently putting together an ice strategy and going to get preventative measures in place', we need action. This do-nothing Palaszczuk government are dithering over something as important as dealing with a potential ice epidemic.

The LNP on the other hand recognised the growing scourge of drugs and announced our comprehensive, five-point action plan to take ice off our streets back in July 2016. Our action plan supports strong enforcement and comprises the following: dob in a dealer by reporting information to Crime Stoppers; keeping bikie clubhouses closed for good; working with the federal government to deliver additional drug addiction treatment services; ensuring law enforcement cooperation between state and Commonwealth law enforcement agencies; and increased prevention through community awareness programs targeting high-risk Queenslanders.

Together with my high school principals, local police and school community, I have been lobbying for a school based police officer to be shared between our two high schools for over a year now. Just when we thought we might actually be getting close to receiving one, the assistant commissioner revealed in estimates that Labor have changed the goal posts, saying that officers have 'been in meetings with principals to discuss a different approach rather than the appointment of a specific officer'. What sort of cop-out is this? Pardon the pun, but it is hardly a good idea to abandon a program like SBPOs when it has been successful and at a period in time when our kids need all the support they can get. Honourable members in this place acknowledge our world has changed with new and frightening challenges facing us all but especially our kids, so why not appoint a school based police officer for Palm Beach Currumbin and Elanora High?

I want to place on record how proud I am of my two local high schools for taking a constructive approach to promoting healthy and proactive relationships between students and local police. I do not suggest that they have worse problems than others or that they are anything but outstanding educational entities. However, they do have large school communities and want to be able to safeguard students from preventable harms. They recognise the benefits of having another layer of guidance, and school based police officers have a proven positive influence in our schools by offering another layer of adult guidance to teens. By ignoring requests from local police and principals to provide SBPOs where they are needed most, Labor are burying their heads in the sand and putting our youth at risk. The Palaszczuk government is showing that it is not only soft on crime but also neglecting the welfare of teens by refusing to support our calls for an SBPO.

What more proof do Queenslanders need that Labor do not care about anyone but themselves than their quasi-week of governing from the Gold Coast? The supposed town hall meeting on 1 August at Currumbin RSL will be remembered by Gold Coasters as a serious breach of trust and deliberate deceit by the Palaszczuk Labor government. So much for a good old-fashioned town hall meeting! This was blatant campaigning from a Premier with no real interest in Currumbin or understanding of the hardships facing our residents as a result of her government's M1 inaction, car rego and power spikes and cost-of-living hikes. The Premier had plenty of opportunity to announce a school based police officer at this meeting or during her week on the Gold Coast, but she did not. In fact, she was so desperate to fill a room to hear her speak that she resorted to robocalls across the Gold Coast less than 24 hours before the event.

Sunday Mail columnist Peter Cameron referred to the meeting as 'salted with red-shirted Labor supporters thrust in to cheer North Korean style'. Labor's candidate for Currumbin claims to be a local through and through—but she does not even live there and is so enamoured of Currumbin that at the last election she ran for the seat of Mudgeeraba. I call on the Minister for Police and the Minister for Education to stand up for students at PBC and Elanora high schools and allocate a new school based police officer for Currumbin high schools. Having a school based police officer engaging with the school and local community will assist in developing crime prevention strategies to keep our kids safe, but Labor are not interested.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.19 pm): Earlier today I rose, along with several other members in this House, to speak on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill, and every member spoke with pride and passion about their schools—in this case, their non-government schools. I heard the member for Glass House speak glowingly about his pocket rocket school and the member for Aspley speak about several of her schools and how well they are performing in their community.

When I go into my schools I see teachers who work hard on an individual basis with students. I see teachers who spend considerable time determining the specific areas of development that each student needs from teachers analysing data from sources like NAPLAN tests to ensure they can get the best out of every one of their students.

When I go into schools I see principals like Natalie Taylor from Hermit Park State School walking through classrooms and watching teachers teach their lessons. I see those same principals meeting with individual teachers, discussing with them the teaching that they saw and providing valuable feedback to those teachers so they can improve their teaching and learning programs for each of their students.

I also hear from parents when I go to P&C meetings or when I hold my market stalls of the outstanding work that teachers and principals are doing in their schools with each and every one of their students. But now we have heard the member for Aspley attacking our state schools and talking them down—attacking the hardworking teachers and hardworking principals in our schools. Rather than talking up the increased NAPLAN results or the increased number of students achieving A to C achievement levels across our state or the performance of their students in their school orchestra or sports carnivals, we have an attack on principals and schools.

I feel as though we need to put some context around the claims that the member for Aspley has put in her motion today. There are 30,000 more students in Queensland state schools than when the LNP were in government, yet we have seen a reduction in the incidents of drug use and misconduct involving an object. Let us drill down into what the issues are given that the member for Aspley is making out that schools are out of control; that students are walking the corridors and playgrounds armed with weapons and ready to use them if someone even looks sideways at them.

I almost have visions of students in classrooms with bandoliers of bullets draped across their chest with six-shooters on their hips from the way the member for Aspley is depicting schools in Queensland. I have visions of students with knives like Mick Dundee's in the playground almost comparing one size to another: 'That's not a knife; this is a knife.' What the member for Aspley calls weapons includes pieces of watermelon, sandwiches, pencils, rulers, glue and even spit balls. These are the weapons the member for Aspley is scaremongering about.

Since we were elected there has been a 10 per cent reduction in incidents of misconduct involving an object. This is a direct result of our efforts to make our schools safer for everyone. I know that principals take great pains before they make a decision to suspend a student. They weigh up what support services have been put in place for the student and what are the individual social and emotional circumstances the student may be going through at any particular time. They look at what classroom and playground procedures they have in place as well as the supportive and instructional methods of the student's classroom teacher or teachers when working with their children. Finally, the principal weighs up the impact of a student's behaviour on other students' safety and learning.

I know that every principal makes the best possible decisions with the information they have available to them to keep their students safe and to ensure students' learning is the major focus in their school. Principals make this decision knowing they have the backing of their parents. They make these decisions knowing they have the backing of their school community. They make these decisions knowing they have the backing of their teachers and their staff. They make these decisions knowing they have the backing of every other student in their school who knows those expectations. Most of all, principals know that they have the backing of the Minister for Education when they suspend students for behaviour that is unsafe and disruptive of other students' learning. Principals know that it takes a partnership between the school, the student and the parent. Parents are the primary teachers in a child's life. Parents need to take responsibility for their children.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Aspley, you have not stopped interjecting during the debate on this motion. Quite clearly, in my view you meet the standards of the first warning under 253A, but because it is Thursday afternoon and there is other business I will not make that ruling. I call the member for Caloundra.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise to commend the member for Aspley and shadow education minister for the motion before the House today and condemn the government in regard to its amended motion. From listening to the member for Townsville, one would think that this is a joke for the Labor Party; that this is something they take lightheartedly, yet we on this side of the House are deadly serious.

It is true that most students at schools are well behaved and totally engaged with their teachers and the staff at the school, but there is a growing body of evidence to show that that is breaking down to a greater extent each year that Labor stays in power. Labor claims that it is the champion of education in this state. They put their brand on education as being the champion of all students from here to kingdom come. We have a minister who stands in the House and speaks with passion, but where is the action? I want action on the ground. Words are one thing, but there is no action on the ground to follow the words up. There is a significant gap between what is said and what is taking place across this state.

It is unbelievable that the minister is trying to argue that because there are more students that excuses bad behaviour. It is unbelievable that she is saying because there are more students it excuses bad behaviour. On the north coast in the years 2015 and 2016 there were 33,726 suspensions. For physical misconduct involving an object there were over 2,200 suspensions in that region alone. For substance misconduct involving an illegal substance there were 415 suspensions in 2015 and 2016. That fell under this Labor government's watch and, in part, under this minister's watch.

What about the risk to other students? What about the risk that these students cause to other students who are attending school in an attempt to get a firm and fulsome education? What about the risk to teachers that these actions cause? We all know of situations in schools in our own electorate where teachers have been threatened. Teachers have been spat at, and teachers are at risk of going into those schools. The increase in this sort of conduct places those students who are eager to get an education at risk of not getting their full education and, equally, the teachers themselves are at risk and cannot do their job properly.

The minister should stop standing in this House and looking to the cameras at either side of the Speaker and looking at the website, and start considering what her role should be. She should be focused on the education of students and the role that teachers play, not the six o'clock news grab on Channel 2 or the radio grab. Education under this minister and this government is heading down the road that we have seen so many times with electricity, water, health and state finances. It is all unravelling yet again. Only an LNP government can put a stop to this do-nothing Labor government under the member for Aspley as the education minister. That is the focus that we have.

The *Sunshine Coast Daily* on 29 May reported a video of students in school uniform smoking a bong. On 26 May three schoolchildren were rushed to hospital after taking illegal drugs. On 3 June a report appeared in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* of a child in year 4 found with drugs. How does a grade 4 student get hold of drugs? What is taking place in the education department under this minister to allow this to happen across the north coast? What message is it sending to other students and teachers on the Sunshine Coast when this takes place? Maybe Labor should stop listening to bodies such as the CFMEU and the ETU, start listening to parents and teachers and start taking action. Start focusing on the important people—the most important people in this nation—and that is our children and our grandchildren. In them lay the future of this great nation, and this Labor government is trashing their future by doing nothing as usual.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.29 pm): I rise to support the amended motion. It is rightly concerning when parents and the community hear of students taking weapons or drugs into schools. It is without doubt the responsibility of government—both in regard to the policy settings and resourcing allocated by Education Queensland—and the operational response by police to do absolutely everything within our power to both prevent and stamp out issues like this when identified. However, it is not right and it is not ethical to use the emotive nature of this issue to play politics with Queensland families. To sensationalise it for one's own political purposes and try to generate unnecessary fear in our community is not what our community should expect from their elected representatives. It undermines the confidence that Queensland families can rightly have in our education facilities and system.

Let us introduce a little rigour into the debate. This government and Queensland schools have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to bringing weapons and drugs into schools, and we enforce it. Let us not forget that the subject of the member for Aspley's latest flurry of media releases on this topic seems to be police data released under RTI that confirms that Queensland has a zero tolerance for such offences because the subject students were charged. They did not get a slap on the wrist or the white flag waved in front of their face, to use the member for Aspley's assertion; they were charged.

Let us look at the numbers, as my fellow colleagues have stated. There are 30,000 more students in Queensland state schools now than when the LNP were in government. Since we were elected, there has been a 10 per cent reduction in incidents of misconduct involving an object. Since we were elected,

there has been a 15 per cent reduction in incidents of children suspended due to smoking, alcohol and other drugs in our schools. To recap: under the LNP, less students, more weapons and drugs; under us, more students, less weapons and drugs in our schools.

The shadow minister is right to call on the government to address anything which compromises the safety of children in our schools. It is her job to hold us to account and it is ours to deliver—and deliver is exactly what we and this education minister are resolutely focused on doing each and every day. Last year, we introduced behaviour coaches into every region to support behaviour management in schools. We invested almost \$200 million last year and will invest over \$200 million this year to support behaviour management practices in schools. We are providing extra guidance officers in our schools for guidance support, behaviour support and learning support. Every state school has a responsible behaviour plan for students so that every student and every parent can understand the behaviour expectations and consequences for inappropriate behaviour in our schools. It is about working with parents, supporting our schools and setting them and all Queensland children up for success.

It might be the LNP's vision of education in Queensland to have my six- and four-year-old filing through metal detectors or bag searches as they arrive at school, but it is not ours and it is not warranted. I am proud to be a member of a Labor state government that will always stand up for the very best educational outcomes, facilities and support for teachers to ensure that every child benefits from a quality and safe education across our vast state.

One incident of weapons or drugs in our schools will always be one too many. It is concerning and it is absolutely unacceptable. Like every parent in this chamber, my boys are without doubt the most precious people in my life, but I have absolutely no concern as I kiss them goodbye each morning about whether they are going to be safe at school that day. I have no doubt that all the other parents on both sides of this chamber did likewise this morning as their children went off to school today. No-one kept them home in fear of their safety because our schools are not 'war zones' as described irresponsibly by the member for Aspley. Our schools are vibrant, engaging and safe places to learn. In the case that an incident should arise, we have confidence in our schools, in our principals and in our teachers that they have the necessary resources and support to act swiftly and to act resolutely.

This motion is about shameful politics and not our Queensland schools. While the opposition plays politics, we are building schools, investing in school facilities, employing more teachers and setting Queensland students up for success. The contrast, as always, could not be clearer.

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

AYES, 42:

ALP, 40—Bailey, Boyd, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

PHON, 1—Dickson.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

NOES, 39:

LNP, 39—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

Pairs: Williams, Frecklington; Brown, Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to continue to address the rate of incidences of drugs and weapons in Queensland schools.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Coalmines, Dust Monitoring

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (5.40 pm): I have been advised today that four Queensland underground coalmines have allegedly failed to meet their dust-monitoring obligations during the second quarter of

this year. They are Glencore's Oaky North and Oaky No. 1 and Anglo's Moranbah North and Grosvenor. I have been advised that the levels of noncompliance vary. However, in my view, any failure to meet their safety and health obligation is not acceptable.

Decisions about actions to deal with noncompliance are made by a mines inspector. Mines inspectors have statutory independence and I therefore have no authority to direct them. I have voiced my concerns to the Mines Inspectorate and have been assured that decisive action is underway. I am advised that inspectors are issuing directives to the four mines. Any failure to meet dust-monitoring obligations is, in my opinion, a demonstration that there is a serious issue with the safety and health management systems at these mines. Under the act, the inspectors can require a full and independent audit of the mine's safety and health management system instructions, or prosecute the mine or close the mine. Based on our knowledge of diseases caused by coal dust, it is my view that any failure to comply reflects a gross disregard of an operator's obligations to protect their workforce.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.41 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 22 August 2017.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.41 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade, Open Day; Upper Coomera State College

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (5.42 pm): I rise to speak about one of my local rural fire brigades which had their open day last Sunday, 6 August, Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. They are a fantastic group of individuals. They are a lovely group.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr BOOTHMAN: I take the interjection from the member for Beaudesert and future member for Scenic Rim. They are located at the bottom of the Tamborine Mountain, which is such a picturesque little area. As I said they are a great bunch of individuals. Under the stewardship of Kris, who is the first officer there, they certainly put on a fantastic open day event.

One person I have to mention is Brendan Gold. His friends call him 'Red'. He was the mastermind behind the event. He did an enormous amount of work. He organised virtually everything there. He rang me on a regular basis to see if I could help in any way, shape or form. The member for Gaven and I certainly did everything we could to make his life a little bit easier. We organised the snags for his barbecue. I must say they went through 50 kilos of good MacNab sausages from the local butcher. We had 700-odd people attend on that day. It was a really successful day. I have to thank the sponsors of the event, especially Celebrations Party Hire and David Chan. He supplied all the tables and the chairs. It was a very kind gift for the local community.

I must say that last Friday was a sad day for Upper Coomera State College. It was the last day for the acting principal. He was not there that long but he certainly made his mark at the school. That principal was Chris Capra. He was instrumental in getting the new Zarraffa's program up and running in the school. This meant that those kids doing hospitality courses could receive a Zarraffa's certificate as well, giving them a lot more employment opportunities, especially if they wanted to work in a Zarraffa's cafe while at university. It was fantastic to see all the things he did for the school. The hospitality students certainly excelled at a recent chaplains event at Upper Coomera State College. They certainly showed off their talents. Along with the teachers Brett and Michael, we are very proud of what the students have achieved. Chris Capra will be sorely missed. We are very sad to see him go. However, I know that the member for Currumbin will look after him at Palm Beach-Currumbin State High School. I wish him all the best.

Maryborough Hospital

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.45 pm): I rise tonight to talk about the \$10 million health boost from the Palaszczuk government to upgrade the A&E at my local hospital. I would like to thank the member for Woodridge, the health minister. Maryborough Hospital services a lot of the outlying areas and some of the smaller communities in the electorate. This is great news. This is the Palaszczuk government putting Queenslanders first, putting money back into regional hospitals.

The \$10 million will improve services for people in Maryborough with the addition of a full CT scanner and a brand-new entrance for ambulances. Currently ambulances cannot back into the Maryborough Hospital to unload sick patients. If it is raining they will get wet and if it is hot, the sun shines down on them. This great announcement by the health minister and the Treasurer of \$10 million in the budget will make the A&E one of the best in regional Queensland. It is really good for the older people in my community and for the rural people in my community.

One of the important things about this is that Maryborough is so close to the highway. There are a lot of accidents from Gympie right through to Gin Gin. Having this upgrade to the A&E delivered by the Palaszczuk government—putting Queenslanders first—makes us feel a bit soft in the heart because we know if there is a major accident on the highway we will have one of the best A&Es to cater for those patients.

Let's look at what has happened at the Maryborough Hospital since the Palaszczuk government was elected. We have refurbished areas of the hospital such as the electrical services and the lifts. We have reinstated pathology that was cut by the previous government. It has been a big boost for the Maryborough Hospital to have the pathology services back. This will work hand in hand with the new A&E and also with the specialist outpatients refurbishment. The hospital is going to look completely different. It is great news.

I would also like to thank Adrian Pennington of the Wide Bay HHS and the board who have worked tirelessly with the minister, the government and me to achieve this for the community. This is what the Palaszczuk government does. We hear the stories that we are a do-nothing government. This A&E upgrade is absolutely fantastic for the Maryborough community. It is something that is well overdue and something that a lot of people have campaigned for. Since I was elected one of the major things that I wanted to do is to make sure that the people of Maryborough have the same health care as anybody anywhere in Queensland. It took a Palaszczuk government to make sure that the people of Maryborough city and surrounds have the same quality of health care as those throughout regional Queensland or in larger cities. I would like to thank the health minister, the member for Woodridge, for the great job he has done in the Maryborough Hospital.

Queensland Rail, Pomona Foot Crossing

 **Mr ELMES** (Noosa—LNP) (5.48 pm): I rise tonight to register my support for the community of Pomona, who strongly reject plans by Queensland Rail to potentially close Pomona's railway foot crossing, a crossing that has connected the town for more than 100 years. On Tuesday I submitted the 'don't divide Pomona' petition, which has been signed by 1,498 residents—more than half the country town's population—sending the message loud and clear to Queensland Rail that their pedestrian crossing must be retained. The foot crossing connects the community with the main street where residents work, shop, dine and connect. It is located where it is because it evolved from a logical access and the natural flow of daily local life.

In 100 years there has not been an accident or an injury at the crossing. Given the role the crossing plays in ensuring Pomona's social cohesion and economic prosperity, it is not surprising that the community came together in protest. In June I joined with 140 locals in support of the retention of the existing crossing. A Facebook group was created, a petition launched, meetings were held and soon the words 'don't divide Pomona' were on everyone's lips. In Queensland Rail's first hour of community consultation last Saturday 70 people arrived to express their concerns. Queensland Rail have suggested an alternative crossing could be at the far end of town where money was wasted on an existing vehicle crossing a few years ago. This is not a viable or safe option and would achieve a chaotic and dangerous convergence of pedestrians, cyclists, mothers with prams, dog walkers and horse riders mixing with cars and trucks without any paths connecting and providing a safe corridor for any of them.

As I know—and as the hardworking member for Gympie, Tony Perrett, also knows—it appears that Queensland Rail may have been overlooking some other serious threats to safety at this station. I table photographs of the current state of disrepair of the temporary makeshift structure that is the Pomona Railway Station and platform.

Tabled paper: Photographs depicting temporary railway [1312].

The cheap timber decking precariously sits on rusting scaffolding, and where it is rotten through yellow crosses warn pedestrians to keep clear. There are a number of safety challenges seriously threatening the department's public liability which can be addressed by way of a planned approach to the site's upgrade and funded from the sale of the adjacent vacant land—once home to the old goods yard—to appropriate commercial interests. This approach would address a raft of safety concerns, open up more opportunities for job creation and revitalise the community instead of dividing it. I urge the minister to direct her department to listen and work with the community—not to divide Pomona.

Glass House Electorate, Roadworks; Hockings, Mr FD, AM

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.51 pm): When I first became the LNP candidate for the seat of Glass House, I vowed to improve the D'Aguiar Highway and make it safer. I have doggedly pursued those improvements over the eight years I have been the member and we have had extraordinary success. The proof is in the massive reduction in accidents on the highway. I must at the outset acknowledge the support and funding secured by my good friend and former member for Longman Wyatt Roy who, as the federal member for Longman, secured \$16 million for the highway.

We have had speed reductions at County Drive in Wamuran and Mary Street in Woodford. We have had intersection improvements such as the one at Canando Street, Woodford. We have had divided centre lines put in place, safety barriers installed and lighting upgraded. Importantly, we have had the first ever new east-bound overtaking lane on the D'Aguiar Highway built between D'Aguiar and Wamuran.

We have three more projects underway. We have an overtaking lane being built between Woodford and D'Aguiar as you leave Woodford at Peterson Road all the way through to Chambers Road, a one-kilometre stretch, including upgrades to the Ironbark Road intersection and Chambers Road. McIlwain Civil Pty Ltd have been given that contract. Work is to start at the end of the year and it would take up to 12 months, weather permitting.

The D'Aguiar intersections will be upgraded. This is a \$1.55 million project that will see dedicated right-turn lanes on the highway at the Francis Street, Bleakley Street and Mount Mee Road intersections and better access into the corner store, the hotel-motel and the Puma petrol station. We will also get a new pedestrian crossing between Francis Street and Bleakley Street. That will begin this month and take about six months to construct, weather permitting.

Finally, there is the Woodford pedestrian crossing. Unfortunately, this government has delayed the consultation that should have occurred last year on this crossing, but the community can know that there will potentially be a new signalised crossing on the highway and a marked pedestrian crossing on Archer Street to either side. That should occur in the next financial year.

In the time remaining I want to reflect on the passing of a friend: Francis David Hockings AM. David, as we all knew him, was a real livewire with a love for all things natural. He was born in the Torres Strait, and I think that is where he was first introduced to nature. He had a 40-year career in the Department of Primary Industries. David received an AM for his work with Australian native plant species. We all knew him as a very vibrant member of the Maleny Singers. He had a wicked sense of humour, and that laugh will stick with me forever and a day. I want to pay my respects to his wife Olive and his children Cicely, Lindy and Cole. We have lost a great friend. I am here to support you in your time of grief.

Wynnum State High School, 75th Anniversary

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.54 pm): In 1942 the Wynnum High and Intermediate School opened for students, and last month students from across all the decades returned to help celebrate Wynnum State High's 75th anniversary. 'Semper Fidelis'—Always Faithful—is a phrase which the school has lived by for 75 years. Over the course of that time its meaning has always been an integral part of our community and traditions. Even now it forms the backbone of the proud mantra which sets out the standards which all students of our school follow and live by.

What does it mean to be always faithful? Depending on who you ask you will get a different response; however, whether in 1942, 2017 or beyond there will always be a recurring theme. 'You came to the school with a dream and you not only left with the future in your hands, but as a pillar of the community as well.' These are the words of school leader Lauren, and they certainly rang true on the day. The faithful returned to their beloved Wynnum State High School with representatives from all decades including Ralph, a 1942 founding student who travelled by train from Toowoomba. Neal Geary, a dear friend of mine and a past student from the 1950s, won the draw to cut the anniversary cake.

Wynnum State High School is acknowledged in our community as the guardian of our local history and historical landmarks which include: Memorial Avenue, an avenue of honour dedicated to residents of Wynnum who died or were killed in action in World War I; the glorious A Block, an iconic red brick building; and school buildings named after important local landmarks such as the Imperial Playhouse, after Wynnum's Imperial Theatre, and the Star Theatre, another local Wynnum icon which burnt down in 1959 with the loss of two firefighters.

Deputy Principals Liz Williams and Kym Hutchins are both outstanding examples of the wonderful staff at Wynnum State High. Liz and Kym, who have served our community collectively for over 50 years at Wynnum State High, reminded us that the cornerstones of their daily work are mirrored in the school mission statement of tradition, community, excellence and proudly building futures together. Great teachers, great staff and great students are what make a school great. Wynnum State High has these in spades. Congratulations on this significant anniversary, and thank you to the wonderful staff for your contribution to our community and to our wonderful young people. On behalf of her fellow students Lauren said—

A great education is why we entered this school. When we leave, we are instilled with lifelong values and traditions that will shape us in our futures. All students come with a desire to be successful. Along the way they meet lifelong friends, teachers and peers who help to create memories and receive support throughout our schooling years. Success doesn't always come from the size of your house or bank balance. Success and happiness come from within. Our school teaches us the values of respect, integrity, honesty, resilience, tolerance, pride, and lifelong learning. These allow us to be good people, to treat others with respect and to thrive as an individual in society. The values we learn here not only form us personally and allow us to love and respect ourselves but are the basis for the relationships and friendships we will have throughout our lifetime. We become a part of the community and flourish personally. Wynnum High shapes the person you will be tomorrow and forevermore.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr McEACHAN** (Redlands—LNP) (5.57 pm): Earlier today we heard the Labor Premier banging on about caring for Queenslanders, but what does Labor care really look like when you strip away the slogans, the taxpayer funded marketing and the fictional fantasy that the member for Inala describes in her socialist induced delirium? Queenslanders only need to cast their minds back a few years to the dying days of the 15-year uninterrupted Labor government. As sure as night follows day, we are on a fast track to reliving the nightmare. In health Labor care looks like this: waiting lists for waiting lists; ambulance ramping; closure of maternity services; the worst mismanagement of public funds ever, losing \$1.3 billion; and multiple cover-ups and a health department in chaos. In law and order Labor care looks like this: spiralling crime rates; unsafe neighbourhoods; soft laws; and criminal gangs running rampant. The exemplar, of course, is Queensland's own Labor government—condoning criminality by making it legal to lie to parliament. In managing the economy Labor care looks like this: selling your assets without consent; blowing out debt to the worst in the land; losing our AAA credit rating; and forcibly taking more than Queenslanders can give.

In keeping cost-of-living pressure down, Labor care looks like this: year-on-year increases in car registration, more than twice the rate of CPI; gouging electricity to make it the seventh most expensive in the developed world; and blowing out the wholesale cost of water. In education, Labor care looks like this: declining education standards to be the worst in the country; schools unmaintained; and principals made impotent by command and control from George Street, personified by a cynical, hypocritical class war where Labor bags private school education when it suits them.

In transparency and accountability, Labor care looks like this: the use of secret private email accounts to conduct the business of state; the deleting of documents at the risk of scrutiny; and the defending of unions that are found by the courts to intimidate and extort and then making them exempt from declaring financial donations. In the building of state infrastructure, Labor care looks like this: dams that do not provide water; pipes that do not connect to dams; billion dollar cost blow-outs; and roads at a standstill.

In Redlands, Labor care looks like this: increased household electricity bills, increased water bills, increased car registration, no investment in roads, no investment in Redland Hospital, no investment in schools, no planning for a new school, no investment in marine infrastructure, no investment in environment and no investment in job creation. Finally, as this Labor government descends neck deep into its own pungent mire, Labor care looks like corruption, incompetence and inaction.

Local Government

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (6.00 pm): I was criticised harshly after tabling information during the last sitting of parliament. In response to my tabling documents, Councillor Tully said—

It is very disappointing that a member of Parliament has stooped to these depths, with all these falsehoods.

LGAQ CEO Greg Hallam accused me of abusing privilege. He said—

This is a drummed up ... campaign ...

He added on ABC Radio Brisbane—

It's just a nonsense.

The terms 'falsehoods' and 'drummed up' were used, yet the parties refuse to say what is false. You cannot pin them down on that. I ask: are Mr and Mrs Sellars's claims and the findings of the Queensland Ombudsman falsehoods? Was the email by the Fraser Coast CEO in early 2016 saying 'the wheels have fallen off this bus' false? Is the Fraser Coast organisational review false? Was the Services Union false in supporting my call for an inquiry into local government? Are the oversubscribed employment assistance programs false? Are the occupational suicides false? Were Professor Timothy Prenzler's comments falsehoods when, based on CCC funded research, he said—

... currently fewer than two per cent of complaints were dealt with by the CCC and the rest were referred back to government departments for internal investigation and 'largely disappear'.

Is Dr Cameron Murray 'drumming it up' when he says that his research shows the 'game of mates' in Queensland is costing our state \$1.8 billion in favours every year? No, the evidence does not support any of this being drummed up or false. Despite attempts to discredit me, the accuracy of the information I tabled has been verified by multiple news sources. I table further documents now.

Tabled paper Bundle of documents relating to conduct of local government in Queensland and powers of the Crime and Corruption Commission [[1313](#)].

In relation to yesterday's tweet by Mr Wardill, the ECQ issued a media release because their leadership team wrongly assumed that the complainant was referring to errors in the electoral roll. However, it was errors on the USB stick issued to the registered candidates that was the issue. The Electoral Commission has confirmed that there were in fact two USB sticks returned because they had missing information.

Premier Palaszczuk says that the CCC has all the powers it needs. At the same time, her Attorney-General has legislation before this place increasing the powers of the CCC. The government needs to get its story straight. Is the CCC empowered to do the job or not? Queensland deserves the gold standard. That means an independent commission against corruption here in Queensland. This view is shared by 80 per cent of the population. We deserve our ICAC now. I did not sign up to look the other way while corruption prospers. It is time to stop the harm.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cairns, in relation to any documents you are proposing to table, I will need to have a look at those to make sure there are no problems. Once they have been vetted, I have no hesitation in their being tabled. We will have a look at those and then they will be tabled.

Rugby League Nines

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.04 pm): Yesterday I had the great pleasure of joining Mayor Allan Sutherland from Moreton Bay Regional Council and local councillors Koliiana Winchester and James Houghton; Neil Wharton, Head of Football, Queensland Rugby League; Petero Civoniceva; and a number of young Dolphins players to announce that the Moreton Bay region—more importantly, the Redcliffe Dolphins and Redcliffe Leagues Club—has been selected to host the Rugby League Nines in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games next year.

This is an exciting announcement that puts Moreton Bay on the map, not just nationally but also internationally. We will see 17 teams coming to Redcliffe over two days in February to play these games. I am very pleased to say that, for the first time, they will include four open women's teams and three teams with players who have physical disability.

This will be an exciting event for the whole region and north Brisbane. I am very proud to be part of a government that has supported this initiative through the Embracing 2018 program, which is about ensuring all regions across Queensland benefit from the Commonwealth Games and the thousands of visitors to this great state.

It is hoped that maybe the Rugby League Nines could be included as a future medal event as part of the Commonwealth Games. It is exciting to think that maybe this will be the next step in that important journey. This will bring thousands of people to our area. Having all those people in our local area will be a boon for local businesses—cafes, restaurants, hotels and many others. We know that we can cater for it with the wonderful new stadium and the further work that will happen at the start of this season. A state government funding contribution will go towards that further upgrade to the stadium. We have great facilities and a great region. This event will show off Moreton Bay and what we have to offer on the international stage.

I acknowledge Redcliffe Leagues Club and the Dolphins, Moreton Bay Regional Council, Moreton Bay Region Industry and Tourism and the state government for all partnering together to bring this incredible event to the Redcliffe peninsula and the broader Moreton Bay region in February next year. It is a fantastic way to launch into the Commonwealth Games. I was so excited to be there yesterday as the member for Redcliffe for the launch. I cannot wait to be there in February next year for the event.

Mount Isa Electorate, Airfares

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.07 pm): I rise to address the increasingly desperate situation of airline prices in the north-west. The problem has not only not gone away; it has been exacerbated. My message to the major airlines operating out there, primarily Qantas, is: the angry voices are not going away and will just get louder.

We have heard a lot of rubbish in the media about landing fees being a big part of the cost problem, but they represent a maximum of six per cent of the average fare. To that end, I have become aware that in March this year the airlines announced the formation of a lobby group to fight infrastructure constraints, high taxes and other matters of aviation. This alliance is called the A4ANZ. Very conveniently, these airlines all operate on very similar aligned pricing levels out in those areas. I think it is highly suspicious that these airlines now have a regular catch-up. Certainly in these regional areas, where people have no choice, competition has failed. The market system has failed and I think the government has a role to play in fixing it.

Everyone seems obsessed with addressing passenger yield—the number of passengers per plane—but we know that airlines work off seat yields. It is not always about trying to help people out and about filling planes; it is about making as much money as possible for every seat. Unfortunately, that has led to some very negative outcomes. For Hamish Griffin from Cloncurry, return flights to Townsville on a Thursday and Saturday not so long ago cost him \$1,598. That is \$1,600 per person. As a comparison, international flights for that same time from Sydney to New York cost \$889, to London \$1,569 and to Auckland \$480. We still pay \$1,600 per person from Mount Isa to Townsville. It is killing families in those areas financially. One of my electorate staffer's father was diagnosed with lymphoma. It cost him over \$1,000 for a six-hour milk run to make it back to Cairns in an off-peak time. Families simply cannot afford to do it. The market solution has not worked. These airlines have to be held to account. They are just unrestrained in those areas and make use of their market power so they are maximising that seat yield, yet no-one is listening at the moment. We have asked for an inquiry into airline prices. We are still waiting on that. We cannot move until that comes through and we are desperate for help from the government. My message to those airlines is that in the Australian public the voices are going to get louder and we are going to call them out for what they are.

Sciacca, Hon. C, AO

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.10 pm): There are some people who enter your life but never truly leave it. The Hon. Con Sciacca AO, who passed away in June, was one of those people. Con was a great friend and source of endless advice and support to many of us in this House, and I know that the Leader of the House, the Attorney-General and many other members of this House would want to associate themselves with my remarks this evening. Con gave me much advice. He was a terrific supporter of both myself and my brother Milton, who now serves in the House of Representatives as the federal member for Oxley. Con

was a Labor man through and through and throughout his entire career, both as a lawyer and as a public servant, principally in the House of Representatives, he always had a place in his work and in his life for the battler—for someone who needed a hand up and help. Con was always there.

Con loved politics. He loved it. He played politics hard, but he delighted in sharing a glass of red or Limoncello with friends from all sides of politics. Con was the federal member for Bowman and also served as a minister in both the Hawke and Keating Labor governments across various portfolios including the portfolios of Arts and Veterans' Affairs. In that latter portfolio—Veterans' Affairs—it is fair to say that Con distinguished himself. He left an indelible mark on our nation through the Australia Remembers celebration. That Australia Remembers celebration commemorated the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War in 1995 and that celebration recognised what has been described as the greatest generation—those men and women of our nation who fought in the Second World War, including men like my father. It was a wonderful celebration of those Australians who gave us the freedom and the liberty that all of us in this House celebrate. We celebrate it every day that we come into this House. We celebrate it at every election, and the sacrifice of that generation that Con helped to celebrate is something that will distinguish him and his career.

Con did not have an easy life growing up, yet in true Sicilian style he lived life with great gusto. Following in the footsteps of his hardworking canecutter father, Con was a self-made man. No-one knew Con—his character, his panache and his incredible generosity—better than his family, his brothers and sisters and no-one has felt his loss more than them, including his wife, Karen, his daughter, Zina, his very, very much loved granddaughter, Grace, and his step-sons, Nicholas and Daniel. Thank you, Con, for the service you gave to the Australian Labor Party, to our state and to our nation.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Interruption.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

The 'Eggssembly', 2018 Royal Queensland Show



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want to finish this week's sitting on a lighthearted note. Today the Minister for Agriculture, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I had the pleasure of hosting our 2017 *Queensland Country Life* Miss Showgirl finalists. During our lunch our guests advised me that our parliamentary chooks were recognised as having good egg-laying genetics.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: True story! It was suggested to me that next year our parliament enter our chook eggs in the RNA poultry and caged bird egg competition. I understand the member for Gympie is a former poultry judge and has extensive knowledge in the poultry field. As I will not be a member of the next parliament, I accordingly invite members who are re-elected to perhaps take up the suggestion from our RNA Miss Showgirl finalists.

ADJOURNMENT

Resumed.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.14 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