



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2017



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

For the sitting week, Mr Speaker acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land upon which this parliament is assembled.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable P.W. Wellington MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 13 September 2017

A Bill for An Act to amend the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Public Safety Preservation Act 1986 and the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Queensland Police Welfare Club Act 1970

A Bill for An Act to amend the Planning Act 2016, the Planning and Environment Court Act 2016 and the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Health Ombudsman Act 2013, the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to provide for the licensing and regulation of providers of labour hire services and related matters

A Bill for An Act to provide for a land access ombudsman to investigate and facilitate the resolution of disputes about conduct and compensation agreements and make good agreements, and to amend this Act, the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Integrity Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes

A Bill for An Act to amend the Biodiscovery Act 2004, the Gasfields Commission Act 2013, the Right to Information Act 2009, the Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015 and the Public Service Regulation 2008 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

13 September 2017

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 September 2017, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, advising of assent to certain bills on 13 September 2017 [\[1937\]](#).

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 2 of 2017-18 titled *Managing the mental health of Queensland police employees*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 2: 2017-18—Managing the mental health of Queensland Police employees [\[1938\]](#).

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Yellow Ribbon Day

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that today is Yellow Ribbon Day. Today the Rural Fire Brigade Association of Queensland has invited members to wear a yellow ribbon upon on their lapels to acknowledge the commitment and dedication that our 36,000 rural fire brigade members provide to Queensland.

PRIVILEGE

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 11 September 2017 the member for Hervey Bay wrote to me alleging that the Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and member for Ferny Grove deliberately misled the House on 10 August 2017 in his personal explanation about comments made in the media by the mayor of the Fraser Coast Regional Council when he stated—

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 ... 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.

In his letter to me, the member for Hervey Bay claimed that the minister's personal explanation was misleading because the member for Maryborough had made public comments about the Fraser Coast Regional Council and its mayor while the review panel was going through its process. The member for Hervey Bay suggested that the minister should be allowed to rectify his comment that the member for Maryborough had no involvement in the review panel's process.

In a separate letter, the member for Hervey Bay wrote to me on the same day about the Minister for Local Government mentioning the Fraser Coast Regional Council when tabling a ministerial paper on 7 September 2017. The member for Hervey Bay notes that the minister mentioned the Fraser Coast Regional Council when it is currently under investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission and inquired as to whether this should cease.

On the matter of deliberately misleading the House, I find that the member for Hervey Bay's allegation has no substance, as it is clear that the minister's statement referred to involvement in a formal independent regional conduct review panel process and not any form of public commentary on the matter. On the matter of the minister mentioning the Fraser Coast Regional Council when it is currently under investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission, I advise that there is no impediment to any member referring to matters being investigated by the Crime and Corruption Commission in the House. Furthermore, in this instance, the minister's statement was informing the House of a letter containing a direction pursuant to section 116 of the Local Government Act 2009, which was in accordance with the minister's responsibilities under that act.

I have therefore decided that neither of these matters warrants the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matters. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the member for Hervey Bay, Mr Ted Sorensen MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged deliberate misleading of the House [[1939](#)].

PRIVILEGE

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 17 August 2017 the member for Mansfield wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills and member for Redcliffe deliberately misled the House during her contribution to the debate of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report into the Appropriation Bill 2017 on 8 August 2017. On the information before me, I consider that the Attorney-General has made an adequate explanation in relation to her statement. 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.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the member for Mansfield, Mr Ian Walker MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged deliberate misleading of the House [[1940](#)].

I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 17 August 2017, the Member for Mansfield wrote to me alleging that the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills and Member for Redcliffe misled the House during her contribution to the debate of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report into the Appropriation Bill 2017 on 8 August 2017 when she stated:

I listened to those on the other side about cuts to the CCC funding. I would love to see where they say in the budget there are cuts to the CCC funding.

In his letter to me, the Member for Mansfield contended that the Attorney-General made an 'assertion which was directly contradicted by both the budget papers and the Chairman of the Crime and Corruption Commission in evidence provided to the LACSC'. The Member for Mansfield argued that there can be no reasonable explanation that the Member was unaware of the budget outcome for the CCC as she is responsible for the agency.

I sought further information from the Attorney-General about the allegation made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Attorney-General refuted the allegation and submitted that it is a matter of fact that the budget papers show a reduction in funding but that her statement of 8 August 2017 was directly related to the Member for Broadwater's claims made on 8 August 2017, that resources for the CCC are being cut and as a result the work being done by the CCC would be affected.

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.

I note that the Attorney-General's statement was not expressed as a statement of fact but rather as a question i.e. 'I would love to see where they say in the budget there are cuts to the CCC funding'.

I also note that the Member for Mansfield's argument that the question could have been taken to imply that there was no reduction in the current budget to the CCC's allocation.

However, on the information before me, I considered that the Attorney-General has made an adequate explanation that she was responding in the context of the Member for Broadwater's contribution to the debate which implied that there were cuts to the CCC budget that would impact on that organisation's important work.

Accordingly, 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

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 25 August 2017 the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games and member for Ashgrove wrote to me alleging that the member for Toowoomba North deliberately misled the House in his contribution to the debate on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017 on 10 August 2017. On the information before me, I consider that the member for Toowoomba North has made an adequate explanation in relation to his statement. 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.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Kate Jones, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged deliberate misleading of the House [\[1941\]](#).

I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 25 August 2017, the Minister for Education, Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games and Member for Ashgrove wrote to me alleging that the Member for Toowoomba North deliberately misled the House in his contribution to the debate on the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Bill 2017 on 10 August 2017 when he stated:

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.

...

It was fully funded, Minister. You know that, Minister.

In her letter to me, the Minister for Education contended that the election commitment to build a hall at the Wilsonton State High School was not funded or costed by the former LNP government according to the advice of the Department of Education and Training and the 2014-15 budget delivered by the former LNP Government. The Minister also argued that the Member for Toowoomba North knew his statement to be incorrect as she had provided this information to him via an answer to a Question on Notice and in correspondence.

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

The Member for Toowoomba North refuted the claim, contending that the LNP election commitment to build a hall at the Wilsonton State High School was fully funded in the LNP's election costings document (issued six months after the 2014-15 Budget) 'Funding Queensland's Future', under the 'Better Schools Boost' program.

Whilst this document does not list the specific school projects, the Member for Toowoomba North asserts it was his firm belief that the Wilsonton project was covered by that funding commitment.

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.

Even if it could be shown that the Wilsonton project would not be covered by the Better Schools Boost program, for a contempt to be made out proof would be required that the Member for Toowoomba North was aware of it at the time of making his statement.

In the absence of any such evidence, I consider that the Member for Toowoomba North has made an adequate explanation in relation to his statement.

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

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

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 24 August 2017 the member for Cairns wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning and member for South Brisbane deliberately misled the House in ministerial statements on 15 October 2015 and 3 December 2015. Standing order 269(3) requires that a member must formulate as precisely as possible the matter and, where a contempt is alleged, enough particulars so as to give any person against whom it is made a full opportunity to respond to the allegation. In the case of an allegation of deliberately misleading the House, it is incumbent on the complainant to demonstrate how the statements were incorrect and misleading.

Despite providing a significant amount of material, the member for Cairns did not clearly identify the specific statements that he believed were misleading. The member provided scant explanation as to how the material supported his allegation, nor did he attempt to address the elements of the contempt. Furthermore, the statements raised by the member for Cairns were made in late 2015, with the alleged evidence to support the allegation presented in April 2016. Standing order 269(b) provides that a member should write to the Speaker at the earliest opportunity stating the matter, and I suggest that raising this allegation 16 months after the fact cannot be described as the earliest opportunity.

Despite my misgivings about the lack of particulars and delay in the allegation, I sought further information from the Deputy Premier in relation to the allegation in accordance with standing order 269(5). On the information before me, I consider that there was insufficient evidence to support the allegation of contempt. 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.

Tabled paper: Correspondence from the member for Cairns, Mr Rob Pyne MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an alleged deliberate misleading of the House [[1942](#)].

I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable Members,

On 24 August 2017, the Member for Cairns wrote to me alleging that the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning and Member for South Brisbane deliberately misled the House during her Ministerial Statements on 15 October 2015 and 3 December 2015. On 15 October 2015, the Deputy Premier stated:

The Local Government Act 2009 provides a framework for dealing with complaints about the conduct of individual councillors as well as for the intervention by the state in certain circumstances. Yesterday the member for Cairns provided my office with a range of documents pertaining to local government in Queensland, and I understand these same documents were subsequently tabled in the House yesterday afternoon. My office immediately referred this material to my department for consideration and assessment.

My department has undertaken an initial review of this material. Based on this initial review, they have not found any basis to substantiate the claims that local government in Queensland is broken or that a systemic judicial inquiry is needed. More specifically, I can advise the House there are two complainants who have raised a series of allegations regarding Cairns Regional Council related to conflicts of interest, the letting of contracts and breaches of the EPA—the Environmental Protection Act—and this documentation included a reasonable level of detail and particulars. These will be immediately referred back to my department and back to the CEO of Cairns Regional Council for preliminary assessment as provided for under the Local Government Act 2009.

Additionally, a significant volume of material has also been provided in relation to the Tablelands Regional Council. I am advised that some of the claims made in this material may be referred to the CCC given the nature of the allegations. I am also advised that the vast majority of the material, however, is very difficult to classify in a short period of time as it is a mix of broad allegations of breaches of particular sections of the act, citing comments by councillors and staff in council meetings, media articles and what appears to be 'reports' prepared by complainants. Much of the material cannot be attributed to an individual as these do not have any author or complainant details.

Nonetheless, I have instructed my department to review all the material thoroughly and provide advice to me once this has occurred. I will update the House in due course once I have received detailed advice from my department.

On 3 December 2015, the Deputy Premier stated:

On 14 October, the member for Cairns provided my office with a range of documents pertaining to local government in Queensland, with similar documents subsequently tabled in the House. As I advised parliament on 15 October, my office immediately referred this material to my department for consideration and assessment. My department provided an initial review of these claims and at that time advised me that they had not found any basis to substantiate the call for a judicial inquiry that accompanied the release of this material.

The Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning has now completed a full review of the material provided in October. Based on this review, my department is of the opinion that the issues raised amount to localised matters specific to each of the local governments in question and that it does not provide any cogent evidence of systemic problems with the local government system that would justify an inquiry into local government, as called for by the member for Cairns.

My department's review of the material has identified that two local matters relating to potential conflicts of interest should be referred to the CEO of the Cairns Regional Council for preliminary assessment under the Local Government Act, and I can advise that this has now occurred. In relation to the remaining claims in the October material, my department found that the matters had already been investigated by the relevant authority, or that matters could not be substantiated based on the limited details provided, or that the claims were of a general nature and did not specify any actionable material, or that the issues raised reflected an individual's disagreement with the decision of the local government.

Beyond the two potential conflict of interest matters raised above, I am advised that it is not considered necessary to take any further action in respect of any of the allegations made by the member for Cairns in October. I have today written to the member for Cairns advising him of these findings. To remove any doubt, my director-general has also today written to the Ombudsman asking he undertake an expeditious review of the department's actions in relation to this matter.

In my correspondence to the member for Cairns, I have also taken the opportunity to remind him of the most appropriate method by which affected parties should seek remedies to any issues that they think constitute a dispute with local government. For the benefit of all members, local government complaints should be dealt with as follows: if a person has a complaint about a decision of local government or the service the local government provides, they should contact their local government's customer service area, call centre or inquiry counter which may be able to address their concern. If this does not resolve the matter, it is recommended that they write to the local government and make an official complaint.

The local government is required under legislation to respond to complaints about specific actions of local government in a fair and effective manner. All local governments must have a complaints management process, including written policies and procedures for how they manage and respond to complaints. This process must be publicly available through the local government's office and website. Local governments must record all complaints, whether made verbally, in writing or anonymously, and must report on their complaints management process in their annual report. If a person is not satisfied with the local government's response, a review body may be able to help, including the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman and/or judicial review through the courts. As part of its role, the Ombudsman can consider the administrative action of the local government and determine whether the action taken was lawful and in a reasonable manner.

Specific complaints against councillors or mayors should also be referred to the relevant local government in the first instance. A complaint about the conduct of a councillor is assessed by the chief executive officer of the relevant local government, unless the complaint is made by the mayor or the council chief executive officer. In that case, the chief

executive officer refers the complaint to my department for assessment. If the complaint amounts to misconduct, the complaint may be dealt with by the regional conduct review panel or the Brisbane City Council conduct review panel. Members of these panels are independent and drawn from a pool of suitably qualified persons. For serious complaints of misconduct, the matter may also be referred to the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal. If the complaint relates to corruption or official misconduct, then the matter should be referred to the CCC for investigation.

I am aware that the member for Cairns has again raised allegations about local government this week, including the tabling of more than 100 pages of further material. Whilst I have asked my department to again review this material to determine if there are any matters that warrant further investigation, I must say that the member would be advised to pursue alternative actions that better serve his cause. If the member is genuine in his pursuit of the issues he is raising, I again strongly encourage him to follow the established processes to ensure that all matters are thoroughly investigated by the relevant authorities. Whilst it is incumbent on all of us as members of this parliament to faithfully represent our communities in this place, it is also important that we do not exercise our privileges in advance of proper or due process. I encourage all members of the House to avail themselves of the statutory processes to resolve local government complaints as and when they occur.

In his letter to me, the Member for Cairns contended that the statements were deliberately and intentionally misleading, as the complaints made by the Member for Cairns in the documents he tabled were still under review and investigation, as evidenced by a letter he received from the Deputy Premier on 7 April 2016.

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

The Deputy Premier refuted the claim, arguing that the statements were an accurate reflection of the situation at the point in time they were made, and that even if any of the content of the two statements referred to by the Member for Cairns was later superseded through what was a dynamic and evolving process, the Member for Cairns had been unable to demonstrate that the statements were misleading at the time they were made, that they were known to be incorrect or that they were intended to be misleading.

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.

It is incumbent on the complainant to demonstrate how the statements were incorrect and misleading and, despite providing a significant amount of material, the Member for Cairns did not identify the specific statements that he believed were misleading, he provided no explanation as to how the material supported his allegation, nor did he attempt to address the elements of the contempt.

Therefore, on the information before me, I consider that there is insufficient evidence to support an allegation of contempt.

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.

APPOINTMENTS

Changes in Ministry



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.39 am): I lay upon the table of the House the *Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette* of 7 October 2017 which outlines recent changes to the ministry.

Tabled paper: Extract from Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette No. 41, dated Saturday, 7 October 2017 [\[1943\]](#).

These changes encompass the resignation of the Hon. William Stephen Byrne as the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development and the appointment of the Hon. Anthony Joseph Lynham, Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines, to act as and to perform all of the functions and exercise all of the powers of the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development from 7 October to 21 October 2017.

Over the weekend I announced the member for Rockhampton's resignation from cabinet and his decision not to contest the next election due to a serious medical condition. He is undertaking further tests this week. I am sure all members wish him, his wife, Kim, and their family all the very best for the future.

I also take this opportunity to formally advise the House that on 21 September the Hon. Mark Bailey returned to duty as the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply.

PETITIONS

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

Alpha, Appointment of Doctor

Mr Millar, from 395 petitioners, requesting the House to appoint a full-time resident doctor to Alpha [[1944](#)].

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

Burrum Quarry, Application

Mr Dickson, from 1,222 petitioners, requesting the House to call in and reject the application for Burrum Quarry, Beerburrum-Woodford Road, Beerburrum [[1945](#), [1946](#)].

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

Cairns State High School, Upgrade

From 858 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the sporting facilities at Cairns State High School [[1947](#), [1948](#)].

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

Logan Village, Waterford-Tamborine Road

Mr Power, from 150 petitioners, requesting the House to address vehicle congestion on Waterford-Tamborine Road, Logan Village [[1949](#)].

Jacobs Well, Bus Service

Mr Crandon, from 47 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a reliable bus service from Jacobs Well to transport hubs at Ormeau or Beenleigh [[1950](#)].

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

Mount Lindesay Highway, Traffic Congestion

From 155 petitioners, requesting the House to improve congestion on the Mount Lindesay Highway [[1951](#)].

Electricity Prices

From 154 petitioners, requesting the House to take action to reduce electricity prices [[1952](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

8 September 2017—

- [1633](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Mark Ryan) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Police Service (Discipline) Regulations 1990
- [1634](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 39, 55th Parliament—Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017, government response
- [1635](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 44, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 10 May 2017 and 13 June 2017
- [1636](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 40, 55th Parliament—Managing the performance of teachers in Queensland state schools (Auditor-General's Report 15: 2016-17)
- [1637](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 41, 55th Parliament—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1638](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to an e-Petition (2694-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 21 petitioners, requesting the House to rule out the sale of 31 Gundooee Street and immediately begin public consultation around building a park-and-ride to service Altandi Station
- [1639](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2799-17) presented by Mr Crandon and an e-Petition sponsored by Mr. Crandon (2762-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 231 and 58 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to upgrade bus services between Ormeau Railway Station and Coomera Railway Station
- [1640](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2796-17) presented by Mr Crandon and an e-Petition (2759-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 134 and 112 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to increase the car park size at the Coomera Railway Station

- [1641](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2797-17) presented by Mr Crandon and an e-Petition (2760-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 160 and 84 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to increase the car park size at the Ormeau Railway Station
- [1642](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper Petition (2791-17) presented by Mr Elmes, from 1,498 petitioners, requesting the House to prove the relative safety of crossing the Pomona railway via the Reserve Street crossing point and adjacent roads, versus the existing path and requesting that the existing path remains operational with the addition of safety features applicable with national standards
- [1643](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2794-17) presented by Mr Madden and an e-Petition (2748-17) sponsored by Mr Madden, from 86 and 305 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to expedite the completion of the upgrade of the Mount Crosby and Warrego Highway interchange
- [1644](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2798-17) and an e-Petition (2761-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 329 and 397 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to undertake improvements to upgrade Exit 41
- [1645](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) to an e-Petition (2766-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 11,345 petitioners, requesting the House to designate the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing the Brett Forte Way
- [1646](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2800-17) presented by Mr Crandon and an e-Petition (2768-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 396 and 498 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to undertake improvements to Exit 45
- [1647](#) Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee: Report No. 2, 55th Parliament—Black lung white lies: Inquiry into the re-identification of Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis in Queensland, government response
- [1648](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Clare Solar Farm at Shadforth Road, Clare
- [1649](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for Clare Solar Farm at Shadforth Road, Clare. Annexure A—copy of the decision notice
- [1650](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for the aged care facility at 818 Rode Road, Stafford Heights
- [1651](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for the aged care facility at 818 Rode Road, Stafford Heights. Annexure A—copy of the decision notice
- [1652](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for the Cedar Woods residential development at Upper Kedron
- [1653](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for the Cedar Woods residential development at Upper Kedron. Annexure A—copy of the decision notice
- [1654](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for the Jewel mixed-use development at Surfers Paradise
- [1655](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 for the Jewel mixed-use development at Surfers Paradise. Annexure A—copy of the decision notice
- [1656](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Palaszczuk) to an e-Petition (2765-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 144 petitioners, requesting the House to respect the right of Queenslanders who are hearing impaired, hard of hearing or Deaf the opportunity to listen (via sight) to our elected representatives with all broadcasts of Parliament, particularly live-streaming, with captioning
- [1657](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath) to a paper petition (2816-17) presented by Ms Bates and an e-petition (2720-17) sponsored by Ms Bates, from 1,078 and 454 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to consider changes to legislation which make it an offence for any person, who is a witness to the commission of a serious indictable offence, to fail to report the commission of the offence and/or to fail to do anything within their power to stop the offence from being committed or continuing
- [1658](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones) to a paper petition (2803-17) presented by Mr Crandon, from 7 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade school parking facilities; the school bus service; and road access to and from the Pimpama State Primary College
- [1659](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to an e-Petition (2711-17) sponsored by Mr Molhoek, from 13 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a pedestrian only overbridge from the Parkwood light rail station to a suitable access point within the Molendinar industrial estate crossing over Smith Street

- [1660](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports (Hon. Dr Miles) to an e-Petition (2713-17) sponsored by Mr Molhoek, from 125 petitioners, requesting the House to open up connectivity of Edmund Rice Drive through Everest Drive and Griffith Way into Olsen Avenue and into the Smith Street Motorway via left in only and left out only turning lane
- [1661](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports (Hon. Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2802-17) presented by Mr Crandon, from 14 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake improvements to Exit 49
- [1662](#) Response from the Acting Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports (Hon. Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2804-17) presented by Mr Crandon, from 7 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the City of Gold Coast undertakes the necessary roadworks to turn Yawalpah Road into two lanes, for 250 metres, leading to the roundabout at Exit 49
- [1663](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2805-17) presented by Mr Crandon, from 6 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure an Australia Post post box is provided at the Rededge Convenience Centre, corner of Finnegan and Celestial Ways, Coomera
- 11 September 2017—
- [1664](#) Response from Acting Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports (Hon. Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2806-17) presented by the Member for Mulgrave, Hon. Pitt, from 15 petitioners, requesting the House to consider reducing the road speed limit on the Gillies Range Road to 60 km/hr, between Appaloosa Street and Little Mulgrave Road, Little Mulgrave
- 12 September 2017—
- [1665](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Stock Route Management Regulation 2003
- 13 September 2017—
- [1666](#) Queensland Police Service—Surveillance Device Warrants Annual Report 2016-17
- 15 September 2017—
- [1667](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 42, 55th Parliament—Education (Overseas Students) Bill 2017
- [1668](#) Report about the Anthrax Biosecurity Emergency pursuant to section 123 of the Biosecurity Act 2014
- 18 September 2017—
- [1669](#) Response from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) to a paper petition (2814-17) presented by Mr Last, from 189 petitioners, requesting the House to instruct the Coordinator General to withdraw the proposed closing date of 25 August 2017 for submissions that would establish a state development area over prime agricultural land and residential properties in the electorate of Mulgrave and to engage in proper and extended consultation with residents, businesses and organisations
- [1670](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 65, 55th Parliament—Oversight of the Criminal Organisation Public Interest Monitor
- [1671](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dick) to a paper petition (2772-17) presented by Mr Pyne and an e-Petition (2815-17) sponsored by Mr Pyne, from 216 and 171 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure that all residents of the current Queensland gas fields receive personal exposure and biological monitoring that tests for flaring chemicals
- 19 September 2017—
- [1672](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 1: 2017-18—Follow up Report 15: 2013-14—Environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries
- [1673](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 35, 55th Parliament—Barrier Fences in Queensland, government response
- 20 September 2017—
- [1674](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan) to a paper petition (2801-17) presented by Mr Crandon and an e-Petition (2781-17) sponsored by Mr Crandon, from 104 and 409 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to plan and construct a police station at Ormeau and provide an additional 50 police officers
- [1675](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2810-17) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and an e-Petition (2757-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 6,585 and 3,667 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to work collaboratively with Brisbane City Council to ensure that the Natural Assets Local Laws are enforced in respect of the proposed mosque development at 161/161A Underwood Road
- [1676](#) Letter, dated 15 August 2017, from Linda Apelt, Chair, Screen Queensland Pty Ltd, to the Premier regarding the Screen Queensland Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2017
- [1677](#) Screen Queensland Pty Ltd—Financial Statements 2016-17
- 21 September 2017—
- [1678](#) Letter, dated 21 September 2017, from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, to the Clerk of the Parliament in response to the motion agreed by the House on 6 September 2017 regarding a list of proposed locations for supervised bail accommodation locations for youth offenders

22 September 2017—

- [1679](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) to a paper petition (2811-17) presented by Mr Millar, from 621 petitioners, requesting the House to timely disperse flying fox colonies from urban areas at any time of the year regardless of breeding cycles
- [1680](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones) to paper petitions (2813-17) presented by Dr Rowan from 438 petitioners and (2817-17) presented by Mr Madden from 33 petitioners and an e-Petition (2737-17) sponsored by Dr Rowan, from 1297 petitioners, requesting the House to build a new high school to serve families and residents of the suburbs of Mount Crosby, Karana Downs, Lake Manchester, Karalee, Chuwar and Barellan Point
- [1681](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) to an e-Petition (2779-17) sponsored by Dr Rowan, from 247 petitioners, requesting the House to commit to an integrated and co-ordinated road and public transport plan, with the inclusion of a feasibility study for a Bridge at Bellbowrie in collaboration with Brisbane City Council, so as to ease traffic congestion and allow for access to rail services
- [1682](#) Department of Environment and Heritage Protection—Annual Report 2016-17 (including the annual report for the Queensland Heritage Council and Board of Trustees of Newstead House and CD with Financial Statements)
- [1683](#) Department of Environment and Heritage Protection—Financial Statements 2016-17
- [1684](#) The Board of Trustees of Newstead House—Financial Statements 2016-17
- [1685](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to an e-Petition (2774-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 82 petitioners, requesting the House to increase the size of the Nudgee train station park-and-ride facility by making the vacant land adjacent to the station available for commuter parking

25 September 2017—

- [1686](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 66, 55th Parliament—Liquor (Rural Hotels Concession) Amendment Bill 2017
- [1687](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Economic Development (Hon. Bill Byrne) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 1998
- [1688](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Planning Act 2016 for the Jewel development at Surfers Paradise
- [1689](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Planning Act 2016 for the Jewel development at Surfers Paradise. Annexure A—copy of the decision notice
- [1690](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Planning Act 2016 for the West Village mixed-use development, South Brisbane
- [1691](#) Report by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad): Minister's decision on a change to a previous ministerial development approval under the Planning Act 2016 for the West Village mixed-use development, South Brisbane. Annexure A—copy of the decision notice

26 September 2017—

- [1692](#) Queensland Treasury Holdings Pty Ltd—Consolidated Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2017
- [1693](#) Brisbane Port Holdings Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2017
- [1694](#) DBCT Holdings Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2017
- [1695](#) Queensland Lottery Corporation Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2017

27 September 2017—

- [1696](#) Queensland Parliamentary Service—Annual Report 2016-17

28 September 2017—

- [1697](#) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1698](#) Darling Downs-Moreton Rabbit Board—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1699](#) Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1700](#) QRAA—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1701](#) Safe Food Production Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1702](#) Valuers Registration Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1703](#) Board of Examiners—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1704](#) Surveyors Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1705](#) Department of Natural Resources and Mines—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1706](#) Department of State Development—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1707](#) GasFields Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17

- [1708](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 53, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 10 May 2017 and 13 June 2017
- [1709](#) Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1710](#) Community Enterprise Queensland (formerly Island Industries Board)—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1711](#) Library Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1712](#) Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1713](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. C R Dick) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996, Health Regulation 1996, Pest Management Regulation 2003 and the Public Health Regulation 2005
- [1714](#) Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1715](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1716](#) WorkCover Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1717](#) Office of the Information Commissioner—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1718](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 67, 55th Parliament—Penalties and Sentences (Drug and Alcohol Treatment Orders) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- [1719](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 45, 55th Parliament—Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2017
- [1720](#) Non-State Schools Accreditation Board—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1721](#) Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1722](#) Queensland Training Ombudsman—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1723](#) TAFE Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1724](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 47, 55th Parliament—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1725](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 48, 55th Parliament—Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Bill 2017
- [1726](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 38, 55th Parliament—Auditor-General Report 5: 2016-17 Energy: 2015-16 results of financial audits: Erratum
- 29 September 2017—
- [1727](#) Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1728](#) Crime and Corruption Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1729](#) Legal Aid Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1730](#) Prostitution Licensing Authority—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1731](#) Queensland Law Society—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1732](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1733](#) Public Trustee of Queensland—Annual Report—2016-17
- [1734](#) Legal Practitioners Admissions Board—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1735](#) Queensland Fire and Emergency Services—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1736](#) Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1737](#) Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1738](#) Central West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1739](#) Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1740](#) Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1741](#) Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1742](#) Mackay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1743](#) Metro North Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1744](#) Metro South Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1745](#) North West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1746](#) South West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1747](#) Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1748](#) Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1749](#) Townsville Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1750](#) West Moreton Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1751](#) Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1752](#) Department of Health—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1753](#) Office of the Chief Psychiatrist—Annual Report 2016-17

- [1754](#) Bundaberg Health Services Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1755](#) Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1756](#) HIV Foundation Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1757](#) Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1758](#) Toowoomba Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1759](#) Sunshine Coast Health Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1760](#) Children's Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1761](#) Queensland Institute of Medical Research (QIMR Berghofer)—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1762](#) Gold Coast Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1763](#) Ipswich Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1764](#) Mackay Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1765](#) PA Research Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1766](#) The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1767](#) Townsville Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1768](#) Office of the Health Ombudsman—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1769](#) Queensland Mental Health Commission—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1770](#) Gold Coast Waterways Authority—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1771](#) Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1772](#) Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17
- [1773](#) Gladstone Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1774](#) Gladstone Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17
- [1775](#) North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1776](#) North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17
- [1777](#) Port of Townsville Limited—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1778](#) Port of Townsville Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17
- [1779](#) Department of Energy and Water Supply—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1780](#) Letter, dated 27 September 2017, from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) to the Clerk of the Parliament, regarding the delay in tabling the 2015-16 Annual Report on Administration of the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988
- [1781](#) Annual Report 2015-16 on administration of the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988
- [1782](#) Annual Report 2016-17 on administration of the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988
- [1783](#) Queensland Competition Authority—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1784](#) Queensland Productivity Commission—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1785](#) Queensland Treasury Corporation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1786](#) Motor Accident Insurance Commission—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1787](#) The National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1788](#) Queensland Treasury—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1789](#) Trade and Investment Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1790](#) QIC—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1791](#) QIC—Consolidated annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2017
- [1792](#) QIC—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17
- [1793](#) QIC Private Capital Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2017
- [1794](#) QIC Properties Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2017
- [1795](#) Public Safety Business Agency—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1796](#) Office of the Inspector-General Emergency Management—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1797](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1798](#) Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1799](#) Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing—Financial Statements 2016-17
- [1800](#) Racing Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1801](#) Queensland Racing Integrity Commission—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1802](#) Energy and Water Ombudsman Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1803](#) CS Energy—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1804](#) CS Energy—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17

- [1805](#) Energy Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1806](#) Energy Queensland Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17
- [1807](#) Ergon Energy Queensland Pty Ltd—Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017
- [1808](#) Powerlink Queensland—Annual Report and Financial Statements 2016-17
- [1809](#) Powerlink Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17
- [1810](#) Stanwell Corporation Limited—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1811](#) Stanwell Corporation Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17
- [1812](#) Seqwater—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1813](#) Seqwater—Operational Plan 2016-17
- [1814](#) Sunwater—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1815](#) Sunwater—Statement of Corporate Intent 2016-17
- [1816](#) Gladstone Area Water Board—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1817](#) Mount Isa Water Board—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1818](#) Queensland Urban Utilities—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1819](#) Unitywater—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1820](#) Department of Housing and Public Works—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1821](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1822](#) Residential Tenancies Authority—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1823](#) Board of Architects of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1824](#) Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1825](#) Stadiums Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1826](#) Queensland Child and Family Commission—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1827](#) Office of the Governor—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1828](#) Department of Premier and Cabinet—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1829](#) Board of the Queensland Museum—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1830](#) Queensland Audit Office—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1831](#) Public Service Commission—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1832](#) Queensland Performing Arts Centre—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1833](#) Queensland Art Gallery—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1834](#) Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1835](#) Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1836](#) Tourism and Events Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1837](#) Department of Education and Training—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1838](#) Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1839](#) Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1840](#) Building Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1841](#) CROSSRIVERRAIL Development Authority—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1842](#) Queensland Reconstruction Authority—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1843](#) South Bank Corporation—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1844](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1845](#) Queensland Rail—Annual and Financial Report 2016-17
- [1846](#) Response from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan) to a paper petition (2812-17) presented by Mr Langbroek, from 51 petitioners, requesting the House to increase the police presence at Macintosh Island; install a permanent speed camera on the northbound lanes of the Gold Coast Highway at Macintosh Island and increase police numbers generally on the Gold Coast
- [1847](#) Department of Justice and Attorney-General—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1848](#) Department of Justice and Attorney-General—Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017
- [1849](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 68, 55th Parliament—Oversight of the Information Commissioner

- [1850](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 69, 55th Parliament—Oversight of the Queensland Ombudsman
- [1851](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1852](#) Thirtieth Report on the Register of Members' Interests
- [1853](#) Mental Health Court—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1854](#) Mental Health Review Tribunal—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1855](#) Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis Select Committee: Report No. 4, 55th Parliament—Inquiry into occupational respirable dust issues
- [1856](#) Annual Report of Travel Benefits Afforded to Former Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2016-30 June 2017
- [1857](#) Annual Report of Air Warrant and Alternate Travel by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2016-30 June 2017
- [1858](#) Annual Report of Electorate and Communication Allowance Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2016-30 June 2017
- [1859](#) Annual Report of General Travel Allocation Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2016-30 June 2017
- 3 October 2017—
- [1860](#) Queensland Parole Boards—Annual Report 2016-17
- 4 October 2017—
- [1861](#) Crime and Corruption Commission: Operation Belcarra—A blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in local government, October 2017
- [1862](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a Tourism Mission to China by the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones), 27-31 August 2017
- [1863](#) Public Works and Utilities Committee: Report No. 49, 55th Parliament—Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- 5 October 2017—
- [1864](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an official visit to India by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dick), 29 August-2 September 2017
- [1865](#) Professional Standards Councils—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1866](#) Professional Standards Councils—Financial Statements 2016-17
- [1867](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 54, 55th Parliament—Mine Safety and Health Authority Bill 2017 (exposure draft)
- [1868](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) to an e-Petition (2788-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 378 petitioners, requesting the House to reject revocation of any part of Lindeman Island National Park and that it is properly managed to protect its exceptional values
- [1869](#) Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17: Erratum
- [1870](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 46, 55th Parliament—Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017
- [1871](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad) to an e-Petition (2764-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 52 petitioners, requesting the House to include additional car, motorbike and secure bicycle parking spaces as part of the Strathpine Station Upgrade Project
- 6 October 2017—
- [1872](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport (Hon. de Brenni) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Architects Regulation 2003, Building and Construction Industry Payments Regulation 2004, Building Regulation 2006, Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003, Professional Engineers Regulation 2003, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2003, Residential Services (Accreditation) Regulation 2002 and the Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003
- [1873](#) Letter, dated 6 October 2017, from the Premier and Minister for the Arts, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, correcting a ministerial statement made in the Legislative Assembly on 7 September 2017
- [1874](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 44, 55th Parliament—Annual Report 2016-17
- [1875](#) Response from the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman) to an e-Petition (2739-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 167 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake a complete and exhaustive review of the Queensland Department of Children's Safety complaints process
- 9 October 2017—
- [1876](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones) to a paper petition (2831-17) presented by Mr Williams, from 610 petitioners, requesting the House to take urgent action to achieve a safe drop off zone and car park for Banksia Beach State School

- [1877](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Nature Conservation (Wildlife Management) Regulation 2006 and the Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 2006
- [1878](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999, Casino Control Regulation 1999, Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Regulation 1999, Fair Trading (Code of Practice-Fitness Industry) Regulation 2003, Gaming Machine Regulation 2002, Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Regulation 1998, Introduction Agents Regulation 2002, Keno Regulation 2007, Liquor (Approval of Adult Entertainment Code) Regulation 2002, Liquor Regulation 2002, Lotteries Regulation 2007, Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Regulation 2004, Tourism Services (Code of Conduct for Inbound Tour Operators) Regulation 2003, Tourism Services Regulation 2003, Trust Accounts Regulation 1999 and the Wagering Regulation 1999
- [1879](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 47, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 10 May and 13 June 2017
- [1880](#) Response from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) to a paper petition (2832-17) presented by Mr Costigan and an e-Petition (2830-17) sponsored by Mr Costigan, from 377 and 12 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to take all steps necessary to deliver a turning-in lane and improved signage on the Bruce Highway into Alf Casey Road, south of Proserpine

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Major Events Act 2014—

- [1881](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Gold Coast 600) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 182
- [1882](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Gold Coast 600) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 182, explanatory notes

Fair Trading Act 1989, State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

- [1883](#) Fair Trading (Fuel Price Board) Regulation 2017, No. 183
- [1884](#) Fair Trading (Fuel Price Board) Regulation 2017, No. 183, explanatory notes

Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

- [1885](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 184
- [1886](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 184, explanatory notes

Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012—

- [1887](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Interstate and Foreign Orders) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 185
- [1888](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection (Interstate and Foreign Orders) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 185, explanatory notes

Health Act 1937—

- [1889](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons—Dispensing of Controlled Drugs) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 186
- [1890](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons—Dispensing of Controlled Drugs) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 186, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

- [1891](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Removal of Trustees of Jardine River Resources Reserve) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 187
- [1892](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas Management) (Removal of Trustees of Jardine River Resources Reserve) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 187, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [1893](#) Aboriginal Land (Thayanaku) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 188
- [1894](#) Aboriginal Land (Thayanaku) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 188, explanatory notes

Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016—

- [1895](#) Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2017, No. 189
- [1896](#) Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2017, No. 189, explanatory notes

Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994—

- [1897](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) (Gold Coast Light Rail) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 190
- [1898](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) (Gold Coast Light Rail) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 190, explanatory notes

Civil Partnerships Act 2011—

[1899](#) Civil Partnerships (Corresponding Laws) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 191

[1900](#) Civil Partnerships (Corresponding Laws) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 191, explanatory notes

Magistrates Courts Act 1921—

[1901](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection Amendment Rule 2017, No. 192

[1902](#) Domestic and Family Violence Protection Amendment Rule 2017, No. 192, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Act 2017—

[1903](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 193

[1904](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 193, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999—

[1905](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Transitional) Regulation 2017, No. 194

[1906](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Transitional) Regulation 2017, No. 194, explanatory notes

Education and Care Services Act 2013, Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996, Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014—

[1907](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 195

[1908](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 195, explanatory notes

Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017—

[1909](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 196

[1910](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 196, explanatory notes

Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017, Health Act 1937, Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009—

[1911](#) Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017, No. 197

[1912](#) Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2017, No. 197, explanatory notes

Major Events Act 2014—

[1913](#) Major Events (Gold Coast Commonwealth Games) Regulation 2017, No. 198

[1914](#) Major Events (Gold Coast Commonwealth Games) Regulation 2017, No. 198, explanatory notes

Water Act 2000—

[1915](#) Water Plan (Moreton) (Water Planning Framework Changes) Amendment Plan 2017, No. 199

[1916](#) Water Plan (Moreton) (Water Planning Framework Changes) Amendment Plan 2017, No. 199, explanatory notes

Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000—

[1917](#) Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 200

[1918](#) Police Powers and Responsibilities (Commonwealth Games) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 200, explanatory notes

Planning Act 2016—

[1919](#) Planning (Contaminated Land) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 201

[1920](#) Planning (Contaminated Land) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 201, explanatory notes

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

[1921](#) Aboriginal Land (Bollon USL and Eromanga USL) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 202

[1922](#) Aboriginal Land (Bollon USL and Eromanga USL) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 202, explanatory notes

Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

[1923](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 203

[1924](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 203, explanatory notes

Land Title Act 1994, Water Act 2000—

[1925](#) Natural Resources and Mines Legislation (Priority Notice Fee) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 204

[1926](#) Natural Resources and Mines Legislation (Priority Notice Fee) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 204, explanatory notes

Court and Civil Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

[1927](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 205

[1928](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 205, explanatory notes

Supreme Court of Queensland Act 1991—

[1929](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Notice of Intention to Apply for Grant) Amendment Rule 2017, No. 206

[1930](#) Uniform Civil Procedure (Notice of Intention to Apply for Grant) Amendment Rule 2017, No. 206, explanatory notes

Further Education and Training Act 2014—

[1931](#) Further Education and Training (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 207

[1932](#) Further Education and Training (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 207, explanatory notes

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, Animal Management (Cats and Dogs) Act 2008—

[1933](#) Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice for Breeding of Dogs) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 208

[1934](#) Animal Care and Protection (Code of Practice for Breeding of Dogs) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 208, explanatory notes

Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[1935](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2017, No. 209

[1936](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 5) 2017, No. 209, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan)—

[1953](#) Controlled Operations Committee—Annual Report 2016-17

Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey)—

[1954](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Electricity Regulation 2006

Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Jones)—

[1955](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2001

[1956](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the University of the Sunshine Coast Statute No. 1 (Making and Notifying University Rules) 2004

[1957](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the University of the Sunshine Coast Statute No. 2 (Review of Payment Demand for the Removal and Detention of Vehicles) 2004

Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Trad)—

[1958](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Regulation 2005

REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

[1959](#) Report pursuant to Standing Order 165 (Clerical errors or formal changes to any Bill) detailing amendments to certain Bills, made by the Clerk, prior to assent by His Excellency the Governor, viz—

Labour Hire Licensing Bill 2017

Amendment made to Bill*

Clause 109 (Supply of workers within 60 days of commencement)

Page 70, line 10, '60 days'

Omit, Insert—

60 days.

* The amendment relates to the Bill as amended.

MOTION

Citizen's Right of Reply



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.42 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That this House notes report No. 173 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendations of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings* and that the relevant entries in the tabled papers database on the parliament's website include a cross-reference to the page number of the *Record of Proceedings* where the response is incorporated; and

2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings* and the relevant entries in the tabled papers database on the parliament's website include a cross-reference to the number of the *Record of Proceedings* where the response is incorporated.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RESPONSE BY IPSWICH CITY COUNCIL, TO STATEMENTS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENTS TABLED BY THE MEMBER FOR CAIRNS, MR ROB PYNE MP, ON 14 AND 16 JUNE 2017

On 14 June 2017, the Member for Cairns, Mr Rob Pyne MP, tabled a document titled "Ipswich Inc' which included the following statements made under the heading 'Washing Money links':

There is an unresolved controversy over the transfer of land from the Springfield Land Corp to ICC to approved sporting complex for the Brisbane Lions AFL Club that was rejected by ICC staff when lodged by Springfield Land Corp but approved within 24 hours when ICC lodged same application. A week later a \$15,000 donation went to Pisasale's campaign fund and the Springfield Land Corp saved \$15,000 in lodgement fees;

ICC entered an arrangement with the Newman LNP Govt [sic] for car parking for the Springfield Rail Station in which a tender by then CEO Carl Wulff was unlawfully awarded for the road works to a company he was associated with;

Ipswich City Council owns several development companies which are developing a number of projects throughout the City including the CBD development. This is done with no transparency and it is unclear whether they are trading as insolvent as ICC has had to write off funds associated with them. The Boards of these companies are made up of Mayor Paul Pisasale, Cr Paul Tully, Cr Andrew Antenolli, CEO Jim Lindsay and the CFO. It is unknown if they take Director's fees, meeting allowances and expenses, etc but it is known that they have travelled overseas extensively under the guise of these companies travelling First class and sometimes hiring private jets; There is no public reporting on these matters;

There is a conflict of interest to be both the developer and the approving body of developments. ICC staff will not contradict their bosses in refusing a town planning application. Councillors who are also these company Directors do little to remove any conflict of interest in Council Chambers apart from acknowledging any conflict of interest. The standard response is that the decisions are made under delegation. But is delegation by the Councillors and Directors to Council officers that can be changed at any time. These practices are highly unethical to say the least.

Jim Lindsay the current CEO and Carl Wulff the previous CEO both purchased units off the plan from the same building company that won contracts with the ICC owned Ipswich City Developments. This led to Wulff resigning from Council when he rented out that unit for a friend from Melbourne whom he appointed to undertake flood recovery work. The rent was paid for by ICC and other government agencies.

It's well known that Pisasale, and other Councillors, pressure local businesses for freebies from hair cuts to meals, drinks to electrical goods, for them, and their families.

Ipswich Council has a program of funding community groups that is completely haphazard that relies not on any needs analysis or consideration of process but on Councillors patronage. Community groups are then often pressured into giving Pisasale or the Councillors time to speak to the crowd and announce their donation. The community group is then later asked to submit paperwork to lawfully receive the funds they had already been given by cheque.

Council staff are also upset that funds provided for 2011 Flood Relief for infrastructure was [sic] used on unflooded roads. These funds were redirected to fulfil promises made by Councillors at previous elections.

Council staff are also concerned that the minutes of Council meetings are deliberately misleading and difficult to find, track and understand on decisions of development applications, hence the ratepayers give up trying to find out the scope and impact on the local community like traffic increases and water runoffs.

Its [sic] widely known that if residents write disparaging or negative Letters to the Editor to the Qld Times they are phoned up and abused and/or have Councillors turn up on their doorstep very early in the morning intimidating and threatening them to cease.

It is known the considerable numbers of staff have been paid out by Council to cover up inappropriate behaviour of male Councillors to female staff, or staff raising concerns about accountability and asset management. This includes a former Chief of Staff of Pisasale who took indefinite sick leave unable to handle the stress. Council staff have had to access stress leave or have simply left.

It is known that Councillors have attended a Local Government Seminars primarily for Councils which have local aerodromes [sic]. Ipswich Councillors claimed their local aerodrome was RAAF Base Amberley even though it was Commonwealth controlled.

It is known that Cr Paul Tully's wife worked for Manos Developments whilst he was planning Chair of ICC overseeing developments of that company without a declaration of interest. Corrupt staff of ICC have washed similar dirty money by employing wives and other family members of developers and successful tenderers as that's how it's done in Ipswich;

Council staff are often disgusted by Pisasale and other Councillors general lack of regard or inappropriate use of Council processes, culture of bullying/sacking and silencing staff who raise issues.

On 16 June 2017, the Member for Cairns tabled a document 'Ipswich City Council marked 'Tabled with permission Ipswich Ratepayers and Residents Association'' which included the following statements:

We would like to draw the attention of the State government to the untenable situation in Ipswich City Council caused by lack of transparency or accountability and excessive grey corruption. There has been a long term culture within the Council of entering into questionable relationships with developers (and others) which has cost the community and the environment dearly.

In some cases the Council have issued small fines but more often than not, ICC give retrospective approval for whatever non-compliance Cleanaway have committed.

ICC have a habit of repeatedly turning a blind eye to cases of non-compliance of license and permit conditions by Cleanaway.

It is also frustrating when the Mayor and Councillors make false statements in the local media claiming that Koala numbers are increasing in Ipswich.

Over the past 12 months, the Ipswich Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc, have tried unsuccessfully on numerous occasions to get answers to various questions from all 10 Ipswich Councillors. On every occasion IRRA Inc sends a request to each Councillor which is followed by a reply that they do not respond to our questions and that our question has been referred to ICC CEO, Jim Lindsay. The questions asked have included what the costs were for each Councillor Divisional office, how much each Councillor spends on advertising themselves and their office and how much each Councillor gives in grants and donations to community organisations.

IRRA Inc members have received less than satisfactory answers from Mr Lindsay. In fact it could be said that he appears to do his best to deflect any scrutiny of the Council and Councillors.

There are so many other problematic and questionable issues related to Ipswich City Council including a lack of accountability of ICC's tree offset program, the Cherish the Environment Foundation, lack of any climate change policy, as well as perceived conflict of interest with Councillors on the boards of the Ipswich City Properties and Ipswich City Developments companies.

Also on 16 June 2017, the Member for Cairns tabled an untitled document which contained the following statements:

At last report there was \$2,238,000 sitting in the account which is in the name of a Charity registered to the Council.

Last year Ratepayers put in \$79,000 (ICC budget) or the Rates paid by about 10 householders into this "Charity"

The Charity appears to be hidden away from the Auditor General and has not been Audited by Auditor general. In Fact [sic] when a constituent contacted the Auditor General they did not know of its existence.

The constituent went to the Office of the Charity and the sign is on the door, but the office is unattended. Council staff in the area did not know of it and have never seen anyone in the office.

When the constituent called the number of the charity it went to the ICC switch, they did not know of the charity.

One of the Councillors is a board member of the charity.

Other members include a Developer finance company owner.

This Charity has all their meetings "via EMAIL" No minutes of the meetings are published to the public.

The Charity changed its constitution to include developers as members.

The Charity is not registered on any of the environment charity registers in Qld or Australia.

It is a registered charity for Koalas, but it is not registered on any government charity registrar.

The Money going into this charity is by regulation required to be put in a Local government Trust account.

The Charity has no employees and no staff, but spent \$90,000.

CITIZEN'S RIGHT OF REPLY

The Ipswich City Council (the Council) rejects all aspersions or imputations that it has in any way acted illegally or improperly in respect of the allegations which give rise to false imputations which amount to allegations of systemic and gross maladministration.

The Council wishes to assure the House that at all times in the course of its business it has acted lawfully and in good faith and the majority of the matters raised have either been investigated by Council, or via external agency for investigation and assessment.

Complaint handling

The Council has a comprehensive complaint handling policy in place titled "Complaints Management Process Procedure" which is publicly available online via the Council's website. This policy sets out not only the handling of grievances and resolution through to the processes of managing and handling complaints from the lowest level but to the most serious. It provides follow up procedures and mechanisms in accord with recognised international standards on complaint management.

In essence, the Council handles all complaints in accordance with applicable laws, based on the substance or gravity of the conduct alleged in the complaint, the evidence (if any) proffered in its support, and any need for external referral in any circumstance.

Independent scrutiny

Additionally any complainant may take their complaint about the Council or its staff and/or Councillors, directly to a number of properly constituted independent bodies such as the Queensland Crime and Corruption Commission, the Ombudsman, the Local Government Remuneration and Disciplinary Tribunal or the Queensland Police Service. The Council has a practice of total co-operation (in accord with the law) toward all independent investigative bodies at all times when any complaint may be subject of assessment or investigation.

The Council will as a matter of policy, refer any substantive complaint to the appropriate investigative body as required by law upon its receipt. As an adjunct, the Council will also refer any complainant to the appropriate body to receive complaints as the circumstances dictate. In matters where any complaint is received by the Council either about its own conduct or that of its Staff or Councillor/s which may be investigated by the Council, the complainant will be provided with a written acknowledgment of complaint and will be advised in writing of the outcome of any investigation or action. Further should there be any additional avenue upon which a complainant may pursue their complaint, the Council will advise the complainant in writing of such right.

Codes of Conduct

The Council has promulgated a Code of Conduct for employees publicly on its website. It is specifically stated:

The Code of Conduct for Employees seeks to set standards which the public has a right to expect are the minimum standards which should apply to all employees of Council.

Accordingly, Council recognises that not only must the actions of employees be above reproach, they must also be seen to be above reproach. Such a situation leads to public confidence in the system of local government.

Councillors are bound to ethical behaviour and decision making pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2009 and the independent complaint handling, investigation, review and determination mechanism by the Local Government Remuneration and Disciplinary Tribunal, as established under Division 6 of that Act. The Council ensures periodically, and particularly following any election for Councillors, that all incoming Councillors are made familiar with the applicable codes of legal and ethical behaviour as required in office.

MOTION

Citizen's Right of Reply



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.43 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That this House notes report No. 174 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendations of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*; and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RESPONSE BY FRASER COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL, TO A DOCUMENT TABLED BY THE MEMBER FOR CAIRNS, MR ROB PYNE MP, ON 24 MAY 2017

On 24 May 2017, the Member for Cairns, Mr Rob Pyne MP, tabled a document titled 'Fraser Coast Regional Council Organisational Review and Development Plan January 2017'.

The report lists many references to the performance and conduct of Council's former Chief Executive Officer and other management staff and makes comment about the conduct of the elected members of Council. The report is therefore highly sensitive and controversial and was being treated by Council with utmost confidentiality until measures had been enacted to redact those sections of the report which could lead to litigation before its public release.

Council's reputation has been damaged by the tabling of this document. Council has since been formally served a Concerns Notice under Section 14(2) of the Defamation Act 2005 and a number of complaints under the Information Privacy Act 2009, all of which directly reference the tabled document.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Scott, Dr E, AO



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.44 am): On Friday I had the honour of addressing the state funeral for Dr Evelyn Scott AO in Townsville. When Evelyn Scott was born in the 1930s there was no right for Indigenous people to vote at Commonwealth or Queensland elections, the Commonwealth did not have the power to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and Indigenous Australians were not counted in the national census along with all other Australians. Evelyn dedicated herself to righting these wrongs and promoting the advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As the first general secretary for the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders and as chair of the Cairns and District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Women, Evelyn helped improve access to legal, housing, employment and medical services for communities. To these struggles she brought a quietly spoken determination, dignity, persuasion and that distinctive black felt hat.

Struggles only exist when there is an opposing force. Too often in the history of our state that opposing force came from the government of the day through laws made in this place. While Evelyn challenged decision-makers, she also reached out to Australians. She was integral to the campaign for a 'yes' vote in the landmark referendum in 1967. Almost nine in 10 votes cast by Queenslanders were

'yes'. Then in 2000, as national chair of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation, Evelyn once again called on Australians to be counted when she inspired hundreds of thousands of us to march for reconciliation. For her work, Evelyn was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal in 1977, the Centenary Medal in 2001 and the Order of Australia and a Queensland Great in 2003.

During last week's service we heard from many of Dr Scott's friends and family. They recalled stories that many of us would never have heard. We heard of a woman who was loving and caring but to watch out for if you were in her firing line. Apparently her eyes would open like saucers and her pointer finger would rise up, and that is when you knew you were definitely in trouble. The breakfast table was always set perfectly, just like dining in a five-star restaurant. She was a woman who had an incredible ability to whip up anything in the kitchen. I am told her chicken and rice was up there with the best. We heard of how Dr Scott's home was open and welcoming, where anyone was welcome to drop by for a chat, for a debate or to talk about the news of the day.

Thanks to the work of Evelyn Scott and others, the advances for Indigenous Australians have been immense. However, much more work needs to be done. We rededicate ourselves to closing the gap and a genuine reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. The tenacity, passion and leadership of Evelyn Scott are an inspiration and an example for us all.

Lenton, Mr G

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.47 am): Yesterday the Minister for Main Roads represented the government at the funeral for beloved Winton Shire Council Mayor Graham 'Butch' Lenton. Butch was a man with a friendly smile, a warm handshake and a passion for his community. When state cabinet met last Tuesday, following the sad news about Butch, ministers spoke fondly of the work that they and their departments had done with him and the council.

I clearly remember standing with Butch at the Age of Dinosaurs museum lookout talking about his vision for Winton as an iconic tourist town. As we gazed out across the landscape we pondered the past and what this country would have been like when those prehistoric creatures whose footprints have been found there roamed. We also canvassed the future. There were other projects and services to discuss and to work on together.

His vision and his hard work were for the town and the people he loved. Butch has left Winton a better place and helped Queensland to be a better state. He is gone but he will never be forgotten. To Butch's family and his wife, Ros, we say that we are indebted to you. Time spent working in the community is time not spent at home with family. They shared Butch with a much bigger family. Those of us who worked with him admired him so much. I have asked his family and, with the council's consent, I would like to name the new road to the museum Butch Lenton Way in his honour.

Weapons Licensing

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.48 am): Like so many Queenslanders, I was appalled by the unimaginable horror witnessed in Las Vegas just over a week ago. To the survivors and the families and friends of the 58 concert goers who did not survive and the countless hundreds who were injured, we pay our deepest respects and we mourn for those who have lost loved ones.

Queensland is actively developing a close relationship with Nevada. When Governor Brian Sandoval visited Brisbane last year he joked about our city having a nickname derived from Las Vegas. I also met with Governor Sandoval when I visited Las Vegas on my US trade mission earlier this year. What that city and that state have suffered is the surest testament to the need for Australia's strong gun laws, put in place by then prime minister John Howard following the Port Arthur massacre.

At a COAG meeting late last year all Australian governments resolved to further strengthen Australia's National Firearms Agreement. This week my government will show our resolve to strengthen those laws even more by restricting access to high-capacity lever action shotguns such as the Adler A110. We will enact a regulation that ensures any such gun with a capacity of more than five rounds requires the highest level of scrutiny for licensing—category D.

My government is determined to ensure the safety of Queenslanders, especially from weapons that can kill so many so fast. We will do everything in our power to prevent gun laws from being weakened.

Local Government, Integrity and Accountability

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.50 am): Ever since the first bill we introduced to parliament in 2015, my government has consistently demonstrated its commitment to integrity and accountability. We lowered thresholds for donation disclosure and we have introduced real-time disclosure of donations. Now we will address issues of integrity and accountability in local government.

Last week the Crime and Corruption Commission delivered its thorough and comprehensive report into corruption risk in local government. Commissioner Alan MacSporran QC makes it clear that many of these issues are not new. Some were addressed by the Criminal Justice Commission 26 years ago. Those issues have persisted and some outstanding issues remain. As Mr MacSporran said—

I think it's on the nose. And I think this report indicates the public's pretty right. It certainly is at the very least a hotbed of perceived corruption and that occurs when you have a lack of transparency.

His report states—

The recurring nature of these issues, despite increased regulation and oversight of local government, elections and political donations over time, highlights their inherent potential to cause concerns about corruption ...

He also said—

The report tabled in Parliament today demonstrates why reform of the local government sector is required. If supported by Parliament, the package of recommendations in my view will result in the most substantial reform of the local government sector in Queensland's history.

I have already indicated my support for two of the report's key recommendations—a ban on developer donations and better mechanisms for addressing conflict of interest concerns in council decisions. Today I can announce that my government will endorse all recommendations in the report, supporting some in full and others in principle. We will ensure that legislative change addressing Belcarra recommendations is properly scrutinised through the committee process. Most importantly, when it comes to political donations, we will not introduce measures on local government that we will not apply to ourselves.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The state secretary of the Labor Party—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Chatsworth, was that comment from you? I put members on notice. The Premier is not being provocative. It is appropriate that you listen to the Premier in silence.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The state secretary of the Labor Party has advised me that as of last Friday the party has stopped accepting donations from property developers. We will meet with stakeholders in the development of legislation. I table a copy of our government's response.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission—Operation Belcarra Report: A blueprint for integrity and addressing corruption risk in local government, government response [\[1960\]](#).

Local Government, Integrity and Accountability

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.52 am): In the past 2½ years the Palaszczuk government has implemented a rolling reform agenda for local government in Queensland. Since being appointed as the Minister for Local Government earlier this year I have made it my priority to continue Labor's strong record on transparency and accountability.

Already we have lowered the council disclosure threshold to \$500 and legislated to make sure council candidate bank accounts are accountable. We also introduced real-time donation reporting, which was used for the first time during the Ipswich City Council by-election. Earlier this year we announced our plans to introduce a new independent assessor to deal with council complaints, along with a mandatory code of conduct for councillors. I am pleased to say that this week I will introduce legislation into the parliament to put these new measures into practice. These are measures I hope will receive the full support of both sides of the chamber.

We will build on our record of reform with even more steps to stamp out corruption. This follows the release of the Crime and Corruption Commission's Operation Belcarra report last week, with 31 recommendations to address integrity and corruption risk in local government. Today I can confirm,

as mentioned earlier by the Premier, that the Palaszczuk government will support the 31 recommendations, making this the biggest local government reform in Queensland's history. At the centre of our reforms are a complete ban on developer donations and an overhaul of councillor conflict of interest procedures. Like all Queenslanders, I was concerned to see the *Four Corners* report which showed councillors taking donations from developers and then feeling free to vote on approvals for those very same developers. We want to make sure that does not happen and are absolutely intent on bringing the system into line with community expectations.

As the Premier has said, these changes to local government will also apply at a state level. Because transparency and accountability are hallmarks of this Palaszczuk Labor government, we are committed to ensuring a modern, fair, transparent and accountable local government system in Queensland.

Get Ready Queensland Week

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.55 am): I take this opportunity to add my condolences to those of the Premier on the passing of both Dr Evelyn Scott and Graham 'Butch' Lenton. Both were giants of Queensland and they commanded the respect and admiration of all sides of politics. I hope they both rest in peace.

When it comes to extreme weather events in Queensland, it is not a matter of if but when. This week is Get Ready Queensland Week, and the Queensland government is urging all Queenslanders to check their 'what-if' plan and get ready for the upcoming disaster season. Having a 'what-if' plan could be the difference between staying safe and putting yourself and your family in danger.

Queensland is the most vulnerable state in Australia to natural disasters, exposing our communities and infrastructure to repeated damage from devastating cyclones, floods and other natural disaster events. The Get Ready Queensland program is a year-round, all-hazards, resilience-building initiative to help communities prepare for natural disasters. Get Ready Queensland Week is the perfect time to get Queenslanders thinking about how they can prepare for any surprises summer may have in store.

Since 2011 we have been hit by more than 50 significant natural disasters, resulting in the devastating loss of life and more than \$14 billion in damage to public infrastructure. Experience has shown us that communities that are well prepared and supported before a disaster occurs are more resilient and able to recover faster. This year the Get Ready Queensland program is providing \$2 million in state funding to help local governments improve their communities' resilience.

Queenslanders have proven time and again that we are resilient people. We need to continue building that resilience as we learn to respond, adapt and develop strategies to prepare for the next inevitable disaster. That is why it is so important to get ready for the coming disaster season.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.57 am): When we put ourselves before the people of Queensland at the last election we said that there was a better way—a better way to secure the prosperity of Queenslanders without selling their income-producing assets. We set out a detailed, responsible economic plan which we have delivered and it has delivered real results—jobs are up; growth is up; debt is down.

We have a clear economic plan to encourage innovation, boost economic growth and create opportunities and jobs in emerging and new industries as well as in our traditional strengths such as agriculture, resources and tourism. Since the election, an additional 115,400 Queenslanders have found work. That is an average of over 3,720 new jobs created each and every month since we came to office in January 2015. Nearly 21,000 of those newly created jobs are full-time jobs, as opposed to the 11,200 full-time jobs lost under the previous government's term.

Job creation is the best way to tackle unemployment, and the results show that our plan is working. The trend unemployment rate has fallen to six per cent in August 2017, down from the 6.6 per cent we inherited at the time of the election. In contrast, the previous government inherited a 5.5 per cent unemployment rate and took it to a peak of 6.7 per cent in late 2014—the highest unemployment rate since mid-2003.

The Palaszczuk government will continue to work with business and the broader community to support jobs. It is a partnership that has already borne more jobs. It is also an approach which has increased growth. Three years ago the Queensland economy was at its lowest ebb since the global financial crisis. At December 2014, in annual terms, gross state product was only just 0.8 per cent. In the latest Queensland state accounts for the March quarter 2017, in annual terms, compared with the same quarter a year earlier, the state's trend GSP rose 3.9 per cent. This was significantly higher than the 1.2 per cent trend growth for the rest of Australia. This growth is broad based and is not just limited to our exports. State final demand, which is a key indicator of the health of the domestic economy, recorded a fourth consecutive quarter of growth after eight consecutive falls. State final demand rose 0.3 per cent in the March quarter, to be 1.5 per cent higher over the year.

Due to our economic plan, economic growth in Queensland is significantly higher than it was almost three years ago. Due to our Debt Action Plan, general government debt is significantly lower than forecast under the LNP. At the last election the Palaszczuk government undertook to pay down general government sector debt by \$5.4 billion over six years, with a target of paying down \$12 billion of general government sector debt over 10 years.

The combined Debt Action Plan measures have contributed to significant improvements in our state's debt position. General government sector debt is estimated to be \$33.758 billion in 2017-18, which is \$9.347 billion lower than the peak in 2014-15 of \$43.105 billion. It is also \$14.6 billion less than the forecast for 2017-18 of \$48.421 billion at the time of the 2014-15 budget.

Major credit rating agencies have recognised the state's solid financial position and the reduction in debt delivered by the Debt Action Plan. Moody's has affirmed a Aa1 rating and revised the outlook from negative to stable. Standard and Poor's Global affirmed a AA+ stable rating and Fitch has confirmed a AA rating and revised the outlook from stable to positive. We promised Queenslanders a better way, and the results are in: more jobs, higher growth and lower debt. The Palaszczuk government has delivered Queenslanders a better way.

Mental Health Week



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): This week is Mental Health Week, a great opportunity for all Queenslanders to get involved and show that they value mental health, wellbeing and resilience. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to restoring front-line services cut by the LNP when they were in government that adversely impacted on mental health services.

We are getting on with the job of rebuilding our intensive mental health programs for young people which were gutted by the LNP. Members will be aware that in 2014 the former LNP government closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre without replacement. Members will also be aware that the Labor Party went to the 2015 election with a clear commitment to rebuild this facility and to ensure that the vital services it delivered were restored.

Members will also be aware that in 2016 the Barrett Adolescent Centre Commission of Inquiry recommended that the government consider the construction of a new extended treatment facility for young people experiencing severe mental illness. The Palaszczuk government accepted this recommendation and in our most recent budget allocated \$68.2 million to build this facility and a range of associated transitional facilities. We gave a commitment to the people of Queensland and we are honouring that commitment.

I am pleased to inform the House that early works for a new adolescent mental health facility at the Prince Charles Hospital will go out to tender today. These early works will deliver the first physical works at the site of the new centre to commence in December. In particular, these works will prepare the site and make the necessary changes to car parking to enable the facility to be built with no net loss of car parking at the Prince Charles Hospital campus.

As members will be aware, this new facility will provide a statewide extended treatment and rehabilitation unit for young people with severe and complex mental illness. This specialised facility will ensure vulnerable young people from all over the state are able to access healthcare services at the right time to assist them to recover and return to their family, friends and community.

I can advise the House that collaboration with families of former patients of the Barrett Adolescent Centre and with the Department of Education and Training has been an integral component in getting this project off the ground. This approach recognises lessons learned from the past including failures but also the importance of access to quality education and links to the local community. Ensuring young

Queenslanders can access the services they need when they need them is vital to improving mental health outcomes for adolescents. I look forward to updating the House on this essential and important project as progress continues.

Energy Supply

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.03 am): While Queensland has the most robust power system in Australia, the Palaszczuk government is bolstering our Queensland power system ready for the challenges of summer and extreme weather events. While the Australian Energy Market Operator has predicted that Queensland's electricity supply is secure and ready to meet customer demands for the many years to come, the Palaszczuk government is not taking any chances with our energy security over the summer peak period. That is why we have established the Energy Security Taskforce, a key initiative under the Powering Queensland Plan, and asked them to prepare Queensland's power system summer preparedness plan for 2017-18. This plan ensures our electricity network is secure and reliable for likely hot weather and extreme events. Our five-point action plan focuses on risk areas related to generation, transmission, interconnector and distribution availability, demand management, communication and procedures.

To improve our power system security, we will maximise generation availability. The plan includes a raft of generator upgrades and overhauls including returning the second largest gas power station in this country, Swanbank E, to service. This power station was decommissioned by the Newman government in 2014. We are enhancing our power generation capacity with an extra 70 megawatts of power at the Wivenhoe Power Station, and we are delivering an additional 140 megawatts of new renewable energy in North Queensland because of our 50 per cent renewable energy target.

No low-reserve conditions are forecast for Queensland in the coming months and years as a result. The task force has highlighted that Queensland is in a strong position to effectively manage demand during risk periods. Energy Queensland has made available up to 850 megawatts of demand response from controlled loads and peak-smart air conditioners and implementation of stage 1 of its virtual power plant—all on a voluntary basis. I announce today the expansion of the peak-smart air-conditioning incentive scheme, which has been run by Energex in South-East Queensland since 2012.

A government member interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Yes, indeed, from the previous government. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government, this program will now be available to regional Queensland. That means a household or small business will receive a cash reward of up to \$400 if they purchase a peak-smart air conditioner. A peak-smart air conditioner helps reduce peak demand by dropping the air conditioner into economy mode when the network is experiencing extreme demand. It is expected that an average of 1,500 additional customers per month could join the program which will help manage the increasing demand on the network through the summer months and help reduce electricity bills for Queensland consumers in regional areas.

Under the summer preparedness plan we will also continue to strengthen communication and procedures for power system events, to respond rapidly to emerging situations and to keep our communities and emergency services informed. I commend the task force for their work on the plan. In particular, I would like to thank the task force chair, former Energex CEO and Finkel review panel member Mr Terry Effenev, a very experienced hand at the wheel.

The Palaszczuk government understands that electricity costs are important to Queenslanders after the 43 per cent electricity price increases in only three years under the Newman government, of which the opposition leader was treasurer. We understand that. This is another example of how we are doing everything we can to give consumers a break in a way that helps to safeguard our energy security, unlike the Newman government which decommissioned Swanbank E in 2014.

ID Scanners

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (10.08 am): ID scanners in licensed venues are an important plank of the Palaszczuk government's evidence based strategy for tackling alcohol fuelled violence, and the benefits are showing. Our vibrant night-life is thriving, and clubs and police are reporting that patrons are enjoying safe nights out.

Since the laws came into effect in July, three million people have now been scanned in licensed venues in our safe night precincts, an astonishing figure which points to the thriving night-life across our state. The number of liquor licences has increased in Queensland in the past year. As of 30 June there were 8,185 liquor licences in Queensland. A year before, at 30 June 2016, there were 7,865 licences. That is an increase of 320 licences.

New licences mean new venues which means new jobs. This is a win-win for Queensland, making our safe night out precincts safer and increasing our entertainment venues across Queensland. We are seeing venues voluntarily operating ID scanners earlier in the evening because they know they keep out violent drug offenders on banning orders. What is more, we are hearing from licensed venues and communities that any weakening of these policies by the LNP would be ineffective or, even worse, would risk community safety.

On 5 October the *Gympie Times* reported that Gympie hotel and club owners are using the ID scanners even though they are not in a designated safe night out precinct. Stacey Lowe at the Royal Hotel said that the ID scanners made business easier and were great for safety. In fact, Ms Lowe said that any alternative policies to delay their use each night would not be worth the risk. Club 88 owner Paul Pilkington told the paper that ID scanners were best practice and have helped improve safety everywhere. Last night on 7 News in Mackay it was reported that police believe ID scanners have contributed to a dramatic drop in assaults this year. Club owners told Channel 7 that the ID scanners are keeping people safe and changing the binge drinking—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. You are in my focus group at the moment. If you persist you will get a warning.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the interjection from the member for Kawana. The focus group he is talking about is the people of Queensland, and they have spoken when it comes to making their communities safer.

The Palaszczuk government relies on evidence based policies to tackle alcohol fuelled violence. In the face of knee-jerk criticism and ill-conceived alternative policies by the LNP—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, Attorney-General. Members, thank you. We will have some order.

Mrs D'ATH: In the face of knee-jerk criticism and ill-conceived alternative policies of the LNP, which would endanger patrons, we will continue to work with licensed venues to maintain safe, fun nights out.

Racing Industry

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.11 am): The Palaszczuk government's nation-leading racing integrity reforms are showing value to the industry just over 12 months since becoming operational. The Queensland Racing Integrity Commission—QRIC—tabled its first annual report last month and it shows this new stand-alone integrity body is delivering strong outcomes for industry participants. Clearly the vast majority of those involved in our racing industry are doing the right thing, but those that are not are being caught and dealt with. QRIC's partnership with the Queensland Police Service through the Racing Crime Squad has seen 40 charges being laid against a total of 22 offenders. It is pleasing to see that 99.6 per cent of the 19,000-plus swabs analysed by QRIC's Racing Science Centre returned negative results.

Queenslanders are also getting behind QRIC's efforts to improve animal welfare, with many opening their homes to former racing dogs. In 2016-17, 318 retired greyhounds were rehomed through the Greyhound Adoption Program. This is up from 230 greyhounds adopted in 2015-16 and well up from 57 greyhounds adopted in 2014-15, an absolutely fantastic result. These achievements just over one year on show that QRIC is working as intended and working to strengthen public confidence in the Queensland racing industry.

I can also report to the House that there has been a major financial turnaround in Racing Queensland. According to Racing Queensland's 2016-17 annual report the organisation recorded a loss of \$2.2 million last financial year. However, this is well down from the \$21.8 million loss in 2015-16, representing a turnaround improvement of \$19.6 million. This much improved performance is a result of RQ's stronger commitment and commercial focus and a new leadership team determined to drive growth in our racing industry.

Australian Racehorse of the Year Awards

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.13 am): I will take this opportunity to also inform the House that I was pleased to attend the Australian Racehorse of the Year Awards in Brisbane on Sunday night, the first time they have ever been held in Queensland. Champion mare Winx picked up her second straight Horse of the Year title, a just reward for her winning streak of 21 straight wins which began in Queensland in 2015. I want to congratulate Queensland part owner Peter Tighe, Trainer of the Year Chris Waller and Jockey of the Year Hugh Bowman for completing an outstanding trifecta.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.14 am): I wish to advise the House that the Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business is absent from the House this week due to ill health. The Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland has been appointed acting minister for this portfolio for the duration of Minister Enoch's absence.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Report

 **Hon. L SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.14 am): I table the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 100 titled *Annual Report 2016-17*.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 100—Annual Report 2016-17 [[1961](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

ID Scanners

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

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to adopt the LNP's common-sense approach to ID scanners and close the current two-hour loophole to ensure that only venues that trade after midnight in safe night precincts have to operate ID scanners after midnight rather than 10 pm.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier will have a chance to participate in that debate this evening.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Labor, Unions

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.15 am): The Queensland branch of the Australian Labor Party and the trade union movement work hand in glove to the detriment of all Queenslanders. Despite union membership being on a fast decline and at record low levels, the influence over the Labor Party is still paramount. The trade union movement do not just have a perception of influence over the Labor Party; they own them lock, stock and barrel. Whether that comes in the form of cash donations or other gifts in kind, policy decisions, grassroots campaigning or support, peddling misinformation and mistruths in the media or just simply selling out the worker to line the pockets of union fat cat puppetmasters, it is in their DNA. When it comes to dodgy deals, Queensland workers need look no further than Labor's highest office holder in the land, Bill Shorten. He was the head of the Australian Workers' Union before he entered parliament and traded away the penalty rates of low paid workers in a grubby backroom deal so he could line the pockets of the union movement. Under that grubby deal, those lowly paid cleaners were ripped off to the tune of \$420 million. Now we look at the Premier who sits across the chamber, the protege of Bill Shorten.

Let us look at the senior leaders. The union bosses have control over who is elected as Labor leader. They have control over who gets into cabinet and which portfolio ministers get. Anastacia Palaszczuk is a puppet to the union bosses in Queensland, which means Labor always governs in self-interest and not in the interests of Queenslanders.

Look at how this government has been run over the past 2½ years. Labor reintroduced the union encouragement policy, selling out the privacy rights of public sector workers. They overtly support campaigns about penalty rate decisions in the federal IR jurisdiction when the powers were actually referred in 2009 under the former Bligh Labor government when Cameron Dick was the IR minister. They scrapped right-of-entry protections against militant unions like the CFMEU. Retail trading hours changed to favour and support the shoppies union. They created Energy Queensland so the ETU can compete against mum-and-dad electrical contractors and expand their membership base. They introduced the Teachers' Union veto for independent public schools. Labor withdrew from the federal police task force looking at union corruption despite the fact that the task force was funded by the federal government.

They participate in push polling. Remember when Alex Scott spent \$100,000 of hardworking union members' money on push polling? Honourable members should wait for the election; the Labor Party might not be putting One Nation anywhere but last, but wait to see what the unions do in their third-party campaign. Let them sign a stat dec saying that they are not going to put One Nation last. There have been corruption investigations. They have shredded documents. They put documents in horse floats. Hundreds of CFMEU officials are currently before the courts. Let us not forget that parliament is sitting this week because the CFMEU have legislation they want passed.

They are just a few of the favours that the puppetmasters have given to the Labor Party. We know that they are owned lock, stock and barrel by the union movement in Queensland.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.18 am): A lecture on integrity from a party that was dominated by Clive Palmer for two decades! Clive Palmer used to be their major donor.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not mind some interjection, but not when Hansard and I cannot hear. Minister, would you like to start again, please? Restart the clock. Fair's fair; start again.

Mr BAILEY: Now we have seen everything: a lecture from a party which has been dominated by Clive Palmer for two decades. They have still not revealed even one of the donors of the \$100,000 plus in secret donations to the LNP. The Leader of the Opposition is ducking his responsibility to reveal who those donors are. We still do not know who made donations totalling \$100,000. The LNP is fighting it in the courts.

Today I would like to speak about the M1. The Palaszczuk government has invested \$146 million in the M1. We are seeing upgrades at the Gateway Motorway merge, widening of the M1 from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes—which was not done by the Newman government—and planning is being done for the Varsity Lakes to Tugun section to prepare for the next upgrade. Importantly, in terms of transport systems the Deputy Premier and the Premier have delivered on Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 and the duplication of heavy rail from Helensvale to Coomera, which is a comprehensive transport plan. That is our approach, which is in stark contrast to the appalling record of the member for Clayfield as the treasurer to Campbell Newman, when not a single new dollar was spent on the M1 in three years. They had every Gold Coast MP when they were in government, and with their record majority they ignored the M1 for three whole years. When they did not spend a dollar on the M1 we should not be surprised that they have a new policy: they are launching a petition! There is not even an announcement of hard dollars. I table the article about launching a petition for the so-called second M1.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily*, dated 14 September 2017, titled 'LNP launches petition calling for Coast rail duplication' [[1962](#)].

It is actually the Intra Regional Transport Corridor. Under the Newman government, of which the member for Clayfield was treasurer, they cut it from the SEQ Regional Plan in 2014 and they stopped the Gold Coast City Council from putting it into their city plan. Now the member for Clayfield has had a conversion on the road to Damascus but he will not even commit a dollar to it. It is a petition! We should not be surprised, because we know that the member for Clayfield cut \$600 million from roads in Queensland in three years. He is a cutter; he is a sacker; he is a seller. He did it before and he will do it again. Along with Campbell Newman he deluded the people of Queensland and they paid the price at the last election. Those opposite have not learned their lesson. They are trying to pull the same old trick as before. We know they will not deliver on the M1—

(Time expired)

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (10.22 am): It is good to have the member for Yeerongpilly back, given his train wreck of an interview on Steve Austin today. What an extraordinary performance it was. They all heard it back there, but if they did not I will provide the audio for you because it was a train wreck. It was disgraceful to tell every Queenslanders out there to 'suck it up' and pay higher prices for electricity. That was an extraordinary performance by the member today. Welcome back!

This Premier and Labor government are incapable of being truthful with Queenslanders. They have rewritten the book when it comes to deceit, cover-ups and lack of transparency. Labor does not like telling Queenslanders the truth. Over the coming weeks and months—depending on whether the Premier can make a decision for once and name the election date—Labor will resort to personal attacks and scare campaigns to try and win over Queenslanders. It is in their DNA. They cannot help themselves because they have absolutely no record of their own to run on. Labor is already peddling deceit surrounding the purchase of NGR trains so they can win One Nation support. There is no doubt that in the bowels of the Labor headquarters in South Brisbane they are dreaming up all types of deceit, mistruths and furbies to roll out during the election campaign, but Queenslanders are already seeing through Labor's negativity. That is right, comrades: we see the same polling. The cut-through policy is not working. We know what is happening out there. Queenslanders are seeing through Labor's untruths and deceit.

The Premier has had one job of late and she cannot even manage to do that. We can only wonder why the Premier has not named the election date. If her policies are as fantastic as she constantly claims, then why is she so scared to name an election date? She is telling Queenslanders to 'chill out' the same way she has chilled out for three years in this do-nothing government. All she has done for three years is 'chill out'. Maybe it is also because, with the litany of Labor failures, she is scared of Queenslanders being reminded about the historic rail fail; the child safety fail; the crime fail; the electricity fail; the jobs fail; the infrastructure fail; or her constant electricity fail and her constant leadership fail. Perhaps it is also the trashing of Fitzgerald reforms when they changed the electoral system. Isn't that coming back to bite her now! That is the reality that we face under Labor. Is it possible they will plan to use a disaster over Christmas to try and help them win an election—

(Time expired)

Public Transport, Investment

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (10.25 am): It gives me great pleasure to rise after the former transport minister to talk about public transport investment in this state, because last week I was excited to read that the LNP opposition made an announcement concerning investment in public transport infrastructure. I was very excited because, as you know, they do not have a good track record when it comes to investing in public transport infrastructure or services. Let us look at their track record. They were the ones who cut Cross River Rail, and they are doing everything to indicate that they will do it again if they are elected. We know that they did not support Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 1, they did not support Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2, and I bet they will not support Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 3. When it came to the Redcliffe peninsula line, what was their position? They did not like it; they did not support it. Now they are claiming that it was their project. The former transport minister, the member for Indooroopilly, tried to significantly cut the number of bus services in South-East Queensland, but the cuts were too big for their colleagues in Brisbane City Council and he had to back down. Those opposite cut the remote travel air subsidy scheme. The only investment they made in public transport infrastructure was the New Generation Rollingstock, which was to the advantage of Indian workers and not Queensland workers.

I was very excited about the investment they announced in public transport infrastructure. What was it? It was about selling land to the Brisbane City Council to build their Metro, so it was not even their own public transport infrastructure project but someone else's. The fact is that this parcel of land was flogged off previously by the member for Clayfield when he was a stakeholding minister in Queensland Rail. This parcel of land was flogged off to a developer for a high-rise development, and now his only public transport investment idea is to flog it off again. Can members imagine what would have happened if the sale had proceeded? The only redeeming feature is that this sale did not proceed, so we can quarantine this land for an important public transport infrastructure project. This shows that the member for Clayfield was a cutter, sacker and seller when he was the treasurer to Campbell Newman. If he becomes premier he will be a cutter, sacker and seller.

Energy Supply

Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 am): We have to say 'welcome back' to the member for Yeerongpilly. Suspended four months and reinstated in one hour—that tells us everything we need to know about this Labor government and this Labor Premier. This do-nothing Labor government has hit a new low and the lights are clearly off with Queensland Labor. What has it come to when the Palaszczuk government is telling Queenslanders to ration their electricity use and set their air conditioners at 26 degrees?

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misleading the House. That is an outrageous claim.

Mr SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Frivolous points of order are an offence against this House. That is clearly a frivolous point of order to interrupt the Leader of the Opposition. The minister knows that that is not a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide. By way of penalty, I invite the Leader of the Opposition to start again.

Mr NICHOLLS: This do-nothing Labor government has hit a new low, and the lights are clearly off at Queensland Labor. What has it come to when the Palaszczuk government is telling Queenslanders to ration their electricity use and set their air conditioners to 26 degrees? That is like this energy minister's solution for the M1: do not use it. That is what this minister talks about.

Under Anastacia Palaszczuk, Queensland families and businesses are being told, 'The problem with the power bills is that you are using too much of it, so turn it up or turn it off.' It is all because of Anastacia Palaszczuk's and Labor's rush to renewable energy. They want to tell Queenslanders to limit their use, instead of making sure there is an affordable and reliable power supply. The comrades from central planning at Trades Hall are firmly in charge.

I say to the Premier: because of her record high power prices and the secret energy tax, there is not a family or a business in Queensland that is not already doing everything they can to conserve their power use. Anastacia Palaszczuk and her government start pointing the finger—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is the second occasion on which the Leader of the Opposition has not used the appropriate title for people in this House. As you have ruled on many occasions, that is something that should be done to pay due respect to all members of the House.

Mr SPEAKER: I urge the Leader of the Opposition to refer to members by their appropriate title.

Mr SEENEY: Mr Speaker, the Leader of the House is quite wrong in his point of order. The conventions of this House allow a member to refer to another member by their proper name or their position. The Leader of the Opposition has done exactly that.

Mr SPEAKER: I think we will move on. The Leader of the Opposition has the call. Standing order 244 states—

(7) A member shall only refer to another member by their parliamentary title or electoral district.

Mr NICHOLLS: The Premier points the finger, telling Queenslanders they need to do even more. Labor got the three wisest men running around together, and the best they could come up with is electricity rationing. Queensland is not undergoing the blitz at the moment. Can members imagine Christmas morning with the family, gathered around the dinner table, praying someone does not flick the switch on their power somewhere? Can members imagine raw turkeys, a green pool and the sheets soaked with sweat? That is not an energy plan; that is an admission of failure. Poor old Santa gets hot beer and warm milk. That does not go with the cookies! Queenslanders simply want a reliable energy source which will be accessible when they need it most.

What do we know about the power price legacy of the government led by the member for Inala, the Premier? Fact: Queenslanders are now paying the highest power prices ever in Queensland under a do-nothing Labor government. Fact: Queensland generates only four per cent of its power through renewables; the rest of it comes from coal. Fact: Labor has admitted today that we could face similar blackouts to South Australia because of its headlong, reckless rush to renewables while it abandons—

(Time expired)

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.34 am.

Energy Supply

Mr NICHOLLS (10.34 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to media reports today exposing that Labor's energy policy has risked blackouts this summer. What does the Premier say to the families who will be forced to put their kids to bed without air conditioning over the coming sweltering summer because Queensland Labor is following South Australian Labor down a path of a foolish energy policy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for that question. I reject the premise of the question outright. Everyone in this House and every Queenslander knows that we stopped the sale of the electricity assets that Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, took to the last election with Campbell Newman. We know what their plan was. We only have to look at every other state in the nation to see massive increases because their electricity assets have been privatised. We will not be doing that in Queensland.

I think I need to put a few things into perspective. Let me start with the first fact. The LNP brought in a plan—the 'save energy and cash over the festive season' plan. It was issued by the then minister for energy and water supply, Mark McArdle. I will quote the policy, because it is the exact same policy we have now. It states—

In some homes, air-conditioners can account for up to 40 per cent of the electricity bill during summer, so setting air-conditioners to 24-25C will keep you cool and save money.

There is no plan to fix. Consumers have the option to opt in. What the Minister for Energy and the Treasurer have announced is expanding to regional Queensland the plan introduced by the LNP to South-East Queensland. People have a choice whereby they can save up to \$400 on their electricity. It is not good enough just to have the LNP's plan for South-East Queensland; we will expand that plan to regional Queensland.

Let us put to bed this notion about 26 degrees. There is no plan to fix 26 degrees. Let us talk about the extreme case of a heatwave, such as we saw in Queensland in February. What happened in New South Wales? In New South Wales the minister has the ability to ask consumers across the state to look at helping with the peak demand. What do they do in New South Wales?

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Leader of the Opposition for his second question, I am informed that we have in the gallery the first group of students from Kallangur State School in the electorate of Kallangur observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Energy Supply

Mr NICHOLLS: My second question without notice is to the Premier. I hope she answers it. Queenslanders are now at risk of blackouts because of Labor's energy policy, according to Labor's own report released to the paper today. Will Queenslanders be left with warm beer and crook prawns on Christmas Day after Labor cuts off the power, or will the Premier now abandon her headlong rush to a 50 per cent renewable energy target?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question asked by the Leader of the Opposition contains imputations and references to material that I think he needs to justify and prove to the House are true. In the Premier's answer to his first question, she made clear that some of the matters that he was claiming were the case were not the case. It would be good to have this material justified and evidence provided to support the imputations that I believe he is making in the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members; I know you are all excited. I will allow the question, but I will also allow the Premier latitude in her answer to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Let me make it very clear: firstly, Queensland has the most robust energy system in the nation; and, secondly, we are helping every other state in the National Electricity Market. We are helping every other state because we have—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I am having difficulty hearing the Premier. I heard the Leader of the Opposition's question. I have made a ruling. The Premier has the call.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—firstly, the most efficient coal-fired fleet in the nation; and, secondly, we are opening up gas reserves in this state while those in New South Wales and Victoria are closing the door on exploring for more gas. As I have said in this House before, and I say it again, the Finkel report makes it very clear that, as we move from coal to renewables, gas is the key. Why should Queensland be doing all of the heavy lifting when it comes to energy supply in this nation when the southern states are refusing to do their share?

In relation to renewable energy projects, we know that there are over 10 projects happening across Queensland which are generating over 3,000 jobs in regional Queensland. If those opposite are attacking renewable energy, they are attacking jobs in their regions while we stand up for jobs in this state and jobs in regional Queensland. All of this is at risk under Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield, and the LNP. It is all at risk because his plan the last time was to sell off our assets. We will not sell our assets. We will keep them in government hands. Under the LNP—under Campbell Newman and the member for Clayfield—we saw a 43 per cent increase in electricity prices. We will continue to be the energy powerhouse of the nation, but what is clearly missing—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Premier has the call. The Premier has 29 seconds on the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the other states discussed last week when I was in Canberra, what is clearly missing is a national energy policy.

Ms Trad: That's right—national leadership.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, and national leadership when it comes to putting it in place and, once again, that is putting everything at risk. We will keep our energy assets in public hands and we will continue to put downward pressure to make sure that families can access reliable electricity.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Maryborough, I am informed that we have another group of student leaders and staff from Miami State High School in the electorate of Mermaid Beach. Welcome. Members, before proceeding with the next question, I emphasise that members have a duty to ensure that facts stated in their questions are correct and not incorrect or misleading. It is only on a rare occasion that I will call on members to authenticate a question, depending upon the circumstances, and I assume that members are not being deliberately misleading or reckless in the content of their questions.

Distribution of GST

Mr SAUNDERS: My question without notice is directed to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the draft Productivity Commission report regarding the allocation of GST revenue, and I ask: what would changes to the allocation of the GST mean for Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Maryborough for that really important question. Yesterday we saw the handing down of the Productivity Commission draft report, and from the outset I say that that is a load of rubbish. It is an absolute load of rubbish and there is no way that Queensland is going to accept those recommendations and we reject those recommendations outright. One only has to go through that report to see what it means for Queensland. One of the options means that in 2017-18 Queensland would lose \$1.5 billion of GST. Queensland would be the largest loser when it comes to the allocation of GST at a national level, and there is no way that I am going to allow Malcolm Turnbull and Scott Morrison to rip off this state. There is no way I am going to allow that to happen.

What is the view of the member for Clayfield, the Leader of the Opposition, about this \$1.58 billion being gone? That means less funding for schools, less money for our hospitals and less money for our front-line services—our nurses and our doctors. Where is it going to end? We know that the Leader of the Opposition is concocting a deal with One Nation, because he will not rule out a deal with One Nation. What is Pauline Hanson's view? Pauline Hanson's view is about \$2.8 billion. She was asked very clearly about this during the West Australian election and she was more than happy to give Queensland's share of GST to Western Australia.

On the one hand we have One Nation giving Queensland's share of the GST over to Western Australia and on the other we have Tim Nicholls, the Leader of the Opposition, not standing up for Queensland, not standing up for this state and giving away \$1.58 billion of our revenue, and that is only in one year. Imagine the long-term impacts and what that would mean! I will be making it very clear to

the Prime Minister that I will not be accepting this. Queensland is clearly the biggest loser when it comes to the GST and we will not accept that and we will fight this every step of the way, because this means money to Queenslanders. It is a hit of about \$300 per person in Queensland. It is absolutely disgraceful and we are not going to put up with it.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I remind all members to please refer to members by their correct titles.

Energy Supply

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is directed to the Premier. Media reports today highlight Queensland has a problem with baseload power and the government has plans for families to increase their—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry; I apologise, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Members, you may not like the question, but the standard procedure is that we listen to the question in silence. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, would you like to start your question again, please?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I would. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Media reports today highlight Queensland has a problem with baseload power and the government's plans for families to increase their air conditioners to 26 degrees. Will the Premier now support the LNP's plan for a privately funded, high-efficiency, low-emissions coal-fired power plant in North Queensland?

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Premier, I remind the Treasurer that in the past I have made rulings in relation to interjections during members asking questions. I know you are passionate, but it is not appropriate. Premier, you have the call to answer it as you choose fit.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. At the outset, I say that, no, we do not need a new coal-fired power station. As I said, in our state we have eight of the most efficient coal-fired power stations helping to power Queensland and the nation. If there were an appetite to build a new coal-fired power station in Queensland, that would have happened. There would have been a proposal. I hear that there might be secret plans by the LNP to do this. It says that it has been talking to some secret people. If there were a plan to build a new coal-fired power station in this state I would know about it, the Treasurer would know about it, the Minister for Energy would know about it, and the Minister for State Development would know about it.

To build a new coal-fired power station would take seven years. We have seen the cost of renewable energy coming down. There is \$5 billion worth of renewable energy projects now on Queensland's books with the large majority of that under construction.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, you will have an opportunity to ask a question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We saw the arrival of the wind turbines into the port of Cairns just a couple of weeks ago. Construction is happening. My government is going to connect these renewable energy projects in North Queensland to the grid, which, once again, means more capacity coming on line.

The opposition's plan to build a new coal-fired power station will not see that capacity come on line for seven years at the earliest. At the moment in Queensland, our standard energy reserve is 10 per cent above demand. At the moment, we have 17 per cent available above demand, which is spare. What was Tim Nicholls' plan, the member for Clayfield, when the LNP was in office?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I urge the Premier to refer to the member for Clayfield by his correct title.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What did they do to address supply? What did the Leader of the Opposition do when he was treasurer? He closed Swanbank E. That is about creating capacity! The PeakSmart program was activated by the LNP 18 times when it was in government. The members opposite should not come in here and lecture me when they did it 18 times.

Mr SPEAKER: I am informed that we have a group of students from Sheldon College in the electorate of Redlands observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Wynnum-Manly, Health Services

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Arts. Will the Premier inform the House of any steps that the government has taken to improve health services for the residents of Wynnum-Manly?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Lytton for that question. I also want to pay tribute to her hard work as a true local champion. On Saturday, it was absolutely wonderful to be joined by the Minister for Health and the member for Lytton to attend the open day for the new Wynnum-Manly community centre, Gundu Pa, in the electorate of Lytton.

It is worthwhile informing the House of the background of this community centre. About five years ago, I can remember standing outside the nursing facility in the rain at a campaign rally. It was a really windy day. The LNP had a plan to close that health facility—to shut it down. When it was closed, some people were moved out of that home. Unfortunately, the stress and trauma had a great impact on those people and their loved ones. It was a shameful part of the history of the LNP government.

My government understands how important it is to have community health services based in the community. On Saturday, over 2,000 people had a look at that new facility. I want to put on the record my thanks to the staff and the people who built the facility. This is about providing community facilities for people where they live. In that new health complex there will be breast-screen services, which is greatly needed by women, rehabilitation services, and the number of dental beds has been expanded so that families can go in together and have their teeth fixed.

This is about people standing up for what they need in their community. Joan Pease, the member for Lytton, stood by her community. She fought every step of the way. If it were not for the election of our government, that facility would not have been brought about. It is a \$13 million new health facility. It will be greatly utilised by everybody in that community. Once again, it is a testament to the power of people to be able to change attitudes and change decisions.

Energy Supply

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Today, media reports say that Labor's *Summer preparedness plan* directs Queenslanders to set their air conditioners to 26 degrees or above instead of 24 degrees. Is this not more proof that the Palaszczuk Labor government has botched energy policy and left Queenslanders sweating? I table a copy of that plan in case the Premier cannot remember what her own plan is.

Tabled paper: Department of Energy and Water Supply: Queensland's power system Summer Preparedness Plan 2017-18 [1963].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. I am happy to say it again in plain English so that the member for Burleigh can understand it yet again. I will say it as slowly and as clearly as I can. The LNP brought in a summer readiness plan. That plan is still being utilised by us. I am expanding that plan to regional Queensland so that regional families can benefit from that plan and achieve a discount, because we do not want to be benefitting just the south-east. I want all of Queensland to benefit from it.

The only time anyone would be asked to voluntarily increase their air conditioners is during an exceptional period, such as a heatwave. I use the example of what happened—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Callide. Member for Everton, you have been on the go all morning. You are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In fact, we have seen the plan utilised under an LNP government in New South Wales. Let me quote what they said in New South Wales—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. You also have had a good go all morning. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Ms PALASZCZUK: During a massive heatwave in February, the New South Wales energy minister—because New South Wales did not have enough supply—called on residents to reduce electricity use, particularly during Friday's late afternoon peak when power demand may hit record highs. That government asked people if they could address their energy needs.

It is on a voluntary basis. No-one is being asked to fix anything. It is absolutely misleading. The members opposite are just running a scare campaign and I think it is absolutely deceitful. I can say clearly to this House—

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Hinchinbrook, I find your interjections designed to disrupt the Premier in her answer to the question. I also make a ruling under standing order 253A. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: No, I do not think it is the first thing you have said all day.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me make it very clear: under the former treasurer, the member for Clayfield, electricity prices in this state went up 43 per cent. He closed Swanbank E, he took away supply from Queensland, then tried to sell off our electricity assets. We have brought back on Swanbank E, we have more supply and just as we get ready for cyclones and storm season we get ready for summer as well. This is about planning for the future. That is exactly what a responsible government does.

Energy Supply

Mr KELLY: My question is to the Minister for Energy. Can the minister inform the House about the history and features of the PeakSmart program?

Mr BAILEY: What a good question! Let me read out when it started: the PeakSmart air-conditioning program was launched—and now has more than 4,000 participating customers—in September 2012. This was not only when the opposition leader was the treasurer; he was an energy shareholding minister. He has forgotten that it is his own policy. It is hard to get good help these days, is it not? It is one thing for him to forget the policy, it is another thing for his whole team not to actually tell him. What a cracker!

The PeakSmart program, introduced by the Newman government with the member for Clayfield as the shareholding minister, has been activated a total of only 18 times from 2012 until today. In other words, during those extreme peak periods that Queensland occasionally gets being the Sunshine State. It was last activated on 12 February this year during the heatwave. That is what it is designed to do.

To be quite frank, the opposition's behaviour on electricity today has been absolutely and utterly disgraceful. The Australian Energy Market Operator has made it very clear that Queensland has no material lack of supply for the next 10 years. Why do we know that? We know that because the wholesale price in Queensland in the futures market is the lowest in the country. Why is the wholesale price in the futures market the lowest in Queensland compared to that of any other state? It is because we have a huge amount of supply coming into Queensland. We have nearly half the renewable energy infrastructure coming into Queensland because of our 50 per cent renewable energy target. We have the lowest wholesale energy price since March this year on average. The fact is that we are an energy powerhouse. Without Queensland, New South Wales lights would have gone off with widespread load shedding during the last heatwave.

For the opposition to come in here and suggest anything other than that Queensland has the most robust and strongest power system in Australia is disgusting, disgraceful and misleading. It shows their lack of policy—their lazy policy. The only policy those opposite have is an executive salary policy that will save people one cent per week. That is the LNP policy—before adding on a coal-fired power station which would take seven years to deliver and would massively increase electricity prices. The opposition leader is clueless on power, he is clueless on policies he brought in himself and he does not deserve to be Premier of this state.

Energy Supply

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table this media report in which Minister Bailey blames farmers for their record high electricity bills.

Tabled paper: Tweet, dated 28 June 2017, titled 'Why farmers are to blame for high electricity bills' [[1964](#)].

Can the Premier now guarantee Labor will not cut power to cold rooms and irrigation—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are already under a warning. Have you finished your question, member for Burdekin?

Mr LAST: No, I have not.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you want to start again, please, without a prop?

Mr LAST: Can the Premier now guarantee Labor will not cut power to coldrooms and irrigation pumps on farms across Queensland that will jeopardise farmers' livelihoods and thousands of jobs?

Mr SPEAKER: I call the Premier. Do you understand the question?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer is yes. There is no plan.

Distribution of GST

Mr POWER: My question is for the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier advise how the changes to the GST distribution as proposed by the Turnbull government's Productivity Commission impact on Queensland's infrastructure?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Logan for that question. Like those other members on this side of the House, the member for Logan will not sit by and watch the Turnbull LNP government cut funding to Queensland. The proposed \$1.58 billion cut from our GST allocation is nothing short of shameful. It is absolutely shameful. This would have a significant impact on Queensland's budget, particularly our capital budget. Even more alarming is the plan by One Nation. Their plan would see something like \$2.4 billion cut from the Queensland budget based on their GST allocation methodology.

Mr DICKSON: I rise to a point of order. The Deputy Premier is misleading the people of Queensland again.

Mr SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, member for Buderim.

Ms TRAD: For the benefit of the member for Buderim, it has been well ventilated in the media, and I table a copy of the media report.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 20 August 2017, titled 'One Nation wants Queensland to hand over \$2.4b of its GST to WA' [\[1965\]](#).

For the benefit of the member for Buderim, perhaps he should keep abreast of what his leader commits to. What this \$1.58 billion cut to Queensland would represent is 13 cents out of every GST dollar to Queensland being cut at the same time that New South Wales loses one cent out of every dollar and all of it goes to Western Australia. Western Australia would see an incredible boost in terms of its GST allocation, but here in Queensland cuts—more LNP cuts, cuts from the federal LNP.

This would have a significant impact on our capital budget each year, as it would in terms of education and health and other services. We have already seen the Turnbull government hand over \$500 million to Western Australia, no strings attached, to keep them quiet after one GST allocation in 2015. Now they are going for gold: cutting billions of dollars from the other states to hand over to Western Australia. We are not going to stand by and let this happen. As the Premier said, we will not be standing by to allow this to happen to Queensland.

The real question is what the member for Clayfield is going to do. Is he going to stand up to his millionaire mate and his LNP federal colleagues and stand up for Queensland? Let us imagine a government where Tim Nicholls, the Leader of the Opposition, is premier of this state relying on One Nation. We would see billions of dollars cut from Queensland. Let me support the Premier and say: we will run a campaign this state has not seen to protect our interests.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Beaudesert, I am informed that we have more students from the Kallangur State School in the electorate of Kallangur observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Energy Supply

Mr KRAUSE: My question without notice is to the Premier. In light of reports today that highlight that the Palaszczuk government wants to raise air-conditioning temperatures to 26 degrees across Queensland and reduce consumption of power for businesses, will the Premier say whether it is Labor's new tourism policy to serve warm beer in the dark to tourists?

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the Premier latitude to answer that question whichever way she chooses.

Ms PALASZCZUK: By the quality of the questions today, we can see why they are not at all fit to return to government. They are absolutely hopeless.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. The member for Beaudesert needs us more than anyone else at the moment. That is also why I was in Nanango, helping the member for Nanango. I was helping her to get a new hospital and listening to the people.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! One moment, members. I know there is a bit of frivolity across the chamber on our first resumption for a while.

An opposition member: What about the beer, Mr Speaker?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The beer will always be cold. Let us talk about the LNP's policy. When it was introduced, someone said—

As a final measure to drive down the cost of electricity, an LNP government will work with the energy industry to pursue optional initiatives to give customers an incentive to reduce electricity consumption.

Let us talk a little more about those options.

Options that customers might want to consider include the installation of smart meters for those who choose to have them installed and the possibility of introducing a new lower tariff 11 economy rate for households who choose to connect a range of appliances to interruptible power supply devices. These customers would get a lower overall cost in exchange for small interruptions to the power used in peak periods for equipment like air conditioners.

Who said that? Was it the member for Beaudesert?

Government members: No!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Was it the member for Hinchinbrook?

Government members: No!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Perhaps it was the member for Kawana, although it is a bit too smart for him. That was said by the member for Clayfield, who was talking about a range of measures to help households. A former member for the LNP has tweeted to Tegan George, whom we all know. She is a very fine reporter. Seath Holswich, the former LNP member for Pine Rivers, said—

I don't see why anyone would be opposed to a govt offering optional incentives for people to save electricity. Sounds like good plan to me.

They should not come in here and throw stones. Before they ask a question, they might want to go back through the *Hansard* record and look at their policies before coming to government. They should look at what they have said before they start criticising their own plan.

Distribution of GST

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Treasurer and the Minister for Trade and Investment. I refer the Treasurer to the draft report of the Productivity Commission on GST allocation and I ask: can the Treasurer outline the impact on Queensland of the recommendations made in the draft report?

Mr PITT: Before I answer the question asked by the member for Mackay, I want to add my comments about the disgraceful line of questioning we have heard this morning. Repeating a falsehood over and over again does not make it true. I am going to look very closely at *Hansard* and I think those on the other side should be very frightened, because they have said some terrible things this morning and they will not get away with it.

The member for Mackay asked a very important question about the Productivity Commission's report into the GST. For more than two decades, the Commonwealth Grants Commission has done the GST distribution using a tried and true formula that has seen Queensland's share go up and down, above and below the line. I will get some good news out first: the report pours cold water on the idea of a per capita GST share. New South Wales cannot win the State of Origin, but they think they can have a GST win by pushing for a per capita formula, which is the same per capita formula that One Nation has been pushing for, much to the dismay of the member for Buderim. I agree with the Deputy Premier that he should pay attention to what is said by his self-proclaimed champion of Queensland, Pauline Hanson. Under their proposal, Queensland families and our services would be hit to the tune of \$2.4 billion. That is very ordinary, indeed. What is even more ordinary is that the member for Clayfield and the LNP continue to want to get into bed with One Nation on a seat-by-seat basis. Today, the member for Clayfield needs to end the speculation and tell us which seats would be affected and which communities would lose funding under the proposal. If he agrees with One Nation about the \$2.4 billion, he has to get into bed with them. That is the only way it works.

There are plenty of things in the report. Horizontal fiscal equalisation is a great concept about which we will have much more to say. We know that the current GST pool is \$62.3 billion and our share is nearly \$15 billion. Under the Productivity Commission proposals, whether they are looking at comparing us with an average state or making us the second strongest state, we would be worse off to the tune of about \$1.58 billion, or around \$727 million. That is unacceptable. We have heard the Premier say it, we have heard the Deputy Premier say it, and I am saying it. No doubt we have heard it from those areas that are already getting hit under Hockey and Morrison. We have been hit in health and education before we even get to the new GST hit. We will not stand for it. We will not sit back and wait. We need those opposite to get behind it as well.

Energy Supply

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier now concede that her reckless 50 per cent renewable energy plan is a failure given that small businesses are facing record high prices and are being asked to avoid using advertising lights and to turn off electrical equipment over the summer?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have the call and you have the latitude to answer the question as you see fit. Member, can you please repeat the question?

Mr EMERSON: The Premier must have been chilling out. Will the Premier now concede that her reckless 50 per cent renewable energy plan is a failure given that small businesses are facing record high prices and are being asked to avoid using advertising lights and to turn off electrical equipment over this hot summer?

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier has the call and the latitude to answer as she chooses.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Indooroopilly for the question and the answer is no. The member for Indooroopilly would want this House and Queenslanders to think that \$5 billion worth of investment in renewable energy projects across Queensland is a bad thing.

Ms Jones: Letterbox that in Clayfield.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We will let everybody know that, because these jobs—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. This has been the topic all morning. I would like to hear the Premier's response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: These jobs and these projects are happening in regional Queensland and they are happening because this government has given them certainty by having a renewable energy target. When it comes to our coal fleet, obviously those opposite were not listening earlier. I am happy to give the shadow Treasurer a lesson on this. We have the most efficient coal-fired fleet in the nation, while other states are closing them down and shutting the door on gas exploration. Queensland is the energy powerhouse of the nation. We will get stronger as our renewable energy projects come on line. They come on line because we are connecting them to the grid, which means more supply coming in as well. We have also introduced our Powering Queensland energy plan, putting downward pressure on wholesale prices to help stabilise costs. Let me also put it on the public record that in those states where they have sold their electricity assets power increases have skyrocketed.

Ms Trad: They will be double digit.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Double digit. I will stand our record of energy supply and security against theirs, which is to sell our energy assets. They have not ruled it out. I am more than happy to debate that during the next election campaign. I am more than happy to talk about keeping our assets in the people's hands. We know their secret plan. People cannot trust them at all.

Distribution of GST, Health Services

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister please advise how the proposed changes to the distribution of GST revenue will impact the provision of health services in Queensland?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Capalaba for his question. I know that he is a passionate advocate for Queensland, unlike some members of this House, particularly those members opposite.

We heard today that yesterday the Productivity Commission released a draft discussion paper on a new model—that is what they call it—for the distribution of GST revenue between the states and territories. What would that new model deliver for Queensland? It would deliver a cut of up to \$1.6 billion for our state—and that is not for one year, but for each and every year following.

Of course, this has been warmly embraced by Scott Morrison, the federal Treasurer. What have we heard from those members opposite? We have heard absolutely nothing. To give members an example of the size of this cut, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital cost \$1.87 billion to build. That means that we could build a new Sunshine Coast university hospital every year, but if that cut comes through a new hospital for Queensland each and every year goes. The new hospital goes. That is the size of this cut.

This is not just a thought bubble. We have seen plenty of those from Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. Remember when he stood outside Penrith Panthers and came up with some thought bubble about state income tax? What a shambles. We have a shambles when it comes to national energy policy. We have a shambles when it comes to tax policy. The only cut the federal LNP wants to implement is a cut to corporate tax. They want to cut GST to Queensland.

Where is the Leader of the Opposition on all of this—the fiscal genius who ran the finances of the state under Campbell Newman and the man we presume knows his numbers? He is nowhere. Cue the crickets—there is nothing from those members opposite. There is nothing but dishonest misrepresentation about the summer preparedness plan for electricity that they themselves implemented. It is their plan that has been operating in Queensland for five years and only operates at peak load times. What a disgrace. We cannot trust the Leader of the Opposition. He cannot be trusted with the state's finances. He cannot be trusted with the state's generating electricity entities. He cannot be trusted with the state's health system.

We know the cuts they implemented—the cuts to the Barrett centre, the cuts to mental health, the cuts to staff. He cannot be trusted with public finances or the government of this state and the people of this state know it. He needs to give it up because every day he goes on he demonstrates his unfitness to hold high office in this state.

Queensland Health

Mr DICKSON: My question is to the Premier. On 13 August 2017 Katrina Spraggon, a mother of a special needs nine-year-old daughter, lodged a written complaint with the office of the Minister for Health and also the Premier with respect to serious allegations of misconduct within Queensland Health related to her daughter being refused prescriptions for medical cannabis to assist treating her severe epileptic conditions. Ms Spraggon has not received a reply. However, since that complaint was made doctors at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital are now refusing to complete paperwork for her daughter's home oxygen to be refilled as it has been every six months since she was born. Premier, why is this child being denied lifesaving oxygen?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Buderim for that question. It is a very important question. I think we need to put some clear facts on the record. As Premier of this state I will take the advice of medical specialists because that is what we should do in these complex cases. They are the experts. They are trained in these matters. I am not going to interfere in medical specialists' advice to their patients.

I am advised by the health minister that Ms Spraggon has been repeatedly offered a specialist review of her daughter's case by medical staff at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. I am further advised that specialists at the hospital have outlined a course of treatment for Ms Spraggon's daughter, Kaitlyn, but I understand that Ms Spraggon does not agree with it and has refused the care being offered.

Doctors in our hospitals would never deprive a patient of medication which they consider to be clinically necessary. I think everyone in this House would agree with me on that. It is normal procedure for doctors to evaluate and review medication prescribed to their patients. This includes oxygen, which should be reviewed regularly to ensure it is the most appropriate treatment.

As children with complex medical conditions grow older their medication needs can change. It goes without saying that doctors must be rigorous in ensuring that they are prescribing the most appropriate medication for each and every patient. This means regularly assessing patients and conducting whatever tests are required to ensure the patient is receiving the best treatment possible, including any medication they deem to be clinically appropriate.

I would encourage Ms Spraggon to re-engage with the clinical staff at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital who are trying to assist her daughter. I understand the Minister for Health is currently in the process of arranging to meet with her on Friday.

Mr DICKSON: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The mother needs to know now whether or not her daughter is going to get oxygen. It is a simple question—yes or no?

Mr SPEAKER: Resume your seat, member for Buderim. That is a frivolous point of order, member for Buderim.

Distribution of GST, Schools

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Education. The Turnbull government is threatening to slash more than \$1.5 billion from Queensland's GST share. Will the minister please advise what this cut would mean to Queensland schools?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I think this is another very telling story which is that Malcolm Turnbull does not want an LNP-One Nation government in Queensland. He has seen the polling, just like everybody else. He knows that the only way the LNP can form government in Queensland is to get into bed with One Nation. That is the last thing the Prime Minister of Australia wants. Do members know what he is doing? He is punishing Queenslanders for it.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms JONES: It is absolutely true. The members opposite know it is true. I got them! He is willing to cut \$1.6 billion from Queensland because he has already determined that those opposite cannot get there without the member for Buderim. The last thing he wants is One Nation in control of Queensland. He has done the numbers and he has done the calculations. He is going to butter up to New South Wales and look after New South Wales and sell out Queensland again to protect his own skin.

He has already summed up the member for Clayfield. He knows that the member for Clayfield is willing to do anything to get into government. That includes doing a deal with One Nation. Malcolm Turnbull has said, 'I will show you. I will sell you out from right under your feet.' Unfortunately, that has dire consequences for Queenslanders. It has dire consequences for Queensland. It means that we will lose \$1.6 billion. All we have from the Leader of the Opposition, who says that he is ready to be the premier of Queensland, is deathly silence. When will the member for Clayfield stand up for the people of Queensland? We know he is hiding. The same polls show that no-one wants to see him. They have put him in the closet that the member for Kawana crawled out of a couple of months ago.

We know that this has dire consequences for Queensland. We have seen that those opposite will put their own political interests first on a seat-by-seat basis by doing a deal with Pauline Hanson, who has already said that she is happy—a Queensland—to take billions of dollars out of Queensland and send it over on the train to Western Australia. That is what we are seeing here. Queenslanders know that there is one side of politics that will always stand up for them. When the LNP put electricity prices up by 43 per cent, we saved those assets and put in a plan. When the former treasurer of Queensland mothballed Swanbank—if they were really concerned about supply, why would they mothball Swanbank? Why would anyone cut supply if they are concerned about supply?

Today we have seen that the LNP want to talk about anything apart from the fact that their side of politics wants to cut \$1.6 billion from Queensland. We know that this is devastating for Queensland Health. We know that this is devastating for education. As the Premier said, that is just one year's worth of cuts to our state. It is about time the member for Clayfield grew a backbone.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, I do not think you stopped talking during that whole contribution by the minister.

Political Donations

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Can the Premier outline to Queenslanders what secret deals were made with trade union bosses in exchange for more than \$2 million in donations since the last election as outlined in media reports today?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer is none.

Weapons Licensing

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister advise the House on the serious issue of gun control and community safety and whether the minister is aware of any alternative policies or risks?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for Kallangur not only for his question but for his strong commitment, like all members on our side of the House, to responsible, strong gun control here in Queensland. This is a particularly important issue in light of last week's tragedy in Las Vegas. It has reignited the debate around responsible gun control across the world. Mr Speaker, can I extend my sympathies also to the friends and families of those who have been involved in that tragedy in Las Vegas.

Queensland and Australia are safer because of John Howard's courage on the National Firearms Agreement. We are a safer place because we have strong gun controls here in Queensland. As the Premier announced earlier, that is why our government will be acting on the commitment we made at COAG to formalise the recategorisation of lever action shotguns here in Queensland. That is a sensible decision and it is a decision in the interests of safety of all Queenslanders.

Those opposite have been found wanting on this particular issue. We have not heard their position. We have not heard their position around the COAG decision to recategorise lever action shotguns. Where do they stand on community safety? Where do they stand on backing John Howard's National Firearms Agreement? All we have heard from those opposite is a step back from and a watering down of gun controls. Only a few weeks ago they announced an election policy which would effectively water down our gun controls here in Queensland in respect of category H concealable handguns for rural use licensees. They announced that they would remove the genuine reasons criteria for reapplication for those particular licences. That is a watering down, a step back, a further deviation from the National Firearms Agreement, and a betrayal of John Howard and his courage on the National Firearms Agreement.

What do we see from those opposite? We see a watering down, no position at all on lever action shotguns and a betrayal of John Howard. In the policy they announced only a couple of weeks ago, how many times did they refer to the National Firearms Agreement? How many times did they refer to John Howard's courage? Zero. That is what they think of John Howard's courage on this particular issue. Perhaps they are listening to people like Ron Owen from Gympie, who seems to have the ear of the LNP on a number of issues. He was demanding only last week after the Las Vegas tragedy that there should be unregulated ownership of guns here in Queensland. 'Gun controls are irrelevant,' Ron Owen says. Those opposite have to come clean on this. Do they back community safety and John Howard's courage, or do they want to sell us down the river?

(Time expired)

Mining Industry

Mr WALKER: My question is to the Premier. Has the CFMEU asked the Premier to change mine safety laws in Queensland and to include that industry in new workplace offences currently before the House?

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

CIVIL LIABILITY (INSTITUTIONAL CHILD ABUSE) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Mr PYNE** (Cairns—Ind) (11.34 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Civil Liability Act 2003 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: Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2017 [1966].

Tabled paper: Civil Liability (Institutional Child Abuse) Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [1967].

In 2015 the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse released the *Redress and civil litigation report*, making 99 recommendations for law reforms to increase child protection and to create consequences for institutions who fail to prevent child abuse or who knowingly conceal abuse. This bill addresses key recommendations for Queensland, including creating a non-delegable duty upon institutions and placing the onus upon institutions to prove that they have

taken reasonable steps to prevent abuse. As well, the bill puts an end to institutions evading liability such as by hiding behind property trust arrangements. The bill makes liability recoverable from such trusts.

The royal commission has heard four years of harrowing evidence of horrific sexual, physical and psychological abuse of young, defenceless children. Abuse was often perpetrated with the full knowledge of leaders within institutions. The maltreatment of these children has resulted in lasting traumatic injuries and scars. The royal commission has heard evidence of cover-up after cover-up. Institutions did not take steps to stop abuse but, instead, the royal commission has found that many institutions knew about abuse and they protected offenders, deprived victims of health care and hid assets to prevent victims obtaining financial support such as for health care. In other words, the behaviour of many institutions has been to side with the offenders.

For victims, the abuse stole their childhood but the institutional response is stealing their adulthood. Many survivors have described the institutional response as 'like being abused all over again'. The conduct within these institutions continues to impact our entire community. The royal commission has heard overwhelming evidence of how institutions—wealthy, multibillion dollar institutions—have paid enormous amounts of money to lawyers to fight victims who seek justice. As well, the royal commission has heard evidence of the widespread practice of using corporate structures and trusts to hide or shield assets from litigation. Many of these institutions are institutions that have traditionally been given special dispensation by the community including substantial tax relief on the basis of being a charity.

It is the community who picks up the bill for the child abuse perpetrated by institutions. The community pays for public health costs for the treatment of survivors. The community pays for welfare costs for survivors who struggle to find work. The community pays through decreased productivity and revenue. Yet the institutions who perpetrated the abuse deny liability, pay no penalty and in fact hide their assets, all while claiming tax-free status.

When child victims grow to become adults they often show great courage by giving evidence in criminal courts to assist the prosecution of offenders to protect future children. Similarly, they show great courage in taking civil action to hold the institution to account to drive changes in the way institutions prevent child abuse and respond to child abuse.

Survivors have told the royal commission that they do not want to be a burden on the community. They want to be healthy and functional and they want to make institutions financially accountable for the cost of the institutions' actions. If victims of abuse are going to model the immense courage of taking on their abusers in order to protect the community, isn't the least we can do as a community and as a parliament to give survivors the laws they need to do their job? The royal commission thinks so and has passed down its recommendations that this parliament pass these laws. The government has waited since 2015 and has had multiple opportunities to put these reforms before the House, yet with an election in the wings survivors of abuse in Queensland are still waiting for their government and their parliament to fully represent them. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Mr PYNE (Cairns—Ind) (11.39 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Scott, Dr E, AO; Lenton, Mr G; Las Vegas, Incident; State Election

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.40 am): Let me start by joining with the Premier in expressing condolence regarding the passing of the late Dr Evelyn Scott. I add my personal support and that of the entire opposition to those words of condolence in respect to

Dr Scott AO. Born in Ingham in 1935, Dr Scott was an unfaltering fighter for equal rights for Indigenous Australians across more than half a century. Her Vanuatan grandfather had been brought to Queensland as part of the slavery-akin indentured labour trade. It was Dr Scott's father who once told her, 'If you don't think something is right, challenge it.' For Dr Scott, they were words that reverberated and then perennially echoed—words that she poured into action time and time again.

Her early forays were stirred by employment, housing and health discrimination issues in and around Townsville in the 1960s. Dr Scott quickly built momentum to rise to the forefront of the campaign to change the Constitution in the landmark 1967 referendum—the Premier mentioned the results of that here in Queensland—yet, following the successful vote to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, she was far from done, devoting the rest of her life to further improving the circumstances of Indigenous Australians and pushing back against discrimination whenever and wherever it reared its hideous head.

Perhaps most of all, for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, Dr Scott believed in and focused on the transformative power of education. Dr Scott's family has said her life served as 'a metaphor for the changing circumstances of her people'. In many respects those circumstances have changed but in others they have not changed as much as they ought. Shadow minister Steve Minnikin attended the state memorial service held in Townsville last Friday. On behalf of the opposition we extend our condolences to those family members, her many friends and the many, many lives that she touched during her time here. Her work still continues.

I also rise to add my personal support and that of the opposition to the words of condolence for the late Graham 'Butch' Lenton. I know that the member for Gregory will have something to say as well. Kind, compassionate, instantly likeable—these are just some of the expressions of admiration bestowed in memory of 'Butch' Lenton since his sad loss more than a week ago after a two-year battle with cancer.

Butch was Winton to his bootstraps. He was born there, educated there and he stayed there, living and working in Winton right up until becoming mayor in 2012. I had dealings with Butch in his time as mayor and in my time as treasurer and always found those dealings to be straightforward, forthright and a pleasure. I last saw him at the Western Queensland Local Government Association meeting in Barcaldine in May, and it reaffirmed that he is a good bloke, quintessentially from outback Queensland.

He was initially elected to council in 1997, and he was an exemplar of the paradigm that a good leader is also a good listener. There is no doubt he had his opinions, some strongly held, but he welcomed others' opinions and his ultimate determinations were always applied evenly, fairly and with only the best interests of Winton at heart. In recent times Butch was instrumental in the redevelopment of the Waltzing Matilda Centre. He adored Winton's Vision Splendid Outback Film Festival but at the same time embraced the Central West Rugby League, of which he was a life member.

Butch's passion for his community will be sorely missed and I suspect his community will sorely miss Butch, if the more than 1,000 attendees at his memorial service at Winton yesterday are any indication of the high regard he was held in. As I indicated, the member for Gregory, Lachlan Millar, attended on our behalf. We wholeheartedly support the Premier in naming Butch Lenton Way, as it now should be called, as the new road to the Age of Dinosaurs museum. To Butch's family, his wife, Ros, his daughter, Carly, and two grandchildren, our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with you. Butch's vision, his hard work and his soft heart will not be forgotten but perhaps the enduring epithet for him is that he was just a damn good bloke.

The incidents in Las Vegas certainly shocked those around the world who deplore senseless acts of violence, no matter what their genesis. I think there are many people—many Queenslanders—who have travelled to that city and know that strip very well. I am fortunate enough to have been one of those and to know the mass of humanity that traverses that strip nearly every day seeking entertainment, enjoyment and a good time.

We join with those condemning the senseless attack, and we join in condemning those senseless attacks wherever they may be. To the people of Las Vegas, the state of Nevada and the US, and particularly the families of those who were simply attending a concert seeking a good time, we express our condolences and our sympathy at this terrible time for their loss and their tragedy. It is a very complex issue in America, dealing with their constitution and their second amendment. I think we need to consider their view on the world, not just that of our own.

Very soon Queenslanders will go to the polls and make a decision about who will lead Queensland for the next three-something years, and the contrast between the LNP and Labor could not be any more stark. It is a choice between a do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government that has presided over record low investment in infrastructure or a Liberal National Party team with a plan to build the roads, bridges and dams we need to create jobs right across Queensland.

It is a choice between an LNP government that will build a better Queensland so families can get ahead or a Labor government that is so captured by the unions and green groups that it will always put its own survival before what is in the best interests of Queenslanders, Queensland families and Queensland businesses. Sadly, our great state has suffered under three years of a do-nothing Labor government led by Annastacia Palaszczuk. We have had three years of missed opportunities from a government that clearly was not ready to govern when it was elected and still is not ready. Queenslanders have been stranded for three years without leadership, without direction and without a clear plan.

There have been job losses, cost-of-living increases, raids on public servants' superannuation and long service leave fund, shovelling of debt onto government owned corporations and a soft-on-crime approach that has put fright into regional Queensland. Labor's legacy of devastation is across-the-board. Queensland is stagnating and, with a government stuck in neutral, the community is crying out for leadership.

This Premier's softly, softly approach is failing Queenslanders. Doing nothing is not working and the economy is hurting. Much needed infrastructure across Queensland is still—three years later—not being built. Instead of leading the way in job creation and job security, we are falling behind other states and Labor's third budget, delivered earlier this year, confirmed that for the first time ever total state debt will crash through the \$80 billion mark.

An LNP government has five key priorities to create positive change for Queensland families. We will create jobs across Queensland and better manage our finances. We have a plan to help 20,000 young people get a job and get the skills they need to succeed. That has to be important when youth unemployment is at crisis levels across the state. At 13.5 per cent our youth unemployment rate is one of the worst in the country and appallingly in outback Queensland it is over 50 per cent. If we want young people to be valued members of the community we need to get them working or train them to get into a job. We will stop the wasteful government spending and focus on better service delivery. Like business or a household, government needs to live within its means. Expenses growth over the term of this government is nearly double the expenses growth under the LNP and yet services are no better.

We would take action on the cost of living. We have already highlighted how we will freeze car registration, saving a family up to \$200 during the next term of our government, and how we will support a new privately funded clean coal, low-emissions coal-fired power station in North Queensland. We will better support Queensland families. We will address the rise in violent crime. Under Labor, crime has increased by six per cent across the state. People should feel safe in their homes and our plans will deal with that.

An LNP government will provide safe and livable communities, dealing with the problem of ice that Labor has ignored for too long. Importantly, we will build the roads, the bridges and the dams that Queensland needs. We will start talking about the M1, a duplication of the rail line to Nambour and building water supply throughout Queensland.

Scott, Dr E, AO; Lenton, Mr G

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.50 am): Last week I was honoured to join the Premier to pay my respects to Dr Evelyn Scott AO at her state funeral in Townsville. We were among hundreds of members of the community, family and friends who gathered to celebrate Dr Scott's life and her many great achievements. Throughout her life she was recognised for her work with countless titles, medals, qualifications and awards. This included the Queen's Jubilee Medal, a Centenary Medal, an Order of Australia and being named a Queensland Great.

Dr Scott was the first General Secretary of the Federal Council for the Advancement of Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, the Chair of the Cairns and District Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Women and Chairperson for the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation. She received honorary doctorates from three universities and was passionate about the environment and the rights of traditional owners to the Great Barrier Reef.

Dr Scott was truly amazing. There is one word that consistently comes up when describing Dr Scott: a trailblazer. She was well and truly ahead of her time and was a tireless and passionate advocate for Indigenous people and for reconciliation. In fact, at the service Senator Pat Dodson spoke about the commitment Dr Scott made in terms of advocating for the referendum in 1967 for Indigenous rights. Senator Dodson said that had it not been for her efforts, we could very well have missed the opportunity for Indigenous people to gain such rights.

Born in the 1930s at a time when Aboriginal people did not have basic rights that many of us take for granted, Dr Scott recognised early that her people deserve better. She did not settle for the status quo. She went on to fight for legal, housing, employment and medical services for Indigenous communities and the empowerment of Indigenous women.

Dr Scott's passing is a huge loss not only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people but also for Queensland as a whole. I say to Dr Scott's family and friends: my thoughts are with you during this most difficult time. Please take comfort in knowing she is leaving Queensland in a better place because of everything she fought for and achieved during her life. To this day there is still more work to be done following in the footsteps of Dr Scott's reconciliation journey. We all have a responsibility to ensure her legacy lives on by striving for fairness and equality for all Queenslanders no matter the colour of the skin, where people are from or their cultural and personal beliefs. In fact, in his contribution at the service her son, Sam Backo, eloquently summed up Dr Scott's view on reconciliation. He said, 'We are all one race, the human race.' As Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, this is a responsibility I take very seriously. It is something I will continue to work towards each and every day so that we can truly reconcile and also have reconciliation to which Dr Scott devoted her life.

I would also like to add to my contribution that it is with great sadness that I learnt of the passing of Winton's Mayor, 'Butch' Lenton. Butch was a salt-of-the-earth man. He served his community with distinction for more than 20 years. Born and raised in Winton, Butch completed his mechanical apprenticeship with the local council. Then along with his wife, Ros, he established a successful mechanical business in town. Butch was truly a man who loved Winton and was proud to serve his community. I wish to pass on my condolences to his family and friends during this difficult time. His passing will be a huge loss for both Winton and local government in Queensland.

I reflect on the one and only opportunity I had to visit the area recently. He proudly showed me around many of the local parts of Winton that he was extremely passionate about, particularly the dinosaur museum out there, which is close to town. He certainly will be a significant loss to that area. He was a great man and his passing is a sad loss for Winton and for Queensland.

Yellow Ribbon Day

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.54 am): Today I would like to recognise the dedication of our volunteers, the rural fireys who keep our families safe over summer. We know this will be a very long, hot summer. We have already started to see the effects of that with a significant fuel load, even after a relatively dry winter. Already this year we have had many fires throughout my electorate as well as throughout Queensland.

Today is Yellow Ribbon Day. It is a chance to celebrate and thank our 36,000 Rural Fire Brigade volunteers across Queensland. We have 1,440 brigades across the state. They protect our communities across approximately 93 per cent of Queensland. This year Yellow Ribbon Day holds special significance for all firefighters as Tuesday, 10 October 2017 is also National Firefighters Remembrance Day, a day to remember all firefighters whether full-time, part-time or volunteer. I would like to acknowledge all the fireys who protect our communities across the state.

As an example of this, we have already seen in this early part of the season some serious fires with crews kept busy in my patch from early September fighting major fires at Wattle Camp and Boogie, Cherbourg, Taromeo, Blackbutt, Benarkin, Elgin Vale, Ballogie, Wondai, Nanango, Esk, Toogoolawah and Biarra. The Wattle Camp fires were particularly destructive and residents were evacuated. There are too many volunteers and personnel to thank, with over 22 Rural Fire Service crews involved, nine fire and rescue crews, 10 SES personnel, six QPS personnel and three QAS who were on site as well as several private contractors. These crews ensured there was no loss of infrastructure or life.

I would also like to mention the Taromeo Rural Fire Brigade, who did us proud. The crew had been entertaining the crowds at the annual Blackbutt Avocado Festival but had to ditch their fancy dress costumes when a fire alert came in from their local area. That is why a Nicholls LNP government will provide greater funding certainty to our hardworking emergency volunteers. Our hardworking volunteer organisations currently receive partial government assistance, but they rely significantly on community

support and generosity to provide the services that Queenslanders rely on in an emergency event. The LNP will boost government support, and we have already announced the LNP will establish a dedicated \$10 million emergency volunteers fund for which organisations can apply to receive assistance to improve local community resilience and maintain or increase capacity.

I would also like to follow on from the contribution made by the opposition leader. Unlike Labor, the LNP has a plan to build the roads, bridges and dams we need. We also want Queenslanders to get ahead. To help them we will create the jobs across Queensland by better managing our finances through our Get Queensland Working plan to help 20,000 young people get a job. Disgracefully, youth unemployment in the regions—in Townsville, just one example, it is at 21.4 per cent. That means there are 4,700 people there who cannot get a job. Sadly, this figure would be even higher if 5,000 young people in Townsville had not given up looking for work since Annastacia Palaszczuk was elected.

Our plan is not just for young Queenslanders. We have announced a new deal for regional Queensland that ensures people in the regions do get their fair share. In conjunction with the private sector we will build a new low emissions, high-tech coal-fired power station so we can all have affordable electricity including families and businesses in the north. We do have a plan to put downward pressure on power prices, unlike Annastacia Palaszczuk and the Labor government. The only plan that they have is to tell everyone to turn their air conditioners up to 26 degrees. The incompetence of this Labor government is just incredible.

Labor also opposed the plan to build this coal-fired power station in North Queensland. The Premier has said that the market is not interested, but we have already had three private sector proponents who are interested in building the LNP's coal-fired power station in the north. Only the LNP has a plan to build a better Queensland.

Vegetation Management

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (11.59 am): Last week the Deputy Premier and the Minister for Environment released the annual Statewide Landcover and Trees Study, SLATS, which showed that the rate of tree clearing in Queensland is at catastrophic levels. We are not talking about a political statement when we talk about the SLATS report; it is about cold, hard facts. The SLATS report is based on science and information obtained directly from the Queensland Herbarium and the Department of Science, Information Technology and Innovation. The report shows that the rate of clearing has increased four times the rate it was when the LNP took government when the member for Clayfield and his friend Campbell Newman were in charge. It is continuing at a rate of almost 400,000 Rugby League football fields every year, and in Great Barrier Reef catchments the rate has soared by almost 50 per cent.

This report has shown the alarming annual rate of clearing that has occurred each year since the LNP government stripped away critical vegetation protection measures. In their first year in government they even refused to release the SLATS report because it was too embarrassing. The next report, the 2012-14 version which covered their first two years, showed that the annual rate of clearing increased from just over 153,000 hectares before they were elected to almost 300,000 hectares.

Queensland is now responsible for 90 per cent of Australia's emissions from land use, contributing to climate change and coral bleaching and threatening the Great Barrier Reef. We can lay the blame squarely at the feet of the member for Clayfield and his LNP team. Each year in Queensland alone between 20 million and 30 million tonnes of emissions are generated from land clearing. Queensland's emissions from land use and tree clearing are more than four times larger than Australia's total emissions from land use. At a time when the rest of the world is reducing their emissions, Queensland is driving Australia's emissions up thanks to the LNP's land clearing laws. That is the legacy the LNP has left us as a result of their reckless and irresponsible approach. Our rate of land clearing is at odds with Australia's commitment to the Paris climate change accord, which was committed to by Malcolm Turnbull and even—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Member for Gympie, you are pushing the line. The member for Bulimba is not taking your interjections. Member for Callide, I can also hear you quite a bit. Minister for Industrial Relations, you can calm down as well. I have the call and the House will come to order. The member for Bulimba has the call.

Ms FARMER: Queensland's rate of land clearing is at odds with Australia's commitment to the Paris accord on climate change, which was even committed to by Malcolm Turnbull and Tony Abbott. Can honourable members imagine that those opposite are even more conservative than Tony Abbott on climate change? Is such a thing even possible?

Queensland has now pushed Australia into the top 10 global deforestation fronts worldwide. According to WWF International's analysis, eastern Australia has been identified as one of the 11 deforestation hotspots in the world. The LNP's reckless approach to tree clearing is putting at risk our beloved Great Barrier Reef and the livelihoods of so many Queenslanders who depend on it. Millions of native animals have been killed or displaced. According to some of Australia's top conservation scientists, between 2012 and 2014 tree clearing in Queensland wiped out more than 40,000 hectares of koala habitat and that of over 200 threatened species. What a badge of honour that must be for those opposite! The 2015-16 SLATS report highlights the need for urgent action for much stronger environmental laws. Restoring clearing protections is the best way of cutting our state's greenhouse gas emissions and reducing the pollution of our Great Barrier Reef. Labor committed to reinstating vegetation management laws, and in March 2016 we introduced the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I, along with every other member on this side of the House—and many people from the electorate of Bulimba and right across Queensland—were devastated when the bill only just failed to pass.

You cannot help but notice the member for Clayfield is trying to be a small target. It is always the member for Nanango, the member for Indooroopilly or someone else from his inner circle who speaks on his behalf. I guess they are trying not to show him to the electorate too much. He will never be able to live down the fact that, hand in hand with Campbell Newman, he was responsible for introducing these outrageous laws and that, when we tried to change these laws, he was responsible for making sure that did not happen. If we are re-elected this government is going to make sure that we protect Queensland.

Sexual Violence Awareness Month

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (12.05 pm): October is Sexual Violence Awareness Month. As we reflect on this heinous crime and raise awareness of it in the community, it is clear that more needs to be done to shine a light on what is still a hidden scourge. Sexual violence is not confined to our cities and urban areas; it is a problem in our regions as well. Sadly, sexual violence is a crime that goes underreported. It can take years to come to the attention of police. In fact, in Australia it is estimated that only 15 to 30 per cent of sexual offences are reported to police. It is also estimated that only 20 per cent of sexual offences reported to police result in criminal proceedings. Of the sexual offences that are reported to police it is estimated that only: 30 per cent proceed to prosecution; 20 per cent are adjudicated in court; 12.5 per cent are convicted of any sexual offence; and 6.5 per cent are convicted of the original offence charged. Worse still is the frightening fact that more often than not sexual violence is committed by an intimate partner or a loved one. Queensland clearly needs a coordinated strategy to tackle sexual violence in the same way that the LNP launched the *Not now, not ever* task force into domestic violence. Under Labor there have been three years of silence on the issue of tackling sexual violence. The level of reported rapes and attempted rapes has jumped to 1,870 in 2016-17, which is a 26 per cent jump since 2013-14.

Across Queensland we have a range of great services which are all doing their part to tackle sexual violence. What is missing is a coordinated approach and cohesive plan to tackle sexual violence. Less than a fortnight ago at a community breakfast on the Gold Coast I was humbled to again launch Sexual Violence Awareness Month. It was encouraging to be there alongside so many support services and people, including the amazing Di Macleod, Director of the Gold Coast Centre against Sexual Violence, Di Mangan, CEO of DVConnect and a number of hardworking police officers and support workers. A week later I was pleased to represent the Leader of the Opposition at the Sexual Violence Awareness Month 2017 symposium here in the parliament, which was put together by WWILD Sexual Violence Prevention Program and the Queensland Sexual Assault Network. We heard from insightful speakers like Di Macleod, Professor Heather Douglas and representatives from the Women's Legal Service and Queensland Advocacy Incorporated. A number of important issues were raised by support services, including the issues faced by victims of sexual violence when they find the courage to report the offence. These issues commonly centre on a lack of funded support, time delays, lack of specialisation and balancing a victim's expectation of the legal process versus the reality. The court process can be particularly frightening for victims who may be terrified of seeing their attackers again inside or outside the courtroom. Cases often only come to trial years after the offence, when the victim's recollection of their actions during the attack will be revisited and questioned.

In the eyes of the support services which help victims through the process the solution is to rebalance the scales of justice towards the victim, not the perpetrator. To encourage reporting we need to see better specialised services, support, timeliness, data and research, and community education. Importantly, we need to improve cohesion and communication between police, prosecution and support agencies to improve service quality and better support victims through this process. We need to ensure that advocacy services are there when victims get the courage to come forward.

This October every community should come together and take a stand against sexual violence. We need to get the message out to anyone who has been a victim of sexual violence and who may be afraid to report it that they can speak up and they will be supported. There are specialist police and support services right across Queensland to ensure victims of sexual violence are protected and their attackers are brought to justice. This Sexual Violence Awareness Month I would like to thank all of our police and support services for the challenging but crucial work they do.

As I have said before, sexual violence and domestic violence often go hand in hand. Domestic violence does not stop at the bedroom door. What we know of domestic violence is that under this Labor government offenders are breaching protection orders at record levels. This has nothing to do with women speaking up but everything to do with the system that is failing them when they make the step out of the shadows and call for help. Across Queensland, whether it is on the Gold Coast or on the Darling Downs, everywhere I travel the story is the same, from survivors and support workers alike. Offenders are treating protection orders like a joke because they know they can, and this government has no answer. Only the LNP will deliver a better Queensland and safe and livable communities and better support Queensland families.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! Before calling the next speaker, I acknowledge in the gallery staff and students from Kallangur State School in the electorate of Kallangur.

Gundu Pa

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (12.10 pm): When I stood for election I made a commitment to Baysiders to ensure that decent, local public health services would be retained, there would be no job losses and front-line health services would be retained in the Bayside. Fifty-one weeks ago, just one week short of a year, the Premier, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for Health, Hon. Cameron Dick, Auntie Merle and other community leaders gathered together for the ground-breaking and sod-turning ceremony at the site which has now been transformed into Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre, Gundu Pa, a state-of-the-art contemporary public health centre that the Wynnum-Manly community worked for and deserves.

Gundu Pa, or 'medicine stones place', is a purpose-built state-of-the-art facility that will not only secure existing health services but also deliver additional services for the Bayside community, now and into the future. New services will include specialist suites, an expanded dental clinic, a mental health service, more allied health services and extended operating hours for BreastScreen. The Bayside made it clear that we wanted seven-day-a-week primary health care, and this was reinstated at our new health centre. The 24-hour primary care centre will deliver appropriate medical care for people with minor injuries and illnesses, providing a 24-hour safety net for our community.

The gymnasium, consulting rooms and therapy room will provide speech pathology and physiotherapy, with specialist clinics for lymphedema and musculoskeletal injuries. The BreastScreen service at the new centre will offer extended operational hours, an examination room and a separate waiting area in a much more comfortable environment for its patients.

Children's Health Queensland services are also closer than ever through the collection of clinics for the Wynnum-Manly community. Clinics will include a gymnasium as well as consulting rooms for occupational therapy, physiotherapy, social work, speech pathology, dietetics and psychology. Chronic disease clinics will include respiratory, heart failure, cardiac, pulmonary rehabilitation, diabetes, psychology, dietitian, social worker and physiotherapy. The new rehabilitation gym and consulting rooms will be perfect to target chronic disease management for the 66 per cent of the Wynnum-Manly population aged 15 to 65 years, when chronic disease may first present itself.

Expanded addiction and mental health services will provide comprehensive care including child and youth therapy, rehabilitation, mood and addiction and drug clinics. Oral health services will increase, from three to six dental chairs, and will include equipment which gives a wide view X-ray of the lower face.

What a stark contrast to the Nicholls-Newman era. Under their government we Baysiders were punished and we lost so many of our local important front-line health services, including the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit, which was closed. I have spoken many times of this shameful action—an action that meant 85 elderly residents lost their home. I will continue to remind Queenslanders of the actions of the previous LNP government. Sadly, those attacks were on some of the most marginalised in my community—the elderly, families and young people. The architect of those cuts sits in this House and is none other than the current Leader of the Opposition, the member for Clayfield. The previous LNP government picked on what it thought were easy targets. However, we Baysiders are not easy targets. We sent a strong message in 2015. We made it clear that we would not stand for the disgraceful axing of our local services and the total lack of regard for our community.

The great news for Baysiders is that the Palaszczuk government is a government that listens. This government has listened and has delivered for the Bayside and indeed for all of Queensland. Our Palaszczuk government is committed to creating jobs, building important infrastructure, growing the economy and returning important local front-line services—unlike the mantra of those opposite of 'cut, sack, sell'. The Palaszczuk government has delivered across the state, boosting our state exports by 56 per cent, up to nearly \$70 billion. This has contributed to 115,400 newly created jobs.

For the 72,000 people who live in the Bayside, Gundu Pa, our new centre, will be a hub close to home providing a wealth of services to keep us active in the community, independent at home and out of hospital so that we can focus on living our healthiest lives. Since coming to office the Palaszczuk government has put Queenslanders first, and we will continue to do so.

Sumners Road Overpass

 **Mrs SMITH** (Mount Ommaney—LNP) (12.15 pm): I rise to speak about critical road infrastructure in my electorate of Mount Ommaney. I speak of course of the Sumners Road overpass. I am so pleased to advise the House that, after three years of advocating strongly for the Sumners Road overpass to be built, the LNP publicly committed to this project—again—on 19 September.

On 19 September I was pleased to have the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Nicholls, join me in the electorate of Mount Ommaney to announce publicly that the LNP will recommit to building the Sumners Road overpass. This has been due to persistent and consistent advocating from all of the community. It is a big win for the community. Over many years, residents, businesses, schools, employers, employees and pensioners have spoken to me about the importance of reducing the congestion on Sumners Road. Not a week would have gone by when someone did not approach me in the community to tell me of how congestion is building because of Dandenong Road and the western suburbs, yet no infrastructure had been planned for that for 20 or 25 years.

The previous Labor member had always talked about Sumners Road but never actually committed to it. In 2011, in the desperate throes of the Bligh government, a \$2 million commitment was made for more studies—that is right: more studies. We in the community knew that congestion was getting worse, yet the only thing the previous Bligh government could commit was \$2 million.

After my tireless campaigning, in 2015 the LNP committed to addressing this issue. Over the past three years I have stood in this chamber on many occasions in relation to this issue, including to present a petition containing the signatures of over 3,000 people seeking to have this road built. It is the missing piece of the puzzle that is the long-term plan for the western suburbs, which have been neglected by successive Labor governments. Congestion in the western suburbs is being experienced day after day. I know from living there. Each year it takes me longer and longer to cross Sumners Road. Now the LNP has recommitted to addressing the problem. On the same day that the LNP made its announcement, this Labor Premier rushed out to the press. We know that we are on the eve of an election, and the government has finally come to the party at the eleventh hour. Over the last three successive budgets handed down by Labor there has been not one mention of Sumners Road.

In 2015 even the Minister for Roads himself told the local paper that there were no plans for the Sumners Road overpass. In the 20-year infrastructure plan there were no plans for the Sumners Road overpass and there was no mention of the Sumners Road overpass duplication in the South East Queensland Regional Plan by the Palaszczuk government. I am pleased to see that Labor has come to the party at the eleventh hour and that it, too, will finally commit to this after years of silence on this issue, and the community will be the big winners here because it will bust congestion. I again thank the chamber of commerce, I thank the residents, I thank the businesses and I thank the people of Mount

Ommaney for raising this issue, for pursuing this issue and for being persistent with this issue. The western suburbs will now finally get the vital infrastructure that they need. Only the LNP can build the roads to build a better Queensland.

Maryborough Electorate, Rural Firefighters; Roadworks

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (12.20 pm): I also want to congratulate all of the rural fireys for the great job that they do in the community, and none more so than in the great electorate of Maryborough. There are quite a few rural fireys in the area and some of them are very good friends of mine. In fact, one of my office staff is in the Brooweena rural fireys and I know that he plays a very active part in the rural fireys.

Today I rise to tell everyone about the great roadworks that are happening in the Maryborough electorate.

Ms Boyd: 'Bitumen Bruce'!

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. I have been called worse names, but 'Bitumen Bruce' I will take and wear proudly. I want to give members the difference between the Newman-Nicholls government, or the Newman government—whatever you want to call it, it was a disaster—and the Palaszczuk Labor government. In the Maryborough electorate in 2014-15 \$19.8 million was spent on roadworks. In 2015-16—the first budget from this Treasurer—\$25.9 million was spent in the electorate of Maryborough on roadworks and in 2016-17 it was \$53.9 million, and those figures are direct from TMR. That is the difference—that is, from \$19.8 million under the Newman LNP government to \$53.9 million under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

When driving around the Maryborough electorate, people can see the changes and can see the roadworks happening. I will give the House an example. At St Helens State School traffic lights have been installed. It was an absolute disaster prior to the Labor government coming to power. What did the Palaszczuk Labor government do? We put traffic lights in there and have made it so much safer for parents and grandparents to pick up children and drop children off and for the teachers to go to work every day. That is what the Palaszczuk government does and has been doing for regional Queensland—that is, improving the lives of regional Queenslanders. I refer to the Torbanlea State School where a causeway was an ongoing problem. In the first 16 months of the Palaszczuk Labor government—once again—we delivered and fixed that causeway so that it makes it much easier for the children coming and going to school in that they do not get flooded out and buses do not have to travel through water. That is what we on this side of the House do: we care about what happens to our constituents in our seats.

I turn to the Urraween Road and Maryborough road intersection, one of the most dangerous intersections in the Wide Bay. Who put up the \$12 million to fix that?

Mr Harper: The Labor government.

Mr SAUNDERS: The Labor government; I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa. Once again it was a Labor government that put the money up to fix this intersection. That work is in progress and it is going to be opened very shortly. I drive through that intersection probably once or twice a week and you can see what is going to happen there with the traffic lights and the turning lanes. That is going to make that intersection one of the safest intersections in Queensland. The Tinana interchange coming in to the great city of Maryborough is a federal and state government investment, with 80 per cent from the federal government. I have to congratulate the federal government for that and I work well with the federal member. We got the money to do the interchange. That makes it safer to come into the Fraser Coast, particularly Maryborough.

These are some of the road projects that we are doing right across Queensland. When people travel the roads around the state, as I often do, they can see that the Palaszczuk Labor government is spending money on roads. As I said, in 2014 it was \$19.8 million in the Maryborough electorate. When we fast forward to 2016 under a Labor government delivering for regional Queensland, that has increased to \$53.9 million. That has made a massive difference to people living in my electorate. For instance, Pialba Burrum Heads Road had not had money spent on it for years. We have upgraded turning lanes there, resurfaced the road in areas and lowered the speed limit because there was an horrific crash there prior to Christmas 2016. These things just did not miraculously happen. This all happened because of one reason—because of a Palaszczuk Labor government delivering for regional Queensland. We are not cutting, we are not selling and we are not sacking. Rather, as a government we are delivering for regional Queensland. People can see that and they are very happy with what this government is doing and what we are doing for the road networks in the Maryborough electorate.

Gold Coast, Palaszczuk Labor Government

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.25 pm): Since Labor's election, the Gold Coast has been let down time and time again by a Brisbane-centric Labor government that only seems to use our city as a political pawn. Gold Coast constituents are still wrapping their heads around the fact that the Gold Coast was better off before Labor came to govern at the Gold Coast—before its fly-in fly-out visit to the Gold Coast—in August. Gold Coast locals cannot be blamed for feeling short-changed as Labor headed back to Brisbane outside peak hour traffic on the M1, and again today the M1 was blocked because of significant motor accidents, with a 16-kilometre tailback. It is happening almost every day. When it left in August Labor took with it billions of dollars in investment, tens of thousands of jobs and no new projects. We all know that Labor only sticks its head up on the Gold Coast during election time and its own senator for the Gold Coast, Murray Watt, does not even live on the Gold Coast!

Mr Cramp: Old 'Mount Gravatt Murray'!

Mr LANGBROEK: He is a fly-in fly-out senator; 'Mount Gravatt Murray' I am hearing from the member for Gaven. He has a part-time office at the Gold Coast.

As Labor makes a desperate attempt to grab seats on the Gold Coast, let us have a look at Labor's track record in our city. When it comes to the Gold Coast, Labor has proven that it does not think local jobs are a priority. After all, it sacrificed 13,000 jobs for Gold Coasters for one job in Brisbane—the Deputy Premier's. Queenslanders and Gold Coasters are still asking if the ASF cancellation was a payback to the Greens because of Labor supporting the Adani mine plan. What I do support is a master plan for The Spit, not what Labor has done—gotten rid of the ASF and done nothing about height and traffic but just said that it is mandating a three-storey height limit. For a long time I have said that we need a proper master plan to sort out the traffic and height restrictions, not what Labor has done—that is, condemn 13,000 future jobs into the waste basket.

When it comes to serious law and order issues, Labor has failed miserably. Monday's *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported a significant bkie comeback on the Gold Coast which was enough to send shivers down the spine of every local mum and dad. We all know that Labor does not care about the Gold Coast because in justifying scrapping the VLAD laws Minister Grace Grace said—

We have heard a lot of talk from those opposite about what happened, why the laws came about and the fact that it is all about the Gold Coast.

...

All we hear is what happened on the Gold Coast and that this is a Gold Coast law.

If Labor really cares about the Gold Coast, it has a funny way of showing it. Now that we are seeing gangs like Satudarah coming back—it was on the news last night and in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*—it is obvious that Labor—

Mr Mander: The Comancheros.

Mr LANGBROEK: Yes, the Comancheros as well. We do not want to go back to those days when Labor was ignoring the Gold Coast—when Neil Roberts was the minister and Paul Lucas, the Deputy Premier in the Bligh government, said, 'There's no problem with law and order on the Gold Coast.'

When it comes to our health system and front-line staffers, Labor has been quick to blame everyone else for its shortfalls. Again, the *Gold Coast Bulletin* has reported that our system is in crisis and that under Labor Gold Coast patients are being left on stretchers for significantly longer than the recommended time. Almost 40 per cent of people are being ramped at our flagship hospital on the coast. That is just not on. With regard to mental health, the Chief Psychiatrist's report shows that on the Gold Coast 52 mental health patients escaped, there were 60 inpatient absences and 124 failed to turn up for appointments. We have had a nurse stabbed at Robina Hospital. Just a couple of months ago we had mental health patients escape to Robina shopping centre. One attempted to abduct a four-year-old and assaulted the four-year-old's grandmother. That is what Labor is doing with mental health on the Gold Coast.

We have had unpaid tradies who have done some great work at key Commonwealth Games venues given a kick in the guts by Labor. It was only through the pressure that was exercised in this place and by the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that those tradies were paid. Unbelievably, instead of coming up

with a solution for those mums and dads, young people, and other locals on the Gold Coast who spend hours in traffic each day just to get to and from work, Labor has told them to not even bother using the M1 during the Commonwealth Games. We have seen the M1 disrupted almost daily with multivehicle and single-vehicle accidents, tailbacks, fires and truck rollovers. Labor has no answers for skyrocketing energy prices. Labor has jacked up the price of registration by 3.5 per cent three times in a row because it cannot manage the budget.

Murray Watt has blamed poor-quality Labor candidates for their lack of success on the Gold Coast in the past. I look forward to seeing what Labor has to offer. The LNP works hard to make sure that the Gold Coast is the best place to live, work, play and raise a family.

Lenton, Mr G; Gladstone Electorate, Education Funding

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (12.30 pm): Firstly, I also would like to pay my respects to the family of Graham 'Butch' Lenton, who passed recently. I knew Butch through my association with Queensland Rugby League, particularly during my time on the Central Queensland Rugby League committee. Butch will be very sadly missed by not only everyone in his community but also everyone in the Rugby League world. Rest in peace, mate.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering on its commitment to Queenslanders to improve education for every student in every school. We have employed more teachers and teacher aides. We are investing \$152 million over three years through our extra teachers commitment. This investment has more than restored the 500 teachers who were cut from Queensland state schools by the LNP during its term. We are addressing the school maintenance backlog and we are making record investment in infrastructure, because we know that quality education opens doors for our children. The Palaszczuk government is investing for the future and delivering on the school facilities that our students—and teachers—need to make the most of their education. The Palaszczuk government appreciates that every child should benefit from a quality education no matter where they live in this great state.

The Palaszczuk government's record infrastructure investment has delivered for the students, teachers and families in my electorate. Over the past 2½ years, I have been working hard to secure additional funding for schools in the Gladstone electorate. It is great to see that the Palaszczuk government and the Minister for Education are equally committed to delivering the infrastructure that is needed in the Gladstone electorate. This infrastructure will cater for the growing student population of my electorate. It will make sure that the students and teachers of my electorate have the best possible learning facilities.

For our students to have the best chance of success, we need to ensure that our state schools continue to be quality learning environments. Our teachers and school staff deserve access to the infrastructure and facilities that they need to support the great work they do in our schools. I know that for some of these school communities, such as those at Rosella Park School—which I am very passionate about—these results are a combination of lots of lobbying, P&C members lodging petitions and generally a heap of work done on the ground. I am absolutely thrilled to be delivering this infrastructure for my community, particularly at Rosella Park School.

Labor is investing over \$4 million in this special school, with a new administration block, a car park, classrooms and an upgraded playground. This school funding is a welcome addition to my region. I look forward to seeing this important project opened in the next week or so for the benefit of the school's extra special teachers and staff and its wonderful students. On many occasions I have visited Rosella Park School. I know that the principal, Kate Russ, is over the moon with this new administration building for her and her staff. The wonderful staff of this special school in Gladstone deserve these facilities and I am happy to be the member who has delivered it.

The electorate of Gladstone is having an infrastructure boom in education, with most schools in the electorate receiving much needed investment. Ambrose State School received \$202,000 for a new tuckshop. Boyne Island State School received \$250,000 for a new car park and \$1.2 million for a hall upgrade. Last week I was happy to turn the first sod for that upgrade. Calliope State School, which is now in the electorate of Callide, received a new building at a cost of \$6.5 million. I was happy to be out there the other day. Clinton State School received a new building for \$5.5 million. That building will be opened in the next couple of weeks. Gladstone Central State School received \$75,000 for an expansion of its tuckshop. Gladstone State High School has received additional classrooms for \$500,000. The high school also has a new hospitality kitchen—and I spent some time there with the students—for \$1 million. Also, that school received \$6 million for new classrooms. That building should be finished in

the next month or so. Kin Kora State School received an upgrade to its special education unit, which I have also visited, with \$250,000. Tannum Sands State School received \$200,000 to refurbish its classroom. Toolooa State High School received \$1.5 million to upgrade its hall.

I am proud to say that we are continuing to deliver the Calliope high school. One of the best parts of my job when I was elected was to rip down the 'for sale' sign that the LNP had put up on the block of land on which we are building that school.

Ms Grace: It is the same with Fortitude Valley.

Mr BUTCHER: I take that interjection from the minister.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Distribution of GST

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.35 pm): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House—

1. supports the Productivity Commission's recommendation to retain the broad concept of horizontal fiscal equalisation used by the Commonwealth Grants Commission in allocating GST funds;
2. rejects a per capita distribution model favoured by the LNP in states like NSW and Pauline Hanson's One Nation, which would see Queensland lose \$2.4 billion in GST revenue;
3. rejects any proposal that unfairly disadvantages Queensland, including the Productivity Commission's 'reasonable' test being based on the average state, where Queensland would be \$1.59 billion worse off in 2017-18; and
4. notes that, notwithstanding this review of the GST, there remains great uncertainty for the Queensland budget as the Turnbull government still holds the ability to impact on service delivery in Queensland through withholding non-GST funding.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (12.36 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment be permitted to move at 5.30 pm today the motion of which he gave notice of earlier today, with time limits for speeches and debate as follows—

- Five minutes for each member; and
- Total debate time before question put—30 minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LAND, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.37 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007, the Explosives Act 1999, the Explosives Regulation 2017, the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988, the Land Act 1994, the Land Regulation 2009, the Land Title Act 1994, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 [[1968](#)].

Tabled paper: Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [[1969](#)].

The Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 covers a wide range of amendments that will streamline and ensure the effectiveness of key regulatory frameworks within the Natural Resources and Mines portfolio. This government is committed to increasing the ability of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders to access and utilise their land, as well as enhancing opportunities to achieve home ownership. The purchase of social housing stock is the most feasible path to home ownership in Indigenous communities.

The bill proposes amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 to provide greater flexibility for the government and trustees when determining or agreeing to the sale prices for social housing. Further amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 expand the circumstances in which registered native title bodies corporate may hold land, subject to a number of safeguards. The bill proposes to enable a registered native title body corporate to hold land that is adjacent to or in the vicinity of their existing holding if there is the same or similar traditional owner groups.

This may remove the need for establishing multiple landholding entities with the same or similar membership and administrative and governance arrangements. The bill will also make amendments to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 to support the protection and cooperative management of cultural and natural values of Cape York Peninsula. These amendments will ensure that the existing prohibition on resource extraction activities on two properties is retained following the transfer of the properties to Aboriginal freehold land. These prohibitions were put in place to protect the outstanding cultural, environmental and landscape values of the Shelburne Bay and Bromley properties on Cape York Peninsula, and the amendments ensure that the protection of these values continues now that the properties are transferred to Aboriginal freehold land.

The Land Act 1994 currently does not provide the tools required to allow the Department of Natural Resources and Mines to appropriately manage state land, particularly unallocated state land and reserves that have no trustees. Key issues include the lack of contemporary powers required to address issues such as the illegal dumping of rubbish, noise and erosion caused by motorbike riders and four-wheel drives and illegal camping. There is also an inability to deal rapidly with dangerous infrastructure of risk to public safety or to address the burden to the state and taxpayers of unsafe and inappropriate buildings and structures.

The authorised officer provisions in the Land Act are proposed to be amended to provide protection to government officers as well as modern safeguards to the community. The bill also proposes minor amendments to streamline processes for tourism lease renewals on regulated islands, providing greater security for leaseholders of tourism leases which support and strengthen the tourism industry.

Queensland is well on the way to a completely online electronic conveyancing system after computerising its property titles register in 1994. Since that time, people have shown that they are increasingly comfortable with not requiring a piece of paper to evidence ownership, with only some 12 per cent of properties in the state still having a paper title in existence. Following Queensland's approach, all other states have or are in the process of eliminating duplicate paper certificates of title. Amendments to the Land Title Act 1994 encourage and facilitate the take-up of online e-conveyancing by removing the legal effect of these duplicate paper certificates of title.

The bill proposes to amend the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988 to make definitions for 'foreign person' and 'foreign corporation' consistent with those used in the Duties Act 2001, reducing duplication and red tape. Other minor amendments will generally update the act, including contemporary penalty provisions.

The bill also amends the Explosives Act 1999. Queensland is the largest user of explosives in Australia, predominately in the mining industry, using approximately one-third of the three million tonnes consumed annually. In Queensland, 'explosives' includes ammunition, blasting explosives, distress signals, flares, fireworks, propellants and pyrotechnics. Licence holders can purchase, possess, use, transport and store various amounts of explosives depending on their licence. Explosives safety and security are critical to the resources industry and for the protection of the Queensland community. This bill includes amendments to improve community safety by strengthening security provisions under the Explosives Act 1999. The amended act will prohibit a person who is the subject of a domestic violence order from holding an explosives licence, contributing to this government's strategy to end domestic and family violence in Queensland by its support of the *Not now, not ever* report. Further amendments will align Queensland with the national harmonisation process to achieve national consistency in explosives regulation.

The bill amends the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004. Workplace safety of the gas industry is regulated by this act. The bill aligns gas safety laws with mining safety legislation and general workplace laws, revises and modernises safety reporting requirements, clarifies definitions in the act to bring regulatory certainty to both the gas industry and the regulator and introduces a new framework for managing an operating plant that has been abandoned. A regulatory framework that is effective and up to date assists in meeting industry and community expectations for competent safety regulators. The explosives and gas safety amendments in this bill achieve another milestone by the government to ensure Queensland's resources safety legislation is contemporary and effective.

Amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 are proposed to address minor issues in the overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas. These amendments are technical and non-controversial. The bill also makes a range of minor amendments to operational and technical provisions in each of the amended acts. These changes will ensure the state's statute book remains up to date, effective and reflects contemporary drafting practices. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (12.44 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

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

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (12.44 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): The message from His Excellency recommends the Plumbing and Drainage Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

PLUMBING AND DRAINAGE BILL 2017

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled—

A Bill for an Act about plumbing and drainage, and the licensing of plumbers and drainers, and to amend this Act, the Planning Act 2016, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 and the Acts mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 10 October 2017

Tabled paper: Message, dated 10 October 2017, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017 [[1970](#)].

Introduction

Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (12.45 pm): I present a bill for an act about plumbing and drainage, and the licensing of plumbers and drainers, and to amend this act, the Planning Act 2016, the Queensland Building and

Construction Commission Act 1991 and the acts mentioned in schedule 2 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Public Works and Utilities Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017 [1971].

Tabled paper: Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017, explanatory notes [1972].

I am indeed pleased to introduce the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017. This bill complements the Palaszczuk government's commitment to restore high standards in Queensland's plumbing industry. It will deliver a contemporary suite of laws that will meet industry and community expectations over the next decade and provide for the establishment of a mechanical services licence, including medical gas. This bill represents the third instalment of legislative reforms arising out of the Queensland Building Plan. Most of us only ever think about plumbing when something goes wrong. As a result, we tend to sometimes underestimate the critical role our plumbing laws play in protecting public health and safety and, of course, our environment.

Our community has safe water and sanitation services because of the dedication of our licensed plumbers and drainers who install and maintain these critical services. People expect the water that comes out of their kitchen tap and the plumbing in their bathroom and toilet to be safe and reliable—and so they should. As we move around our cities, going in and out of the buildings found in our urban areas, Queenslanders expect air-conditioning services simply to keep them comfortable and never to pose a threat to their safety. They have that expectation because of professional standards achieved by our air-conditioning industry.

Some of the most critical times of our lives are when loved ones are in hospital. Without knowing it, at that time we rely on the skills of professional gasfitters. These are the people who ensure things like lifesaving oxygen and anaesthesia are safely delivered to the surgical theatre and the recovery ward. This is something Queenslanders often take for granted. Our aim is to keep it that way.

The new Plumbing and Drainage Bill will deliver a streamlined and contemporary regulatory framework that reduces red tape. It will deliver savings of time and money for people building a home. It will deliver a contemporary and consistent penalty framework for offences and it will deliver increased protections for consumers when purchasing and having plumbing products installed. The bill also amends the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 to establish a new mechanical services licence.

The Palaszczuk government, a consultative government, went to industry and asked them what they wanted—and we listened. We listened when industry told us the laws, regulations and codes that they were using were cumbersome and out of date. We listened when industry told us that the current plumbing laws were not keeping pace with innovation in building materials, technologies and methods. We listened to concerns about the WaterMark scheme allowing unlicensed plumbing work in completed bathrooms when they are craned into new buildings. Most importantly, we listened when the community told us that health and safety should not be compromised.

Turning to the key plumbing amendments, this bill promotes good governance, which—and this may come as a surprise to those opposite—is the cornerstone of a good government. Our plumbing reforms will promote savings in cost and time by reducing time frames for approving permits to commence certain plumbing work. Most home owners will be able to fast-track their applications and obtain a permit to start work in just two business days, reduced from the current 20 business days. The time frames for more complex projects, such as multi-unit residential and commercial buildings, will be halved from 20 business days down to 10 business days.

Faster approvals mean faster construction. If you can start sooner, you can finish the job sooner and move on to the next job. Queensland home owners could save an estimated \$640 in holding costs for a \$255,000 block, by being able to commence plumbing work 18 days earlier. However, Queenslanders can rest assured that there will be no reduction in standards. There are no changes to the inspection process and all permit work will continue to be inspected by local government.

Over the past 15 years, the act has been amended by 33 separate bills, causing the act to grow increasingly in size and complexity. Therefore, it is little wonder that industry supported taking a good hard look at the current laws. In response to that feedback, our plumbing laws have been completely rewritten. Standard terminology, time frames and administrative processes have been adopted to improve readability and make the new plumbing laws easier to understand. The bill also provides greater deterrents for breaches of our important plumbing laws. There are increased penalties for unlicensed plumbing work and for offences that endanger health and safety.

The bill establishes a new licence for mechanical services and medical gas work. Mechanical services work includes the construction, installation, replacement, repair, alteration, maintenance, testing or commissioning of a mechanical heating or cooling system in a building. It includes work associated with a medical gas system and incidental design work. The licence will regulate mechanical services work in large or public buildings used by the general public and community such as hospitals, shopping centres, office blocks and other commercial buildings, residential apartment blocks and entertainment complexes, including aquaria. The licence will not have an impact on ordinary home owners. It will not cover class 1a buildings meaning a single dwelling, for example, a detached house, townhouse or villa or class 10 buildings meaning a non-habitable building or structure, for example, a garage or shed. The licence has been designed to have no impact on our energy and resources industry and other industries such as manufacturing and processing.

The bill establishes exclusions from mechanical services work. This includes the installation of a single-head split system, gas work regulated under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety Act) 2004 or the manufacture of pipe or ducting. Poorly performed mechanical services work has the potential to cause significant health and safety issues in the community. Members of this place are well aware of the danger posed by legionella in commercial air-conditioning systems.

In addition to dealing with public health risks such as legionnaire's disease in air-conditioning systems, the new mechanical services licence will address the serious risks posed by noncompliant medical gas installations. Members will recall the tragic incidents in 2016 at a New South Wales hospital, where one infant died and another tragically suffered permanent brain damage after being mistakenly administered nitrous oxide. It was later discovered that the medical gas system had been incorrectly installed. The loss suffered by those families is unimaginable and unfathomable.

The changes will introduce formal qualifications and licensing requirements for medical gas work in Queensland to ensure that this work is performed by individuals who are suitably qualified. The new mechanical services licence will be administered by the Queensland Building and Construction Commission as part of its ordinary business as Queensland's building industry regulator. There will be a period of transition before the new mechanical services licence commences. The transitional period will allow people who are currently working unlicensed, including under the employment of a contractor licensee, to complete the necessary qualifications or demonstrate that they have the appropriate skills and experience to obtain a licence. This will allow industry time to prepare for the changes and to transition to a new class of licence with limited disruption.

I take this opportunity to table a draft of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Mechanical Services Licence) Amendment Regulation 2017. The draft regulation sets out the detail of the licence, including the proposed classes of medical gas, air conditioning and refrigeration unlimited design, air conditioning and refrigeration limited design, and plumbing, as well as the scope of work for each class.

Tabled paper: Queensland Building and Construction Commission (Mechanical Services Licence) Amendment Regulation 2017—tabled draft—October 2017 [[1976](#)].

Amendments in the bill will also ensure the safety and integrity of plumbing products, including those certified under the national WaterMark Scheme, that are installed in our homes, our places of work and local shopping centres, for instance. The bill complements the government's nonconforming building product laws. It provides the ability for government to act swiftly to prohibit WaterMark products, whether it be a kitchen mixer tap or a prefabricated bathroom module, where they are considered to be defective, not fit for purpose or pose a public health risk.

The Palaszczuk government has engaged in true consultation with industry and the community, and I am particularly proud of that. From the boardroom to the local pub, we listened to feedback that has shaped the reform and refined the bill. I take this opportunity to commend and highlight the commitment and passion shown by so many members of the plumbing family.

In conclusion, the reforms in the bill are responsive to the needs of businesses, small and large. The bill will safeguard the health of our community and protect our environment. Finally, it provides a licensing regime to deliver the safest mechanical services installations in the country. 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) (12.56 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

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. M FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.56 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Crawford): The message recommends the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (COUNCILLOR COMPLAINTS) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the Local Government Act 2009 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes

(sgd)

GOVERNOR

Date: 10 October 2017

Tabled paper. Message, dated 10 October 2017, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 [\[1973\]](#).

Introduction

Hon. M FURNER (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (12.56 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Local Government Act 2009 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to examine the bill.

Tabled paper. Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 [\[1974\]](#).

Tabled paper. Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, explanatory notes [\[1975\]](#).

During my first eight months as Minister for Local Government, I had the privilege of visiting many local communities across the state and meeting with their elected representatives. Through those meetings with councillors, mayors and their local communities, I know firsthand that the majority of elected representatives are doing exceptional work in the best interests of their constituents. Councillors and mayors know that, as elected officials, they hold a position of trust. They are trusted by their communities to serve in the best interests of their electors and ethically perform the functions of their office. To support elected representatives in maintaining the highest possible standards of legal and ethical behaviour, the Palaszczuk government has made a commitment to strengthen the transparency and accountability of local government in Queensland. We have implemented a suite of changes as part of our rolling reform agenda to local government, including changing the candidate donation disclosure threshold to \$500 and introducing real-time donation reporting.

In July this year, during the budget estimates hearing for my portfolio of Local Government, I tabled the Councillor Complaints Review Panel report titled *Councillor complaints review: a fair, effective and efficient framework* and the Queensland government's response to it. The review was commissioned by the Palaszczuk Labor government and conducted by an independent three-person panel comprised of former Integrity Commissioner Dr David Solomon, former CEO of the Logan City

Council Gary Kellar and former Noosa Shire Council mayor Noel Playford. I thank the panel for their expert and comprehensive review of the councillor complaints policy and procedures. The review follows concerns raised by the Local Government Managers Australia (Queensland) Incorporated about the role of chief executive officers in the management of complaints and changes sought by the Local Government Association of Queensland in the way in which complaints are dealt with under the act, including the inability to seek a review of decisions and the need to ensure that natural justice is afforded to all parties.

The Palaszczuk government's response to the councillor complaints report supported the majority of the 60 recommendations for change to develop a streamlined new system for making, investigating and determining complaints about councillor conduct in Queensland. These reforms have been met with support from local governments and their peak representative bodies, which recognise the need for reform to deliver an improved, more efficient, consistent and transparent framework for councillor conduct complaints.

To implement the review panel's recommendations, the bill introduces a comprehensive suite of reforms for the investigation and determination of councillor conduct complaints in Queensland. The bill introduces the Independent Assessor to investigate and consider all complaints against councillors. The Independent Assessor will have the appropriately qualified investigatory powers to provide for an efficient, effective and consistent investigation of a complaint. This will provide for increased transparency and objectivity in the process, by requiring an investigation to be conducted by an independent body, as opposed to CEOs of local governments or the department. Under the new model the Independent Assessor will now be able to deal with frivolous, vexatious or out-of-time complaints.

The bill establishes the Councillor Conduct Tribunal and the Local Government Remuneration Commission. This clearly separates the responsibilities of the Local Government Remuneration and Discipline Tribunal and replaces the current Regional Conduct Review Panels, providing for the more efficient determination of a complaint. The Councillor Conduct Tribunal will hear and impose disciplinary orders for misconduct matters, while the Local Government Remuneration Commission will deal with the maximum amount of remuneration that is payable to local government representatives.

Allegations of corrupt conduct will still be actioned by the Crime and Corruption Commission. The bill introduces the concept of unsuitable meeting conduct and clearly defines inappropriate conduct and misconduct to set clear behavioural obligations for elected representatives. It provides for the development of a new compulsory code of conduct, to be approved by regulation, to hold councillors to high standards of legal and ethical behaviour.

The introduction of a compulsory code of conduct will bring councillors in line with members of parliament, local government employees and state government employees, all of whom operate under a code of conduct. This will provide for increased consistency across the sector and transparency over the standards of behaviour that are expected. The bill provides for new and strengthened penalties within the legislation to: discourage frivolous or improper complaints; preserve the confidentiality of an investigation; and deter a councillor from taking reprisal against an employee or former councillor for making a complaint.

Amendments are not proposed to the City of Brisbane Act 2010 at this time. However, the government will review the new framework and assess whether it will be beneficial to align the City of Brisbane Act 2010 with the new process within six months of commencement of the bill. The Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning will work in partnership with local governments and the new Local Government Liaison Group to roll out and implement the new framework for anticipated commencement on 1 July 2018.

A number of recent matters have arisen that have had a cumulative impact on the public perception of integrity and accountability in local government in Queensland. In December 2015 the Crime and Corruption Commission report titled *Transparency and accountability in local government* was tabled, which recommended a series of changes to provide for increased transparency and accountability in local government in Queensland. In response to that report this government progressed the first stage of legislative amendments and introduced Australia's first real-time electronic donation disclosure system to ensure that Queenslanders are fully informed when they go to the polls.

These reforms are the second stage of comprehensive legislative changes to address the issues underlying the councillor complaints system to ensure that public confidence and trust in the system is restored. The Palaszczuk government made a commitment to strengthen the transparency and accountability of local government in Queensland and this bill delivers on this commitment. Integrity

and accountability are the cornerstone of the democratic process and these reforms are part of a comprehensive suite of changes aimed at giving Queenslanders increased confidence in their local government representatives.

Rest assured, the Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to do what is necessary to strengthen the transparency and accountability of local government in Queensland and ensure that the system in place supports hardworking elected representatives to do what they are elected to do. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. M FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Local Government and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (1.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

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

Sitting suspended from 1.04 pm to 2.35 pm.

UNIVERSITY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 23 May (see p. 1250).

Second Reading

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (2.35 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I rise to speak in the resumption of the debate on the University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. On 7 August 2017 the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee tabled its report on the bill. I would like to thank all members of the committee for their detailed consideration of the bill. I note that the committee's inquiry into the bill included a public briefing by the Department of Education and Training, an invitation for public submissions and a public hearing. I take this opportunity to thank stakeholders who provided submissions to the committee. The committee made a single recommendation that the bill be passed. I thank all members of the committee for their support of the bill. I table the Queensland government's response to the report.

Tabled paper: Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 38—University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017, government response [\[1977\]](#).

The bill amends the establishing legislation of Queensland's seven public universities—Central Queensland University, Griffith University, James Cook University, the Queensland University of Technology, the University of Queensland, the University of the Sunshine Coast and the University of Southern Queensland. These universities are established as statutory bodies under their own university acts. As statutory bodies, the Queensland government is responsible for overseeing the financial reporting and corporate governance of these entities.

The bill removes the capacity for universities to develop statutes; requires universities to have a policy for the election of staff and student representatives on university governing bodies; removes some of the limitations on the delegation of powers and functions of university governing bodies; modernises the provisions in the university acts that ensure the integrity of the membership of the governing body; and makes technical amendments relevant to some universities.

The bill also implements governance reforms advocated for the James Cook University with the support of local community and the local representatives from Townsville who represent the Townsville community in this House. They have all approached me about providing this support to the largest employer in their local community. The reforms provide for changes to the size and composition of the

JCU council. The government is seeking to progress these reforms for JCU because we accept that the existing governance requirements of the JCU Act make it difficult to ensure that the council has the right balance of skills, expertise and diversity.

I acknowledge the concerns of the National Tertiary Education Union—and I have met with them—regarding the number of students and staff representatives on governing bodies and the need to ensure that students and staff have a strong voice. The Palaszczuk government expects university governance arrangements to be transparent, accountable and based on engagement with staff and students. We, like the NTEU, recognise the need for elected students and staff representatives to be engaged in university decision-making.

For JCU the bill proposes a governance model which ensures an appropriate balance across membership categories while including safeguards that ensure that reforms are carefully considered by governing bodies. The bill requires that any reform to the current governance arrangements will need to be supported by a two-thirds majority of members, including the elected staff and student members. It is so strange: I am never listened to in silence in this House. I always have blokes yelling at me. You can start, Jarrod. I will feel more comfortable.

The bill also ensures that there will always be at least 25 per cent elected staff and student members on the council. Other universities may wish to consider whether these reforms would be appropriate for their institutions. However, governance reforms will not automatically be implemented at other Queensland universities. They will be expected to undertake genuine consultation with their university community including staff, students and unions to determine whether governance reforms have the broader support of their community. For some universities, the status quo may be the optimum arrangement and, indeed, I have had some universities advise me so. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (2.39 pm): I rise to speak to the University Legislation Amendment Bill. In Queensland we have seven great public universities: the University of Queensland, Queensland University of Technology, James Cook University, Griffith University, Central Queensland University, the University of the Sunshine Coast, and the University of Southern Queensland—all of which were established by legislation.

As a result of the transfer of regulatory responsibility to the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency and in response to issues raised by universities, the Department of Education and Training undertook a review of the university acts. The purpose of the review was to identify ways to reduce the regulatory burden on universities, to modernise the legislative framework and to improve governance arrangements. Before I turn to the specifics of the bill, I would like to briefly touch on the role of universities and the important part they play on the education continuum.

Back in 2008 the Commonwealth conducted its own review of universities to understand the future of the higher education sector. This review looked at universities and their ability to meet the needs of Australia's economy going forward. No-one can doubt the economic value our universities bring to Australia and Queensland. In 2015 Universities Australia engaged Deloitte Access Economics to look at the economic value of universities. The report found—

As institutions, universities embody social, economic and intellectual resources which combine to generate benefits on a local, national and global scale. They equip students with the knowledge and skills that allow them to make greater contributions to society; they generate and disseminate knowledge which enhances productivity and improves living standards; and they provide a myriad of broader community benefits.

The same report went on to say—

Australia's university sector directly employs over 120,000 staff and supports the delivery of education to over one million students. The operations of the university sector generate significant contributions to Australia's economic output and national income.

- The sector contributed around \$25 billion to the Australian economy both directly and indirectly in 2013, accounting for over 1.5% of Australia's GDP and 160,000 fulltime equivalent (FTE) jobs.
- In 2014-15, education related exports accounted for 5.7% of Australia's total exports, representing the largest service export and the third largest export category overall. Higher education is the single biggest contributor to this, representing around two-thirds of the total value.

Deloitte also noted—

It is well established that university graduates achieve higher labour force outcomes than those with lower order qualifications—employment rates are higher, average hours worked are higher and, most significantly, lifetime earnings are higher.

That brings us to the genesis of the bill today. The Bradley review recommended, among other things, the establishment of an independent national regulatory body responsible for regulating all tertiary education in Australia. Ensuring our universities maintain the highest standards and have a streamlined regulatory framework to operate in makes perfect sense. Considering many universities now operate in various states, it makes sense. With the change to a single national regulatory framework, as a state we need to ensure that what overarching legislation we have for the universities based here in Queensland does not put them at a disadvantage to other universities in other states. As I will now explain, the bill seeks to implement amendments identified during a subsequent review of Queensland's laws.

There are six policy objectives of the bill. The first objective is in relation to university statutes. The explanatory notes state—

All universities have the power to make statutes for a range of matters listed in their establishing Acts. Matters that may be provided for by a university statute include, for example: admission and enrolment of students; student discipline; the process for election of elected members to the university governing body; and making and publishing of university rules.

However, there was recognition that there has been a decline in the use of statutes in recent times. The bill proposes to 'remove the power for Queensland's public universities to make statutes, instead allowing them to rely on administrative documents such as policies or guidelines'.

The second objective is to require universities to have a policy for the election of staff and student representatives on university governing bodies. To ensure the integrity of the election of members to university governing bodies, including staff and student representatives, the bill proposes to require universities to adopt an election policy. Each university will be required to develop and publish a policy on their website about the conduct of elections and what is to be included in the election policy. It will also require universities to prescribe who is eligible to vote and may include requirements about voting eligibility. It is noted that, in their submission, UQ indicated that the election process may inhibit their ability to target specific skills and expertise of members to progress the strategic direction of their university.

The third objective is to remove certain limitations on the delegation of powers and functions by university governing bodies. The bill removes the restrictions in university acts that limit the ability for governing bodies to delegate decisions to spend funds that are available to the university by way of bequest, donation or special grant. All universities who submitted to the committee supported the changes proposed in the bill.

The bill amends the current delegation powers within the acts in relation to the expenditure of funds obtained through special grants, donations and bequests. This means that the vice-chancellor of a university will now be able to subdelegate to appropriate professional staff the power to spend funds within the approved annual budget set by the governing body. This would be in line with pre-approved expenditure, and the governing body retains ultimate accountability and oversight of the subdelegated powers. The financial management of these funds are subject to compliance under accounting standards and financial management standards.

The fourth objective seeks to improve the integrity of the membership of university governing bodies. The university acts provide guidance around eligibility for membership of a university governing body. This would include if the person has been convicted of an offence or disqualified from managing corporations under the Corporations Act. The current act also allows the minister and the university's governing body, in determining a person's suitability for membership, to obtain a person's criminal history record. However, it does not prescribe that a person disclose any subsequent changes that would disqualify them.

The new provisions will now require members to give notice if they are disqualified under the Corporations Act or convicted of an indictable offence. The bill amends the definition of 'indictable offence' in order to align it with all other statutory bodies in the Education and Training portfolio. The explanatory notes state that this change of definition will be an appropriate test for ensuring the integrity of appointments to the governing body. Any information, however, with respect to a person's criminal history or disqualification under the Corporations Act is to be considered confidential.

The fifth objective seeks to implement governance reforms for James Cook University. One of the great challenges of regional universities is to ensure that their governing body has members with the right corporate knowledge, skills and expertise to bring to the table. It is not surprising that as part of the review process this was raised as an issue. JCU articulated these challenges and was invited to develop a new governance structure for consideration, and the minister spoke about the process around that.

The proposal put forward by JCU allows the university to have flexibility to ensure that the governing body has the right mix of members to provide strategic leadership. The LNP supports the decision to accept JCU's governance reforms and the invitation to other universities in similar circumstances to propose any changes in their governance structure for future consideration by government provided that they have been to their local university community and spoken to those stakeholders who would be impacted by the change of the governance structure.

I do note, though, that the University of Queensland in its submission states that the proposed changes put forward by the JCU in its model do not go far enough. I would be interested to hear from the minister if further consideration is given to the submission by the UQ on how the size and composition is settled, given that JCU is a much smaller university than the UQ. Finally, the bill makes some technical amendments relevant to some universities.

The LNP accepts the recommendations of the committee that this bill be passed. In closing, I thank the members of the committee for their consideration of the bill, particularly the work of the LNP members—the member for Broadwater, the member for Albert and the member for Hervey Bay—because, as members of an LNP team, we acknowledge the very important role that universities play in providing social, economic and intellectual benefits to Queensland.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (3.50 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 and as chair of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee whose responsibility it was to interrogate and scrutinise the bill before reporting back to the House. Firstly, I would like to thank all those who contributed their views to the bill either through their submissions or through their appearance at public hearings or both—specifically, the NTEU, or National Tertiary Education Union, the many universities across the state and Mr Bill Tweddell, Chancellor of James Cook University. I acknowledge the work of committee members on both sides of the House and also the secretariat staff for their work on this bill.

We have heard the minister speak about the objectives of the bill. I would like to focus my speech today on the part of the bill which addresses James Cook University governance reforms. James Cook University, or JCU, is Queensland's second oldest university, established in 1970 and opened by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in that same year. As the largest university in north Australia, JCU's student population is around 23,000 students, of whom 7,500 are international students who are attracted to three different campuses across two different countries under one university. There have been some very notable leaders and alumni including members of this House—the Treasurer, Curtis Pitt, and the member for Cleveland, Mark Robinson—but none more memorable than groundsman Eddie Koiki Mabo, Indigenous leader and activist.

The justification of the changes to the governance reforms is a result of the university's wideranging consultation, which is explained in the explanatory notes as follows—

JCU has advised that the governance structure prescribed in the JCU Act makes it difficult for the JCU Council to ensure it has the appropriate balance of skills, experience, expertise and corporate knowledge necessary to provide strategic leadership to the university.

Of the public universities, the JCU council has the equal largest number of members, the greatest number of elected members and the lowest number of council appointed members, or additional members. Currently under the JCU Act there is provision for a 22-member council. The changes proposed under the bill are as follows: council must have at least 11 and no more than 21 members; official members, two or three—chancellor, vice-chancellor and chairperson of the academic board—or two only if the vice-chancellor is also the chairperson of the academic board; appointed by Governor in Council, at least three members but not more than six; additional members appointed by the council, at least three but not more than six, additional members must not be university staff or students, and at least two must be graduates of the university; and elected members, at least three or 25 per cent of the total number of members of the council, whichever is the greater, but not more than six elected members. There must be at least one member of each class of elected members, which new section 22F specifies as academic staff, professional and technical staff, and students. The number of elected members who are staff must be greater than the number of elected students.

The proposed governance structure would reduce the number of elected members and Governor in Council appointments and increase the number of members appointed by the JCU council. Elected members would decrease from 10 to between three and six and Governor in Council appointments from eight to between three and six. The additional members appointed by the council would increase from one to between three and six.

During the public hearing we heard from JCU chancellor, Bill Tweddell, who stated—

The proposed model provides the wonderful flexibility that the university is after to ensure it gets the optimum chance of providing good governance across the university through quite a great balance across the stakeholder groups and giving the university that flexibility of between three and six people that it can appoint to meet all of these desired objectives in terms of skills, geographical representation and gender equity and end up with a diverse membership which suits the needs and helps us meet our objectives.

The QCU and the NTEU were concerned about potential reductions in elected members. The NTEU submitted that elected members should represent at least 33 per cent of the governing body's total members to ensure accountability. During the public hearing the NTEU stated—

Elected staff representatives are those best placed to challenge the insertions of senior management and hold their decisions to scrutiny. Someone who is appointed by the vice-chancellor is unlikely to question the vice-chancellor. There is no need for the changes proposed to the size and composition of governing bodies and our members oppose those changes.

When comparing governance models across a broad range of universities, elected members constitute between 20 and 45 per cent of the council. The department also noted under the current university acts that all members, irrespective of whether they are nominated by Governor in Council, appointed by the governing body or elected by the greater university community must act in the best interests of the university and do not represent a constituency or the government.

In 2008 the federal government initiated a review, known as the Bradley review, to examine and report on the future direction of the higher education sector, its ability to meet the needs of the community and the economy, and to identify options for reform. When we look at the composition of the current JCU council and reference that back to the community and clients it serves across two countries, Singapore and Australia, with three different campuses including Cairns and Townsville, we see that this is a unique set of circumstances that needs effectiveness and efficiency to meet the needs of an increasing, changing tertiary education climate. These changes will equip the JCU council with the ability to create a council with specific skill sets across a range of geographic locations with a balance between gender, ethnicity, industry, student and staff to drive the future of tertiary education for the largest university in north Australia. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.57 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate of the University Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset I thank my fellow members of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee and the secretariat for the work they have done in helping our committee pull together its report. I would like to place on record my acknowledgement of the Department of Education and Training for the briefing it provided. I also thank those who made written submissions and those who appeared as witnesses before the committee.

The minister, the shadow minister and the chair of the committee have well canvassed the policy objectives of the bill, but I want to touch on a couple in particular. One of the objectives that I want to talk about is the requirement that universities have a policy for the election of staff and student representatives on university governing bodies. This is particularly important given that we have removed the capacity for universities to make statutes and they need to ensure they have policies in place.

When we were taking evidence, the representatives of the James Cook University were talking about their most recent elections. At the last election less than three per cent of eligible students had participated in the election and less than five per cent of eligible staff. Given that there are students and staff who are choosing representatives of their own bodies to sit on these governing bodies, I think it is incumbent on all tertiary institutions—and JCU acknowledged that there is a role for them and other institutions to play—to make sure that staff and students are aware they have an opportunity to vote. They should be encouraged to participate in student election processes.

Often we see on university campuses, particularly at the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology, that when it comes to student council elections students very happily participate in the process. They support tickets and they support teams and organisations that they are keen to get behind. We just have not seen that translate into students being active and participating in the election of their representatives to the governing bodies and, equally, we have not seen that in staff. I think it would be a really good thing if we could see tertiary institutions across Queensland make an active effort to try to increase the participation. I think we could all agree that participation in democracy and the right to vote is an absolutely fantastic thing.

Another thing I want to briefly touch on is the governance reforms for James Cook University. I will not go through the detail of those because the member for Townsville as the local member for that area has gone through them in quite some detail. I think it is important that James Cook University as

an institution had the opportunity to put together these reforms themselves. They are aware of what is going to work best for them. The nature of their location in Northern Queensland and having campuses overseas present them with challenges that are going to be unique to James Cook University that we might not necessarily see at the University of Queensland or QUT, for example, when it comes to attracting people close by who have the flexibility and the freedom to be able to freely participate. I think it is important that as an entity JCU was given the chance not only to develop these but to run their own consultation. Like the shadow minister, I will be supporting the changes for James Cook University that we have seen in the bill.

The other thing I would quickly touch on is the issues that were raised by the National Tertiary Education Union. The concerns that they had were about the student and staff composition on the governing bodies. They did not necessarily believe that universities should be operating like businesses. They also said that there was no evidence that smaller governing bodies would improve flexibility. Ultimately, when it comes to how we establish these governing bodies we need to be able to let universities do what it is they do best, and that is attract students from not only across Queensland and Australia but increasingly from across the globe and provide them with a quality education so that they can go out and make their own decisions about what they want to do with their career knowing that they have quality academic qualifications behind them.

In their submission the NTEU was concerned that smaller governing bodies ultimately do not result in better decision-making. Peter Høj, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Queensland, talked about how ultimately he thought that the sweet spot for the size of a governing body would be 12 to 16 people, which is smaller than what they currently have. I did think it was interesting that the representative of the divisional council of the NTEU in Queensland himself acknowledged it is actually a body of 16 people. The NTEU think it is okay for them to have a decision-making governing body of 16 people but not universities, which I thought was a little ironic.

As I said, I will not go through all of the detail of the bill because I think both the shadow minister and the chair of the committee have done so in quite some detail. I will be supporting the passage of this bill.

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (3.03 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the bill which seeks to amend the Central Queensland University Act, the Griffith University Act, the James Cook University Act, the Queensland University of Technology Act, the University of Queensland Act, the University of Southern Queensland Act and the University of the Sunshine Coast Act as introduced by the Hon. Kate Jones, Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games. As a member of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee, I thank the other members of the committee for their diligence in the consideration of this bill that received unanimous consensus to pass.

The seven statutory body universities make a significant contribution to this state through their excellent research and providing higher education courses to domestic and international students. They operate under their own act and the Queensland government is responsible for overseeing their financial reporting and their corporate governance. The Australian government regulates the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency and higher education courses and providers.

This bill implements reforms identified by the review, removing the capacity for universities to make university statutes and replacing them with university policies. Statutes dealt with matters such as membership of the convocation, alumni association, conduct of council elections, the making and notifying of university rules and the publishing of fees. Removing statutes will remove red tape for universities that impacts on students.

The bill ensures that the transparency and accountability of the election of students and staff members to the university governing body is maintained by imposing an obligation on all universities to develop and publish an election policy for the election process. JCU developed a new governance structure in consultation with its university community for consideration by the government. The structure included two or three official members—that is a chancellor and a vice-chancellor—between three and six members appointed by the Governor in Council; plus three to six elected members; and three to six additional members, two of whom must be graduates of the university. The elected members of the council must be at least three, or 25 per cent, of the total number of members on the council and must include at least one elected member of the academic staff, one elected member of the professional and technical staff and one elected student member.

I wish to thank the University of Queensland, James Cook University, the National Tertiary Education Union and the Queensland Council of Unions for attending the public hearing and for their submissions. I will move on to other factors to be addressed. At UQ and JCU it was disappointing that both campuses had suffered limited numbers of candidate nominations to fill positions. Consequently, it is less than desirable, with only 24 per cent female board representation at UQ and no Indigenous representation on the board while there is only 18.5 per cent female representation and no Indigenous representation at JCU. It is extremely disappointing. Yet I draw a correlation to the fact that 60 per cent of students at JCU are female. We also note that only 2.6 per cent of general staff employed at JCU identify as Indigenous.

Some reweighting in gender and cultural representation is paramount. We are assured that the amendments in this bill will allow such imbalance to be addressed. I thank the Palaszczuk government for getting on with the job of restoring faith in our systems. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (3.08 pm): I too rise to make a short contribution to the debate of the University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. As always, I like to thank my fellow committee members, the committee staff and all those who participated in the hearings—those who turned up on the day to speak and to give their opinions on the matters.

Queensland has a reputation of being second to none when it comes to higher education. Our universities are certainly internationally renowned. As a former Griffith University student all those years ago, I like many other former Griffith University students in this chamber have fond memories of my days in the higher education sector. I certainly enjoyed those days. Over the years I have been performing this role I have seen some major changes, especially for Griffith University on the Gold Coast. There has been a massive amount of development around the campus there. I notice they have received a lot of focus down there compared to the Nathan campus in the Mount Gravatt area.

Obviously, Griffith University is not the only university in this wonderful state of ours. There are six others: the University of Queensland, the Queensland University of Technology, James Cook University, CQUniversity, University of the Sunshine Coast and the University of Southern Queensland. This bill amends how universities deal with the funds they receive through donations or special grants through the removal of restrictions that limit the ability of university governing bodies to delegate decisions about the expenditure of these funds. The bill also allows the vice-chancellor to subdelegate powers to an appropriately qualified member of the university's staff. This change was welcomed by the universities themselves. Having said that, this change did cause some concern to the National Tertiary Education Union, as they believe that subdelegation should be controlled by the governing body for transparency; however, the department stated that it is a matter for the university's governing body to decide how these delegation powers should be monitored and reported. The NTEU also expressed concern about proposed reforms to the JCU council. They felt that empowering the governing body to determine its own size and composition would reduce accountability and concentrate power in the executive.

This bill also makes changes to ensure that members of the governing body disclose convictions whilst holding a position on the governing body, not just before their appointment to the governing body. There are also amendments to ensure that the disclosure of information about disqualification is destroyed as soon as possible after it is no longer needed. This brings the university acts in line with other standard requirements when it comes to education and training et cetera. There are other minor and technical amendments in the bill which enable the chancellor to continue in the role whilst absent from duty if they are interstate, for example, which is pretty easy to do with modern technology these days. There are proposed changes to the UQ academic board to extend the appointment of the president from one to three years. The bill clarifies that a person is ineligible to be elected or appointed to the governing body for more than 12 years. As I said, I have kept my contribution very brief.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (3.12 pm): I rise as a member of the Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee to make a contribution to the debate on the University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. I would like to thank the members of the committee, the chair and the deputy chair. It was very interesting to be on the committee and hear all of the participants and stakeholders who were involved with the legislation. During the public hearing I made the comment that I thought maybe universities were becoming like old boys' clubs. I was a bit concerned about the remuneration of some people at universities and the gender imbalance, but other than that this is a good bill for the House. It will make the running of universities throughout Queensland much better.

The University of the Sunshine Coast has done a marvellous job of expanding the campus in Hervey Bay, which covers the Fraser Coast. The USC is really going gangbusters and they are introducing new courses to the Fraser Coast that were not previously available. This keeps young people on the Fraser Coast so they do not have to travel away to attend university. It keeps them at home so they can get part-time work and study. It is great that the USC is partnering with one of the great high schools where TJ Ryan taught: Maryborough State High School. The high school will work in partnership with the university so that young people can start their pathway to university through Maryborough State High School. I congratulate the principal, Simon Done, on working with the USC to make sure this comes to fruition so that we can lift the education and living standards of the residents of the Fraser Coast, particularly Maryborough, because an education enables people to go out and get better paying jobs. One thing that I love about universities is that degrees are transportable. You can work all around the world with a university degree. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.15 pm): It gives me great pleasure to make a short contribution to the debate of the University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The bill removes the capacity for universities to make statutes; requires universities to have a policy for the election of staff and student representatives; removes certain limitations; improves the integrity of the membership of university governing bodies; implements governance reforms for James Cook University; and makes technical amendments relevant to some universities.

This bill gives me a great opportunity to recognise the excellent work of the Central Queensland University—CQU—in the Central Queensland region. With a campus in Emerald, CQU continues to play a pivotal role in tertiary education in our region. I would like to especially mention Blake Repine, who is the new associate vice-chancellor for the Central Highlands region. Blake is responsible for identifying, developing and leading strategic growth opportunities for CQUniversity within the Central Highlands region. One the areas that he really wants to get involved in, and something that I am happy to help him with—he has my full support—is CQUniversity getting into agriculture. We have probably one of the best agricultural campuses available for CQU in the Emerald irrigation area and we have great grazing country around the Central Highlands. CQU already offers a Bachelor of Agriculture, which enables students to develop the cutting-edge knowledge and skills that are required for employment in today's technology driven agribusiness, cropping and livestock industries. Students benefit from practical based training that provides the basis for the application of theory. Practical based training in the Central Highlands is very important. We have one of the best opportunities for CQU to participate with the Emerald Agricultural College, which has one of the best irrigation farms in the region, with beautiful soils and access to water. I encourage CQU to continue to provide students with the opportunity to invest and learn in agriculture through a Bachelor of Agriculture. There is a Diploma of Agriculture in the first year that also fits in neatly with the Emerald Agricultural College and the Longreach Pastoral College, where students who may want to get into agriculture and dip their toe in the water can continue on to fulfil a degree in agriculture through the Central Queensland University, so I think that is fantastic.

I am glad that the Minister for Health is here, because he too would understand that the Bachelor of Nursing at CQU is important to ensure more nurses in western and regional Queensland. Blake Repine, along with the QCU board and the chancellor, is looking to invest in health for the bush, because if our nurses come from the bush they are more likely to go back into regional areas and they play a critical role. I congratulate CQU on that initiative.

I congratulate the James Cook University for their fantastic effort and desire to ensure that their medical faculty is also placed in regional and rural Queensland. The six-year undergraduate program is geared to make sure that it attracts applicants from rural, remote and Indigenous Queensland while also targeting recruitment at local high schools. As I said, if we can grab medical students from towns such as Longreach, Emerald, Yaraka or Stonehenge, whether they are studying medicine, nursing or allied health, they are likely to go back there to ply their trade once they finish their degree, and I think that is incredibly important.

What is really impressive is the new James Cook University clinical teaching facility in Longreach, which is designed to bring top-quality training and telehealth services. The facility in Longreach Hospital is a collaboration between JCU's Mount Isa Centre for Rural and Remote Health, which does excellent work in outback Queensland, and the Central West Health and Hospital Service. The building has been fitted out with state-of-the-art technology to enable audiovisual teleconferencing and remote training so we can have that training on the ground. It is used by everyone from undergraduates to people going through our GP registrar program. I think that is fantastic as it means doctors, nurses and allied health workers will not have to leave Longreach or the central west to get extra training. Basically, we are

bringing the trainers to the west, which means a huge difference to the town. The centre will expand the region's capacity to host clinical students, including medical students, as well as support ongoing clinical training for the existing workforce.

The central west health board has donated both the relocated building and its site. The new facility is operational after recently receiving a \$90,000 grant from the Commonwealth. It is also important to note that the new building has complemented JCU's 10-bed student accommodation at the Longreach Hospital campus.

We are starting to get some real opportunities and objectives into rural health in Western Queensland. That is thanks to James Cook University and its commitment to the medical faculty and to CQU, which, with its nurse degree, will be able to look at some placements in the Central Highlands. I have also received some interest from the Blackall-Tambo area. They are looking to participate in something similar to that with either CQU or JCU. I think it is fantastic that we have two proactive universities in regional Queensland which make a significant contribution to regional Queensland.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (3.21 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in support of the University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. I speak today about what the bill will mean for James Cook University and its staff and students. JCU is such a vital part of our Townsville community. The students and academics it attracts bring people of all skills and backgrounds to our patch in North Queensland. It is also a university that gives our young people the opportunity to stay at home and learn at a world-class facility, rather than have to travel south for further education. I know that JCU undertook extensive consultation across different campuses and stakeholders to develop a governance model as enshrined in the bill. I am hugely supportive of this bill as it will make it easier for JCU to achieve the right balance of expertise and diversity on its council.

I believe that this bill will enhance the council's ability to provide strategic leadership to the university. A flexible governance arrangement for the JCU council will also help the state government and JCU to achieve gender equality targets. I am also pleased that any changes to the governance structure will require the agreement of two-thirds of the JCU council. This will be a good check and balance to the new flexibility introduced by the bill. Other universities in New South Wales and Victoria have moved to similar flexible governance structures, and these have resulted in councils of various sizes, with the average in New South Wales being 17 council members and 14 council members in Victoria. I look forward to the changes coming in and what they will mean for JCU and its staff and students and look forward to what the university will be able to achieve with this change. For that reason I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (3.22 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. The policy objectives of the bill are to remove the capacity for universities to make statutes; require universities to have a policy for the election of staff and student representatives on university governing bodies; remove certain limitations on the delegation of powers and functions by university governing bodies; improve the integrity of the membership of university governing bodies; implement governance reforms for James Cook University; and make technical amendments relevant to some universities.

The seven public universities in Queensland are established under their own acts. I intend to confine my remarks to the proposals to reform the governance arrangements of James Cook University as it is the only institution that has consulted me in relation to the proposed changes to its governing council.

The explanatory notes accompanying the bill state that, during the course of the legislative review of university acts, it was identified that the JCU council apparently faced particular difficulties in ensuring it had the appropriate mix of skills, expertise, experience and corporate knowledge. JCU is presently governed by a 22-member council comprising three official members, eight members appointed by the Governor in Council, 10 elected members and one additional member appointed by the council itself. In comparison to all other Queensland universities, JCU has the equal largest governing body and the greatest number of elected members. The elected members comprise two members of the general staff, three members of the academic staff, one undergraduate student, one postgraduate student, one undergraduate or postgraduate student and two members of the convocation. The JCU council currently has power to appoint only one additional member, which is the lowest number of additional members across all Queensland public universities.

JCU was invited to develop a new governance structure, in consultation with its university community, for consideration by the government. Following consultation with its stakeholders about the proposed governance structure, the JCU council submitted a proposal for reform to the Minister for Education, and the government has supported that structure. As I mentioned earlier, I was involved in that consultation process. I would like to acknowledge the commitment shown by James Cook University to consult with the community, including me, in relation to these proposed changes to the council. I particularly appreciated the opportunity to share my views directly with the chancellor and other senior university officers.

James Cook University is a significant asset to the people of North Queensland. North Queensland communities have a strong attachment to JCU. It is important that the university reciprocate the local community support it receives through a commitment to high standards of governance. North Queenslanders, generally speaking, are proud of JCU, its achievements and its leading role in North Queensland as a centre of excellence in learning and research, particularly in disciplines relating to tropical communities and environments. Although I am not an alumnus of JCU, I have always been very positive about the contribution JCU has made to North Queensland.

I have to say that my perception of JCU has been somewhat challenged in recent times. This in turn has made me somewhat wary of the proposed changes to JCU's council which reduce the number of elected council members representing students, staff and the convocation in favour of more council members appointed by the Governor in Council or by the JCU council itself. For example, the treatment of Professor Peter Ridd by the administrative leadership of JCU last year was particularly regrettable. Outwardly, the action taken against Professor Ridd by JCU appears in conflict with the best traditions of academic inquiry, research and debate. In my opinion, it was a low point for JCU. I have been offered some excuses and some explanations for the actions taken by JCU against Peter Ridd, but they were most unsatisfactory to the point of being feeble.

The fact that JCU sanctioned Peter Ridd and threatened him with dismissal for publicly expressing his divergent views about the health of the Great Barrier Reef and the robustness of the research undertaken by other academics which suggested that the health of the reef was in question was outrageous. However, I also consider that it might be a symptom of a wider problem engulfing the discipline and the integrity of scientific research. Professor Ridd is, in my view, to be congratulated and thanked for speaking out about the health of the Great Barrier Reef at the risk of his employment and reputation, and I deeply regret the manner in which JCU treated Professor Ridd. Far from being censured for failing to act in a collegiate way, Peter Ridd needs to be supported for blowing the whistle on the important issue of quality assurance in scientific data. JCU's intolerance of this alternative view is inconsistent with the best traditions of scientific inquiry and research. I believe in fact that Professor Ridd made a compelling case for increased resources—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! Member for Hinchinbrook, I am conscious of the long title of the bill and ask if you could keep that in mind, please.

Mr CRIPPS: Certainly. Peter Ridd has made a compelling case for increased resources to improve quality assurance on scientific data—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Hinchinbrook, I am wondering if you could point out to me where your particular line of speaking is relevant to the long title of the bill, please.

Mr CRIPPS: Certainly, Madam Deputy Speaker. The bill relates to proposals to change the governance model for James Cook University. The governance model of James Cook University involves the election of representatives of parts of the university community and the way in which the university is governed and administered. I am commenting on certain governance and administrative processes within James Cook University and the relevance to the bill before the House in that regard.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay; thank you. You have the call.

Mr CRIPPS: Thank you very much, Madam Deputy Speaker. I simply cannot believe that a university has these types of disciplinary processes and has taken them against a distinguished academic because it did not like what he was saying. Questions should be asked about the administrative arrangements at a university that could allow this to happen when a tertiary institution like this should surely be a bastion of debate, a haven for the contest of ideas and, at the very least, supportive of free speech.

Very often major decisions of public policy can be made on the strength of scientific research and there is a very good argument in favour of making sure data and analysis is robust. As taxpayers, a lack of robustness could mean very expensive errors being made in the allocation of public finances. Even before Peter Ridd's case came to my attention, I often wondered how many scientists and researchers felt unable to speak out about a range of environmental issues because they were under pressure to accept particular views and outcomes to secure funding or protect their own employment from the institution or government that employed them. As such, I considered the proposed changes to JCU's council with these recent experiences fresh in my mind and I had an adverse reaction to some of them.

This is a proposal to reduce student and staff representation and remove any from amongst those of the university's convocation in favour of increased appointments proposed by the council itself, either directly or through the Governor in Council process. My reaction to this proposal is that the council runs the risk of becoming rather inward looking. Considering that several appointments to the existing council are already to be made via the Governor in Council process, it seems to me that there would be a large proportion of voices on the JCU council that have been appointed rather than provide representation to the various and diverse communities within the university. I think we should let the students and the staff at the university have their say because, quite frankly, there is no university without them. There is no reason the existing Governor in Council appointments and the direct JCU council appointments cannot secure the remaining qualifications, skills and experience required to govern the university in an effective way in the 21st century.

Lastly, I think the JCU council should look more carefully at ensuring that its different campuses are given more specific consideration in the make-up of the council. If it is going to run a multicampus model, those campuses need to feel part of the institution in every way. This may be achieved by requiring at least one each of the staff, student and convocation representatives and at least one each of the Governor in Council and direct council appointments to be from different campuses of JCU. Having said those things, I wanted to reiterate that I did appreciate the opportunity to comment during the consultation process by JCU with the community and I want to make it clear that JCU went to great efforts to give me the opportunity to provide direct feedback and I have said nothing here—

Ms Jones interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Minister, I ask you to please withdraw that.

Ms JONES: I withdraw.

Mr CRIPPS: I want to make it clear that I have said nothing during the course of the debate on the bill that I have not said in that consultation process directly with JCU. I do not do those sorts of things and it is unfortunate that the Minister for Education is reflecting otherwise. I engaged in that process because I believe that JCU is a very important asset to North Queensland. I wish James Cook University every success in the future and I hope that my concerns about the new governance model prove to be unfounded.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.33 pm): I rise to support and make my contribution to the debate of the University Legislation Amendment Bill 2017. There are seven Queensland public universities, as has been mentioned. Each are established as a statutory body under their own act such as the James Cook University Act 1997, and I want to touch on James Cook University's Townsville campus in particular. As one of the local elected members, since our election in 2015 the members for Townsville and Mundingburra and I have strived to have a good working relationship with the university, particularly with Chancellor Bill Tweddell and Vice-Chancellor Sandra Harding, and this relationship is certainly continuing as we go on.

James Cook University is one of our city's major employers and contributes greatly to our city in an economic sense. In fact, in 2016 it employed 3,483 people in the areas of academia relating to tropical health research, medicine and many other areas. As was mentioned by the member for Townsville, there are several alumnus recipients and at the last JCU awards I was very proud to find that my friend, colleague and mate Dr Angus McDonell had been awarded an alumni award for his work in medicine. He was one of my mentors in the Queensland Ambulance Service. He came from Victoria as a critical care paramedic who went on to do nursing, medicine, work in the Air Force and be deployed to Afghanistan to do work there. He is also the commissioner of St John Ambulance in Queensland.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I thank the member very much. He is quite a remarkable fellow for packing all of that into his career. I also want to make a special mention of Magistrate Cathy McLennan, and you might recognise that name, Madam Deputy Speaker Linard. In 2015 she was awarded an alumni award for not just her work in law but her book *Saltwater*. I hope you have read it.

James Cook University is, as has been mentioned, Queensland's second oldest university. It has been around since 1961. It started as an annexe of the University of Queensland with just 105 students. It became a university in its own right in 1970 and today James Cook University is a multicampus university across our state, with over 17,500 students and an international campus in Singapore, which I visited last year. It does a terrific job in our city. Notwithstanding that, I note that CQUniversity has also established itself in Townsville. I concur with the member for Gregory, who talked about retaining people and training people in local areas. CQUniversity in Townsville has also started training paramedics, and I think that is a wonderful thing.

Turning back to the bill, the university acts provide for matters including the size, composition and functions of the governing body; the powers of delegation; and the power to make university statutes about certain matters. The state government retains responsibility for the university acts to ensure that public universities as Queensland statutory bodies comply with financial reporting and other requirements under the Queensland legislation. The amendments in the bill progress the reforms resulting from the review, including technical amendments to improve the operation of all university legislation and governance reforms for James Cook University, and allow JCU to adopt a modern and flexible governance structure. I was pleased to have been contacted and found some correspondence dated 15 August 2016 with Chancellor Tweddell in which he was seeking my support for the review of the act. In that particular correspondence I noted—

I believe this to be a great opportunity for the JCU Community to make some positive changes towards your council size and composition.

I have looked at your proposed changes and although they seem in line with other Universities similar in size I believe it best for the JCU community to provide the input needed therefore giving you the feedback and or agreement to your proposed changes.

In fact, the Victorian and New South Wales governance models have a make-up of anywhere between 14 and 16 people. I table that correspondence with the chancellor.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 15 August 2016, from the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP to Mr Bill Tweddell, Chancellor James Cook University, regarding changes to JCU Council size and composition [1978].

The bill provides a power for vice-chancellors to subdelegate functions and powers that have been delegated to the vice-chancellor by the governing body to an appropriately qualified member of the university staff provided that the governing body has permitted the subdelegation. To ensure the integrity of elections the bill requires the universities to adopt an election policy for the election of staff and student representatives to university governing bodies. Currently, JCU is governed by a 22-member council, comprising three official members—the chancellor, the vice-chancellor and the president—eight members appointed by the Governor in Council, 10 elected members, and one member appointed by the council.

JCU has the equal largest university council. It has the highest number of elected members and the lowest number of members appointed by the council. During the review of the university acts, it was identified that the JCU council faces particular difficulties in ensuring that it has the appropriate mix of skills, expertise, experience and corporate knowledge that is necessary to oversee the operations of the university. JCU was invited to develop a proposed governance reform model for consideration by the government. JCU undertook extensive consultation with the JCU community, including union representatives, before submitting the proposal to the government. This bill gives effect to the JCU proposal. It allows the JCU council to make a resolution that will set the size and composition of the council. The bill provides that the resolution must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the council and must provide for a council of between 11 and 21 members.

I note that the NTEU opposes that part of the proposal that the vice-chancellor subdelegate powers delegated to them by the university governing body on the basis that it will erode accountability and transparency and reduce the capacity of the governing body. I think the intent of the bill makes sure that the governance of the universities and their respective acts will not do that. The NTEU also opposes the JCU governance reforms, in particular a reduction in the overall size of the council. Notwithstanding that, I am very pleased to support the bill, which gives Queensland's universities the greater flexibility and capacity they need.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.41 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the University Legislation Amendment Bill, in particular those amendments in the bill that relate to the University of Southern Queensland Act 1998. I would like to reflect a little on the governance arrangements, because the University of Southern Queensland is governed and administered in a very professional manner. As of the date of the redistribution, the University of Southern Queensland will be part of my electorate of Toowoomba South.

As the member for Toowoomba South, it is an exciting time for me to have this university within the boundary of the southern seat of the Toowoomba area because it has just welcomed its new vice-chancellor, Geraldine Mackenzie. Already Geraldine has made a wonderful entry into the Toowoomba community and is working hard to engage the University of Southern Queensland with the broader Toowoomba community. In doing so, Geraldine is supported by Chancellor John Dornbusch who, throughout an extraordinary career, has led Toowoomba's business community and is now leading this university through some challenging times, but he does so with good grace and professionalism.

It is an exciting year for the University of Southern Queensland. I thought that I would reflect on that a little. It has been 50 years since the university was first assigned to be a tertiary education facility. In acknowledgement of that fact a whole range of celebrations are going on at the University of Southern Queensland. I cannot go past Dellys Kelly, who may be well known to some on this side of the House. Dellys Kelly is acknowledged as the mother of the University of Southern Queensland. In 1958, while looking after her two young sons, Dellys decided that a city of Toowoomba's stature and promise needed somewhere to send its young people to receive a tertiary education. She packed up her FJ Holden, sent the kids away to a babysitter and headed to Canberra where she met with Robert Menzies, the Prime Minister of the day. Robert Menzies said to Dellys, 'You find 30,000 quid and you will get your institution of higher education,' never thinking that it would be possible. Dellys came home, raised the money in double-quick time, and before we knew it there was an education establishment association underway in Toowoomba. Not long thereafter Toowoomba had its own education facility of higher learning. Over the past 50 years, the university has gone through a range of stages. It is also 25 years since the University of Southern Queensland became a fully-fledged university. It is a double celebration of 50 years as a higher education centre of learning but also 25 years as the University of Southern Queensland.

In 1992 I had my first dealings with the university when I began playing cricket with the mighty Phoenix, the University of Southern Queensland cricket club, which has forged the reputation of being one of the finest cricket clubs in Toowoomba. I acknowledge the leadership of the university cricket club over the years of Ivan Walls and John Littleproud. Those names are etched in the cricketing history of Toowoomba and the mighty Phoenix.

In the 50th year of this university, I think it is appropriate that I reflect for a little while on some of alumnus of the University of Southern Queensland. They include my predecessor Dr John McVeigh. The University of Southern Queensland is celebrating its alumnus. Recently, I attended an event to announce the university's 2017 alumni, Kev Carmody, the extraordinary Australian musician who wrote *From little things big things grow*. It was a real pleasure to see Kev honoured in that way. There has also been a range of celebrations at the University of Southern Queensland in the fields of engineering and psychology, as everybody takes the opportunity to reflect on 50 years of the University of Southern Queensland.

Other alumni of some significance who have attended the University of Southern Queensland include Walkley award winner Mark Willacy; disability advocate, well known throughout Queensland, the incomparable Sharon Boyce; playwright David Burton, who has perhaps written the finest play that has come out of Toowoomba called *April's Fool*, which details some extraordinary challenges overcome by families dealing with drug abuse; ABC weather reporter Jenny Woodward; and a good friend of mine, who is now CEO of a technology company in Brisbane, John Williams. I would like to knowledge John's role in my professional career.

It is also appropriate to reflect on some statistics of the University of Southern Queensland. Throughout the history of the university, over 100,000 students have graduated. Currently, 30,000 students are enrolled and over 75 per cent of those students are studying via distance education or online. The university has a very proud record in research, whether that be in pharmacology materials, engineering, agricultural science, or environmental science. It has a proud history of serving the regional community in which it operates. The university is well run, is profitable and has a strong balance sheet. It has challenges to overcome, but it has a strong strategic plan.

Those statistics are just numbers on a page. I do not think there could be any doubt that this regional university serves the people who live around it. More than anything, Toowoomba wants to keep its young people. With over one-third of Australians living in regional areas, we need to find ways in which to keep young people in the communities in which they live. I know from personal experience the role that the University of Southern Queensland has played in the lives of the members of my family. Although I was not a student, I have lectured at the University of Southern Queensland. My wife was able to study opera at the University of Southern Queensland. What a bizarre place to study opera: Toowoomba. My mother was a farmer's wife. When she was in her 40s she was able to go back to university and study education and go on to have a rewarding professional career.

There are opportunities for our young people. So many of them come to me and ask, 'Where should I go to university? Where should I study law? Where should I study commerce?' With the University of Southern Queensland I am in a position to say, 'Stay at home. You know you will get a job faster after graduating from the University of Southern Queensland than from most other universities.' The University of Southern Queensland outperforms most other universities. That is due to the support of the business community. I acknowledge that the chamber of commerce in Toowoomba held a special function welcoming the university's vice-chancellor. The business community in Toowoomba and the broader community—whether that be schools—work with the university to make sure that our young people have every opportunity to stay and achieve their dreams at a local level.

There is a second reason a regional university is so important, and so important in Toowoomba, and that is that it builds our diversity. There is no doubt that Toowoomba is a more welcoming and more diverse community than it ever has been before because of our university. Toowoomba is home to many nationalities. This is obvious in the nearest state school to the University of Southern Queensland at Darling Heights where nearly half the school population speak another language at home. The University of Southern Queensland gives us an opportunity to celebrate our diversity. The university and the local schools do an incredible job of doing that.

In closing, I acknowledge the contribution of my dear friend and one of my mentors, Professor Peter Swannell, vice-chancellor at the University of Southern Queensland between 1996 and 2003, who is currently battling ill health and has been for some time. Peter has made an extraordinary contribution to Toowoomba's University of Southern Queensland and to the community through his involvement with the Empire Theatre. I wish him and his wife Janice the very best as they attempt to overcome his health concerns.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (3.50 pm), in reply: I thank all speakers for their contribution. The member for Toowoomba South left out my husband who enrolled at the Darling Downs Institute of Advanced Education and finished with a degree from the University of Southern Queensland. He was there at that time. I do not know if the member ever played cricket back then.

It is wonderful to hear members from across Queensland talk about the important role that universities play in these local communities. That is exactly why I think it is important that we have legislation here in the parliament that provides our educational institutions the best ability to participate in a modern way in Queensland's economy and society. This bill amends the establishing legislation of all seven of Queensland's public universities and modernises those university acts. In particular, as many members have spoken about here today, we have worked very closely with James Cook University as it was recognised by all chancellors as well as all vice-chancellors from all universities in Queensland that JCU did sit outside the rest of the universities in its current size and form when it comes to its council. The amendments have been developed, as we have heard from the local members representing that community here in the parliament today, to address particular difficulties JCU has experienced and ensure an appropriate mix of skills, expertise, experience and corporate knowledge. I take this opportunity to thank all the governing bodies of each of the universities for their participation in this review.

We heard from the member for Hinchinbrook who spoke in regard to JCU being in his local community. He spoke about Governor in Council appointments. After what I have just had to listen to I put on the record that when I became the minister both chancellors and vice chancellors appealed to me to not politicise Governor in Council appointments as had been experienced under the previous government. I gave that commitment to their face and I have honoured that commitment in every single decision I have made as the minister. I have listened to the experts on the ground and I have appointed who they have nominated to me without fear or favour. I think that is the appropriate position of the education minister. This has been welcomed by those stakeholders who have made those points. I am certainly not going to come in here and verbal them about their HR performance either.

In that regard, the member for Hinchinbrook talked about free speech. I challenge both him and the fellow sitting next to him who yelled out that he thought this was free speech. You can deny it on the record if you want because I will stand here and repeat that I said I hope you did not think free speech was like your candidate for Redcliffe and the photo that she took, and the member for Kawana said yes he did think that was free speech. That is appalling.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. I take offence at that and I ask that the minister withdraw. The contribution from the member for Hinchinbrook was about free speech and James Cook University. That is what I interjected on.

Ms Jones: That is not true. You know it's not true.

Mr BLEIJIE: The minister was not even on her feet.

Ms Jones: We saw what you said!

Mr BLEIJIE: They saw it! I take offence at what the minister says and I ask that you ask her to withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Linard): The member for Kawana has taken personal offence. Minister, do you withdraw?

Ms JONES: I withdraw. While we are standing here in parliament today talking about free speech, I call on the member for Kawana and the Leader of the Opposition to disendorse their candidate for Redcliffe. If they want to talk about free speech, let us talk about free speech. What we saw in the paper today was not an apology for what she did—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, can I—

Ms JONES:—but an apology for putting the photo up.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister—

Ms JONES: Not an apology for what she did—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am asking you to come—

Ms JONES:—an apology for putting the photo up.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister for Education! Order! Minister, I am calling you to order. I ask that you return to the bill and remain relevant to the bill. If I call for order and ask you to cease speaking, I ask that you do that immediately. Thank you.

Ms JONES: Thank you. I am glad I got that off my chest because I found it very offensive.

Mr Bleijie: You are reflecting on the chair, are you?

Ms JONES: No, I am not.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister for Education has the call. It was not a reflection on the chair, but I ask the minister to continue and remain wholly and solely relevant to the bill.

Ms JONES: I thank you for that, but I do think it is worth observing that here today. Going forward, I think that we have struck the right balance with this bill. I note that the shadow minister spoke about UQ. I have met and spoken with the chancellor and the vice-chancellor of UQ and they have both indicated that they might like to look at reforms in the future. I want to make it very clear that our government's strong position is that if other universities do want to consider any future expansions or reforms that they undertake comprehensive consultation with their communities, including their staff and students and unions to gauge that support and to listen to the views of their local communities.

I thank the shadow minister and member for Aspley for her support of the bill. I am sure she understands, as do all members of the committee, that this is something that the university sector has wanted and I am pleased that in a bipartisan fashion here today we will be passing this bill unanimously.

With those few words, I thank everybody for their contribution. Queensland universities do make a significant economic contribution to our state. Education is the state's second largest service export after tourism. I am very pleased that there is bipartisan support for the amendment to this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Resolved in the affirmative in accordance with standing order 106.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 165, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (4.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill 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) (4.04 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.

CRIMINAL LAW (HISTORICAL HOMOSEXUAL CONVICTIONS EXPUNGEMENT) BILL

Resumed from 11 May (see p. 1167).

Second Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (4.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017 was introduced on 11 May 2017 and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the bill. I also thank the many organisations and individuals who took the time to make submissions on and attend the public hearing for the bill. I am pleased to inform the House that on 14 July the committee tabled report No. 57 and made one recommendation, that the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017 be passed. I thank the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its timely consideration of the bill. I note the statement of reservations from the non-government members of the committee and will address the concerns they have raised in relation to certain aspects of the bill in my contribution today.

During the 2015 general state election, this government expressed in-principle support for a scheme to allow for the expungement of convictions and charges for historical homosexual offences and committed to referring the issue to the Queensland Law Reform Commission for consideration and report. The QLRC's final report, titled *Expunging criminal convictions for historical gay sex offences*, was tabled in this Legislative Assembly on 29 November 2016. The report made 31 detailed recommendations, including that expungement of criminal convictions or charges for historical homosexual offences requires a new legislative framework and other key procedural features. To a great extent, the bill incorporates the QLRC's recommendations and takes into account the views of a range of community and legal stakeholders who were consulted on a draft version of the bill.

Overall, the bill creates an administrative scheme that effectively allows expungement applications for certain eligible offences to be made to and decided by the director-general or delegated to an appropriate senior officer of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General on a case-by-case basis. The effect of the expungement scheme is that a successful applicant will, as far as possible, be treated in law as if the conviction had never been imposed. To achieve this aim, records relating to a successful expunged conviction or charge will be annotated by the relevant criminal record holder to

show that the record relates to an expunged conviction or charge. Importantly, the successful applicant will not be obliged to disclose the expunged conviction or charge pursuant to any requirements under any other act and may claim under oath that the expunged conviction or charge never occurred.

The bill is an example of this government's strong commitment to law reform that provides equality to LGBTI Queenslanders and to address, as far as practicable, the institutionalised injustices of the past. Members will recall that the introduction of this bill was preceded by this Legislative Assembly's apology, given by the Premier, to those affected by historical homosexual convictions. I repeat my thanks to the Premier for her leadership in offering this assembly's unreserved and sincere apology to all LGBTI Queenslanders and their family and friends who suffered as a result of the discriminatory laws passed in this chamber and the institutional discrimination of the brutal regime of that time. Charges and convictions under those laws humiliated and hurt individuals who found themselves in the criminal justice system. The stigma of those charges and convictions continues to follow many individuals who have forgone employment and travel opportunities as a result of their criminal records. In the spirit of that apology, this bill is intended to provide a humble but meaningful measure of restorative justice to those people who suffered as a result of historical prejudice.

I turn now to the issues raised by non-government members in the committee's response to the bill. The non-government members acknowledge that the bill has considerable merit, subject to two matters. Firstly, non-government members do not support the inclusion of public morality offences in the expungement scheme because the QLRC did not recommend those offences be included in the scheme. Secondly, non-government members held the view that the scheme would be improved by providing for the inclusion of a process of consultation with any other party involved in an historical offence who was not the applicant, particularly when issues of consent were in question. I note that the opposition as a whole may take a different position to that statement of reservation, but I believe it is important and incumbent on me to address these issues.

With respect to the first issue, although the government acknowledges that the QLRC report did not recommend the inclusion of public morality offences in the exclusion scheme, there is strong anecdotal evidence to suggest that historically those offences were often utilised to prosecute and victimise homosexual people. The inclusion of public morality offences in the bill recognises the strong stakeholder support for the inclusion of these offences in the expungement scheme. The inclusion of these offences also appropriately acknowledges historical anecdotal evidence that suggests that members of the LGBTI community were prosecuted and punished under these types of offences for behaviour such as dressing or behaving in a gender or sexually nonconforming manner. Without extending it to public morality offences, this scheme would just not deliver on its true intent.

With respect to the second issue, the bill provides that a conviction or charge for a historical Criminal Code offence may not be expunged unless the decision-maker is satisfied, amongst other things, that the other party to the offence was a consenting adult. The expungement scheme in the bill is designed to address the wrongs associated with the criminalisation of sexual activity between consenting adults. For this reason, the bill already provides for the chief executive to gather relevant information from a variety of sources to make a determination regarding consent. When considering the matter of consent, the decision-maker is able to gather relevant information from criminal record holders such as the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland courts and Queensland Corrective Services.

Although the bill does not provide a specific process for consultation with the other party to a Criminal Code male homosexual offence, clause 16 of the bill already allows for the chief executive to make inquiries or request information from any person, which may, where necessary and appropriate, include the other party to the offence. The bill provides for such an approach to be made only with the consent of the applicant.

Clause 39 of the bill provides that it will be a criminal offence for a person to knowingly provide false or misleading information to the decision-maker under the expungement scheme. This offence provides a disincentive to any person who may be tempted to provide false or misleading information about any element of an expungement application including consent. Finally, part 4 of the bill provides that if at any subsequent time the decision-maker becomes satisfied that a conviction or charge became expunged because of false or misleading information an expunged conviction can be revived.

I would like to foreshadow at this time that I will be moving amendments to the bill during the consideration in detail stage of the debate. Currently, the criteria for expungement of both Criminal Code male homosexual offences and public morality offences explicitly provide at clauses 18(2)(b) and

19(2)(b) respectively that the chief executive may only decide to expunge the conviction or charge if satisfied that the act or omission constituting the offence, if done by the eligible person at the time the application was made, would not constitute an offence under the current law of Queensland.

The Queensland statute book currently contains offences relating to indecent acts and wilful exposure in places to which the public have access. Therefore, the practical consequence of clauses 18(2)(b) and 19(2)(b) is that a conviction or charge derived from sexual activity in a public place will likely not be capable of being expunged under the bill.

Concerns were raised in stakeholder submissions during the committee process that the exclusion of conduct that occurred in public places does not properly take into account the historical context in which relevant offences took place—that is, historically, many homosexual men felt it was necessary to find their privacy in public. It is proposed to amend clauses 18 and 19 of the bill to provide that the chief executive may decide to expunge a conviction or charge if the chief executive is satisfied that all the criteria currently provided for in the bill has been met and that the conduct constituting the charge or conviction would not constitute an offence against the current law of Queensland but for the fact it occurred in a public place. This amendment will not provide for the expungement of convictions and charges relating to sexual activity that was overtly public.

South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory have all passed legislation introducing expungement schemes. Tasmania has introduced a bill for an expungement scheme but it is yet to be passed by both houses of its parliament. The law in Victoria accords with the 1961 Victorian Supreme Court decision in *Inglis v Fish* which provides that the relevant public conduct must have only been able to be observed in plain view without abnormal or unusual action being taken, such as crouching to peer in a keyhole. Neither New South Wales nor the ACT require a decision-maker to be satisfied that the conduct giving rise to the offence would not amount to an offence under the current laws of New South Wales and the ACT. However, New South Wales has prescribed additional offences as eligible offences for its expungement scheme this year in response to issues related to historical offences for gay beat activity and has provided for a special criteria to be applied with respect to those offences. That criteria requires the decision-maker to be satisfied that the conduct was not witnessed by anyone except a police officer and that it was the offender's first conviction. In the second reading speech in the Tasmanian lower house, the acting Tasmanian Attorney-General referred to the *Inglis* case.

The proposed amendments that I will move will require the chief executive to further satisfy themselves that the conduct constituting the charge or conviction could not have been observed by a witness without that witness taking an abnormal or unusual action. I want to be clear that the proposed amendment is not intended to alter in any way the application of the current criminal law in Queensland as it applies to indecent acts or wilful exposure committed in places to which the public have access. The proposed amendments are intended to expand the restorative potential of this legislation by allowing it to acknowledge the real lived experiences of those impacted by historical convictions or charges prior to 19 January 1991.

Finally, I noted when introducing this bill that this legislation represents a continuation of the important work begun by the Goss government in 1990 to decriminalise private adult consensual homosexual activity. I hope the debate we are about to have on this bill will demonstrate to the LGBTI community how far we have come as a parliament and as a community from the discrimination and hatred that was displayed in this chamber during the debate of the decriminalisation reforms in 1990.

This bill represents an important opportunity for this parliament to endorse with tangible action the apology that was made by the Premier to those affected by historical homosexual convictions on 11 May 2017. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (4.17 pm): I rise to speak to the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017 introduced into the House by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice in May this year. Two years prior to that introduction, in 20 May 2015, the LNP publicly expressed its in-principle support for removal of the so-called gay panic defence and the repeal of historical homosexual convictions in Queensland for those who were charged with engaging in consensual homosexual acts prior to the decriminalisation of homosexual acts in January 1991.

We felt that these were important policy issues for the LGBTIQ community and others and we wanted to provide the government and the LGBTIQ community with in-principle support that would allow for public policy certainty going forward. We also understood the technical nature of what was

proposed and some of the difficulties associated with that and supported the referral to the Queensland Law Reform Commission, particularly in relation to any proposed expungement scheme. In its report that was published in August 2016, the QLRC recommended—

The expungement of criminal convictions for historical gay sex offences should be given effect by new legislation allowing people to apply to the Director-General of DJAG (the 'decision-maker') for the expungement of convictions from their criminal history (the 'proposed expungement legislation').

This would provide for an administrative expungement scheme rather than a judicial scheme, as supported and proposed by the QLRC. Consistent with the administrative nature of the scheme, the bill expressly provides that no oral hearing may be held with respect to an application for expungement. The QLRC also recommended—

The proposed expungement legislation should apply to the following offences ('eligible offences'):

- (a) an offence under sections 208(1), 208(3), 209 or 211 of the Criminal Code, as in force prior to 19 January 1991 (the 'date of legalisation'), except as constituted by heterosexual activity; or
- (b) an offence prescribed by regulation and occurring before the date of legalisation, to the extent that it was constituted by a person engaging in any form of sexual activity with another person of the same sex; or
- (c) an offence of attempting or conspiring to commit, or enabling, aiding, counselling or procuring another person to commit, any of the above offences.

The LNP recognises the significance of the reforms to those directly impacted by past laws and policing practices that are now seen quite differently by the present generation. We recognise that this is an important issue for many people in the community. Speaking broadly about the criminal law, there should be an extremely high threshold applied for the expungement of previous criminal convictions. After all, these matters were dealt with under the law of the day and independently adjudicated by a court of law—-independent of government. However, given the nature of the particular issue we are dealing with and a significant change in public attitude, we do believe that expungements are justified. We hope that the process is applied as simply and efficiently as possible for those involved and that this can go some way towards easing the pain and suffering caused to many in years gone by.

As I mentioned, the legislation that we are debating was introduced by the Attorney-General in May this year. The objective of the bill is to establish a scheme for the expungement, on application, of convictions and charges for particular offences involving homosexual activity. The scheme applies to convictions or charges that happened before 19 January 1991. The bill largely implements the QLRC's recommendations contained in the report. However, there are some aspects which depart from the report's recommendations. Although not recommended by the QLRC, certain historical 'public morality' type offences—that is, offences designed to prevent disorderly, offensive or indecent behaviour in public—in force before 19 January 1991 under the repealed Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act 1931 and section 227(1) of the Criminal Code are also included as eligible offences in the government's current bill.

The bill provides that a person is not entitled to compensation of any kind on the basis that a conviction or charge has become expunged. Where the director-general gives a criminal record holder a notice of a decision to expunge a conviction or charge, the criminal record holder must annotate any public record to show that the conviction or charge is expunged and to notify the director-general, who, in turn, will notify the applicant.

As the explanatory notes provide, prior to decriminalisation, the main offences relating to homosexual activity were in sections 208(1) and (3), 209 and 211 of the Criminal Code, called the historical Criminal Code offences. Under sections 208(1) and (3), 'Unnatural offences', and 209, 'Attempt to commit unnatural offences', it was a crime for a person to have, or attempt to have, carnal knowledge of another person or permit a male to have carnal knowledge with him or her 'against the order of nature'—that is, anal intercourse. These offences prohibited absolutely two males or a male and female from engaging in anal intercourse. Section 211, 'Indecent practices between men', made it a misdemeanour for a male, whether in public or private, to commit any act of 'gross indecency' with another male.

Further, anecdotal evidence also suggests that historically homosexual and gender nonconforming activity was sometimes prosecuted using public order offences contained in the now repealed Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act 1931 and section 227(1) of the Criminal Code. As outlined in the committee report, the bill provides that certain historical public morality type offences are

eligible for expungement under the bill, including offences designed to prevent disorderly, offensive or indecent behaviour in public. The explanatory notes state—

In deciding an application for a public morality offence the decision-maker must be satisfied on the balance of probabilities that:

- the offence involved homosexual activity; and
- the act or omission constituting the offence, if done by an eligible person at the time the application was made, would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland.

The decision-maker is not required to be satisfied that an offence was not committed, or alleged to have been committed, in public, rather the bill requires the decision-maker to be satisfied that the act or omission constituting the offence, if done at the time of the application, would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland at the time the application is made. The Attorney-General has given notice today of her intention to move amendments which will further clarify that particular provision in the bill as we debate it today.

I do want to point out, as was picked up by the non-government members in the committee, that this public morality area was an area which the Law Reform Commission considered to be a difficult area and, in fact, recommended it not be included in this bill. I give credit to the non-government members on the committee for raising their concerns in this matter. They are reasonable concerns. The Law Reform Commission made it clear that it was concerned that so many years after an offence it was going to be very difficult for the decision-maker to make an informed decision as to whether the act involved was a public morality offence which—let us use shorthand—was caught by an entrapment arrangement or whether it was in fact a public morality offence that would have offended people at the time. That is the difficulty. That is why the Law Reform Commission advised not proceeding along this line, but the government has elected to do so. I will quote the comments by the non-government members in the report. They say—

In supporting the passing of the Bill, the non-government members confirm the Bill has considerable merit, except for elements that are proposed that go against the recommendations of the QLRC.

Specifically, non-government members do not support certain offences being deemed as eligible offences for expungement under the Bill. As outlined in the explanatory notes, the QLRC did not recommend these offences be included as part of any expungement scheme.

Non-government members also believe that the scheme would be improved by providing that any expungement sought included a process of consultation that involved any other party involved in an historical offence, who was not the applicant for a conviction expungement, particularly when issues of consent were in question.

Those comments were taken seriously by the opposition when we considered our position on this bill. They are significant issues. However, like the non-government committee members who supported the passing of the bill, the opposition's position is that the bill should be passed and we will not be opposing the bill. We will, however, continue to watch carefully the administration of the bill, particularly in relation to the consultation process that the non-government members recommended. I note that the Attorney took that up in her speech and took us through various elements of the bill that she believed could satisfy that requirement. I think that is an area of concern that we will continue to watch.

I want to thank the committee for their thorough examination of the issues covered in the bill, particularly the non-government members for their work, as I said, in pointing out what were clearly concerns in relation to the bill going further than the Queensland Law Reform Commission's recommendations. As I said, we now trust that the administration of the expungement scheme will be one that is not too onerous on applicants and which operates as smoothly as we have all hoped in the examination of this bill. The opposition will, however, continue to watch the administration of the scheme, if this bill is passed, to ensure that the issues raised by the non-government members on the committee do not simply go through to the keeper and that, if any amendment is needed, action is taken to do that. The opposition will not otherwise be opposing the bill.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (4.27 pm): I rise to speak on the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017. I want firstly to thank the Attorney-General for introducing this bill to the parliament and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in their consideration of the bill. I also want to thank the committee secretariat and all of those individuals and organisations who lodged written submissions on the bill.

This bill establishes an administrative scheme for the expungement of convictions or charges for particular historical offences involving homosexual activity. It is taking a step forward to remove the stigma and shame experienced by the LGBTI community in Queensland and it rectifies the historical injustice and discrimination against those people who lived in fear of criminal punishment under these historical laws which punished people for their sexual orientation.

Consensual adult male homosexual activity was decriminalised in this state on 19 January 1991 with the commencement of the reforms contained in the Criminal Code and Another Act Amendment Act 1990. Despite decriminalisation, there has been recognition in Australia and elsewhere that this reform failed to address the stigma and shame a criminal conviction for consensual adult homosexual activity carries.

There are various circumstances where convictions are required to be disclosed, particularly in relation to employment. A conviction may also prevent civic participation. For example, a person convicted of an indictable offence is not eligible for jury service. This has resulted in calls for reform and advocates fighting for these schemes to be introduced. I want to acknowledge and thank those advocates, particularly those who have been personally impacted as well as their partners, family and friends. This bill is important for achieving justice for all those affected and to rectify the injustice so that they no longer have to live in shame and with the stigma of a criminal conviction.

This bill follows other Australian jurisdictions that have recently introduced legislative schemes providing for the expungement of charges or convictions for historical homosexual offences. It is also a response to the QLRC's report No. 74, titled *Expunging criminal convictions for historical gay sex offences*, tabled on 29 November 2016. This bill has taken on the recommendations in that report as well as recommendations from stakeholder submissions. This means that, as well as Criminal Code male homosexual offences, public morality offences are also introduced as eligible offences in this scheme.

The scheme proposed in the bill divides eligible offences into two main types. The first type is Criminal Code male homosexual offences. These are repealed sections 208(1), 208(3) and 209 of the Criminal Code, which were concerned with anal intercourse, and section 211 of the Criminal Code, which was concerned with indecent acts. The second type of eligible offences is public morality offences. These are repealed sections 5(1)(b) and 7(e) of the repealed Vagrants, Gaming and Other Offences Act and section 227 of the Criminal Code, which relate to offences such as soliciting for an immoral purpose or behaving in an indecent or offensive manner in a public place.

This bill also helps remedy the disclosures in relation to employment as those convicted of these charges will now have an opportunity to legally decide not to disclose ever again certain types of convictions and charges. The scheme proposes that persons eligible to apply for expungement are those who are convicted or charged with an eligible offence that involved homosexual activity prior to 19 January 1991. Expungement applications will be considered by the director-general of the department on a case-by-case basis. As the proposed scheme is administrative, people making an application would be required to do so in an approved form. The bill provides that no oral hearing would be held with respect to an application. It also provides that the decision-maker must be satisfied that the act causing the offence would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland today.

An important part of this bill is recognising that some of the people who were convicted of these offences are now deceased. This is why it is crucial that certain people, other than eligible persons, can apply for the expungement of an eligible person's historical charge or conviction. These people are referred to as alternative applicants. One submitter stated—

While it may be argued that the historical discrimination is of no legal effect ... in the instance of deceased persons, the reparative effect on family and community members who wish to clear the person's name may be of greater significance.

This bill recognises the significance by providing for alternative applicants in the case of eligible persons who have died after 19 January 1991 and also adults with impaired capacity.

This bill provides for the expungement of convictions or charges for particular historical offences involving homosexual activity. It makes necessary changes to rectify the charges that have caused many innocent Queenslanders to live with stigma and shame. It provides justice for these individuals and equality under the law, sending a clear message to the Queensland community that consensual adult same-sex activity should never have been criminalised in the first place. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.33 pm): I rise to make a very brief contribution to the debate on the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017 and report No. 57 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I thank the committee members and our committee secretariat for the hard work they put in. We can honestly say that we listened very carefully to all of the witness statements. We read through the material that was provided to us and we understand the pain that so many people have been suffering for so many years as a result of convictions that now will be able to be expunged if they so choose to go down that path.

I note that the Attorney-General has foreshadowed some amendments to the bill. I also note that the report contains a statement of non-government members to properly clarify our position in relation to some aspects of the report. Overall, the bill is a good one. I am not going to go through the detail. It has been well and truly canvassed by the Attorney-General; the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Mansfield; and the chair of the committee. I simply say that going forward a lot of people are going to feel a lot better about their lot in life because of the changes they can make in their life as a result of this bill being put into this House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.35 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017 and the amendments foreshadowed by the Attorney here today. The American minister Theodore Parker in his 1853 *Ten Sermons of Religion* delivered the message that 'the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice', a catchcry for activists and change agents around the world in the century and a half since. Theodore Parker was talking about slavery, a foreshadowing of the looming Civil War that would permanently settle the question of chattel slavery as an unquestionable moral evil. Once slavery was an unquestioned reality opposed only by radicals in the extreme, but in 2017 nobody overtly argues that one human should legally be able to own another.

For me, in 2017 it is hard to conceive the criminalisation of homosexuality. Within the span of living memory, the law of our state was used to enforce a cruel tyranny on Queenslanders which, through state intervention, determined whom we could love and how we could express that. At the time it may have reflected the popular will, but in this place we must be more than just the interpreters of popular sentiment and mood. We are here to lead, and that means applying a value set to the decisions that we make. My values are for fairness and egalitarianism. This is how I interpret freedom. It is unfair for our government to victimise and target one demographic section of our society in the manner of Queensland's historic anti-gay laws.

I was born during the period when former premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen criminalised homosexual activity between consenting adults and I was in my early years of schooling when former premier Wayne Goss decriminalised it. This is one of the many historic evils from that era which our state has spent the better part of the last three decades trying to correct. Because of my limited real-life experience in this era and my lack of firsthand experience of this time, I have been able to form my views through community conversations, through literature and reading of the sources and, importantly, through the committee review process that we have undertaken.

Queensland is a great place and Queenslanders are tough but generous people. We are big enough to own up to our mistakes and must be bold enough to do what we can to correct them. It is the only way that we can continue our state's ongoing improvement. We must recognise that it was our predecessors in this place, our parliament and our Queensland government that has committed acts of institutionalised prejudice and discrimination that has done harm. People were persecuted by the apparatus of our state law enforcement and judicial system. People were labelled and placed on the fringes. Lives were destroyed. It created a culture of intolerance and hate. Even after the laws were corrected the stain remained.

In the nineties the then mayor of the old Pine Rivers shire, Yvonne Chapman, declared her advice to homosexuals travelling through, which was, 'Don't stop. You're not welcome.' It resulted in bizarre acts of public policy where the Pine Rivers shire oversaw the removal of doors in public toilet blocks in an effort to prevent the stalls from being used for what was viewed as improper sex acts. Sadly, she continued her Bjelke-Petersen ministerial record of bigotry and hatred against homosexuals in her local government role even after the world had moved on. I am appalled by some of the rhetoric that the no campaign is deploying in its desperate effort to stop progress, and in it I see the waning power of outdated puritan ideology. We arrive at a perverse place where conservative Christians champion a definition of freedom that is exclusively for themselves and those who share their world view. Religious leaders were the prime movers in great social causes, ending slavery, extending civil rights and

universal suffrage, and opposing dictatorial state powers from the left and right. They still do. I note in particular the work of Catholic priest Father Paul Kelly in fighting to repeal what he calls the 'homophobic, archaic and outdated' so-called gay panic defence.

This bill to expunge historic convictions is symbolic in its acknowledgment that our parliament got it wrong. It is important to the victims of the miscarriage of justice that resulted from the enforcement of these laws, and it is important to the families of those whose lives were destroyed by this misuse of state power. For these reasons I give thanks to the LGBTI Queenslanders who never stopped campaigning for what is right. I wholeheartedly commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.41 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak in support of the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017. This bill once again proves that it is the Labor side of politics that has driven—and continues to drive—legislative reform, social reform and social justice in Queensland. The objective of the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill is to establish an administrative scheme for the expungement, upon application, of convictions or charges for particular historical offences involving homosexual activity.

I would like to begin by expressing my sincere sympathy to those individuals who have been personally impacted by the social and legal stain of historical homosexual convictions as well as their partners, their families and their friends. I would also like to thank all of the individuals and organisations who have advocated for so long for these laws. I support the statement made by the Attorney-General in her first reading speech on 11 May 2017. She said—

For those who cannot be here, who are no longer with us but who lived with this shame for far too long and who unfortunately passed before they ever got to see this scheme brought in, today this is for you.

I also support the statement made by the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, who said—

By this bill the government acknowledges the harm that has been inflicted on people convicted of homosexual activity when it was considered a criminal offence.

In criminalising homosexual activity between consenting adults, the Legislative Assembly of this state dishonoured its citizens and institutionalised prejudice and discrimination. It was this institutionalised prejudice that affected not only those who were convicted of offences, but everyone else who has made to feel their sexuality was wrong, and they were not accepted by the community.

It was during the 2015 state general election campaign that the Queensland government expressed in-principle support for an expungement scheme for criminal records of historical homosexual activity between consenting adults, but the expungement of convictions from a person's criminal history is a significant step that required full consideration of the inherent complexities connected with such reform, especially given the wide scope of conduct captured by the relevant historical Criminal Code offences. Consensual adult male homosexual activity ceased to be a criminal offence in Queensland on 19 January 1991, when the relevant Criminal Code offences were repealed by the Criminal Code and Another Act Amendment Act 1990 and the new provisions related to unlawful anal intercourse were enacted.

The focus of the reforms was on sexual activity between consenting adults in private. The bill acknowledges that the private and voluntary acts of adults is not a matter of concern for the criminal justice system but, despite decriminalisation, there has been recognition in Australia and elsewhere that this reform fails to address the stigma and shame that a criminal conviction for consensual homosexual activities carries. There are various circumstances where convictions or charges are required to be disclosed, particularly in relation to employment. The existence of a conviction may also prevent civic participation. For example, in Queensland a person convicted of an indictable offence is not eligible for jury service. This resulted in calls for law reform to allow for the expungement of such convictions—that is, providing in law for the conviction to be removed from a person's criminal history and not disclosable. This bill addresses all of these issues and follows the lead of a growing number of Australian jurisdictions which have recently enacted expungement scheme legislation in this context.

In closing, I wish to state that by this bill the government places on record for future generations of Queenslanders our deep regret and says to all of those affected, 'We are sorry that the laws of this state let you down.'

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.46 pm): Firstly, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for the cooperative way in which they worked on this bill. The report recommends that the bill be passed, but I note there were differing personal views. I am glad that we were able to work through it to arrive at the recommendations we have.

This bill follows a number of promises that the Palaszczuk government made to the LGBTI community with regard to bringing equal treatment where we could under state legislation. One of my proudest moments in the short time I have been a member in this parliament was when I witnessed the Premier's apology to the LGBTI community, and I will remember it for a very, very long time.

I want to highlight three sections of the report and thank those who took the time to make submissions and give evidence during the committee process. I know that they are very passionate about this issue and they have been fighting for a very long time for these changes. The committee particularly appreciated hearing from those individuals who told their personal stories. As the member for Pine Rivers remarked during her contribution, although I am a similar age and we did grow up during that time, we were not exposed to that type of discrimination, especially at school or at home. I was not confronted with those wrongs, but they obviously happened. There was obviously a need for the Premier to apologise, and there is obviously a need for us to pass this bill.

I note the submissions concerning convictions or charges between 19 January 1991 and 23 September 2016. I do have a soft spot for those arguments; however, I note that the department's response states—

Both homosexual and heterosexual acts of consensual anal intercourse were prosecuted right up to 2016. If we extended the scheme up to 2016, it would encompass people who may currently be serving sentences of imprisonment. They were prosecuted only recently and the Director of Public Prosecutions has considered public interest factors in determining whether to prosecute those offences.

I note a similar situation relating to convictions or charges of 16- and 17-year-olds prior to 19 January 1991. During this term, parliament equalised the age of consent for both heterosexual and homosexual intercourse. I think that was another good step in progressing equality for the LGBTIQ community. The situation is similar in terms of creating an imbalance. I note the department's response. It stated—

Further, if the scheme was extended to convictions for consensual anal intercourse with 16 and 17 year olds between 1991 and 2016, it would arguably be unfair to continue to restrict the scheme to convictions involving only homosexual activity.

I refer to the Attorney-General's proposed amendments relating to public places. I commend the Attorney-General for formulating those amendments. We find ourselves in a situation based around laws that were wrong. Due to the laws being wrong in the first place, certain situations were played out whereby two human beings who loved each other in the moment could not do it in the privacy of their own home. Therefore, gay beats were created. I suppose it was a necessity of the time and era in which those people lived. I commend the proposed amendments to the House. I think they are practical amendments that recognise those situations and the time in which those acts took place.

Finally, I thank those groups and individuals who have campaigned long and hard for these rights, especially over the past 10 years or so. I particularly acknowledge Rainbow Labor and the many members within Rainbow Labor. I acknowledge Ameal. I also thank Peter Black, who was my constitutional law lecturer at QUT and who is present in the gallery. I hope I remember some of his lectures. I am glad he did not fail me! I acknowledge those individuals and groups who have campaigned long and hard for these changes. I hope that we can pass the bill and the proposed amendments. I think it will be a great outcome. I note that we have not needed a \$122 million plebiscite to pass any of these pieces of legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.53 pm): I am pleased to speak in support of the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill, which seeks to right an historical wrong which has troubled our LGBTIQ community across Queensland for so many years. No-one is seeking or has ever sought special additional rights for our LGBTI community. They are simply seeking equal treatment by the law. Whether it is the right for loving same-sex couples to marry or adopt or receive the protection of domestic violence legislation or access to a deceased partner's superannuation, our LGBTI community has had to fight for what heterosexual couples have gained sometimes decades before them. Today we correct another historical anomaly whereby consensual sexual activity was treated differently under the Criminal Code based solely on the gender of the people participating.

This legislation will allow Queenslanders historically convicted or charged with offences relating to what was then described as homosexual activity to apply to have them expunged. It delivers on Labor's election commitment and it is informed by expert advice from the Queensland Law Reform Commission. We do not weaken protections against assault or any other illegal activity by righting this wrong. We give people back their dignity, their rights and, frankly, their histories—and we do it at no

cost to the rights of others. We remove the stigma associated with historical charges that stays with Queenslanders to this day, causing shame and embarrassment in situations such as job applications. No longer will people who engaged in consensual relationships be able to be described according to the legislation in force at the time, which referred to them as acting against the force of nature or with gross indecency, or treated as vagrants.

This bill enjoys support from a wide range of community stakeholders including Protect All Children Today, the Queensland Law Society and the Anti-Discrimination Commission. I am so proud to add my support to it today. I am pleased also that amendments have been foreshadowed by the Attorney-General to allow for the expungement of convictions or charges relating to offences that occurred in a public place, because this goes to the heart of the matter for so many people affected by this bill. Stakeholders have told us that without this change the bill does not adequately address the historical context in which many so-called offences took place. People who lived under a cloud of discrimination and the threat of prosecution necessarily had to resort to secret activity, or what is commonly known as gay beats. These people have criminal records because they were driven to hiding their activity by a society that could not tolerate their sexuality—activity that could not have been observed by a person without taking abnormal or unusual action, consensual activity that harmed no-one.

This is the latest in a series of reforms that the Palaszczuk government has achieved this term towards true equality for Queenslanders regardless of their sexuality. It was a Labor government in 2010 that established the LGBTI advisory council but, like so many consultative mechanisms, it was scrapped under the previous LNP government. We will soon be announcing membership of a new LGBTI Roundtable after nominations have opened and closed. Short listing is well underway. This body will be an opportunity to discuss issues impacting on Queensland's LGBTI community and provide feedback on government policies, strategies and programs. The Palaszczuk government is committed to working with LGBTI Queenslanders, and we are firmly committed to equality. This is another step towards it, and I commend the bill and the amendments foreshadowed by the Attorney-General to the House.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (4.57 pm): 1990 was not that long ago. Bob Hawke was Prime Minister, George Bush Sr was President and after 11 years Margaret Thatcher was packing up 10 Downing Street. *Twin Peaks* had just premiered on ABC, Milli Vanilli's producer had shocked the world by disclosing that they had been lip-synching the whole time, and *Die Hard 2* had just come out. 1990 really was not that long ago. How incredible to think that just that short while ago you could go to jail just because of who you love.

Until 1990, consensual homosexual sex was illegal in Queensland. Gay men in Queensland were targeted, tricked and charged using laws that were born out of bigotry, hatred and fear of anything different. Some gay men lied and confessed to the worse charge of rape because admitting to having consensual sex meant that both partners could be charged. Even in 1990, when this House debated decriminalising homosexual sex, the debate was base and cruel, and some members chose to use their platform to say that LGBTIQ Queenslanders were somehow lesser than their heterosexual peers. Members can read *Hansard*. It was pretty sick.

We really have not come that far. MPs are still using their platform in the marriage equality debate to attack LGBTIQ people to say that they do not deserve equality, they do not deserve to marry the people they love and they do not deserve to raise children together, to say that they should not be considered next of kin or to be allowed to make decisions for their loved ones in their time of need. When those MPs stand up proudly and tell people that LGBTIQ people are not equal and are not normal, the homophobes hear them loud and clear. So far in what was promised to be a respectful debate we have seen 'yes' signs graffitied, equality campaigners spat on and sworn at, people's homes defaced and rocks thrown through people's windows. While some of the things that have been said have been pretty funny, like Kevin Andrews who said, 'I have affectionate relationships with my cycling mates. We go cycling on the weekend, but that's not marriage'—it might not be marriage, but it does not sound like cycling to me either—or when Fred Nile suggests that we could just sort the whole thing out by calling it 'homriage' and 'lesriage' instead of the term 'marriage', it is much less funny when Eric Abetz describes homosexuality as sodomy and incest or Tony Abbott says that same-sex marriage is a threat to Western civilisation. Malcolm Turnbull knew that this would never be a respectful debate. It was never supposed to be. It is supposed to be a distraction.

While some have chosen to use the marriage equality debate to stir up the bigots and the homophobes, I am proud to use my platform to support Queensland's LGBTIQ community and I am proud to be part of a government that has consistently fought for the rights of gay Queenslanders—when we reintroduced civil unions, when we allowed same-sex couples to adopt, when we stuck up for Safe Schools, when we equalised the age of consent and when our Premier stood in this House and apologised to the men who have had to live their lives with a criminal record for simply loving the person they loved. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (5.01 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017. The objectives of this bill are to establish a scheme for the expungement, on application, of convictions and charges for particular offences involving homosexual activity. The scheme applies to convictions or charges that happened before 19 January 1991. I am very proud to be standing to speak in support of this bill, which I see as the final tranche in the package of bills which have been introduced by the Attorney-General in this term of government which have shown the support of this government for members of the LGBTI community. I refer to the civil partnerships legislation, same-sex adoption, the standardisation of the age of consent and the removal of the gay panic defence. I want to put on record—something that I think I have done on every occasion that I have spoken on those bills, and I spoke on every single one of them—my admiration for the Attorney-General and what she has achieved. More has been achieved for the LGBTI community in this term of government than in the entire history of this parliament and it makes me extremely proud to have been a member of this parliament when that occurred.

The member for Mount Coot-tha talked about the fact that consensual adult male homosexual activity ceased to be a criminal offence in Queensland on 19 January 1991, when the relevant Criminal Code offences were repealed. The point that he made about that being not very long ago is a really strong one. When we tell people who were born since that time—when I tell my own daughters—that that only happened in 1991, they cannot believe that that occurred only so recently. That highlights the indignity and the activity that is happening right now in front of our very eyes with the marriage equality plebiscite taking place in Australia.

I do not believe that I personally know anyone who has had the misfortune to be caught up in this legal loophole who has had to suffer the legal consequences of being homosexual—that is, they are legally labelled as a criminal on the basis of their sexual preferences—and whose career may have been impacted by this conviction and for too many years publicly may as well have been labelled as a leper—and who had the indignity of being an illegal person. This bill is clearly for them. This bill is another strike for equality. When I see the suffering that many members of the LGBTI community who live in my electorate and more broadly—my many friends and acquaintances who belong to the LGBTI community—are currently going through in the course of this disgraceful plebiscite, this is the least that we can do. I am so pleased that there is something that we can be doing in this parliament to send a message to those people at this particular point in time that someone cares. If we could legalise same-sex marriage in this parliament, then I would be at the vanguard of that debate and I would be lobbying every single person in this chamber who I thought could possibly be wavering.

I want to say to those members of my community: this is the most we can do. If we could do any more, we would do it. When you hear the stories of those people and you hear the stories of their families—when you know what it has been like right now for people to grow up as a homosexual, for young gay people to be growing up the subject of relentless bullying that has led to depression and suicidal thoughts and suicide, of the journey through hell that they go through of never being able to hold their partner's hand in public or to express who they are for fear of reprisal—I think that homosexuality may as well still be illegal for the way people are being treated.

At this point I want to acknowledge the members of Bulimba 4 Marriage Equality who have been so strongly active in my electorate. They are there every Saturday morning at what we call the 'rainbow roundabout', which is the roundabout in Oxford Street. It is a very popular part of my electorate where lots of locals go and lots of people from outside the electorate go. Some LGBTI families brought their kids and they started out the minute the marriage plebiscite was announced and they painted their own signs. Every single Saturday for a couple of hours people from my community would go past them and would drive around and around the roundabout to beep them to say, 'We support you.' I was so proud of my community for coming out and showing really strongly how much they supported them. It has become the thing to do to join the rainbow roundabout.

One day a young man was sitting near the roundabout—it was not on a Saturday—and he saw a member of our community tearing down all the rainbow flags that had been put there. He made a comment to this person and this person punched him in the face and he will have a permanent scar on his face as a result of that. That really shocked my community because I do not think many people knew how much hatred there was and how much members of the LGBTI community have to suffer.

I think of Kris and Ty, who are members of the Bulimba 4 Marriage Equality group. We decided the first day that we were going to take tiles around to all of the businesses in Oxford Street to remind people that they only had a certain number of days to enrol. They went into all of the shops and asked the people working in those shops if they would hand out those tiles and they did. They were so buoyed by it, but they said to me afterwards that they had got out of bed that morning and they were physically sick at the thought that they would have to go into those shops and someone might yell at them or someone might have a go at them and criticise them and call them names. They said, 'We have that happen anyway. Why would we invite that?'

In this debate I think we are all hearing stories from people who are homosexual and who are wilting before our eyes. They just want it to go away—that people right across Australia are discussing who they are, that they should have an opinion about who they are. I want to say to the members of the Bulimba 4 Marriage Equality group, who have given up their Saturday morning ritual now because it has just become too much for them, that they are the bravest people I know. I have listened to what things have been like for them for all their lives. The fact that they would go out there on a Saturday morning and invite physical, verbal or emotional violence to make a statement is the most amazing thing that I know.

To Shinead Cunningham, Kris Eyre, Ty Curtis, Paul Borny and their partners and their families, I want to say what an honour it has been to work with them and what an honour it is to do just this one more little thing in this parliament to say that we care and that equality is the most important thing.

 **Mr WHITING** (Murrumba—ALP) (5.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of this bill. I reflect on what was said by the member for Bulimba. This bill is all about fairness and doing the right thing. I truly believe that. I find it a privilege to stand in this parliament to speak in support of this bill. I also reflect on what the member for Waterford, the minister for families, said. Through this bill we give people back their dignity and their rights and we remove their stigma. That is a really important part of this bill. It is not often that we can do that through legislation. I think that is a very pertinent point. Through this bill, we are able to create a real social and personal effect.

During this debate we have heard that this bill represents a great step forward in social justice for Queenslanders. We have heard from Queenslanders who have been holding convictions that we consider in this day and age to be anachronistic. It is hard to explain to younger Queenslanders why older Queenslanders must carry convictions for things that they consider to be an expression of love between two human beings. As part of the consideration of this bill we have heard tales of how lives have been shattered. People who have held these convictions have not been able to teach or practise law and, in some cases, have had some restrictions on travelling. Once again, it is difficult to explain to younger Queenslanders how people can be restricted and lose so many rights for convictions that they consider to be incredibly outdated.

I echo the words of previous speakers in thanking the stakeholders who have contributed to this bill. It has been a long, hard road for many stakeholders who have campaigned hard. I pay tribute to all of those people who have played a role in bringing this bill to the fore. They have been very strong on this issue. I think they have been very strong in saying that the amendments that the Attorney-General has introduced were needed to make this bill even fairer. Otherwise, there is a major loophole. These stakeholders told us that, for many of them, if we did not have these amendments the stain of these convictions would remain. I am glad that we have been able to introduce these amendments to make this bill even fairer. I congratulate the stakeholders for not only the amendments but also following this bill through to where we are today.

During their contributions the member for Pine Rivers and the member for Capalaba talked about how they did not grow up at a time when people had that fear of police or fear of conviction. Certainly, as someone who grew up in the tail end of that period in Queensland, I can say that that fear of what could happen to a person's career was a very real fear. I think younger people have to remember that, during those times, that was what many Queenslanders faced. It is good that we have moved beyond those times and to a time when we have justice and procedural fairness.

Today, we have heard a bit more about the marriage equality debate. I think that issue is very much a part of the broader issue of this bill. The expungements that can happen through this bill and the granting of marriage equality to all Australians are not just what happens to someone else. These equivalent rights will apply to people we know and love—people who do not currently enjoy all the rights that we do. I think of people such as my friend Caitlin, whom I have known since she was four years old. More than anything, she really wants to marry the person of her choice. She is a young woman and I will be so glad to say to her that we have played a part in not only introducing this bill but also, hopefully, marriage equality so that she can access the same rights that many of her fellow Australians can access.

In many ways, this bill is simply an administrative scheme—people can apply for expungement and their circumstances are considered—but this bill is much more than just a simple administrative scheme; it is the extension of justice and fairness to where we always thought it should be. I congratulate the Attorney-General on this bill. I am so pleased to be part of a government that is extending fairness and equity across a whole range of aspects of Queensland life. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (5.16 pm): It is bittersweet to rise in this House to speak in support of the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017. It is bitter, because yet again we ventilate the injustice done to the LGBTIQ community. It is sweet, because we are finally righting a wrong.

Queensland's LGBTIQ community has been through a lot—much more than they would ever allow people to see, particularly the elders of this community. Their persecution by their own government stains the history of this state. When consensual adult homosexual activity was finally decriminalised in Queensland in 1991 by Wayne Goss, much damage had already been inflicted on this community. The toll on the community was extensive. Many men, who had hidden themselves from family and friends because of their sexuality, were abruptly outed. Many suffered their shame silently. Others were driven away by their loved ones and forced to start new lives elsewhere. Tragically, many more ended their own lives. I have spoken personally to a number of people who have endured this persecution and have shared with me their own stories and those of their friends who are now gone. Their pain and trauma are still not forgotten, because who can ever truly forget being made to suffer just because of who they are?

Since 1991, Labor has worked and fought to establish equality for the LGBTIQ community in this state and in Australia. Given that the entire nation is now having a very public and very unnecessary discourse on the rights of same-sex couples to marry, it is timely to talk about our path to equality. I say it is unnecessary, because the rights of any people should not be put to a survey or a public vote. What is even more insulting is spending millions of dollars of public money to do so. In less than three years, the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered equality for the LGTIQ community in this state all without putting the community through the trauma and shame of an expensive and unnecessary public survey.

While I would never truly know the trauma of those convicted and charged under Queensland's discriminatory laws, I have witnessed the kind of hatred they would have endured during the dark years before 1991. Just recently right-wing extremists have found their way into our community and are seeking to intimidate and scare those who would support marriage equality and support it publicly. I will never understand what drives these hateful people, but it has given me the opportunity to reflect on what members of the LGBTIQ community face each and every day.

The bill before the House proposes that a person who has been historically charged or convicted with eligible offences is able to apply to have these convictions expunged. This simply means that those who have carried these discriminatory charges and convictions do not ever have to relive the pain, the trauma and the embarrassment every time they apply for a job, volunteer for a community organisation, travel overseas or participate fully in civic life. We must remind people that in passing this bill and reforming our laws we are taking away the pain inflicted upon the LGBTIQ community by previous governments of this state. We know that this is a deeply hurtful and a deeply personal issue for many of our fellow Queenslanders and we must never forget that this abuse, this discrimination and this hatred occurred in our lifetime and was done with the blessing of governments that have sat in this House. We know that the LGBTIQ community has been through much pain, but in passing this bill we are one step closer to easing that pain.

I am proud to be a member of a government and a political party that values equality and works hard to ensure that no-one in this state—no-one in this country—is persecuted simply for being who they are. On behalf of my friends, colleagues, comrades and many of my constituents I proudly commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Sport) (5.21 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in support of the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017. I will keep it brief because, to be honest, there are not enough words that we can say in this place that will make up for the injustices of the past. This state allowed on too many occasions and has actively facilitated wholesale discrimination against people based on who they love. The gay community in this state has endured through police violence and entrapment. The gay community endured through a plague while its government turned its back on them and actively vilified them. We as a state let this community down. We let them down when they were at their most vulnerable. This bill will not go anywhere near making up for that, but I know for those who suffered these injustices it will mean a great deal to have the state acknowledge that they are not criminals, that we were wrong and that we are sorry. Sadly, we do so in a context where ever shrinking forces of hatred and bigotry are being given a national megaphone through the LNP's harmful survey.

Labor, on the other hand, has always had a strong history of reform for LGBTI people and has been driven by tremendous and fierce activists within our party. Over the past few weeks people have been reflecting on just how much of a change we have seen in recent times. To have the Premier and Deputy Premier of our state lead the state Pride march a few weeks ago I know means an awful lot to many people. There is not one single day when we achieve equality, though; it is a process. It is a series of changes. On the road to equality we are always at risk of going backwards. Remember the terrible sexual health cuts made under those opposite. Remember their horribly cruel changes to civil unions. Homophobia is worth fighting against in our laws and in our institutions because when it becomes part of our institutions people feel comfortable reflecting it as citizens. It was not just the injustices of authorities that were served on people; the culture that enabled these injustices allowed people to undertake their own brutality. The bashing of gay men was all too common and all too often it went without sanction and without investigation. For that, and for so much else, we are sorry.

As other members have, I will make some remarks about marriage equality, which I fully support. While I understand that not all members of this House support marriage equality, I would ask them to reflect on the fact that, whichever way they marked their survey, the mere fact that it is taking place is just another injustice for the gay community. I have been very encouraged by the support I have seen during this harmful plebiscite: Australians coming together in the face of hate to support equality. When a community has had the courage to battle police discrimination and brutality, when a community has had the courage to endure an existential threat and to stare down a deadly, unknown virus while their government ramped up discrimination, we as politicians should at least have the courage to do our jobs and to remove those injustices. Whilst the LNP in Canberra has taken the low road, tonight we have an opportunity to take a path that is right. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.25 pm): I am delighted to rise to speak in support of the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017. There are times in our political careers when we feel very proud to stand in this place and reflect the views of our communities. As the member for Brisbane Central, an inner-city electorate with a high percentage of the LGBTI+ community, it is a delight to stand here today to fix a wrong of the past. It is historic for me and it gives me a great sense of pride to speak in support of this bill. This year's Pride march was one of the biggest that I have witnessed.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Ms GRACE: I take the interjection from Minister Bailey, who was with us on the day. It was fantastic to see the number of people who came out in support of the LGBTI+ community. They are proud of who they are, proud of their sexuality, proud of their community. They marched down the street chanting very loudly for marriage equality and a 'yes' vote, which we all supported. It was fantastic to have the Premier of the state lead that march. My understanding is she is the first Premier to have done so in the history of the march. The Deputy Premier and other members of this House also marched together down Brunswick Street to New Farm Park on a very hot day. The heat was nothing compared to the pride that we felt being part of that community. On that day I had many members of the community come up to me thanking us for what we have done.

I congratulate the Attorney-General on what we as a government have done to remedy many of the wrongs of the past when it comes to the LGBTI community. Let me rattle some of them off. We have removed the gay panic defence, one of the things that the LGBTI+ community have been asking for for quite some time. We have now equalised the age of consent. We now have same-sex adoption in the state. We also reinstated civil partnerships. As the Attorney-General knows, recently my hairdresser had a civil partnership ceremony at Warwick with his long-term partner, Luke. It was absolutely marvellous to go to that ceremony with all of his family. Everyone was very, very proud.

Debate, on motion of Ms Grace, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports and Reporting Dates

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.29 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 1 of 2017 titled *Follow-up of report 15: 2013-14 Environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries* be referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee; and the Auditor-General report to parliament No. 2 of 2017 titled *Managing the mental health of Queensland police employees* be referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Public Works and Utilities Committee report on the Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2017 by 23 November 2017 and that the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report on the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 by 23 November 2017. The committee has also resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, to vary the committee responsible for the Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 from the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, to report by 27 November 2017.

MOTION

Distribution of GST

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (5.30 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. supports the Productivity Commission's recommendation to retain the broad concept of horizontal fiscal equalisation used by the Commonwealth Grants Commission in allocating GST funds;
2. rejects a per capita distribution model favoured by the LNP in states like NSW and Pauline Hanson's One Nation, which would see Queensland lose \$2.4 billion in GST revenue;
3. rejects any proposal that unfairly disadvantages Queensland, including the Productivity Commission's 'reasonable' test being based on the average state, where Queensland would be \$1.59 billion worse off in 2017-18; and
4. notes that, notwithstanding this review of the GST, there remains great uncertainty for the Queensland budget as the Turnbull government still holds the ability to impact on service delivery in Queensland through withholding non-GST funding.

Our system of federal-state financial relations is a complex one. It has evolved over time and one could say that it never stops evolving. The concept of horizontal fiscal equalisation has existed since 1933 with the establishment of the Commonwealth Grants Commission. At that time, it was focused largely on providing support to less populous states, not all states. We have seen major changes since then, including the massive shift that occurred when the federal government assumed taxation powers during World War II. The 1970s saw the advent of financial assistance grants and early last decade we saw the introduction of a GST, the revenue of which has always been earmarked for the states and territories.

Successive Commonwealth treasurers have said that there would be no changes to the distribution of the GST pool without the unanimous support of all states and territories. The blunt fact is that that is not required and the Turnbull government could change the distribution model if it chose to without the agreement of the states and territories. That is why this motion is so important. It is why this House needs to speak as one to Canberra on the issue.

The current GST pool is more than \$62.3 billion and Queensland's share is more than \$14.9 billion in 2017-18. To deliver across the state the services that Queenslanders expect, we need to stand up for Queensland and our fair share of the GST pool. As I said yesterday, we will stand up for Queenslanders and fight for a fair allocation of GST funds for our state. We will not support changes that see us lose our fair share. We back the decision not to use the per capita funding split advocated mainly by the LNP in New South Wales, as well as by One Nation. One Nation committed to per capita funding, even though its leader, Pauline Hanson, is a Queenslanders and we would stand to lose \$2.4 billion. She has openly advocated giving away our funds to Western Australia. The LNP and Tim Nicholls need to stop making deals with a party that wants to send \$2.4 billion from Queensland to Western Australia. That funding would hit hardest our regional communities, meaning cuts to funds for regional schools, hospitals, roads and other services.

We support horizontal fiscal equalisation. Equalisation has always meant just that: the equal capacity to deliver services. The Productivity Commission draft report suggests that all jurisdictions should have the capacity to achieve a reasonable level of services, not the same or an equal level of services. We reject the two modified options for changing the allocations put forward by the Productivity Commission, both of which see us and all other states except Western Australia lose out.

Equalisation to the average state, not the strongest, as it now stands, would leave Queensland \$1.59 billion worse off or \$321 less per person. The draft report shows that under equalisation to the average state Queensland would be the state that loses the most GST revenue. Equalisation to the second strongest state would take \$729 million from our share of the GST or \$141 per Queenslanders. The current formula, equalisation to the strongest state, ensures that Queensland receives our fair share of funding to deliver services to the same standard as other states and territories. I do not need to remind anyone in this House that we are the most decentralised state in Australia. It is not fair for Queensland to cop a potential \$1.59 billion reduction.

While this is a draft report, we will be making our views known. Unlike those opposite, who I think are being very lazy on the issue, we made a submission contributing to the draft report and we will again make a submission to fight to ensure Queensland continues to get its fair share of GST revenue. We will not support changes that disadvantage Queensland, especially our capacity to support regional communities. Unlike the LNP, we will not be doing deals or getting into bed with parties such as One Nation, which want to see us lose money by advocating per capita allocations from the GST pool.

The federal government has had a political problem with Western Australia and this is really their way of seeking to resolve it. We do not think it is fair that the problem be solved by eroding funding to all other states and territories, including here in Queensland. The Queensland government supports horizontal fiscal equalisation and believes it forms an essential part of the social compact in Australia. The community expects all Australians will receive a similar standard of services, regardless of where they live.

There is another issue here, which is the ongoing problem of vertical fiscal imbalance. At numerous treasurers' meetings I have raised the idea of having more and greater funding certainty, particularly for areas such as health and education, and then putting the proposal forward to actually have Queensland and other states and territories receive a share of income tax. It is a growing tax. It is one that is already there and charged. We would then stop the endless roundabout of having to negotiate and renegotiate national partnership agreements every year or two. Having those funds untied would give us more budget flexibility, which is something that we would be very keen indeed to explore. However, at this stage we have had a lukewarm response from Scott Morrison and the Turnbull government. We will continue to press the case, because now more than ever it is important for Queensland to stand up and make sure that we are fighting for what is best for Queensland and not what is best for the political party concerned.

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (5.35 pm): Let us make no mistake: this motion is nothing more than a distraction. It is a distraction to try to take the focus away from the embarrassing and outrageous reality that Labor's only plan to stop blackouts in Queensland over this summer is to tell families to turn up their air conditioning and shut off their pool pumps. Once again this government has been left red-faced by the questionable actions of the member for Yeerongpilly and now we see them scrambling desperately to divert attention away from their failed announcement and their failed energy policies.

They are also desperately trying to divert attention away from the fact that they have been dreadfully silent on the GST issue. Instead of engaging in meaningful debate and advocating for Queenslanders, Labor has engaged in desperate grandstanding. We saw that most notably in the

Premier's contribution to the topic this morning, when she proceeded to reject all of the Productivity Commission's recommendations. She said 'we reject those recommendations outright'. One of those recommendations relates to making more data publicly available. Another calls for the Commonwealth Grants Commission to enhance formal interaction with state and Commonwealth governments.

It is abundantly clear that the Premier has not read the Productivity Commission's draft report. However, that did not stop her from grandstanding and trying to pick a fight with the federal government to deflect attention from her government's failures. I guess we should expect nothing less from a Premier who did not even know the rate of the GST when asked. I encourage the Premier to pick up and read the Productivity Commission's report. Whilst we on this side of the House certainly do not agree with every aspect of it, it makes some important points. For the benefit of the Premier I will highlight one point in particular, which states—

The system is beyond comprehension by the public, and poorly understood by most within government ...

That is one of the key points and it clearly applies to the Premier.

Sadly, the contribution of the Treasurer to this debate has not been much better. His only meaningful contribution—and we saw it again today—is to continue advocating for a share of income tax for the states. That is a proposal worth considering. It is also a proposal first floated by the LNP and a proposal that has failed to receive the backing of the Premier. I table this report from the *Brisbane Times* about the Premier discussing taking a share of income tax.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 30 March 2016, titled 'Income tax debate—no thanks, we're Queenslanders' [1979].

This is just another area of a national tax debate that the Premier has refused to properly engage in. The only firm position that the Premier put forward was a plan to double the Medicare levy, up from two per cent to four per cent. That is the type of approach that the Premier and Labor take to tax reform. For Labor, a tax hike is a tax reform. Not only does the LNP reject Labor's tax-first approach; we also reject One Nation's moves to rob Queensland of GST and pass it over to Western Australia. Pauline Hanson was happy to tell radio station 6PR Perth that she would gladly see Queensland get less and for Western Australia to get more. That goes to show that she is happy to do and say whatever she needs to, to win votes.

The LNP is not interested in grandstanding. We are engaged in meaningful debate about changing the GST distribution model in a way that would benefit Queensland. We actually wrote to the Prime Minister proposing a change to the way mining revenue is considered—to penalise states that choose not to develop their resources like gas and reward states like Queensland for supporting this investment in the economy. States like Victoria are effectively sucking on Queensland's gas reserves and should be penalised for lacking the political courage to develop their gas industry.

In closing, I want to mention these points confirming the LNP's views. We absolutely support the concept of horizontal fiscal equalisation in the allocation of GST funds. We reject any changes that would unfairly disadvantage Queensland. We note that the vast majority of the alternative approaches highlighted by the Productivity Commission's draft report will leave Queensland worse off. That is not acceptable or supported. We will not support a situation where Queenslanders lose out at the expense of other states.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.40 pm): I will begin where the member for Indooroopilly left off. If he does not want to disadvantage Queensland then he and the members opposite will support this motion tonight. This is a very simple test of the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition. Do they support this cut to Queensland or are they going to finally stand up for Queensland? Some debates in this House are more important than others. This is one of those debates. The impact of this sort of change to the financial position of Queensland would be absolutely profound. We could lose up to \$1.6 billion a year under the proposal that the Productivity Commission has put forward.

We had the weasel words from the member for Indooroopilly. That is all we ever get from the leadership of the opposition—from the leader, the deputy and the shadow Treasurer. They try to weasel their way out of it at the end. When the division comes, they can put their hands up and support Queensland.

We could lose \$1.6 billion. Almost the entire cost of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital each and every year could be ripped out of Queensland. What would that fund? It would fund 6,146 doctors and 12,606 nurses and it would provide an additional 2.7 million dental appointments. That is what we are talking about in terms of ripping out \$1.6 billion from Queensland.

No portfolios have been more heavily pounded, more consistently and more viciously, by the federal coalition government than Health and Education. Some \$10 billion was ripped out when they tore up the National Health Reform Agreement. There was an 84 per cent cut to the national partnership agreements. They have taken \$57 million out of public dental care. I know members of the opposition are starting a public dental health scare campaign across Queensland. Every day until the election, whenever that is held, I will be reminding the people of Queensland who has gutted public health in this state—that is, the federal coalition government.

We are bound by a common identity founded on a shared set of values which is, at its base and at its most fundamental, a belief in a fair go. Queensland is being absolutely ripped off under this proposal. Horizontal fiscal equalisation is our policy response against the tyranny of distance and the inequity of the economic playing field. The findings of the Productivity Commission put that at risk and Queensland is right in the firing line.

The failure of the opposition to be heard on this is not only disappointing but completely unsurprising. We have called on the member for Clayfield to stand up for Queensland time and time again against all of the attacks we have faced from the federal coalition. What have we heard? We have heard nothing. He is completely missing in action. He is a dreary and uninspiring leader, lazy and apathetic, confused and dispirited, destructive and out of touch, but at least he is consistent. He is also racked by a politically dangerous liability of poor judgement. That is the weasel words we hear from them over and over and over again.

That is just the coalition. What about One Nation? Pauline Hanson, having sold out Queensland workers by attacking penalty rates, having turned her back on Queensland farmers by ramping up the backpackers tax, having let Queensland families down by protecting the big banks against a royal commission, has come out and said, 'We will not take \$1.6 billion out of Queensland. We will take \$2.4 billion out of Queensland.' She is not a senator from Western Australia. If you are listening, Pauline, I point out that you are not a senator for Western Australia; you are a senator for Queensland. It is about time you stood up and represented our state in the federal parliament.

Remember when she was on radio in Perth during the Western Australian election? She was very happy to sell out Queensland. Every member opposite is willing to get into bed with Pauline Hanson and One Nation to save their political skins. The member for Burnett, who is in the chamber, is right in the firing line. The member for Gympie is right in the firing line. Nanango and Lockyer—all of those seats—are at risk because they have a weak and uninspiring leader who has no policies and no ideas for the future of this state. They are willing to ride into government on the coat-tails of Pauline Hanson.

It is entirely unacceptable. It is entirely unacceptable to the Australian Labor Party. It is entirely unacceptable to the body politic in this state. The people of Queensland will not put up with it. They should rule out a preference deal with One Nation. The Leader of the Opposition is complicit with One Nation if he does not support this motion tonight.

Now is the time to put up or be quiet. Now is the time for the Liberal National Party to finally demonstrate, as this parliament reaches the conclusion of its three years, whether he believes in Queensland or whether he believes in Malcolm Turnbull. That is the choice tonight. All members of this House should support this motion.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.45 pm): After that performance from the member for Woodridge, I will bring this debate back to the motion at hand. The economic debate and the motion we see moved tonight is from a desperate Treasurer in desperate straits. This Labor government has always led from behind when it comes to the Queensland economy. They were never expecting to be granted the honour of the treasury bench. They have been bereft of an economic vision from the day they took office. Now they are struggling to get their bearings on what it takes to run the Queensland economy and how best they can utilise Queensland's share of the GST resources.

We only need to recall the last state election campaign when the then Leader of the Opposition, the now Premier, failed to recall the GST rate. When that moment and the squandering of Queensland's AAA credit rating have been the two most memorable economic moments for this party in the last decade they are in desperate trouble. They are a party in desperate trouble.

That desperation is on clear display tonight. This motion smacks of a desperate Treasurer who is unable to halt the runaway train of \$80 billion worth of debt. It smacks of a desperate Treasurer whose wafer-thin surplus has been boosted by federal government funding for Cyclone Debbie. We have a desperate Treasurer who has no idea how to respond intelligently to the Productivity Commission's report. He instead comes into this House to play rank political politics.

Horizontal fiscal equalisation has historically delivered highly arguable GST distributions to all states and territories. Some argue that Tasmania and South Australia have been the biggest beneficiaries. One Nation want to hand Queensland's GST revenue to Western Australia. When the equalisation mechanics are paired with vertical fiscal imbalance, the arguments are more heated and more political.

The GST was always an improvement on the taxes it replaced, but it has exacerbated vertical fiscal imbalance by handing over even more of Australia's tax revenue responsibilities to the Commonwealth government. More heated and more political is exactly what the argument ought to be in a competitive federation. It is incumbent on the Queensland Treasurer of the day to fight for Queensland's fair share and not come in here and throw political rocks. It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to argue the case for Queensland.

As so often is the case, it is the opposition that is leading the debate. It is the opposition that has categorically confirmed that there will be no acceptance by the LNP, in any way, shape or form, of any recalculation that serves to be detrimental to Queensland. It is the opposition leader who has recently put the case that those states that are failing to develop their gas reserves should not benefit from any recalculation of the GST distributions.

At the end of the day, the Treasurer is concerned about revenue. He is only concerned about revenue. This government has tried to do a few things in the last few years to cause a diversion, but it is never visionary, it is never transformative and it is never state building. Those opposite love sleights of hand like repatriations and tax increases, such as three consecutive 3.5 per cent car registration tax increases; they love pulling back budgeted amounts that would have relieved payroll tax pressures on small business; and they have whacked an investment tax on property throughout Queensland. They run from their record at the same time, whether that be the lowest wages growth in the country or youth unemployment beyond 13 per cent. They are all about diversions. That is what this motion is about tonight.

The Productivity Commission has said that the current horizontal fiscal equalisation system was poorly understood by many in government. That was a generic comment at the time, but I think it applies most accurately to this government, to this Treasurer. With a quarter of Queensland's total revenue at stake, there is no time to waste. The Treasurer needs to stop playing politics in here and get out there and advocate for Queensland's fair share of the GST pie. Be at the front and centre of the debate, Treasurer. Stop blaming others, stop playing politics and start fighting for Queensland.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism, Major Events and the Commonwealth Games) (5.50 pm): None of those opposite have the guts to come in here and defend the indefensible, so they have had to go down the pecking order—the member for Toowoomba South up the back and the member for Coomera have the gig. Let us be honest: if the Leader of the Opposition claims that he has the mettle to be the premier of Queensland then come in here in the parliament and debate this motion—debate a motion about the \$1.5 billion cut to Queensland. Come in here and defend why he will get into bed with One Nation, which wants to rip out \$2.4 billion from Queensland. This goes to the heart of what the LNP are trying to achieve here in Queensland. They are going to try to limp their way into office, with Pauline Hanson dragging them by their heels. It is shameful.

Tonight's motion is not about coming up with something to debate, as the member for Toowoomba South said. It is not about coming in here with some political wedge. We do not want to be here debating \$1.6 billion being taken from Queensland by the Malcolm Turnbull government. We do not want to have to debate that. The political reality is that in our country right now the federal government of their persuasion wants to screw Queensland to the tune of \$1.5 billion. That is what they want to do. Unfortunately for Queenslanders, because we have a bunch of blokes over there who are more concerned about their own seats, they are willing to do deals with One Nation and take \$2.4 billion out of Queensland's hospitals and schools. It is shameful. I am going to call them out on it as long as I breathe.

What we have seen here tonight is just another example that the LNP stand for nothing. They have always been a party of opportunism. In actual fact, the only reason they became the LNP in the first place was that they saw it was to their political advantage. There is nothing that brings them together other than their own rank opportunism, which is what they stand for. Tonight highlights that to its core.

In the past, in the time that I have been a member of parliament and worked for Labor governments, we have had unanimous support against the federal government when they have tried to rip off Queensland. We used to be able to count on having motions moved in here where we saw the leader of the opposition and the premier of Queensland stand united in the best interests of Queensland. Those days are gone. I see the Speaker nodding because it is true: those days are gone. Those days are over because we are back to the shameful days of rank politics where those opposite who used to vote with us on issues like stem cells—and I give the member for Callide his due: he has proved in the past that when it comes to an issue of importance for people of Queensland he has voted with his conscience.

Tonight we are not asking you to break rank with your party. All we are saying is that we need to as Queenslanders send a united message to our federal government that we will not cop an almost \$1.6 billion cut to our coffers. What do we do with state funding? We build those main roads that you like to talk about. We build those schools that you like to talk about. We build those hospitals in areas like Kingaroy that you talk about but would never fund. We do that. That is what we spend the money on. We build the resources and infrastructure that Queenslanders want.

Tonight you have an opportunity to show to the people of Queensland that you are not as bad as One Nation. You can be better than them. We are giving you a free ride. You can come in here tonight and say, 'Do you know what? We are standing up to Canberra. We are going to put Queensland first.' No. You will squib it just like you always do under the spineless Leader of the Opposition that you have right now—a man who in 2001 was really happy to say—

Mr Hart: Nasty girl.

Ms JONES:—that Pauline Hanson was the end of the earth, that she was a horrible person—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for Education, I know you are on a roll, but I think your comments about the opposition leader, who is not in the chamber, were unparliamentary. Can you please withdraw those comments?

Ms JONES: I withdraw. I take the interjection that the member yelled out—that I was nasty. I think what we saw from your candidate for Redcliffe, standing in a photo with someone with their face painted black, was nasty. She never apologised for doing it; she just apologised for taking the photo. That is my definition of nasty. That is nasty and divisive. That nastiness and divisiveness is what happens when you support One Nation in this country, when you support a \$2.4 billion cut to Queensland and shovel that money over to Western Australia.

Already tonight the comments that you are making in this debate highlight the slippery slope that you were on the moment you said you would continue to do deals with One Nation. We know how this story ends. It is not good for Queensland's economy, it is not good for Queensland's tourism and it is not good for my children.

(Time expired)

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.56 pm): I rise to make a positive contribution to this debate, unlike those opposite. Let me set the scene. On 19 May 2017 the Leader of the Opposition wrote to the Prime Minister and said—

The Liberal-National Party will fight to ensure Queensland gets our fair share of GST. Queenslanders have lost billions of dollars over the years to other states who have chosen not to develop their coal or gas resources. Queenslanders deserve a fair go.

There are two key aspects to equalisation: the budget or fiscal outcome of the states, and the standard of infrastructure and services a state provides and its revenue capacity to meet this level of service provision. For instance, in the last CGC update, Queensland was assessed as having a weaker fiscal capacity due to a deterioration in revenue-raising capacity across most revenue bases. The reduced fiscal capacity meant that Queensland's share of the GST was increased. We earned less but got more GST—we earned a lot less to get more GST. That is how it works, but it is not how we should be thinking. Having said that, let us face it: this debate really is about diverting attention away from the government's failures, diverting attention away from the government's cosyng up to the unions because of the millions of dollars they contribute to the Labor Party. Labor are desperate to divert attention away from their failures by trying to pick a fight over an issue they have been silent on.

As I said, the Leader of the Opposition wrote to the Prime Minister in May in relation to this Productivity Commission review. That letter put forward our position that the way that mining revenue is calculated should be amended. The current distribution formula penalises states that efficiently

develop their resources with royalties from gas, coal and other resource types equalised away through reduced GST payments. This government is following their lead, but it should not be. We should be bringing every pressure to bear on other state governments, not following them.

If only this government could manage its finances. This is about this government doing more to improve our productivity, not less. It is not about making less money like the bloke who does not want to earn an income because it would have the effect of increasing his rent in social housing. We need to be earning more money, increasing our productivity. For this state to prosper, we need to create jobs and properly manage our finances. We need to give families a hand up by taking action on cost-of-living pressures. We need to give them an opportunity to prosper. We need to stop looking at the other states and being jealous of what they are getting. We need to start doing what we need to do: building the roads that we need to get our productivity up and building the bridges that we need to get people to work and home in less time so they can spend more time with their families.

We need to focus on our strengths and diversify our economy, tourism, agriculture and resources. We need to get construction going again. We need to focus on education, science and technology. If we increase our revenues, our percentage share of GST may drop, but that is what horizontal fiscal equalisation is about. It has been increasing and falling over the years. As the shadow Treasurer said, we absolutely support the concept of HFE in the allocation of GST funds. We reject any changes that would unfairly disadvantage Queensland.

Honourable members should remember though that this motion is nothing but a political stunt. We have to remember what we have seen during this government's time in office—2½ years and coming up to three years. Under Labor, power prices have hit record highs. Under Labor, Queensland's energy security has been put at risk and Queenslanders are now being told to sweat through summer to avoid blackouts. That is the Treasurer's legacy for Queensland in 2017. Under Labor, Queenslanders are being hit with higher taxes as Labor struggles to keep a lid on its expenses. Instead of focusing on increasing productivity, instead of doing the things that we need to do to have the people of Queensland get out there and make a bigger dollar, generating more revenue for Queensland, building the things that we have to build, this government has been focused on the money that we are going to get from the GST as opposed to the money that we should be able to generate through increases in our economy. This is nothing more than Labor trying to pick a fight with someone else to hide their own shortcomings. Queenslanders see through it. They see this government for what it is.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

ID Scanners

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (6.02 pm): What a bungle and stuff-up the implementation of ID scanners has been in Queensland. The Attorney-General will get up in about five minutes time and she will say, 'It's the LNP's laws. It's the LNP's laws.' Let me say in the first 10 seconds—

Mr SPEAKER: One moment, member for Kawana. I notice you are on a roll, but could you start again and move the motion?

Mr BLEIJIE: Of course. I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to adopt the LNP's common-sense approach to ID scanners and close the current two-hour loophole to ensure that only venues that trade after midnight in safe night precincts have to operate ID scanners after midnight rather than 10 pm.

The Attorney-General will stand up in five minutes and say, 'It was LNP laws. They introduced ID scanning.' She will not say they have been in government for three years, and she has forgotten about what has happened during those three years. Let me say at the outset that the LNP did introduce ID scanning laws as a part of our safe night strategy many years ago—four or five years ago now. We did that because it was part of a comprehensive plan tackling alcohol fuelled violence, and we stuck to our plan.

What have we seen from the Labor government? They announced a policy on trading hours. They then went to the election with different trading hours policies. They introduced different trading hours policies—the third trading hours policies—after the election. Then they said they were going to do lockout laws. Then they changed their mind and did not introduce lockout laws. They voted against

ID scanners and then introduced ID scanners, relying on the same evidence for not introducing them and then relying on the same evidence to introduce them because apparently the evidence changed overnight.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection; the member is confused. All members opposite would be. I reckon those ministers would sit in that cabinet room when the member for Redcliffe talks about ID scanners and say, 'Do we have to get our ID scanned at the moment or don't we? We have no idea what's going on.' That is what Queenslanders are saying. There was no public education campaign with respect to ID scans. As we see now, there is the ridiculous situation in Caxton Street. If people go to The Caxton Hotel after 10 o'clock on any night of the week and have dinner, they have to get their ID scanned. If they do not want to get their ID scanned they can walk 10 metres across the road to Gambaro's bar. They can walk in until midnight without having their ID scanned. If they don't want to go to The Caxton Hotel after 10 o'clock they can walk 10 metres across the road and they can have the same alcoholic beverage, but they do not have to get their ID scanned. How ridiculous!

Mr Langbroek: What if you're the Prince of Denmark?

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection. If someone is the Prince of Denmark they get whisked straight in, but if they are a French wine maker, no, they are not allowed in. If they are a Queenslanders without ID, they are not allowed in. This motion says they should fix the mess by this parliament agreeing to support changing it from 10 pm to midnight. Then everyone would be on the same level playing field in the safe night precinct and these issues will have been sorted. This loophole that this Attorney-General has introduced will be closed. That is what happens when there is no consultation.

Interestingly, the Attorney-General has never shown up at the Queensland hotel awards, which I was at last week. The Minister for Education, Kate Jones, was. I am going to quote the President of the Queensland Hotels Association. When introducing Minister Kate Jones, the tourism minister, Tom McGuire said, 'I'd like to thank Kate Jones, the Minister for Tourism, because she is working internally as hard as she can to get the Labor government to change their policy on ID scanners.' The tourism minister is doing her best, he said, to get the Labor Party to change their policy. Then the Attorney-General stood up here this morning and said how wonderful ID scanning is working. However, we know of the internal friction and factions they have opposite. We know the small business minister, the member for Brisbane Central, is meeting with the hotel industry behind closed doors and saying, 'Folks, we know we stuffed it up. Just bear with us. Kate Jones and I are trying to fix it. We know.'

I say to the Attorney-General that if there is no issue with ID scanners, as she said this morning, why is it that the Premier's Chief of Staff, Mr Barbagallo, is actually phoning licensees and asking them about the issues that they are experiencing with ID scanners?

Mrs D'Ath: It's called consultation.

Mr BLEIJIE: 'Consultation,' she says! It is after the fact, after it has been introduced. After the fact the Attorney-General stands up in here and says, 'It's wonderful. It's all working,' but the Premier's Chief of Staff is phoning licensees and saying, 'What's wrong? What can we do to fix it before an election?', and now she says she is consulting. Is she admitting she did not consult and she has outsourced her job to the Premier's chief of staff? Is that what she is saying?

The fact is she bungled it. The fact is everything she has touched in relation to liquor licensing she has bungled, whether it be ID scanners or wanting to breath-test patrons of the Gold Coast when leaving an establishment. She gave an exclusive to the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. Then when the Premier complained, the Attorney said, 'That wasn't me,' yet her quotes were in the paper—an exclusive. What a nightmare!

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines) (6.07 pm): Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to debate the motion tonight. There are two issues raised in the motion moved by the LNP tonight. The first issue I want to address is that the LNP is asking in the motion tonight that we adopt the LNP's so-called common-sense approach; and, secondly, that we close a loophole. I will address these two issues separately. Firstly, I repute—

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: One moment. Member for Callide, if you persist you will be warned. The interjections are unreasonable. The minister is invited to start again. Reset the clock.

Dr LYNHAM: There are two issues raised in the LNP motion that is being debated tonight: firstly, that we adopt the LNP's so-called common-sense approach; and, secondly, that there is some loophole that we must close. I want to address these two issues separately. Firstly, I refute that the LNP has any common sense at all. In fact, what we have just heard from the member for Kawana in the debate tonight is that there is no rationale, especially no evidence—there is not a shred of evidence in anything they say. There is absolutely no continuity in policy at all—I have never seen policy shift so much—and there is nothing in there to address anything to stop or to prevent the violence in our state.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you have had a pretty good go. The minister has the call.

Dr LYNHAM: Secondly, to address the member's assertion that there is a loophole, the only loophole in this debate has been the member for Kawana. He simply does not understand how it works. It is beyond his comprehension to understand how this works. He has proven time and time again in any debate on this issue that he has no grasp at all of the initiatives that underlie these valuable preventative measures. I feel that in the last five minutes we have been reformed by him in his own words that he does not know anything about this issue at all.

One hundred and twenty-five people have been banned from nightclubs and blocked from entering clubs. That is 125 people that my kids have not had to accidentally brush against and be threatened by a punch, but that 125 is not counting the number of people with banning orders who simply do not show up knowing they will be refused entry into these premises. They know that they will never get into these premises, so they are simply not counted because they are staying at home and not showing up to the premises in these districts.

Let us examine in detail the loophole of the member for Kawana. Let us look at his proposed adjustments to the scanning regime. Let us look at what happens when you operate scanners from 12 midnight. It may be difficult for them, but let us look at the hard evidence. Firstly, 80 per cent of club patrons have arrived by midnight. Eighty per cent of club patrons are already in the clubs by midnight, so who is left to scan after midnight? Not many people. All of the people with banning orders will be in the clubs by 12 midnight because they have not been scanned. If the scanners do not go on until 12, someone with a banning order can simply walk in until 12 midnight. The evidence shows that most people arrive in clubs between the hours of 10 pm and 12 am, so here scanners are essential. It is in these hours, the evidence shows, that scanners are essential. Here we have the so-called loophole from Kawana: scanners that are operational at times—

Mr SEENEY: I rise to a point of order. The member for Stafford cannot say that. He has to address members by their proper titles. That is well and truly established.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. The member was the one who brought it up. He started it! In his speech the member was referring to the loophole from Kawana, referring to the loophole that had been mentioned in the motion by the member for Kawana, the loophole that has been raised in the debate in the motion before the House. It is an absolutely appropriate and reasonable reference.

Mr SEENEY: The contribution of the Leader of the House is absurd. The member for Stafford said that the member for Kawana was a loophole. Maybe the Leader of the House would like me to call the member for Stafford a loophole.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Kawana has taken offence. Have you taken offence, member for Kawana?

Mr BLEIJIE: Absolutely. I take personal offence and I ask that it be withdrawn immediately.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, will you please withdraw and let's move on.

Dr LYNHAM: I withdraw. Here we have the so-called loophole as alleged by the member for Kawana: scanners that are operational at times when they will have the least effect—virtually no effect—and the money invested by clubs on scanners that will have very little purpose because 80 per cent of the people are already in the clubs at midnight. All we have heard from the member for Kawana on this issue is a litany of political opportunism and policy bereft of any evidence. We have seen a moving target with his policy which is purely devoted to his backers. He does not care one iota about any kid who gets injured or any family that loses a loved one, and I know—

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. I do take personal offence to that and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Will you withdraw?

Dr LYNHAM: I withdraw. I know that for every hour of increased late-night trading my colleagues in the emergency department will be working extra hours. I know that emergency departments all over Queensland must be feeling betrayed by what they hear from those opposite every time this debate is held. Evidence shows that this policy works.

Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.15 pm): I am tired of hearing the member for Stafford come in here as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and make out that he has more righteousness on his side, when all of the evidence that he has supposedly presented to us really says that he wants to close pubs and clubs at 10 o'clock. He just said that the worst people are in there before midnight and the greatest offences happen between 10 and midnight, so taking it to the nth degree what he would really like to do is close pubs at 10 o'clock.

Dr LYNHAM: I rise to a point of order. The member for Surfers Paradise is misleading the House. I simply said that most people have entered the clubs between 10 and 12, not the amount of violence. He must get the evidence right.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. I urge all members to make their comments through the chair. I call the member for Surfers Paradise.

Mr LANGBROEK: He has so much evidence as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon—he comes from the same profession that I do—and he has not been able to convince the cabinet of the merit of his supposed knowledge on lockouts. Now he is in here having to try and justify scanners. They sent him here as a penalty because his observations on lockouts were so out of touch that they could not even bring them in in February this year. What have they done in the safe night precincts to parents like me and the member for Kawana? He has even suggested that we do not care about injuries that may happen to our children. That is the contribution of the member for Stafford. It is disgusting! He came in here as a one-issue politician who has not been able to achieve the one issue he claims that he came here for, and now he is trying to make spurious claims about scanners. You should get back to university where you are really doing most of your work—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Surfers Paradise, take a breath. I urge you to make your comments through the chair.

Mr LANGBROEK: He should get back to university. We know he is not even spending all of his electoral allowance anyway because he is trying to do three jobs, and that is completely inappropriate for a member of parliament. He is bragging about the fact that he is going to run in the upcoming election and keep his professional registration. Someone like me has had to become a non-practising registrant—

Dr LYNHAM: I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence to those statements.

Mr SPEAKER: You ask that they be withdrawn?

Dr LYNHAM: Yes.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has asked that they be withdrawn.

Mr LANGBROEK: I withdraw. Those opposite must have their beer goggles on if they think their liquor laws are a success. They have been out of touch since 2015. They do not know what is happening with antisocial behaviour in our safe night precincts. It is something that I, as a father and the member for Surfers Paradise, take very seriously. One death or injury is one too many. When we had the lockout law debates, the member for Stafford suggested that even the compromise we ended up with was going to save lives. He will say anything to try to get his point across, and as parents and representatives of our electorates we are sick of it on this side of the House. I am standing here to voice my support for this motion. We have heard about what happens in a place like Caxton Street. You can be at Gambaro or at the Caxton on the other side of the street. If you are there before 10 you do not have to get scanned at all. If you go somewhere that operates after midnight then you have to be scanned.

Labor has a disgraceful track record on stamping out alcohol fuelled violence. Let us take a trip down memory lane on the Gold Coast, where both safe night precincts are located in my electorate. I have had the pleasure of meeting many hardworking business owners—pub and club owners who work together to make sure that locals and visitors have a safe and fun night out. As a dad and a local member who meets regularly with our police officers, I also know that most patrons do the right thing.

Members can understand why Labor's first liquor policy thought bubble, the lockout laws, was a huge kick in the guts to my community. Again, Labor sacrificed jobs on the Gold Coast to please one of its own members. I have already dealt with the member for Stafford. It was an ill-thought-out, one-size-fits-all policy that destroyed local jobs, forced business owners to operate under a cloud of

uncertainty and did nothing to change the behaviour of the few who displayed antisocial behaviour. That is why in September 2015 I stood shoulder to shoulder with Gold Coast pub and club owners, patrons, members of the community and my own sister Kate Langbroek at a local rally opposing Labor's short-sighted lockout laws. We all agreed that Labor's policy was a mess. There was no consultation, just a knee-jerk reaction. Then at the eleventh hour, after many pub and club owners had already let go of staff to accommodate for Labor's lockout laws, they backflipped.

In June 2016 we saw Labor have another one of its lightbulb moments. The Attorney-General and Labor thought it would be a great idea to allow patrons to buy a 45-millilitre whiskey on the rocks after midnight but ban 45-millilitre shots of whiskey. Before this, the Attorney-General decided that police should be breathalysing patrons inside bars and clubs, just to see how drunk they were. I table a copy of that article from 19 June 2015.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 19 June 2015, titled 'Breathalyser-wielding police to test drinkers at bar with results used to build a case against venues' [1980].

Today we are seeing the dire impacts of yet another Labor thought bubble, while alcohol fuelled violence remains an issue in our communities. It is no wonder patronage is low or patrons are confused. Even the Crown Prince of Denmark struggled to gain entry into a Queensland pub under Labor's nanny state laws. What will happen during the Commonwealth Games? We had a plan, the safe night plan, that was working well but they stopped it.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.21 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. Only our government, the Palaszczuk government, has the fortitude to drive real change in Queensland's drinking culture. Only our government is serious about tackling alcohol fuelled violence. We looked at the best available evidence to determine what will make a real difference in cutting violent assaults and aggressive drinking behaviour. We looked at the research so that we could do our part to change the drinking culture.

International research indicates that for every hour of reduced liquor trade there is a significant decrease in alcohol related assaults. This has informed every step of our multifaceted policy approach. We have reduced liquor service hours statewide. We have stopped new approvals for late night takeaway liquor. We have banned the sale of rapid intoxication drinks after midnight. Importantly, we are committed to an independent evaluation of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy. We have continued to refine our policy approach.

I note the lack of constructive engagement from the LNP in this process. We looked at the interim evaluation report to see what is working and what could work better. As a result, we introduced the operation of existing ID scanner laws—never proclaimed by the LNP—from 1 July this year. ID scanners are an important part of our government's strategy to tackle alcohol fuelled violence. We want to keep people on banning orders out of our precincts and promote good behaviour within them.

In my electorate of Mackay people stopped going out to our clubs. We are seeing the results in Queensland and we are seeing the results in our electorates including my own electorate of Mackay. I have spoken to local patrons and heard how ID scanners are making a difference to people's behaviour. This reflects our ongoing intent to change the drinking culture in Queensland. I was very pleased to see that our police are noticing a real change in that drinking culture, too. In particular, I note a media report on Channel 7 on 6 October. They think ID scanners are contributing to a drop in the number of negative incidents being recorded by police. The number has almost halved. This is a good thing. As a local bar manager quoted in the same story said, the scanners are keeping people in check a bit more and people are enjoying themselves—as they should.

People are returning to the CBD, whereas before scanners they were leaving. Before scanners, a lot of nightclubs in our CBD just closed down. People were deciding to go to taverns and local sports clubs in their own areas because they did not want to go into the CBD. Now, after scanners, three nightclubs are getting ready to reopen and a new bar for over-25s has opened up. Night-life is returning to the CBD.

Mackay is a great place to enjoy a night out. We have a distinctive and emerging hospitality industry. The great success of the Elton John concert is testament to this. We want to make sure it is a safe experience, too. Our laws, including the workable ID scanner regime, are an important part of keeping patrons safe, keeping staff safe and keeping police safe. I am proud to see local members of our hospitality industry working together with the police and emergency services. That is why it is important that we continue to back the current laws that are working well.

The LNP has no credibility on this issue. The LNP is not serious about tackling alcohol fuelled violence. It has flipped and flopped on this issue since day one. There is one true indicator of the LNP's weak approach on this issue. If the LNP were serious about this issue, it would not be making the member for Kawana its public face on this issue. That is the simple truth. The government will look at the evidence about tackling alcohol fuelled violence.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Beaudesert—LNP) (6.27 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion. I am sure that, with advocacy like we have just seen from the member for Mackay, the licensees of Mackay are resting easy that she has their best interests at heart! When it comes to liquor laws, Labor just cannot get it right. We have seen that on so many occasions in this parliament. We talk about a do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government. When it comes to liquor laws, we only wish that were the case. Everything it has done has been a complete and absolute stuff-up and bungle. It just cannot get anything right.

Tonight the member for Stafford talked about the loophole referred to in this motion. He had the audacity to refer to the member for Kawana in an unbecoming way when it comes to loopholes. I am sure there are black holes the member for Stafford would like to crawl into sometimes in this place, especially when it comes to liquor laws. The member for Stafford came in here as a single-issue politician, yet he has had to do massive backflips. I am sure that earlier this year or last year he would have loved to get into a black hole and go away, because his mission in this House has failed completely.

Labor has made a complete mess of ID scanner laws in Queensland as part of its broader alcohol related violence reforms. It has gone from bad story to bad story, and now it is just getting worse—policy backflips to bungled implementations. If there were a gold medal at the Commonwealth Games for policy stuff-ups, I am sure the Attorney-General would be the clear favourite. This is a serious issue. From a tourism perspective, it impacts on our reputation overseas. It impacts on our reputation as a good place to go out, whether it is in Brisbane or Cairns or the Gold Coast or wherever it is around Queensland.

Mr Cripps interjected.

Mr KRAUSE: I take that interjection from the member for Hinchinbrook. When I heard about the debacle that engulfed this town when the Crown Prince of Denmark was refused entry to a licensed venue in Brisbane before midnight, I thought it was just insane. From a tourism perspective, people in Denmark are going to see that and think, 'What on earth is going on in Brisbane, when Prince Frederik, married to an Australian, cannot get a beer at Jade Buddha before midnight on a Saturday night?' It is a serious issue, but it highlights the bungle that Labor has made of this issue. The whole debacle has made a mockery of the Premier's zero tolerance on alcohol.

Labor always plays the man when it comes to this issue, and we saw that again tonight with the member for Stafford accusing us on this side of not caring for people in our communities. We all care about the safety of people in our communities and the children in our communities. He is not the only one on that side who has form in this respect either, because we saw the member for Ferny Grove, as chairman of the legal affairs committee, play the man when it came to the Gold Coast councillor who was standing up for his businesses and standing up for his constituents. The terrible bullying that was conducted by the member for Ferny Grove during that committee inquiry was absolutely disgraceful and he deserves to be condemned for that.

We are already a laughing-stock after the treatment of Crown Prince Frederik. We foreshadowed common-sense changes that will close the loophole where you cannot be scanned after 10 o'clock if the bar closes at midnight but you have to be in other venues. That is a clear bungle because Labor got rid of the implementation panel when it came to ID scanners. It got rid of the panel and it bungled the implementation. Just like the lockout laws, it failed to consult properly with industry. I am reminded of the Cairns committee hearing on lockout laws where we did not get a single witness come to support the government's initiatives. Not a single person could be rolled out to support the ALP and its initiatives. Maybe that is why it did not do the consultation when it came to these laws, because it knew that the feedback would not be very good.

The other loophole that comes to mind with regard to ID scanners relates to casinos. Casinos in all places are exempt from the regulations. There is an unfair playing field. There is a loophole that needs to be closed. Members of the government should just admit that they got it wrong. They got it

wrong with lockout laws. They backflipped on lockout laws. The member for Stafford even backflipped on lockout laws. He said that lockouts in isolation are useless and that lockouts do absolutely zero to take away alcohol induced violence. Members opposite should admit that they got it wrong and support this common-sense motion.

(Time expired)



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (6.32 pm): I quote from the debate on the Safe Night Out Legislation Amendment Bill. It states—

To this end—

Mr Bleijie: Oh, here we go! Yes, I introduced it! I told you I introduced it, but you implemented it!

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under standing order 253A. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action. I note you were warned this morning, but this is a resumption.

Mrs D'ATH: Tonight the member for Kawana has stood here and claimed that a ridiculous inconsistency exists where you can go into one pub after 10 o'clock and have to be scanned but go to another venue and because they close at midnight you do not have to be scanned—ridiculous—and that that is a loophole that we created in government. The member for Kawana as the former attorney-general introduced the legislation making sure ID scanning would operate from 10 pm. However, he moved amendments and said—

... I will propose a number of amendments to the bill, including amendments to clarify that the compulsory ID-scanning requirements will be imposed only for regulated premises on days that the regulated premises holds an approval to trade past midnight ...

'Past midnight', so it operates from 10 o'clock as compulsory ID scanning but not for those venues that do not trade past midnight. That was in 2014 by the 'Hon. JP Bleijie', the former attorney-general, during debate on his bill. Those opposite are absolute hypocrites, misleading this chamber by coming in here and saying that this was not in their legislation and this is something that this government did. They are not going out there and telling the pubs and clubs and licensed venues the truth. We absolutely oppose this motion. Where is the evidence to justify this change? Where is the evidence? Mr Speaker, have you heard tonight—

Mrs Smith interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Mount Ommaney. You are warned under standing order 253A. The minister has the call, and any other members will be warned if you are going to be unreasonable in your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Surfers Paradise said that there have been dire impacts. Where is the evidence to support this? Have we heard that this will make communities safer by pushing it back two hours? Have we heard that? No. What we do know is that under our ID scanners as they are operating now, assaults are going down. We have heard from the member for Mackay, we have heard from the police, we have heard from OLGR staff and we are hearing from licensed venues that assaults are going down. Have we heard that venues are closing as a consequence of the ID scanners and this is why it needs to happen? No. In fact, there have been 320 new licences in the last 12 months. Those 320 extra licences in the past 12 months mean new jobs. Assaults have gone down and we have more licensed premises. Is it because tourists are turning away from our entertainment precincts? Since 1 July this year over three million patrons have gone into venues in safe night out precincts. In the past week over 238,000 people went into a licensed venue with a scanner in safe night out precincts in this state. Assaults are going down, the number of licensed venues is going up and three million people have gone into our safe night out precincts since 1 July, yet those opposite did not put up one bit of evidence to show why that should be reversed and why we should shift that back two hours and risk the safety of people in the community.

Members should not take my word for it; they should take the word of licensed venues. On 5 October the *Gympie Times* said—

Gympie hotel and club owners have said an LNP proposal to delay ID scanners at Queensland clubs could make clubs less safe. They are their words. The article continues—

... Royal Hotel owner Stacey Lowe said the scanners make business easier for clubs, and improve the ability for patrons to enjoy a fun and safe night out.

'I've never ever had a negative thing due to the scanners,' Ms Lowe said.

...

While the LNP proposal would delay use of the scanners until midnight, Ms Lowe would prefer to see clubs use them from earlier in the night. She said the trade-off for extra business would not be worth the risk.

Club 88 owner Paul Pilkington agreed.

'We still use it as best practice,' he said.

'It helped increase safety everywhere.'

Mr Pilkington said they removed the anonymity from patrons, ensuring they held a level of responsibility for their behaviour.

This is from venues that have voluntarily chosen to use the integrated ID scanners because they know it keeps their venues safer. We have venues outside of safe night out precincts putting their hand up for this. Those on the other side are hypocrites. They wanted 8 pm; they legislated for 10 pm. Now they want midnight. They have no evidence to support what they are saying. Assaults are going down, more venues are opening and people are out enjoying themselves. I oppose this motion.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 39:

LNP, 38—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Springborg, Stevens, Walker, Watts, Weir.

PHON, 1—Dickson.

NOES, 40:

ALP, 39—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

INDEPENDENT, 1—Gordon.

Pairs: Byrne, Costigan; Enoch, Stuckey; Lauga, Sorensen.

Resolved in the negative.

Sitting suspended from 6.43 pm to 7.45 pm.

CRIMINAL LAW (HISTORICAL HOMOSEXUAL CONVICTIONS EXPUNGEMENT) BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2973, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.45 pm), continuing: I was speaking about my hairdresser, Eric, and his partner, Luke. Recently, I attended their civil ceremony. This government reinstated civil ceremonies. I can tell members that no-one at that ceremony in Warwick did not support 100 per cent the yes vote for marriage equality. Eric and Luke's love was just the same as that of any other couple. There was much joy in that place. Very proud parents were there celebrating the union of these two special people.

Another proud moment for me was when the Premier delivered the apology in the House in relation to the hurt of homosexuality convictions. I think that most of us on this side of the House, and I am sure on the other side, have that apology framed in our offices as one of the proud moments of being in this House.

I have been a supporter of the LGBTIQ+ community for many years. This bill rights a wrong for offences that involved homosexual activity which should never have occurred. I support wholeheartedly the amendments brought into this House by the Attorney-General and the administrative way in which we are going to expunge these convictions. It is sensitive and it acknowledges that what happened in the past not only hurt these people inside but also hurt their careers, hurt their families and hurt them in the community. That is enough hurt to this community. We have to bring about equality, we have to bring about justice and we have to bring about fairness for the LGBTIQ+ community.

Once again, I applaud the actions of the Attorney-General and the Palaszczuk government in all of the things we have done to ensure the LGBTIQ+ community is no longer marginalised and can come out proud like they did recently when the Premier and many others of us in this House marched with them down to New Farm Park. It will allow them to say, 'Enough is enough.' We will right the wrongs. It is a proud moment.

I congratulate the Attorney-General. She has done a wonderful job in this space. The community at that Pride rally in New Farm Park was 100 per cent behind everything that we have done, which I have talked about this evening. This is just another cog in that wheel for equality for the LGBTIQ+ community. We will continue to advocate for them. We will continue to do all that we can to right the wrongs of the past and to bring about true equality for a wonderful community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (7.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill. For far too many years Queensland was the epicentre of the double standard—a place where the government sought to enforce a false morality on ordinary citizens and criminalise the private lives of Queenslanders. Research conducted in the early 1990s estimated that, over the decades, 464 people were convicted under these unjust laws. Almost 500 men bore a criminal conviction for natural and consensual activity. Almost 500 men were charged by the police, forced to appear before the courts and punished merely for expressing their sexuality. Almost 500 men were forced to wear their convictions as badges of shame in a state that institutionalised prejudice and enforced a false morality.

These laws adversely affected far more people than those who were charged and convicted under them. They sent a powerful signal to people that their sexuality was wrong. They forced men to change their behaviour, to deny their true selves, and made it much harder for them to build loving relationships. This entrenched prejudice spread even further and wider than same-sex attracted men. That prejudice held for same-sex attracted women, even though their love was never criminalised.

These laws affected the family and friends of the LGBTIQ community, who were forced to keep secrets in fear for their loved one's wellbeing. These laws had very real effects on public policy. They made the response to the HIV-AIDS epidemic much more difficult.

Sometimes, though, it takes the worst conditions, the most difficult times, the most unjust laws, to lead to the greatest acts of bravery. It was an act of bravery for gay men to express their sexuality before 1991. In my apology in May I recognised Greg Weir's courage in attempting to start a gay group at the Kelvin Grove Teachers' College in the 1970s and the employment discrimination he experienced afterwards. His is just one of the countless acts of brave and true Queenslanders who refused to be cowed by unjust laws. I pay tribute to all of those who refused to accept that they were somehow lesser citizens and instead protested and marched and advocated for these laws to change. They deserve credit for their bravery and for the law changes and the shifts in public opinion that they brought about. The advocacy of the LGBTIQ community over generations has made it easier for each successive generation.

The Queensland we live in today is very different from the Queensland of the 1980s. Our state has changed enormously and it has changed for the better. I am proud that it was a Labor government that decriminalised homosexual sexual activity in this state. I am proud that I was part of a Labor government that introduced non-discriminatory surrogacy laws. I am proud that I was part of a Labor government that introduced civil partnerships in this state. I am proud that I led a Labor opposition that fought against the winding back of those civil partnership laws. I am proud that I led a Labor government that reinstated those civil partnership laws and I am proud that I led a Labor government that passed non-discriminatory adoption legislation, abolished the gay panic defence and equalised the age of consent.

However, in removing discrimination against the LGBTIQ community, we have left a group of people behind, a group of people who suffered the most under discriminatory laws: men who were convicted for consensual adult sexual activity, men who were shamed and vilified, who were dragged before courts of law, who had their private lives laid out for all to judge, who may even have served prison sentences—men who were forced to disclose their convictions to potential employers, to public administrators, to other governments and to their friends and to their family. The legislation we are debating today finally acknowledges that these convictions should never have happened and will provide people with the opportunity to have these convictions expunged from their records.

I am proud that I lead the government that has developed and championed this bill. I am proud that I am a member of the parliament that delivered an apology for these laws and these convictions. Parliaments and governments have a duty to their citizens to act in the best interests of our society. They have a duty to ensure that laws do not discriminate. This parliament failed in its duty by entrenching discrimination in the laws of this state and the government of this state failed in its duties when it enforced those laws, often arbitrarily.

While this parliament is today living up to its responsibilities, the Australian parliament is failing in its duties by continuing to allow the Marriage Act to discriminate against same-sex couples. This costly postal survey is a poor mechanism to address this issue. I have faith in the Australian people. I know that the majority of Australians today support marriage equality and support their LGBTIQ colleagues, friends, family members and loved ones. Their love should not be subjected to an opinion poll, but if it must then it must be won.

I was proud to attend the Pride march recently with the member for Brisbane Central, the Deputy Premier and the member for Bulimba. The LGBTIQ community will lead the campaign, but they will not be able to win it without the support of their colleagues, friends and family. I say to them today that we will not let them down. My government will be beside them every step of the way through this survey. They will have our support, they will have our energy and they will have our votes. They will always have our assistance, if needed. That is why the additional funding of \$338,000 announced by the Minister for Health to protect the mental health of LGBTIQ community members during this postal survey is vital. I believe that love has no boundary and I reaffirm that belief today. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (7.54 pm), in reply: It is an absolute pleasure to follow those who have spoken on this bill, in particular the Premier, and I thank the Premier for her words. I thank honourable members for their contributions to the debate of the Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017. The bill itself has one objective: to establish an administrative scheme for the expungement of convictions or charges for particular offences involving homosexual activity. Although consensual adult male homosexual activity was decriminalised in Queensland from 19 January 1991, individuals charged and/or convicted with such an offence prior to this day are still required to carry the stigma associated with any criminal record. On the date of this bill's introduction, 11 May 2017, this parliament apologised to those who were charged and convicted of breaching laws which criminalised homosexual activity between consenting adults.

The bill is a product of strong advocacy from a number of community organisations and individuals who have been personally impacted by those historic charges and convictions. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the joint submission made both to the QLRC and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on behalf of the Human Rights Law Centre, LGBTI Legal Services, Brisbane LGBTIQ Action Group, Caxton Legal Centre, Queensland AIDS Council and Community Legal Centres Queensland. I also acknowledge the submitters to the committee: Mr Stephen Page; Mr Mark Sznajder; Mr Alastair Lawrie; Queensland Law Society; Civil Liberties Australia; Mr John Frame; Protect All Children Today; Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland; Queensland Council for Civil Liberties; Mr Alan Raabe; Dr James Roffee; and the Association of Labor Lawyers. I also acknowledge Rainbow Labor and Peter Black from QUT for his strong advocacy. I acknowledge everyone who attended for the historic apology made on 11 May 2017 by the Premier and those who are in attendance in the gallery this evening.

The bill fulfils an election commitment made by the Palaszczuk government to the people of Queensland at the 2015 general election and represents another reform which demonstrates this government's commitment to fairness and equality for LGBTI Queenslanders. I acknowledge that this bill alone will not necessarily bring immediate relief to some individuals as a consequence of some offences that are not identified in the act as the bill is prescribed. We will only truly know what those offences are as people come forward with their applications and we identify whether there are any particular gaps in the legislation. The QLRC report specifically recommended that the legislation provide for the possibility of further offences being prescribed by regulation. I give my commitment that I will continue to consult with the valuable stakeholders in the future to ensure that the scheme meets its full restorative potential.

I take this opportunity to once again thank the Queensland Law Reform Commission for its report *Expunging criminal convictions for historical gay sexual offences* upon which the bill is substantially based. I again thank key stakeholders for their consideration and cooperation during the development of this bill and their contributions during the committee's consideration of the bill. I expressed in my

second reading speech my hope that the debate in this chamber this evening would be more respectful and genuine than that conducted during the 1990 debate on legislation. I thank all members of the House because that indeed has happened this evening. I think this reflects the changes in our community and just how far we have come since those terrible times. I truly hope that the Premier's apology and this latest stage in law reform can go a long way to not only addressing the historic hurt but also setting a fairer and more just platform into the future.

I take a moment to acknowledge those who are no longer with us. I acknowledge those who passed before this bill, which the House will pass tonight, came to the parliament. I acknowledge those who took their own lives due to the shame of those charges and convictions. They never got to see justice. They never got to see those convictions expunged.

While I thank everyone for the very respectful debate this evening and I acknowledge that things in this state and this country have changed for the better, still we have a long way to go. With the same-sex survey, I have seen good friends in tears as they read some of the messages on Facebook and other social posts. Those messages are so offensive and I see how much it hurts them. We know that some teenagers who are really struggling with their sexuality still feel intimidated, harassed and hated by their colleagues and sometimes their families.

Tonight this is all for them. We stand with them on the same-sex marriage debate. We did not want to spend \$122 million on a survey or opinion poll. We could have saved ourselves a lot of time on that. However, I truly hope that in a matter of weeks we will see overwhelming support for a change to the Marriage Act. If that is the result, I hope that the federal parliament moves very quickly to introduce and pass a bill, so that people in the LGBTI community can be married under the Marriage Act before Christmas. That is what I would like to see. I think it would be a great Christmas present. Certainly, I ticked 'yes' and posted back the form. To anyone who has not done so, I say: time is running out, so fill out the survey and mail it back.

I do not want to prolong this debate any longer, because I really want to see the bill passed. To everyone here this evening I say that the actions of all of us are those of parliamentarians, not simply politicians. I thank all members for that. 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 17, as read, agreed to.

Clause 18—



Mrs D'ATH (8.03 pm): I move the following amendments—

1 Clause 18 (Criteria for Criminal Code male homosexual offence)

Page 14, lines 21 to 24—

omit, insert—

- (b) the act or omission constituting the offence—
 - (i) would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland if it were done by the eligible person at the time the application was made; or
 - (ii) meets the criteria in subsection (2A).
- (2A) For subsection (2)(b)(ii), the criteria are—
 - (a) the act or omission—
 - (i) was done, or allegedly done, in a public place; and
 - (ii) would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland if it were done at the time the application was made, other than in a public place; and
 - (b) a person, other than a person engaging in the act or omission, would not have been able to observe the act or omission without taking abnormal or unusual action.

Example of taking abnormal or unusual action—

looking under the door of a cubicle in a public toilet

2 Clause 18 (Criteria for Criminal Code male homosexual offence)

Page 14, line 25, after 'subsection (2)'—

insert—

or (2A)

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Criminal Law (Historical Homosexual Convictions Expungement) Bill 2017, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [1981].

As I foreshadowed in my second reading speech, it is proposed to move amendments during the detailed consideration of the bill. These amendments were identified during consultation and brought to the attention of the government by community and legal stakeholders. These amendments will allow, to a limited extent, the expungement of convictions and charges where the relevant conduct would not constitute an offence against the current law in Queensland had the conduct occurred in a place other than a public place.

Amendment No. 1 omits and replaces clause 18(2)(b) and inserts a new 18(2A) into the bill to amend the criteria by which the chief executive must be satisfied to expunge a conviction or charge for a Criminal Code male homosexual offence. As currently drafted, clause 18(2)(b) provides that the chief executive must be satisfied, in addition to the criteria in clause 18(2)(a), that the act or omission constituting the offence, if done by the eligible person at the time the application was made, would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland.

This amendment effectively recasts 18(2)(b) to provide that the chief executive, in addition to the existing criteria in clause 18(2)(a) of the bill, may expunge a charge or conviction for a Criminal Code male homosexual offence if satisfied that—

- (b) the act or omission constituting the offence—
 - (i) would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland if it were done by the eligible person at the time the application was made; or
 - (ii) meets the criteria in subsection (2A).

Amendment No. 1 inserts the new criteria under 18(2A), as referenced in new clause 18(2)(b). The new criteria are that—

- (a) the act or omission—
 - (i) was done, or allegedly done, in a public place; and
 - (ii) would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland if it were done at the time the application was made, other than in a public place; and
- (b) a person, other than a person engaging in the act or omission, would not have been able to observe the act or omission without taking abnormal or unusual action.

All of these amendments relate to extending it to being an act that would not have been able to be observed without taking abnormal or unusual action. We have done this to line up with the Inglis case and the Victorian legislation, New South Wales has now addressed this through regulation, the ACT does not limit itself to historic offences and Tasmania has already flagged, through second reading speeches, that it will address the Inglis rule in its bill. Therefore, I believe this brings us into line with other jurisdictions. It is the right thing to do. It provides clarity for the decision-maker. I ask that the parliament supports these amendments.

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 18, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 19—



Mrs D'ATH (8.06 pm): I move the following amendments—

3 Clause 19 (Criteria for public morality offence)

Page 15, lines 9 to 12—

omit, insert—

- (b) the act or omission constituting the offence—
 - (i) would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland if it were done by the eligible person at the time the application was made; or
 - (ii) meets the criteria in subsection (2A).
- (2A) For subsection (2)(b)(ii), the criteria are—
 - (a) the act or omission—
 - (i) was done, or allegedly done, in a public place; and

- (ii) would not constitute an offence under the law of Queensland if it were done at the time the application was made, other than in a public place; and
- (b) a person, other than a person engaging in the act or omission, would not have been able to observe the act or omission without taking abnormal or unusual action.

Example of taking abnormal or unusual action—

looking under the door of a cubicle in a public toilet

4 Clause 19 (Criteria for public morality offence)

Page 15, line 13, after 'subsection (2)'—

insert—

or (2A)

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 19, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 51, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1—



Mrs D'ATH (8.07 pm): I move the following amendment—

5 Schedule 1 (Dictionary)

Page 32, after line 30—

insert—

public place means a place to which the public are permitted to have access, whether on payment of a charge for admission or not.

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (8.07 pm): I move—

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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (8.08 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.

MINISTERIAL PAPER

Weapons Legislation (Lever Action Shotguns) Amendment Regulation



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.08 pm): I lay upon the table of the House the Weapons Legislation (Lever Action Shotguns) Amendment Regulation 2017 and accompanying explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Weapons Act 1990: Weapons Legislation (Lever Action Shotguns) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 212 [[1982](#)].

Tabled paper: Weapons Act 1990: Weapons Legislation (Lever Action Shotguns) Amendment Regulation 2017, No. 212, explanatory notes [[1983](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr KATTER** (Mount Isa—KAP) (8.09 pm): I seek leave to give notice of a motion for disallowance.

Leave granted.

Mr KATTER: I give notice that I shall move—

That the Weapons Legislation (Lever Action Shotguns) Amendment Regulation 2017, subordinate legislation No. 212 of 2017, tabled in the House on 10 October 2017, be disallowed.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (8.09 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Burdekin Electorate

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (8.09 pm): As the member for Burdekin, I could not be prouder of the electorate that I represent, and that includes the new communities that I picked up as part of the electoral redistribution—communities such as Glenden, Nebo, Moranbah, Dysart Middlemount and Clermont. Many of these communities—and I want to include Bowen and Collinsville in the mix—have experienced some of their most challenging times in recent years. Adding to that challenge is the increasing difficulty in providing high-quality child care, educators and programs for our children.

If one were to ask what the future of these communities is, where would one start? For me it starts right back at the provision of day care and kindergarten services. That is what I want to highlight in the chamber tonight. The Creche and Kindergarten Association of Queensland, along with a mix of private and community organisations, provides kindergarten and preschool services to three- and four-year-olds across the state. This is supplemented in some remote locations with an e-kindy program. Unfortunately, in some of my rural communities access to a kindergarten is unable to be provided, and therein lies the problem. Without access to kindergarten many parents are making the decision to leave these communities, which only adds to the population drain from our rural communities.

Let me give members some examples. At Nebo people can only access a pre-prep program run by the school. At Collinsville, despite numerous efforts, the community cannot find a kindergarten director, putting at risk the entire kindergarten program for that community. At Moranbah one of the kindergartens has closed, resulting in waiting lists at the remaining kindergartens in town and putting added pressure on families.

I recently raised these challenges at the Queensland Country Press Association awards conference because I wanted to highlight the looming disaster for some of our rural communities. I am passionate about growing our rural towns. I am passionate about attracting families back to the bush. If we cannot provide the necessary services we will never get past first base. Those services start right back with our children and the education and support we both offer and deliver in these communities. How can we expect families to relocate to the bush if we cannot provide even the most basic services such as childcare or kindergarten services?

The addition of one or two families can make an enormous difference in many of these communities. We need to be doing everything we can to attract more families to the bush, where they can enjoy the lifestyle and everything that growing up in a rural town can provide.

It is easy to forget that the services and resources available in our metropolitan areas, that we take for granted, are not necessarily available in our country areas. I believe that, as members of parliament, each and every one of us has an obligation to commit to equality in education across our state. We owe it to our children and to the parents who make the decision to live and work in our rural towns.

Ipswich West Electorate, Rugby League Clubs

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (8.12 pm): Tonight I would like to acknowledge the hardworking committee members and officials of the Rugby League clubs in my electorate of Ipswich West—the Karalee Tornados, the Rosewood Roosters, the Lowood Stags and the Norths Tigers.

These clubs would not exist without the support of these dedicated committee members and the other club volunteers. They all deserve to have their hard work recognised. My way of doing so is recognising their contribution tonight.

First is the Karalee Tornadoes Rugby League Club: president, Steven Clark; acting president, Ian Baker; secretary, Lorinda 'Rinny' Risby; treasurer, Anthea McKewen; assistant treasurer, Charissa Cox; coaching director, Chris Sefont; clothing convenor, Betty Stuart; school liaison officer, Sean Jeffries; registrar, Nyree Clark; grants and funding, Tom Risby; committee member, Glen Cox; website coordinators, Gabbi Risby and Hayden Caldwell; and Nigel Gorman, who has been my unofficial liaison officer with the club.

Next is the Rosewood Junior Rugby League Club: president, Shane Brandley; secretary, Renea Lenihan; treasurer, Troy Wells; and registrar, Trish Wells. Next is the Lowood Stags Rugby League Football Club: president, Kevin Butler; vice-president, Clint Maslen; secretary, Cathy Maslen; treasurer, Kristy Bauer; and committee members, Wes Massey, Kylie Smith, Danielle Powell, Rob Parkinson, Nathan Sherman, Nigel Schroeder, Michelle Condon and Carly Butler.

Finally is the North Ipswich Tigers Rugby League Football Club junior club committee: president, Jason Brennan; vice-president, Alex Loew; treasurer, Michelle Deas; secretary, Nicole Nancarrow; registrar, Belinda Brown; and committee members Michael Williamson, Steve Jackson, Steve Chandler and Arthur Cumming. The senior committee are: president, Jason Brennan; vice-president, Glen Healy; secretary, Brad Oddi; treasurer, Danny Riggs; and committee members Cliff Langer, David Haug, Cameron Beutel, Brayden Haug, Chris Scanlan and Daniel Haynes.

In closing, I would like to say a special thank you to Cliff Langer, brother of Alfie Langer and North's committee member. I would love to attend the presentation ceremonies for all of my Rugby League clubs, but my other commitments, including attending parliament, prevent me from doing so. I was able to attend the North's seniors presentation night with my good friend Bill Leather. Cliff did me the great honour of presenting me with a football signed by every member of the North's men's A-grade team and the women's A-grade team, in recognition of my support for the club. This is something I will treasure.

Sunshine Coast, Public Transport

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (8.15 pm): I rise to address the House on a nonconforming petition prepared by Lisa West and Rebecca Shepperson requesting a direct bus service from Mooloolah township to Maleny State High School. The petition has been signed by 118 people, many of whom currently have children attending Maleny State High School or will have additional children or their first child so attending. People who will have children attending that school in 2022, 2024 and 2026 have signed the petition requesting this bus service.

The trip to Maleny State High School for students who live in Mooloolah is to firstly catch a train from Mooloolah to Landsborough train station, wait up to 20 minutes at Landsborough then catch a bus to Maleny State High School. The home trip is the reverse of that process. The document which I now table raises three points within its text as to why this process is not acceptable.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding a direct bus service from Mooloolah township to Maleny State High School [[1984](#)].

Firstly, it raises the question of child safety. The document refers to children as young as 11 undertaking this trip, and the concern of parents is that their children are at risk from sexual predators and bullying. Sadly, in today's society these risks are only too real and parents have every right to be concerned. Secondly, the document states—

Trains do not always run to schedule. There has been incidents where the rail service has not run at all or when alternatives (Rail Bus) are available is not guaranteed that this service will arrive before the school bus service leaves Landsborough.

Isn't that the truth—that under Labor trains either do not run at all or are late? According to Lisa and Rebecca, this issue is impacting on their children and indeed the children of Mooloolah are at the 'mercy of the public rail system'.

Thirdly, parents are unable to obtain financial assistance for getting their children to and from school, which the document states costs \$1,216 per year per child. Along with surging power bills, this is one more cost-of-living impost upon these families. Those who signed the petition only have their children's best interests at heart. They are concerned that they get to their school by the quickest route possible and safely.

Both Lisa and Rebecca are determined mothers who see a risk to their children and the children of others in the Mooloolah area. They have taken the only step possible in gathering their community to bring this matter to the attention of the House. They see this House as their last port of call. I congratulate them on their action. In conclusion, I intend forwarding a copy of the petition to the Deputy Premier in the hope of having their concerns addressed.

Salvation Army

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (8.18 pm): As the member for Townsville, one of the highlights in my role has been announcing last year, on behalf of the health minister, Hon. Cameron Dick, a one-off grant of \$1 million to support the Salvation Army Townsville recovery service to deliver a drug and alcohol residential rehabilitation in Garbutt in my electorate. This grant complemented the \$4.6 million already raised from the local community to build this new facility.

Stage 1 of the centre supported 40 jobs during the 18-month construction phase and a further 15 full-time jobs in the centre during its operations. This centre is a win not only for those needing treatment but also for the local community as a whole. Such facilities ease the burden not only on our healthcare system but also on our judicial system and reduce the cost associated with loss of productivity, work absenteeism, hospitalisation and criminality.

Last Saturday I had the great privilege of attending the official opening of the Salvation Army's drug, alcohol and gambling addiction rehabilitation facility. This 52-bed residential facility will service North Queensland, reaching as far as the cape to the north, Mackay to the south and Mount Isa to the west.

While I was proud of the contribution I made in fighting for funding to support the construction of this facility, it pales against some of the enduring work that others have done in our community with this particular project. We heard from local businessman Graham Wheeler, whose shared vision was to build this facility some 20 years ago. Former member for Thuringowa Craig Wallace in his time as minister was able to secure the government owned site for the project. Local business owners like developers Laurence Lancini, Peter Tapiolas, George Colbran, David Carmichael and Peter Wheeler—just to name a few of the key movers and shakers behind the project—all contributed to building support from the Townsville community.

On National Mental Health Day today, it is important to recognise that this facility in Townsville is another move in the Palaszczuk government's war on ice addiction. Our Action on Ice draft plan addresses the use and harms caused by methamphetamines. We see and hear all too often the devastating effects methamphetamines have on individuals and families and the impact on front-line services like police, ambos, doctors and nurses. As Major David Twivey from the Salvation Army Townsville says, 'Addiction doesn't discriminate and every member of the community is affected by it directly or indirectly.' I congratulate the Premier and the health minister for their investment in this great facility.

(Time expired)

Lenton, Mr G

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (8.21 pm): Western Queensland is heartbroken following the passing of one of its favourite sons, Graham 'Butch' Lenton, last week. Butch was a man of great integrity, honesty and humility. He was proud of Winton and passionate about Western Queensland. Well over a thousand people descended on Winton on Monday to pay tribute to Butch, who was one of Queensland's finest. Whether you spent five minutes or five days with him, you could not help but be captivated by his kindness and extraordinary vision for Western Queensland. The calibre of this man was undeniable.

The Winton town hall farewelled a man who embodied the town of Winton. The Minister for Main Roads and the member for Mount Isa were there with me as well. Butch's incredible contribution has changed Queensland and the west for the better. From his early years as president of the Winton Devils Rugby League Club and then fulfilling roles with Central West Rugby League and Queensland Rugby League—he was president of the Winton Devils for over 20 years—his passion for the game has left a deep and enduring mark on the sport. He mentored so many young players—not just to be good players but also to be good men, to take pride and be involved in their local community and to respect their fellow man.

His commitment to small business, including his own business Central Motors—which his family owned for several generations—gave local small business owners confidence and passion to succeed. Winton is one of the best towns in the west, and I believe that reputation was largely inspired by Butch's love for his community and for his people.

Butch was well known for his service to local government—as a councillor and a mayor in the Winton shire. From his start in the mid-nineties, he exhibited exemplary leadership. Butch will be best remembered for the infrastructure projects he brought to life. You only have to look at the magnificent, world-class Age of Dinosaurs Museum in Winton and the reconstruction of the Waltzing Matilda Centre to understand the vision he had for his community. Nothing was going to get in his way and that is what made Butch the man we all respected and admired so much. In fact, when the Waltzing Matilda Centre burnt down Butch said, 'We're going to make this bigger and we're going to make this better than anybody else.' If you go out to Winton around April, you will see this magnificent monument to *Waltzing Matilda*, which has such a proud history. The man who put that together, the man who drove that project, was Butch Lenton.

To his lovely wife, Ros; his daughter, Carly; and Butch's extended family: our hearts go out to you during this time of incredible sadness. Queensland has lost a true gentleman. We are all the better for knowing him and, rest assured, Butch's memory and legacy will live forever. I had the privilege of seeing Butch just two weeks ago in his house. Despite knowing that his time was coming close, he still had optimism for Winton and for the central west and still had a laugh. Butch, may you rest in peace, old mate.

Pumicestone Electorate

 **Mr WILLIAMS** (Pumicestone—ALP) (8.24 pm): I wish to speak about my electorate of Pumicestone, where the Palaszczuk government delivers and keeps on delivering, in stark contrast to what it was like under Campbell Newman's cut, sack, sell treasurer, Tim Nicholls, the member for Clayfield. The LNP promised but never delivered. They promised a new Bribie bridge at every election. Finally, in 2012 they were elected—but still no Bribie bridge.

Mr Powell: How's it working out for you?

Mr WILLIAMS: We never promised it. In 2015 they promised it again, but the people were too smart to fall for it again and they are still too smart, as they are about to promise it again. The Palaszczuk government keeps on delivering. We have delivered multiple sets of traffic lights to make intersections safe and prevent fatalities. The LNP did not think it was necessary to improve safety on our roads. All they were concerned about was knocking over the Vegetation Management Act so their mates could get on with their developments.

We have listened to Bribie's veterans, the RSL and the historical society and we have saved the gun emplacements. The LNP were happy to see one of only two gun emplacements fall into the water under their watch. The Palaszczuk government funded the Bribie Island Butterfly House, which is in the process of single-handedly saving an entire species—the Ulysses blue butterfly, which had a disease and was about to disappear from Australia.

The people of Pumicestone can see that the Palaszczuk government has delivered and they know that the Queensland economy is growing at 3.9 per cent, leading the nation—and 115,000 jobs created. I refer to an interesting tweet by Curtis Pitt, the Treasurer, on 7 March 2017 which states—

@TimNichollsMP pretends failed LNP Govt wasn't his fault. Either he was a Treasurer with no influence or has amnesia.

That is where it gets interesting because the response was from Campbell Newman. He tweeted on 7 March 2017—

Leaders take responsibility for hard decisions that have to be made-I did. Time for@TimNichollsMP who drove asset sales & cuts
Look at that: out of the horse's mouth! I rest my case. They are still not ready to govern and they will never be ready to govern.

Lions Club of Wamuran

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (8.27 pm): Mr Speaker, you would think that, with 46,000 clubs around the world and some 1.4 million members and being the world's largest service club, chartering new clubs in the Lions Club would be a common occurrence, but it certainly is not. Therefore, it was a rare privilege indeed to be present on Saturday evening at the charter dinner for Queensland's newest Lions Club—the Lions Club of Wamuran.

I want to acknowledge the charter members of that Wamuran club: John Abraham, Sue Clement, Allan Cook, Brandon Fischer, Tanya Fitzpatrick, Adrian Green, Cheryl Hegemann, Daniel Hegemann, Peter Le Cerf, Troy Lyngstad, Julianne Mabb, Jason Newman, Reena Newman, Kristel Moir, Marlo O'Dea, Robert Pedler and Terry Ward. I want to particularly acknowledge the board of directors: tail twister, Lisa Gourley; membership chair, Madalyn Kimlin; director of publicity, Madilyn Ward; treasurer, Jayne Clark; secretary, Hayley King; vice-president, Jim Ley; and president, Howard Walters. As I reflected on the evening, when I first met Harold Walters some nine years ago, he was heavily involved in the Wamuran Sports Club. We colloquially referred to him as the 'Mayor of Wamuran'. He has obviously not settled for being 'Mayor of Wamuran'; he now wants to be president. That is fine. I think he will do a sterling job and will really represent his community and the Lions Club famously in that part of the world.

It was a very successful evening. There were a lot of dignitaries there. There was district governor Engelbert Krampf and his wife, Traudi, and Councillor Adrian Raedel from division 12 of Moreton Bay Regional Council. He played a very significant role in helping establish this club. There was the first vice district governor elect Donna Hedges, the past district governor Roley McAtee, the immediate past district governor Norm Jensen and past district governor Greg Rollason.

I also want to pay particular respect to the members of the Woodford Lions Club, which was the sponsoring club of Wamuran. To Mike Christie, Mark Feldman and the crew from Woodford I say: thank you so much for what you have done in identifying a real growth area around Wamuran and assisting this club and its members to reach charter. The exciting thing is that it will not be the only charter of a new club in the electorate of Glass House, with Mooloolah soon to become a club in its own right, with my own club, Maleny Blackall Range, being the sponsor. That will certainly be an exciting time.

I think it is poignant to reflect that Lions exists to promote the principles of good government and good citizenship and to foster a spirit of understanding among the people of the world. May they long continue to do so.

Tree Clearing; Jones, Mr L

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (8.30 pm): Last week I joined with my colleague the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef to release the 2015-16 Statewide Landcover and Trees Study. To say that this portrayed a very bleak and devastating situation would actually be an understatement. Almost 400,000 hectares of native trees and vegetation were cleared in the financial year 2015-16. This represents a 33 per cent rise over the 12 months to that financial year. That equates to 1,000 football fields every single day.

In the year 2000 Queensland had the unenviable reputation of having cleared some 800,000 hectares of native trees and vegetation—800,000 hectares. We were on par with the Amazon and the nation of Brazil. When Labor left office we had the clearing of native trees and vegetation down to some 153,000 hectares, and that represented some 60 per cent increase on the year before because of the significant drought that we were experiencing and because of the fodder harvesting that was taking place to feed stock.

Our rate of clearing is absolutely unsustainable. It now accounts for some 90 per cent of all national emissions from land use. I repeat: it accounts for 90 per cent of our nation's emissions from land use. Alarming, 40 per cent of the clearing is taking place in Great Barrier Reef catchments. Because of clearing, the silt and sediment from these catchments now flow into the ocean, literally suffocating the coral. This is inconsistent with the commitments that we made to the Paris Agreement and also to the Reef 2050 Plan. Unenviably and shamefully, because of Queensland's tree clearing rate, Australia is now the only developed nation in the top 10 deforestation hotspots in the world. It is only a majority Palaszczuk Labor government that will move to reinstate workable, reliable and effective tree clearing laws in this state.

While I am on my feet I can inform the House that I received news very early this morning that a very dear friend, comrade and local resident of mine, Lindesay Jones, passed away last night. Lindesay was a former state secretary, a Labor stalwart and an incredible human being. He was the first man I met who was gender blind. He taught me how to work the phones and a plebiscite list. I love this man and I will miss him dreadfully.

Schools, Toowoomba South

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (8.33 pm): I rise tonight to continue my advocacy for a number of schools in my electorate. For the last 12 months I have been fighting to make sure that students in my electorate have the best education possible and that they are able to receive that education safely—getting to and from the school gate—in as comfortable a learning environment as possible. I have been working with the Glenvale State School community, particularly parents Melissa Greensill and Jess Errington, to address issues arising from the remarkable growth in the western Toowoomba corridor. The school, which has doubled in size since 2000, sits in the middle of an area that will cater for an additional 30,000 people by 2050. We need to immediately address the safety concerns on Glenvale Road and provide another access point to the school. Immediate action is necessary because of the development that has commenced adjacent to the school. The Brisbane developer has dug up the site in the last fortnight and construction will shortly commence that will wrap the school in even more houses. The challenge of getting 800 kids to school across a road with 2,200 vehicles traversing it will only grow in the future.

In the next suburb there are also safety concerns about getting children to and from Harristown State School and Harristown State High School. I have spoken with parents, principals, lollipop volunteers, the Toowoomba Regional Council, Neighbourhood Watch Area 14 representatives, area coordinator Brian Jentz and secretary Weena Gillon to discuss these issues further. We need to continue adding protective measures in the surrounding streets so that parents are assured that their kids can securely move to and from school. I will keep fighting for parents and students and will keep working with stakeholders to make sure that occurs.

Over at Darling Heights State School—and it is now wonderful to have all of Darling Heights within my electorate—I have met with parent groups and principal Mark Creedon in respect of special education program students, who sweltered through heatwave conditions at the start of this year. There is urgency to this matter, with summer around the corner. We need to ensure that special education program students will be kept cool in the years ahead. I will continue working together with the P&C, which has already funded some air-conditioning units throughout the school, and the school leadership to find a solution to this problem.

Toowoomba is often described as Queensland's education capital, with outstanding state schools such as Centenary Heights and Harristown; Catholic schools such as St Anthony's and St Thomas More's; and independent schools including some of the nation's finest boarding schools. Educators and parents make the stand-out contribution to making Toowoomba the education capital. I will continue to do everything I am able to do to support them in their efforts.

Intercept Youth and Family Service; Burpengary State School

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.36 pm): I am very happy to speak in support of a local organisation in the Morayfield electorate, Intercept Youth and Family Service based at Caboolture. It is an outstanding local service providing support to young people and helping young people lead productive, positive lives. It ensures that we intervene early when we identify young people who might have challenges in life or who might be making some wrong choices. I am very pleased to have the Attorney-General present because she has a big role to play when it comes to supporting young people in our state, particularly with the reforms that we have led in the youth justice space. This is all about making sure that we support young people to be good citizens and ensure they make good choices in life. With the support of organisations like Intercept in Caboolture, we are making some great headway in Caboolture in supporting those young people to make good decisions in life.

Last Friday night Intercept hosted a trivia night in Caboolture and it was very well attended by members of the broader Caboolture community. I was very pleased to see so many different organisations supporting Intercept and the good work they do. They raised over \$5,000 that night from a trivia night. It goes to show that people can raise good money from a good trivia night. It was great to see people from the Caboolture Youth Justice Centre there supporting Intercept as well as Caboolture Snakes Rugby League, Headspace Caboolture and many other organisations. I pay tribute to Michelle Barton and her team at Intercept for the good work that they do in Caboolture. I am very proud of that organisation and I very much enjoy working with them every single day.

I also acknowledge a great milestone in our community—that is, the completion of the new hall at Burpengary State School. It is a magnificent project which took a consortium approach to funding infrastructure at the school. This was a novel way of ensuring that we were able to provide the facilities for the great kids at Burpengary State School. I have to acknowledge the principal, Brad Fox, as well as the P&C President, Wayne Summersford, for bringing together that consortium.

The funding for that project came from P&C funds, a P&C loan, the state government through Education Queensland and a local basketball club. That happened because the school was able to build this project in a way which not only accommodated the hall features but also provided a basketball court for our local basketball team to train, practise and compete. It was a \$1.5 million project taking a consortium approach. It goes to show that when members of our community work together across our community we can deliver great outcomes. I take my hat off to the school. It is a great piece of infrastructure and it is a great, fitting testimony to 140 years of education at Burpengary.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 8.40 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Gordon, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, 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, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams