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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 7 March 2018

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WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.



Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

PRIVILEGE

Question on Notice



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. I refer to question on notice 106, asked by the member for Toowoomba South and shadow Attorney-General. The member seeks to have the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice provide 'the names of all persons with court ordered, police ordered and venue ordered bans that have been added to the government database (QPRIME) preventing patron entry to Queensland safe night precincts since 1 July 2017'.

There are two issues with this question. Firstly, the QPRIME database is regulated by the Police Service Administration Act 1990, which is administered by the Minister for Police, not the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Secondly, and most alarmingly, the question asked would likely, if answered, break the law. Under the Police Service Administration Act 1990 there are strict rules around access to QPRIME and the provision of information from databases. Mr Speaker, I will be writing to you about this matter, asking you to rule the question out of order.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, when matters of privilege are being raised, particularly after my statement yesterday, I assume that they will be of a genuine and serious nature. I expect us to be able to hear them without commentary by the entire House.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Parliamentary Precinct, Standards of Conduct



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, successive Speakers have established rules for media access to the parliamentary precinct and the Legislative Assembly chamber. The rules outline the conditions upon which the Speaker, who has the responsibility for the maintenance of order in the chamber and behaviour on the parliamentary precinct, grants access by the media to the precinct and the chamber.

The rules are based on the following principles: (a) transparency and accountability of the parliament; (b) fair, accurate and balanced reporting of the proceedings of parliament; (c) respect for the privacy of members, staff and visitors to the precinct; and (d) the ability of members and staff to carry out their duties on the precinct without unreasonable impediment.


In addition, there are Speaker's directions in place prohibiting unauthorised photography and/or filming in the Assembly chamber when it is sitting and certain other non-public areas. There are currently no rules in place prohibiting general photography and/or filming in public areas by members, staff or non-media guests or visitors to the precinct. Unfortunately, these days almost every person has a smart phone with camera and/or video capability, and a great number of people are connected to Facebook, Twitter or other social media where photographs or video can be uploaded. Hence, there is a growing number of citizen journalists/reporters.

I am not wanting to ban photography or filming in the precinct nor expand regulation beyond the media gallery. However, I would ask that all members, staff and guests respect the privacy of other members, staff and visitors to the precinct and not photograph or film others carrying out their duties on the precinct. If members, staff and guests cannot self-regulate this behaviour I will have no option but to impose rules and conditions upon all persons who enter the precinct.

I conclude by reminding members of two other important matters. Firstly, there are conditions of use placed on the parliamentary broadcast, and replays or screenshots of the broadcast should not breach those conditions of use. For example, the broadcast material, in whatever format, cannot be used for political advertising or satire or ridicule. Secondly, members are ultimately responsible for the conduct of their staff and guests on the precinct, and guests without passes must be accompanied at all times.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Distribution of GST


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House—

1. notes the Productivity Commission's recommendations for changing the distribution of the GST which could see Queensland's share of funding cut by almost \$1.6 billion a year, the equivalent of losing 5,000 teachers, 5,000 nurses, 3,000 police officers and 1,135 firefighters;
2. calls on the Turnbull government to rule out any changes to the distribution of the GST that would disadvantage Queensland; and
3. calls on the LNP to stand up for Queenslanders and lobby the Turnbull government to guarantee Queensland's share of the GST.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Police Memorial

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): May marks a year since the death of Senior Constable Brett Forte. He was ambushed and murdered in a senseless crime that shocked us all. Attending Brett's funeral, I could not help feeling proud of the enormous outpouring of respect shown by the community. We were outraged that this father of three could be taken from his family, but there was also an added layer of offence that this man was murdered going about his job—I am finding it hard to speak when there is a conversation happening.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is a very serious issue, I am sorry.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I apologise if the volume of that conversation was too high. It was a matter that should have been dealt with.


Ms PALASZCZUK: Okay. I will start that sentence again. We were outraged that this father of three could be taken from his family, but there was also an added layer of offence that this man was murdered going about his job—a sworn duty to protect his community, even if that meant risking his own life. That duty is taken on every day by our emergency services workers but particularly by our police, and I am pleased to announce that finally a fitting monument will be built honouring those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

In consultation with the Queensland Police Service, the Queensland Police Union, the Brisbane City Council and the Queensland Heritage Council, a new police memorial will be built in the Brisbane Botanic Gardens near QUT. It replaces the existing memorial making way for the Queen's Wharf redevelopment. Behind each and every one of the 146 names on the memorial is a story just like Brett's—of a loved one taken before their time and a grieving family and a community left behind.

I want to pay particular tribute to the Police Union, which came up with the idea and built the original memorial near the old Executive Building, which was close to the site of Queensland's first police station. The original nameplates from the monument were retained and sent to the police academy. I thank the Police Union for their generous funding contribution to this new memorial as well. It will be a fitting tribute, honouring the 146 police whose names appear on the memorial.

Whenever we are in real strife it is usually the strong arm of a Queenslander who pulls us out of it. More often than not they are wearing a blue shirt with a badge that says 'With Honour We Serve'. This memorial is to honour them, their families and their colleagues. It is the least we can do to show our respect, admiration and thanks. I will continue to pray that we do not have to add another name to that list of 146 brave police.

Governing from the Regions

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): My government governs for all Queenslanders, wherever they live—from Toowoomba to Cairns, Longreach to Bundaberg, the Torres Strait to Townsville. We are working for all Queenslanders to create jobs and deliver services. I am pleased to announce that the successful Governing from the Regions program held in our last term will continue in the second term of my government. We have held successful Governing from the Regions meetings in Central Queensland and the Gold Coast, and today I can advise that my cabinet will meet in Ipswich from 12 to 15 March. I know how important it is to get out and talk to people on the ground, to discuss the issues that matter to them, and we will continue to work with Queenslanders to address local issues in their communities.

Governing from the Regions is an opportunity for the city to host our cabinet meeting and for me and my ministers to meet with local residents and local stakeholders to listen and to hear their concerns. My government has made significant commitments to jobs, infrastructure and services in Ipswich including the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, which has already directly led to over 1,000 jobs in Ipswich, extended to 2021; expanding the Back to Work program to match Ipswich employers with unemployed jobseekers, with 41 Ipswich jobs already supported by our Back to Work program; and over \$80 million for school upgrades, new classrooms and new school halls, including new classrooms in Ipswich for the Claremont Special School and a \$15.5 million performing arts centre and senior learning centre at Springfield Central State High School. I look forward to joining the members for Bundamba, Ipswich and Ipswich West and our newly elected member for Jordan in a successful program in the booming Ipswich region next week.

Women of the World Festival

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): Today here at Queensland parliament we will see the official launch of the Women of the World program, which will be run right here in Brisbane as part of Festival 2018. Almost one year ago, I joined London Southbank Centre's artistic director and WOW creator Jude Kelly to launch the important partnership with Of One Mind to bring WOW to Brisbane. This partnership is particularly significant because it is the first time a program of events to support gender equality has been included in the Commonwealth Games program. As Premier of this state, I want a Queensland and a world in which women's rights, interests and wellbeing are promoted. Even before these games have begun we have reason to celebrate, because this will be the first Commonwealth Games to have an equal medal tally for both men and women.

WOW at Festival 2018 will leave a legacy of strong women and girls who feel empowered to make changes in their own lives and in the lives of their families and communities. Those attending the three-day event will hear from captivating local and international speakers, including those from the Lockhart River in our Far North, Canada, New Zealand, Pakistan, Fiji, the United Kingdom and Papua New Guinea.

Some of the many opportunities include Nowhere to Call Home, a powerful collection of photos and stories of people experiencing homelessness by 17-year-old Canadian photographer Leah Denbok; Australian powerhouses Deborah Conway, Clare Bowditch and Hannah Macklin; and a marketplace featuring artists, businesses, social enterprises and women's organisations from Queensland and the Pacific. Speakers will include well-known leaders and change makers in politics, arts, science and sports including New Zealander Ashleigh Smith, who at 15 years old founded Sticks 'n Stones, a bullying prevention organisation; Gulalai Ismail, a courageous Pashtun human rights activist from Pakistan; and Jane Caro, Australian author, novelist, broadcaster, columnist, documentary maker and social commentator.

I am also looking forward to joining WOW as a panel member for their 'Views on the News' session on 7 April. I hope many Queenslanders will join us at the Brisbane Powerhouse next month to say 'wow'—for all the women and girls who leap high, run fast, sing loud, stand proud and share their powerful stories with us.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders



Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.43 am): In less than one month, the eyes of the world will be on Queensland as the Gold Coast hosts the 2018 Commonwealth Games, which will take place largely on Yugambah land. These games give Queensland the chance to showcase all the things we love about our state—such as our world-class tourist destinations, our amazing athletes and our diverse culture. The games also give us a platform to further the cause of reconciliation with Australia's first nation people.

An important part of achieving this is the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Reconciliation Action Plan—the first time a RAP has been developed for a major event in Australia. Two years ago, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships began working with the Office of the Commonwealth Games and Goldoc to develop and implement this Reconciliation Action Plan. It has delivered tangible outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. As a key implementation partner of the RAP, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships partnered with Grocon, the principal contractor for the construction of the Commonwealth Games athletes village, to secure employment, training and procurement opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander jobseekers and businesses.

The Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has supported and brokered the inclusion of Indigenous participation in the project; supported Grocon's development and implementation of an Indigenous Participation Plan for the project; advised Grocon on the development of their Reconciliation Action Plan; and worked with TAFE, Grocon and the Office of the Commonwealth Games with their Creating Tracks program to build the capacity of Indigenous businesses to supply goods and services to construction projects and general operations of Commonwealth Games events.

One of the biggest outcomes from this project is from the Gold Coast based and Indigenous owned business DMAC Personnel, which has engaged more than 70 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers on the project. This is a fantastic outcome for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers. Overall, Commonwealth Games construction has included jobs for more than 130 Indigenous workers, 8,351 hours of accredited training for Indigenous workers and more than \$3 million in contracts for 16 Indigenous owned businesses. These outcomes are an example of how government investment can facilitate opportunities to boost the economic participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland's economy.

Finally, I am pleased to advise the House that DATSIP will also provide financial support for two Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from Mount St Bernard College in Herberton to perform at the opening ceremony as part of the digeridoo orchestra. I encourage all Queenslanders to get involved in the Commonwealth Games, support our amazing athletes and be a part of showcasing our wonderful state and its proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture to the world.

Mercurius Biorefining




Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): I recently had the pleasure of visiting QUT's Centre for Tropical Crops and Biocommodities, where I had the opportunity to inspect the progress of the latest scientific testing of patented technology produced by US biorefining company Mercurius Biorefining. This cutting-edge biotechnology, called ReACH, aims to convert agricultural waste into renewable diesel and jet fuel. This technology is designed to significantly reduce the cost of manufacturing renewable diesel and jet fuel and other bioproducts.

I am proud to say that, with support from our government, Mercurius has chosen Queensland, and in particular regional Queensland, to create the company's global biomanufacturing hub. Initially, Mercurius plans to build a pilot plant to test different elements of the biomanufacturing process across Gladstone and Mackay, with the potential to build a larger demonstration plant at Gladstone. Over the longer term, based on performance of the pilot and demonstration projects, the company has indicated that it will consider seeking out further Queensland regional locations to build up to five commercial scale biorefineries.

The combined biorefinery pilot and demonstration plants are expected to attract an initial investment of \$11 million and around 50 jobs. This is great news for Queensland's sugarcane regions in terms of potential high-value job creation and investment opportunities, as well as further strengthening Queensland's growing reputation globally as an ideal location to build biorefineries. This project is just another step towards achieving Queensland's vision for a \$1 billion sustainable, export oriented biotechnology and bioproducts sector.


The Palaszczuk government attracted Mercurius here through my department's Biofutures Acceleration Program expression of interest, through which we are funding Mercurius to undertake a scientific validation program and feasibility study around its ReACH technology. Our state has the potential to embrace a future in which agricultural waste from Queensland's sugarcane regions could be manufactured into biofuel right in those regions. Mercurius is just the latest in a lengthening list of international and interstate companies which have chosen to invest in Queensland. Their decision is a vote of confidence in our economy and a clear signal that Queensland continues to be the nation's frontier of opportunity.

International Education and Training Advisory Group

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.48 am): I am pleased to announce that the next meeting of Queensland's International Education and Training Advisory Group will be held in Cairns in June. We recognise how important international education is to Cairns and we are determined to support the industry grow. It follows our meeting in Townsville—in the member for Townsville's electorate—last month which was the first ever meeting held outside of Brisbane. International education is worth more than \$21 million to the Townsville economy and supports around 165 jobs. With world-class education offerings and tourism drawcards, Townsville has the makings of one of Australia's international education capitals.

We as a government believe that in working with the sector over the next 10 years we can double the value of international education in North Queensland. Our investment in international education will also create environments for cultural exchange, new ways of thinking and fresh perspectives on the challenges Queensland will face into the future. I am looking forward to holding our next international education and training advisory panel in Cairns, another regional city that also has huge potential for growth with the presence of their university, training and schools sector.

Marriage

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (9.49 am): I rise with the permission of some very special people in the gallery today to inform the House of an historic event in my portfolio and, more importantly, an historic moment for Queensland and for Australia. I am honoured to reveal today that on 15 December last year, despite what members may have seen reported in the media, Australia's first same-sex marriage was actually held in Queensland. At the time it was not the couple's wish to tell their story, but all involved now want the world to know. This marriage between two extraordinary women, Jo Grant and Jill Kindt, was allowed to proceed without the 30-day waiting period because Jo was terminally ill with a rare cancer.

Jo passed away last month. She is survived by her mother, Sandra, and her father, Paul, and by Jill, the woman Sandra and Paul proudly call daughter-in-law and Jo lovingly called wife. Today Jill, Jo's parents and also Kari, a celebrant, are all here joining us and want us to share the kindness and dedication of strangers that made this event possible. This is ultimately a love story of the deep bond between Jo and Jill and the will of the Australian people to legally recognise that bond. This is also an inspiring story of the extraordinary lengths that our Births, Deaths and Marriages staff went to in order to make this historic marriage happen before time ran out. It is a story of hope that reframes Queensland as a modern, trailblazing state which recognises equal rights and the most fundamental principle that love is love.

As we know, thanks to a national vote on 9 December, marriage equality became law in Australia. However, the first wedding could not be legally held for another month, unless the registrar ruled exceptional circumstances and waived the 30-day waiting period. In Jo's case, those circumstances were devastating: she was receiving palliative care after a battle with a rare cancer. Jill, as ever, was by her side. They had been together for eight years and had held a commitment ceremony in 2013 but very much wanted to get married, desperately aware that Jo's time was running out. Jo had already defied doctors' expectations.

A marriage necessarily involves quite an amount of paperwork and preparation, all of which takes time, which Jo and Jill did not have. However, I am proud to report today that, thanks to the extraordinary staff at Births, Deaths and Marriages going the extra mile, Jo and Jill were approved, married and registered all in one day, and, yes, they were the first in Australia to do so.

The marriage ceremony took place in the couple's beautiful Coolum Beach garden as their family and friends watched on, a community of strangers pulling together to make this marriage happen in time. Then the extraordinary staff at Births, Deaths and Marriages went one step further. Determined


to deliver the marriage certificates immediately, they met the celebrant, Kari, halfway between Brisbane and the northern beaches, pulling over at a roadside servo to deliver the precious paperwork, and we have photo evidence of that.

The photos of their wedding day are very special, as are all of ours. Jo was very frail, but you see the love between these two people. In one shot, Jo's arms were raised triumphantly as she and Jill laugh. Jo's mum, Sandra, believes the marriage renewed Jo's spirit, keeping her alive long enough to have one last Christmas with her family. Jo passed away on 30 January. We tend to focus on marriage as a public declaration of love, as a day of romance, but it is, of course, a legal contract. In the dark days before and after Jo's death, that hard-won marriage certificate cleared legal hurdles for Jill and provided access and permissions that might have otherwise been denied.

Jo and Jill were one of 159 same-sex couples who have been married in Queensland since the marriage equality laws were passed. Another 70 have already booked in with the registry to marry before the end of the year. Now that we have marriage equality, the time is right to examine whether Queensland's life event registration services meet changing community expectations and the needs of LGBTI Queenslanders. Today I am releasing a discussion paper exploring what additional improvements could be made to the legal recognition of Queensland LGBTI people and their families.

There are many people in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community who feel that current legislation does not adequately reflect or capture the true fabric of all Queensland families. Later today I will detail some of the specific changes that are required. As a matter of priority, later today I will introduce to the House amendments to the BDMR Act, which currently unfairly requires a person to divorce their partner if they have a gender reassignment. These changes are important steps in ensuring all people's sex and gender are respected and formally recognised in Queensland. Jo and Jill's story should remind all of us of the need to celebrate those changes in the name of love.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.55 am): I, too, would like to recognise Jo and Jill and their journey. What a wonderful story! I thank the Attorney-General for bringing it to our attention.

The latest Queensland Competition Authority regional electricity price draft determination recommended decreased regional household electricity prices. This is great news for Queensland. If the final decision reflects the draft, regional households could expect a 2.3 per cent drop in their annual power bill in the next financial year, or an average of \$35. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge Minister Bailey, who sits beside me, for all the fantastic work he did in this portfolio. I thank him. We would not be in the position we are now without his hard work.


Regional small businesses could see a drop in their power bill of 4.3 per cent, or \$110. These price drops—and this has been acknowledged by the QCA, an independent authority—are largely due to decreased network charges and reduced wholesale electricity costs. The QCA confirmed that the government's direction last year to Stanwell Corporation to adjust its bidding behaviour also reduced wholesale electricity prices. Here in Queensland we have the lowest wholesale electricity prices in the eastern coast market.

Those profits that those opposite keep talking about are going straight back into driving down electricity prices through our \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan. Under this plan these profits—those dividends—will pay for a \$50 rebate that will appear in every household power bill this quarter. Under this plan, we guaranteed that prices would not rise above inflation, but already prices are falling. Those dividends that those opposite talk about will fund \$20 million worth of rebates for energy efficient appliances. Might I add nearly \$3 million worth of those rebates are already going into the bank accounts of more than 11,000 Queensland families. Mr Speaker, as you well know, we can do this because we own our electricity assets.

On the subject of affordable energy, let me update the House on our work to help bring more gas to market. In the next few months another 17,000 square kilometres of Queensland will be available to explorers and producers to seek and supply gas for the east coast market and for export. Tenders are now open for those tenements, and 6,000 square kilometres of them are for domestic use only. This is the third time the Palaszczuk government have taken the lead nationally to make land available for gas for the domestic market. I am pleased to report that Senex, the company that won the first of those domestic gas tenders, is on track to start producing the first gas next year—a Queensland company: Queensland gas to Queensland industry.

Queensland has been doing the heavy lifting on gas for some time now, driving gas supply for the east coast market and also for Queensland manufacturers that need gas to grow their businesses and to grow jobs in this state. I ask: when are those opposites going to step up and get our fair share from their mates in Canberra for more gas infrastructure here in Queensland? When are we going to hear from them? The only federal gas infrastructure is a pipeline in Western Australia. I challenge the opposition leader to stand up for Queensland for once.

State Emergency Service; Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.49 am): It is a real privilege to be the Palaszczuk government's minister who is dedicated solely to Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Before I go any further I want to thank my predecessor, Mark Ryan, for the wonderful work that he did in this very important space. As events of the past few months have made abundantly clear, Queensland is currently experiencing what is called a severe weather season. It will continue all the way through until the end of April.


I have recently travelled to Yam Island, Moranbah and Townsville to inspect storm and flood damage and thank our hardworking QFES personnel for their wonderful efforts. Additional QFES crews were deployed to the affected areas to bolster their response capability, working shoulder to shoulder with local teams to firstly deal with the emergency callouts and then the clean-up.

Without taking away from the tremendous work of everyone involved, I would like to make special mention of our swiftwater rescue crews and our SES flood boat crews. These well-trained and well-prepared specialists have undertaken rescues in unpredictable flash flooding, all too often risking their own lives to respond to people who unfortunately failed to heed the warnings, made poor judgement calls and drove into floodwater.

For the benefit of our hardworking crews, let me once again remind people that it does not matter what kind of car you drive, how experienced you are or how badly you need to get across that road: if it is flooded, forget it. QFES has introduced 11 inflatable motorised swiftwater rescue craft and a further six are expected later this month. These craft will further enhance the ability of our floodwater crews to reach those in trouble. QFES continues to work closely with other agencies, including local governments, to ensure that local personnel are ready to respond to severe weather in Queensland. I have no doubt that I will be travelling again soon, and when I do I am confident that QFES and other agencies will once again impress.

We are drawing on past experience to help guide us into the future. Last year's severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie was a rigorous test which QFES passed with flying colours and continues to build on. The kudos for QFES is not just coming from me. The Inspector-General of Emergency Management's review of the effectiveness of Queensland's disaster management arrangements following Cyclone Debbie showed that QFES responded well. Our efforts also earned praise from Robert Glasser, who heads the UN's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Mr Glasser said, 'The response to Cyclone Debbie truly epitomises the type of action we would like to see everywhere else.' I am proud to say that as the key response agency QFES is fully prepared not only now but into the future.

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.02 am): My congratulations to Jo, Jill and family as well. The Palaszczuk government has a proud, unwavering focus on tackling bullying and cyberbullying in schools. Queensland has led the way for the past 15 years and the Premier is now putting this issue squarely on the national agenda. The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence, Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools—now in its eighth year—was a Queensland Labor government initiative. The national Bullying. No Way! website is managed by the Queensland department of education and is the primary mechanism in Australia for sharing information, resources and successful practices to counter bullying, harassment and violence in Queensland and Australian schools.

This year once again Queensland is taking the lead in encouraging students to stand united against bullying and violence not just in schools but in all aspects of life. This vital message will be centre stage on Friday, 16 March when school communities across the nation will highlight the importance of working together to tackle bullying and its horrible consequences. I welcome the Prime Minister's support for this Queensland initiative—


An opposition member interjected.

Ms GRACE: At least be proud of it—and his letter last week to school principals across Australia encouraging them to take part and obtain a Queensland developed anti-bullying kit. I am pleased to report that as of this morning nearly 1,000 Queensland state schools have signed up. This represents approximately 425,000 students and more are coming in every day. I encourage all members to get involved in any local activities they can.

As the Minister for Education, I know that in Queensland our schools work hard each and every day on strategies and practical solutions across all age groups. I have seen some of these in action, and I can assure members that principals and teachers take the wellbeing of their students very seriously. Every Queensland state school has a responsible behaviour plan for students which sets clear standards of the behaviour that is expected and the consequences for those who breach those standards. In partnership with Our Watch and the Luke Batty Foundation I recently attended the launch of a pilot program to teach young people respectful relationships. Cyber safety is a focus, and schools regularly train students in the proper use of technology, including mobile phones.

Bullying is insidious. It is an incredibly complex issue that reaches far beyond the classroom. We know that for victims it is truly awful. The Palaszczuk government will continue to lead the way in raising awareness, providing support for victims and developing and implementing strategies to stamp out bullying in all its forms. We all have a role to play.

World Science Festival Brisbane

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.05 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to driving our state forward toward new opportunities. We know that increasingly the new jobs and careers that are being created in our state have a focus on science, technology, engineering and math skills, so engaging more young Queenslanders, their families and their communities in the wonder of science and promoting the possibilities a STEM career can offer is incredibly important.


To help achieve this, once again the Palaszczuk government is showcasing Queensland as an international destination for scientific ideas, innovation and arts by hosting a festival that continues to capture the world's imagination: World Science Festival Brisbane. The World Science Festival Brisbane is an event which is unparalleled in the Southern Hemisphere and is the only world science festival event held outside of New York.

Now in its third year, the festival is continuing to go from strength to strength, with attendance at the event growing from 120,000 in its first year to 182,000 last year. It promises to be even bigger this year. The mission of World Science Festival Brisbane is to take science out of the lab and into the streets of our Queensland cities and towns. The World Science Festival enables Queensland communities to engage with science and encourages our schoolchildren to consider STEM careers.

I was delighted to join the member for Gladstone and thousands of students and community members at the Gladstone Entertainment Convention Centre last weekend to kickstart this incredible celebration of science. As well as Gladstone, regional events are being held in Chinchilla, Toowoomba, Townsville and, for the first time, Ipswich. The festival arrives in Brisbane at the South Bank cultural precinct from 21 to 25 March 2018 and will attract tens of thousands of Queenslanders as well as national and international visitors who will inject millions of dollars into the Queensland economy.

In 2018 the festival continues to promote the creative benefits of collaboration between the sciences and the arts with the theme 'Humanity'. The centrepiece event is the world premiere of *Close Encounters of the Third Kind in Concert*. It celebrates the 40th anniversary of the Steven Spielberg sci-fi movie masterpiece featuring a performance by the 84-piece Queensland Festival Philharmonic Orchestra and the 80-voice Resonance of Birraleee choir. There will also be free street science activities in the Cultural Forecourt at South Bank Parklands to entertain and inspire. The success of the World Science Festival Brisbane demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland initiative in action. We are making science more accessible for all Queenslanders and further developing our innovative and exciting knowledge based economy.

Corrective Services

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.08 am): Today I am pleased to advise the House that we have our first cohort of the year of custodial officers graduating from the academy. These 40 men and women graduates will walk out of the Queensland Corrective Services Academy gate and embark on one of the most challenging yet

rewarding roles in keeping Queenslanders safe. Those officers graduating today will be joining their Corrections colleagues at Borallon Training and Correctional Centre, the Escort and Security Branch and Maryborough and Wolston correctional centres.

Under the Palaszczuk government, we have delivered more than 1,000 new custodial officers, and they join the ranks of custodial officers right across Queensland in all Queensland correctional centres. Our correctional officers play a vital role in ensuring community safety across the state through the humane containment and rehabilitation of offenders. Every day they work with Queenslanders who have the most complex and challenging behaviours. It is not an easy job, but our community is a safer place for their hard work. I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them, whether they are a custodial officer or in Probation and Parole, for the very important front-line work that they do to help keep us all safe.

Our government is committed to recognising and supporting our hardworking custodial officers by continually improving staff safety and strengthening our front-line services. That is why we are increasing capacity at the Capricornia Correctional Centre with a \$200 million expansion which will deliver over 200 beds and also additional beds at Borallon Training and Correctional Centre. This is in addition to our 1,000 extra bunk bed program which is now in full rollout. We also continue to progress the business cases for expansions at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre and Southern Queensland correctional precinct. This is in stark contrast to those opposite who, when they were in government, sacked 180 Corrections staff as a cost-saving exercise. They closed correctional facilities. They cut—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I ask the minister to continue, but I remind all members that ministerial statements are a time for statements and if there is provocation it makes for the House being more unruly.

Mr RYAN: Our efforts to build a safer Queensland are under threat from the LNP and our efforts—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!


Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Leader of the Opposition! Minister, continue.

Mr RYAN: Our efforts are under threat to build a safer Queensland, and if the LNP government in Canberra gets its way to cut GST funding to Queensland it will make it harder for us to deliver the rehabilitation programs and the safer community programs that all Queenslanders expect from us. It is time for those opposite to step up and tell their mates in Canberra that they need to do more.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE


Report

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.12 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee's report No. 2 on portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 14 June 2017 and 10 October 2017. The committee did not identify any significant issues regarding consistency with fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 2, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 14 June 2017 and 10 October 2017 [\[262\]](#).

NOTICE OF MOTION

Fuel Price Monitoring

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.12 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to adopt the LNP's plan for real-time fuel price monitoring so that third-party fuel applications can fully inform motorists—

Government members interjected.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will start again. I give notice—

Mr SPEAKER: I do not think there is any need for that.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Happy to. I give notice that I will move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to adopt the LNP's plan for real-time fuel price monitoring so that third-party fuel applications can fully inform motorists and to drive competition and lower fuel prices.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education! Members will have an opportunity to debate that particular motion later. Let us not have the debate now.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.13 am.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Email



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (10.13 am): My question without notice is to the Premier. Premier, I table an email to the member for Miller from Electrical Trades Union boss Peter Simpson that attached a job application with the words—

Mate

As discussed.

Cheers

Simmo

Tabled paper: Emails, dated 21 September 2016, from Mr Mark Bailey to Mr Peter Simpson and Ms Denise Spinks, titled 'My CV' [263].

Premier, has the person in the resume received a taxpayer funded job in the Palaszczuk government and are they still employed?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As everybody in this House knows, those issues were fully canvassed by the anti-corruption watchdog in this state, the CCC. The CCC thoroughly investigated all of those emails and concluded its investigation. Mr Speaker, I have become aware that the Leader of the Opposition also plans or has written to you about this matter. As these matters may also be canvassed by yourself or by the Ethics Committee, I am not going to discuss those issues any further.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Pursuant to the standing orders and the matter that the Premier refers to in the report in the paper today, the Leader of the Opposition has written to you. As we understand it, there is no matter subject to the Ethics Committee under consideration or investigation, so the Premier is able to answer any questions put to her about the subject matter and should.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. My interpretation of the Premier's answer was that she was choosing to not canvass that, not that she was not unable to canvass that. Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Ms Palaszczuk: No.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Email

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table another email from the mangocube account, this one sent at 9.11 am on 11 September 2016 from the member for Miller to his then Chief of Staff.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 11 September 2016, from Ms Denise Spinks to Mr Mark Bailey, titled 'ENERGEX (Again)' [264].

The email has a subject line that reads—

Energex (again)

It states—

Just in from Simmo. Looks like a few minions at play while Terry E is away. Let's discuss and get Energex to front up on it.

Premier, is it acceptable for a Palaszczuk government minister to refer to government employees as 'minions'?

Mr SPEAKER: Before the Premier answers: Leader of the Opposition, can you please rephrase the last part of your question asking that question through the chair?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Would you like me to start the question again?

Mr SPEAKER: No, just the actual question. I will not go into preambles at this point.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Okay. The question to the Premier is: is it acceptable for a Palaszczuk government minister to refer to government employees as 'minions'?

Ms Grace: Well, it's not acceptable to sack them!

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me reiterate to the House that all of those emails have been subject to a complete and thorough investigation by the anti-corruption watchdog in this state, the CCC, and I am not going to enter into a debate in relation to that investigation that has been closed.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana and Leader of the Opposition, particularly the Leader of the Opposition, you have asked a question. I would expect that you would like to hear the answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will say this: unlike those opposite, we will not sack public servants. I take the interjection from the Minister for Education, who was stealing my thunder. We will not sack public servants and nor will we, like the former premier when the Leader of the Opposition was the assistant minister—

Ms Jones: Who was on CBRC?

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and also on CBRC, denigrate those public servants as he did in this House and to the broader public. We will not do that. Let me make it very clear: we respect public servants. We respect those officers who work for us. Go back and look at your records about how your former premier referred to public servants. Go back and check the public record, and the member for Kawana was in this House when the former premier said those words in this House. It was disgraceful and it was disgusting—absolutely publicly disgusting.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You were sitting here as well when the former premier—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier—

Ms PALASZCZUK:—your premier—

Mr SPEAKER: Premier—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier—

Mr Dick: You cheered him on!

Ms PALASZCZUK: You cheered him on—

Mr SPEAKER: Order, Premier! Premier, please refer your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and then what did your former treasurer do? Took an axe and cut 14,000 public servants. Leader of the Opposition, you cannot wash your hands of that either—

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

Ms PALASZCZUK:—no, no, no, no, no.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier! What is your point of order?

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, you gave a ruling 30 seconds ago to the Premier, during which she continued to talk over you, about directing your comments through the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Manager of Opposition Business. I have the situation well under control. Premier, do you have anything further to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, in conclusion—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I have just answered your point of order. Please do not challenge that ruling.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition cannot wash her hands of the fact that she was the assistant minister who sat on the Cabinet Budget Review Committee with her good friend the former treasurer and made the decision to axe public servants' jobs throughout this state. That is exactly what the Leader of the Opposition did. She should not come in here on her moral high horse and lecture me when she has a case to answer for the cutting of over 14,000 public servants' jobs in this state—a complete and utter disgrace.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier and all members, I expect that you will refer all of your comments through the chair. I ask you to do that. That is the way that this parliament has been established and I ask that that be followed. I will not give another warning today.

Trade Mission

Mr STEWART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier outline to the House some of the benefits to Queensland from the Premier's recent trade mission to the United States? Is the Premier aware of any alternative strategies pursued by other states?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that important question, because we know how important our relationship is with the US. When I met with a number of governors in pursuing opportunities for Queensland to partner with them, I saw there were a lot of benefits for Queensland. Yesterday, I mentioned that we signed that sister-state relationship with the Governor of Nevada. I also had the opportunity to meet with the Governor of Iowa, the Governor of South Carolina—and we also have a sister-state relationship with that state, which was signed previously by former premier Peter Beattie—and the Governor of Puerto Rico. We want to work with Puerto Rico to help them with their recovery after the devastating hurricane. I look forward to welcoming members of the Puerto Rico government to look at our reconstruction authority.

Let me make it very clear that, when I was in the US, there was a lot of interest in investing in Queensland. Yesterday in this House I mentioned that BlackRock has a very keen interest in pursuing more investment in renewable energy in this state. However, I was somewhat shocked and surprised that one other Premier in particular—the Premier of New South Wales—was over there talking about the benefits of asset sales and very much promoting that with the US. I find that path completely unacceptable.

Mr Mander: How's your economy going?

Ms PALASZCZUK: So the member supports it now, does he? The member for Everton supports asset sales. The shadow Treasurer is supporting asset sales. We do not support that. We faced two elections on that issue.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, when I cannot hear the Premier or any minister who is on their feet, Hansard has difficulty hearing the minister and their response. When I call the House to order, I expect the House to come order. Otherwise, I will begin naming members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know how important it is to keep our energy assets in public hands, because we are returning the dividends that we are getting from our energy assets to the families who need them.

We also see the Prime Minister offering New South Wales another sweetheart deal—\$4 billion for Snowy hydro. There is no funding for Cross River Rail in this state. There is no backing of infrastructure. What do we hear from those opposite? Absolute silence. Now, we hear that the member for Everton obviously supports the selling of assets in this state. Shame on him!

Minister for Transport and Main Roads and Member for Kurwongbah, Emails

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table an email from Peter Simpson to the member for Miller and the member for Kurwongbah which says—

I put this proposal in our original brief to the incoming government. Suggest that after this it would be a good time to revisit that.

Tabled paper: Emails, dated 16 September 2016, from Mr Peter Simpson to mangocube6 @ yahoo.co.uk, Mr Shane King, and Mr Stuart Traill, and between Mr Peter Simpson and Mr Richard Van Breda, titled 'Stanwell Use of Contractors' [\[265\]](#).

Will the Premier now order the release of all incoming government briefs from unions, including the ETU incoming government brief to the former energy minister and the chair of the then utilities parliamentary committee, so that we can see who really is responsible for the governance of Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I canvassed earlier in this House, these matters have been investigated thoroughly by the CCC. I am not going to enter into any further debate. Also, let me make it clear that incoming government briefs are produced by the department to be given to the ministers.

South-East Queensland, Transport Infrastructure

Mr PEGG: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the progress of the Palaszczuk government's transport infrastructure projects in South-East Queensland and is the Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Stretton for that question, because we all know how important transport planning is for the south-east of our state. We also know and the public knows my government's commitment to providing the necessary infrastructure that is needed to cater for growing communities in our south-east.

Recently, the Deputy Premier announced the short list—the bidders—for Cross River Rail, which is something that my government is proudly getting on with the job of building. We have already seen some of the demolition happening at the Woolloongabba site. When I speak to investors overseas and when I speak to the business community in Queensland, they are very supportive of my government pursuing the building and delivery of Cross River Rail for South-East Queensland.

It was also my government that took the initiative to work with the federal government to build the second stage of Gold Coast Light Rail. We know how important that is for the Commonwealth Games, which are coming up. That would not have been built under the former government. In fact, initially, those opposite were opposed to the building of the second stage of Gold Coast Light Rail. We have also done the expansion of the heavy rail at Helensvale.

However, when it comes to getting support from the federal government, we have not seen one single dollar for Cross River Rail in this state. As I said in a previous answer to a question asked by the member for Townsville, we are seeing \$4 billion given to New South Wales and no money for infrastructure that is needed for our planning purposes, especially for infrastructure in the south-east. Recently, we saw Minister Ciobo come out with a brand-new idea for the south-east called the hyperloop. I think we probably have more chance of sending someone to Mars than we have of constructing the hyperloop in the near future.

On my way to the US I was able to see Minister Ciobo and I said to him that we do not support that plan. I asked him if there was any concrete evidence that he could send me—any concrete, detailed planning or perhaps a business case. The federal government is usually very good at asking for business cases. We provide them with a business case and they do not give us any money. They give the money to New South Wales. Queensland misses out.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What is the member's position on Cross River Rail?

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I do not think your interjection was appropriate. Premier, I ask you again to listen to the earlier ruling. It is something that you will have to become accustomed to. Premier, your time has expired.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Email

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table an email thread between the ETU secretary Peter Simpson and Minister Bailey exchanged two days after Leanne Donaldson resigned as a minister in 2016.

Tabled paper: Emails, dated 5 November 2016, between Mr Mark Bailey and Mr Peter Simpson, titled 'Ministry' [266].

The subject line of the email is 'Ministry', and I quote—

Hey Simmo, just in from Perth after TIQ and road safety min things. Catch up with you in the morn.

Can the Premier and the chairperson of cabinet confirm this was to discuss who would be appointed as the left faction's nominated cabinet minister replacing Ms Donaldson?

Ms PALASZCZUK: That question is not worthy of an answer. It is not even worthy to be asked in this House. As I have said previously, it is just an absolute nonsense.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you have asked your question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am glad we are discussing the real issues that matter to Queenslanders here today. This side of the House is fighting for our fair share from Canberra, fighting for money for critical infrastructure in our state, giving notice that we want to demand our fair share of the GST. What do we get from those opposite? Something that has been thoroughly investigated by the anti-corruption watchdog in this state and the matter has been closed. Next week my government will be governing from Ipswich. We will be out there once again listening and delivering.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you have had a really good go this morning. You are warned under standing orders for consistent interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: On this side of the House we will fight Canberra for a fair share of funding when it comes to remote Indigenous housing in this state. We will fight Canberra for the \$170 million of health funding that we are entitled to as part of back pay. We will stand up and fight for that. We will fight for our fair share of skills and training funding in this state and we will continue to fight for what Queenslanders deserve. While those opposite sit there and talk about matters that are irrelevant to Queenslanders, we will stand up here and fight for Queensland.

Housing, Indigenous Communities

Ms LUI: My question is to the Deputy Premier. What impact will the Turnbull government's failure to renew the remote Indigenous housing agreement have on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders, including in my electorate of Cook?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Cook for that very important question, a question that actually goes to the lives of Queenslanders living in some of the most remote parts of our state and is something that people actually care about. I am also honoured to be the recipient of the member for Cook's first question in this chamber.

I was very privileged last week to join the member for Cook in one of the communities that she represents, the community of Napranum, to talk to the council about a whole range of issues, particularly the provision of housing under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Housing.

As the Premier has already advised the House and as a number of people, including the housing minister, have advised this House, the federal government is walking away from a 50-year tradition of putting money on the table to help build houses in remote Indigenous communities. These two programs have contributed more than \$1.1 billion. In that time that has produced more than 1,150 new homes in remote Indigenous communities and maintenance and upgrades to more than 1,500 homes in remote Indigenous communities.

People need to understand the magnitude of this decision going forward. When I was on Mornington Island in the member for Traeger's electorate last week I had a look at a number of housing programs that were being delivered through this funding partnership. This is critical housing for a community where people are experiencing record levels of overcrowding that leads to preventable diseases. These are critical issues, these are bread-and-butter issues, and so far we have heard absolute silence from those opposite on this critical issue.

I note that the LNP opposition spokesperson for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships has been particularly silent on this matter. I do note he will be in my electorate at Bunyapa Park attending a Closing the Gap event. I am going to give him some free advice: even the Closing the Gap report said we cannot meet any of our targets unless we address housing shortfalls in Indigenous communities. The member for Moggill should remind himself and his party room of that and stand up for Queenslanders in some of the most remote parts of our state.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Ministerial Guidelines

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Premier. Today the member for Miller told radio listeners that he did not know his probity and accountability requirements as a minister of the state. He said, specifically—

Well, I guess that it was a grey area, Craig, and I know that the ministerial, er, you know, guidelines are being looked at in terms of that.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: Does the Premier accept responsibility for allowing what the CCC calls a corruption risk by not instructing ministers and why haven't the new guidelines been finalised nearly 10 months later?

Mr SPEAKER: Before you answer, Premier, member for Cooper, you interjected during the question being asked. I ask that questions be heard in silence.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Toowoomba South for the question. As we know, the CCC has concluded its investigation. My director-general is in consultation with the State Archivist. Those matters are being finalised and once those matters are finalised the cabinet handbook will be updated as soon as practicable.

LAND 400 Project

Ms HOWARD: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister update the House on the current status of the LAND 400 project and Rheinmetall Defence Australia's bid to bring the project to Queensland?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Ipswich for her question and acknowledge her strong support for manufacturing sector jobs in Queensland, including in the defence manufacturing industry. The Turnbull government's decision on the LAND 400 contract is imminent. As I advised the House during the last sitting week, we are supporting Rheinmetall's Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicle which the company has committed to build in Queensland should its bid be successful. Our government has worked in close partnership with Rheinmetall over the last three years to bring this \$5 billion project here. It will bring 450 jobs to the south-east of our state and regional Queensland over a decade. It is a significant project.

Our rival in this bid is Victoria and while they are using taxpayers funds to publish full-page advertisements in daily newspapers we have taken a different approach. We are backing the best, the safest and the most capable vehicle in the fight and that is the Boxer CRV. But there is one area where we are being outdone by Victoria—credit where credit is due—and that is the unequivocal support of the Victorian bid by the Liberal state opposition leader in Victoria. Eight months ago in July, as reported in the *Herald Sun*, the opposition leader, Matthew Guy, supported the Victorian bid and I quote—

Opposition leader Matthew Guy also backed the plan. He said he would be willing to lobby his federal colleagues to bring the project to Melbourne.

I table that.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Herald Sun*, dated 31 July 2017, titled 'Land 400 plan to build war machines in Victoria and deliver jobs bonanza' [\[267\]](#).

It is not only Matthew Guy who is backing our project; people from across Queensland are backing it, as well as the *Courier-Mail*. Every federal Queensland LNP member is backing it. Every federal Labor member of parliament is backing it. Today we read that even federal members of parliament from New South Wales are backing the Queensland bid. We have the Blues backing the Maroons for the Boxer CRV. However, one person is MIA. The one person missing in action is the Leader of the Opposition, who has said absolutely nothing about this project. If she could back one project that is in Queensland's interests, it is the campaign to win the Boxer CRV. However, she is absolutely silent. On this project, she sits there mute and absurd.

This is a game-changer for manufacturing and it is about time the Leader of the Opposition stopped backing Turnbull, stopped backing Canberra and backed Queensland. This will transform manufacturing in Queensland. It is a critically important project. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: if you are not going to back Cross River Rail or other infrastructure projects, back the Boxer so Queensland can benefit.

Mr LANGBROEK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, we just heard the minister absolutely and blatantly ignore standing order 244(7), which is the use of the word 'you' that you have made clear rulings about.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Surfers Paradise, sometimes it is hard to hear what the ministers are saying due to the constant interjections, not just from this side of the chamber but from all members in the chamber. It would assist my ability to hear every word spoken by the ministers if all members of the House could bring themselves to better order. Thank you for your point of order. I will continue to listen.

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Email

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. As the minister with principal ministerial responsibility for archives and the storage of government data, will the minister now order the release and publication of the 30,000 emails in a mangocube6 email account, so that the people of Queensland can see Labor's secret back-channel communications with the unions?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the shadow minister for the question. This matter was dealt with by the Crime and Corruption Commission and a report was provided in September 2017. They released a public statement dealing with all of the allegations made under the Public Records Act. I will not be engaging in any further debate about this issue, either.

International Education

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on how the government is partnering with universities to strengthen Queensland's international education sector?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that he is very passionate about the Central Queensland University, which is represented in his community of Gladstone and, indeed, is one of the largest universities that we have in terms of footprint across regional and remote parts of Queensland. As the minister responsible for international education, I can say that we are working very closely with our universities to grow this sector across regional and remote parts of Queensland and, indeed, to grow jobs.

In fact, in late 2016 the government released our international education strategy, which aims to grow the industry by almost double its size to \$7.5 billion by 2026. We are making that investment to give greater opportunities not only to all the wonderful young students we have in Queensland, including those in the gallery today, because we know that having international education students can actually improve the educational opportunities for Queensland children, but also to the students who come to Queensland to study.

That is why I echo the concerns my colleagues have expressed about the federal government's plans to cut \$2.2 billion from the university sector in Australia. Those opposite do not have to take our word for it, as we know that they are not fond of hearing us telling them what things really matter in Queensland. They can take the word of the Universities Australia chair, Margaret Gardner, who has pleaded with the federal government—their mates in Canberra—to not cut \$2.2 billion from universities. In the words of the chair of Universities Australia—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms JONES: Do you want to make a comment, because you have not commented publicly, so far?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, today I have given repeated rulings about addressing your comments through the chair. You are warned under standing orders.

Ms JONES: I will take the interjection from the member for Nanango. If the member would like to make a comment about the \$2.2 billion cuts to the university sector, which will hurt rural and remote Queenslanders the most, I welcome the member for Nanango finally putting those comments on the record. Is the member for Nanango finally stepping up today? Is the member for Nanango finally going to stand up to her mates in Canberra and say, 'Do not cut \$2.2 billion from our universities', which will hurt communities that the LNP is meant to represent and brags about representing? It is all very well and good for the MIA Leader of the Opposition to come in here and heckle, but it is about time she acknowledged that if you want the top job, you do the top job. I repeat: if you want the top job, you do the top job.

We have a Leader of the Opposition who has an opinion on everything and a position on nothing. This person comes in here and likes to whinge, but does not do the work. She will not even bother to pick up the phone to talk to the Prime Minister or the federal Minister for Education about the \$2.2 billion cuts to rural and remote universities in our state.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have repeatedly interjected this morning. I am warning you under standing orders.

Blue Cards

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Minister for Education. I refer to the loophole in the blue card legislation, which is yet to be closed. The Townsville media reports that more than 5,000 people without a proper blue card are currently working with children. Can the minister guarantee that every person working with children in Queensland schools today has a blue card?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. Currently this issue is being looked at by the government. It is a serious issue. Some instances have been highlighted that we have addressed and taken appropriate action on. There have been changes in policies in the department of education to ensure that those issues are looked at more thoroughly. This government went to the election with a commitment to look thoroughly at the issues around blue cards. I know that the Attorney-General, in her area, is looking at that.

The safety of our children is paramount to this side of the House. We will work assiduously with all schools in relation to any issues that are highlighted with regards to the blue card. Yesterday, the member for Traeger raised some issues around changes to the blue card system. I know that the Attorney-General will look at this very thoroughly, as will the government. The government will listen to the community. It will implement policies that will make sure that in every school children are safe. That is our paramount concern in relation to this issue.

In relation to the direct question from the member, of course, if any member knows of any issue, I ask them to please raise it in the House with me directly as soon as possible. I will guarantee one thing: it will be looked at thoroughly. The matter will be investigated and we will ensure that the safety of our children is paramount at all times. When we review the blue card system, we will be looking at a myriad of issues. The Attorney-General will be working to make sure that, when it is implemented, the change does not disadvantage people in circumstances such as were raised by the member for Traeger. We will have a thorough look at this, so that when a blue card is issued we know exactly what it means for the community.

Our guarantee is clear: if anyone in this House knows of any issues, I urge them—indeed, I beg them—to come forward and let me know and we will investigate those issues. Everyone on this side of the House will investigate those issues. At the election we gave a promise to the people that we will make sure that our children are safe in schools. As education minister, I will guarantee that anybody found will be thoroughly investigated and they will be dealt with. To the teachers and principals, and to those in the gallery here today, I say this: we have the best interests of the children at heart. We will all work to ensure that, when you go to school, you are looked after. We will introduce a blue card system that will be second to none in the Australian community. Again, I thank the member for the question.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call on the next question, can I note that in the gallery today we have students from St Laurence's College in the electorate of South Brisbane. Thank you for visiting our parliament.

Health System, Federal Funding

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister please explain what impact the federal government's funding shortfall for procedures in our hospitals will have on health care for Queenslanders?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. Like all members on this side of the House, the member for Maryborough is a passionate advocate for health care in his electorate. Our health workers do a fantastic job right across the state—not just in the member for Maryborough's seat but everywhere from the Gold Coast, where I was recently with the member for Gaven, all the way to the tip of Cape York and the Torres Strait, where I was recently with the member for Cook. We were in Pormpuraaw recognising the work of Mel and the other workers at the health clinic who have achieved a fantastic result in terms of childhood immunisation.

The work of Mel and all of our health workers is made so much harder by Malcolm Turnbull's decision not to pay our hospitals for operations performed as far back as 2014. We learnt yesterday just how Greg Hunt was misleading Queenslanders about this missing health funding. Let me put this in terms that the LNP might be able to understand. This is not a little bit of a grey area; this is in black and white. The KPMG report outlines in black and white just how Greg Hunt is misleading Queenslanders.

The Leader of the Opposition has been hiding behind Greg Hunt's words. She has been hiding behind distractions. She cannot hide behind them anymore. She is so loyal to the Commonwealth government that perhaps they could loan her a whiteboard to hide behind because she cannot hide behind Greg Hunt's words anymore. It is time for her to choose. She has to choose between her billionaire buddy in Canberra and Queensland Health patients—everyone who may call upon our hospitals.

I am pleased to note that there is a Queensland opposition party that is willing to stand up for Queenslanders—a real Queensland opposition party. I am pleased to welcome the support of the Katter party in our campaign to address this funding shortfall from the federal government. All it took was the member for Kennedy writing to Greg Hunt saying—

It is paramount that this funding is restored immediately to Queensland to enable our health services to function adequately.

All the member for Nanango has to do is pick up the pen or pick up the phone. Asked three times by Rebecca Levingston on the ABC, 'Have you picked up the phone to Greg Hunt,' she said, 'Well, no, I haven't.' That is all she has to do.

(Time expired)

Water Supply

Mr KATTER: My question without notice is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Recent rains in the mid-west show large volumes of water in swollen rivers flowing up to the gulf, mostly untouched. Currently under two per cent is drawn from the system for irrigation. The pricing of water allocations for farming has proven to be cost prohibitive for smaller operators and larger operators who have purchased allocations have not developed a single acre after years of sitting on entitlements. Will the minister consider a more affordable strategy targeting family farmers along the Flinders system?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Traeger for his question. We have had many meetings regarding water. I know that this is a very serious issue in his electorate. My door is always open regarding this issue.

In July last year I was very pleased to announce that 92,000 megalitres of water was to be released on the Gilbert and Cloncurry rivers. This is after the LNP, in its previous iteration, announced the release of 94,000 megalitres of water on the Gilbert and Flinders gulf rivers. It disappoints me that because of the way they released the water very little of the water is actually being used. I wanted to make a difference and make sure the water goes to productive purposes.

We released the water on a fixed price basis. We did not want people to wait for a tender or wait for an auction. We released it on a fixed priced basis. It was based on other figures for water sales and also on economic modelling. Cotton Australia and the Queensland Farmers' Federation were completely engaged and very supportive of this model. As the member does, we want to get water out and used on farms as fast as we possibly can. Those opposite released 94,000 megalitres from the Gilbert and Flinders rivers and it is doing absolutely nothing at all. We also have to be very careful that we do not upset people who already have water allocations. The prices have to be reflective of that.

I am pleased to report that nine applications for the release last year have already been received and are being processed as we speak. We hope for more. We have to take a balanced approach across the gulf to provide significant regional benefit but also careful environmental use of those water allocations when we release them. We have to take into account how much demand is there, community expectations and how much growth we can get into the gulf with the water we allocate to enable those communities to thrive and flourish.

There is one figure to remember. We have released 2.5 times the volume of water for rural and regional Australia than those opposite ever did. We are now working together with the local member to make sure those waters are released for productive purposes to get regional Queensland booming again.

Renewable Energy

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on the latest initiative to support ongoing growth in the renewable energy industry in Queensland? Is the minister aware of any alternative policy measures?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for his question. I acknowledge his passion for renewable industries in this state. The Queensland renewable energy sector is booming. In the past 16 months five new solar projects have started—from the tip of Queensland to the bottom of Queensland—at Barcaldine, Kidston, Lakeland, Normanton and the Sunshine Coast. Another 17 are under construction, offering 1,200 megawatts of energy and 2,500 construction jobs. We are rapidly becoming the solar state.

While the solar boom is great for Queensland, some of our best solar sites are in regions that host other industries. That is why the government has developed the Queensland solar farm guidelines. These guidelines have been developed in close consultation with the Clean Energy Council and the agricultural sector. They will support local councils assessing large scale solar projects under the Queensland planning framework and educate local communities and project developers about standard, good development practice. A draft of these guidelines will be released next Wednesday, 14 March for public consultation.

Renewable energy investment will help us to continue to diversify the state's economy, but these jobs are in regional Queensland. Let me make this clear. Growth in renewable energy activities is not new for Queensland. In 2011 and 2012 we had magnificent growth in this sector, but then along came the LNP. Investment dried up, jobs were lost; not one single renewable energy project was established in those three terrible years.

It was a renewable energy blackout under the LNP. What did the opposition leader learn from her Newman-Nicholls apprenticeship? Nothing. The member for Nanango even bragged about fighting against our renewable energy program during the election campaign. That worked out so well for them! Those opposite must be a great disappointment to the new LNP federal agriculture minister, who said—

I am in favour of renewables, make no mistake. It will mean we have cleaner air to breathe, there is nothing to fear in that.

You could learn a lesson or two from your federal colleague. What about the member for Condamine, my good friend Comrade Weir, who lined up with me at the sod turning—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members will be referred to by their correct title. Minister, I do remind you of standing order 257 about addressing your comments through the chair.

Dr LYNHAM: My good friend the member for Condamine, who lined up with me at the sod turning of Australia's biggest wind farm—

(Time expired)

Blue Cards

Mr BENNETT: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. In November last year a serious loophole was found in the front line of defence for protecting Queensland kids—the blue card safety system. It was revealed that people could still work with children while their blue card applications were pending. Why has the Minister for Child Safety not ensured that this loophole was closed immediately to ensure that Queensland kids are kept safe?

Ms FARMER: Responsibility for the blue card—

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the House, you are interjecting on your own minister.

Ms FARMER: Responsibility for the blue card system does lie with the Attorney-General, but I am very happy to answer any question about child safety. I am quite amazed that anyone from the other side of the House would actually ask about child safety after the record of the LNP on child safety. When the LNP were in government, they may recall that they cut 225 jobs out of the child safety workforce. I am very interested—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you have been persistent in your interjections today. I warn you under the standing orders. Member for Mudgeeraba, you have had a good go. I will be keeping a close eye on you.

Ms FARMER: They cut 225 jobs out of the childcare system. In the last term there was a lot of talk from the member for Mudgeeraba about child safety and a number of very important issues were raised. Right across this state there are child safety workers working day in and day out to protect the safety of Queensland children—day in and day out. Do you know what used to happen, Mr Speaker? When the member for Mudgeeraba had that shadow portfolio, she used to relentlessly undermine the work of those child safety officers—those people who are there on the front line—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I would like to hear the answer but I do appreciate the fact that there is some provocation.

Ms FARMER: She would relentlessly undermine them. She would visit the child safety centres. She would ask them questions and seemed so interested.

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments from the new Minister for Child Safety offensive and untrue and I ask that she withdraw them.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister.

Ms FARMER: I withdraw. We had a lot of talk from the opposition in the last term. Then what happened when they went to the election? What happened when they went to Queenslanders and said, 'These are the things that are important to us?' Was there a policy on child safety? Did we have a commitment? Did they actually say, 'This is what we can—'

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Minister, continue.

Ms FARMER: Our job is to ensure that we can provide hope and opportunity to every Queensland child. Every Queensland child has that same right to hope and opportunity as any other. If the LNP were really interested in child safety—

Mr BENNETT: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I bring you back to the relevance of the question. This is about child safety in Queensland and we do want to deal with the blue card issue.

Government members interjected.

Mr BENNETT: Child safety, please.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I find that the minister is being relevant. It was a fairly broad question and I think the minister is answering the question.

Ms FARMER: If the LNP were really interested in child safety, they would have said to Queenslanders, 'This is our policy.'

(Time expired)

Trainees and Apprentices

Mr KING: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House on support and funding for Queensland's trainees and apprentices and what changes are being proposed by the Australian government?

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you have been persistent in your interjections today. I warn you under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question and for his lifelong advocacy and support for apprentices and trainees here in Queensland. As I travel across Queensland visiting trainees and apprentices at workplaces, both employers and workers tell me how vital our investment is in training and skills in Queensland—whether it is with the member for Rockhampton in Central Queensland hearing from Hastings Deering about how desperately they need diesel fitters, with 100 vacancies across Central Queensland, or whether it is with the member for Gaven at the Riviera TAFE marine campus where they are in desperate need of marine craft construction apprentices. We know that it is vital that we continue the investment in Queensland's apprentices and trainees because we know that that is vital to maintain the fastest jobs growth rate in this country which I am proud to say Queensland now has.

We know that this is a view backed up by the federal government's own Innovation and Science Australia agency who report that the real challenge we are going to face over the next decade is not a jobs shortage but a skills shortage. It is clear to absolutely everyone that we cannot take a backward step in investing in the future of our state, and that is our young apprentices and trainees. That is why it beggars belief that at a time when training and skills are so important to our growing economy the federal government is slashing \$40 million from the Queensland training budget—a \$40 million cut that puts 4,000 trainees and apprentices at risk.

In a recent attempt to defend the indefensible, the federal Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills, a fellow Queenslander I might add, Karen Andrews, recently put out a press release. In this release she railed against the \$141 million cut from the Queensland budget from 2012.

Mr Speaker, as you can imagine, I was delighted to remind Assistant Minister Karen Andrews that it was her own party in government in 2012 that ripped \$63 million from the TAFE budget, sacked over 2,000 TAFE teachers and ripped millions more from the training budget. I am happy to table that media release.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 7 February 2018, by the Assistant Minister for Vocational Education and Skills and Federal Member for McPherson, Hon. Karen Andrews MP, titled 'Skilling Australians Fund to boost Queensland apprentice numbers' [268].

It seems that even the Turnbull government is pointing the finger squarely at those opposite for wrecking training in Queensland when they were in government. Let us not forget that the member for Nanango sat around the CBRC table which ripped millions from Queensland apprentices and trainees. It is time that the state LNP and Malcolm Turnbull stepped up for Queensland apprentices.

(Time expired)

New Performing Arts Venue

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for the Arts. Given that Building Queensland's six-month pipeline document released in January this year listed the planned end date for the new performing arts venue business case as the fourth quarter 2017, can the minister confirm that the finalised business case has been provided to government and when will we finally see some action on the delivery of this important project?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question and for his interest in the arts. We are seeing arts growing right across Queensland but not as a result of the investment we saw under the former LNP government. We saw that being cut in all kinds of ways. However, we have seen increased interest and investment from the Palaszczuk government since we entered parliament in 2015, and we have seen that industry growing in Queensland as a result of that. I thank the member for his interest in the arts. It is nice that he has that interest. It is a pity that interest was not there when those opposite were in government.

Ms Trad: I wish he was interested in remote Indigenous housing.

Ms ENOCH: Exactly. In terms of the business case that has been developed for a new theatre, let us be up-front. We know that the arts industry is growing very rapidly in Queensland. It is something that we can all be proud of. There will be a need for a further arts venue into the future, but there are two things competing at the moment. One is through an MLP process and the other is through a business case that we have been developing internally to look at options for the people of Queensland with regard to our arts industry into the future. We are looking for the best options for the Queensland dollar and for the people of Queensland. Until the MLP has been carried through, the work that we will be doing on the business case for a new venue will be seen in light of that MLP process.

I am absolutely proud to be the arts minister in this state at a time when we are seeing arts growing at a rapid rate. It is through increased investment which the Palaszczuk government is making in the development of great arts on the ground where we are seeing great stories like—

Dr ROWAN: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I have been listening very carefully to the response, but in the remaining time can the minister confirm that the business case has been provided to government and when are we going to see some action of a specific nature?

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. I will let all members know right now that points of order are not an opportunity to stand up and repeat the question. I have been listening carefully and I believe the minister has been relevant. If you wish to rise on relevance then rise on relevance. Do not restate your question.

Ms ENOCH: I am really enjoying the opposition's enthusiasm for this subject, particularly when the very first act of the former government was to cut the Queensland Literary Awards—something that we reinstated almost immediately on coming to government. That is why I say I am so proud to be the arts minister in this state at a time when we are investing and growing arts and the arts industry right across Queensland, not just in the south-east corner. We are seeing infrastructure being built for the arts industry. We are seeing on the ground support to develop great stories to showcase to the rest of the world. We should all be proud that as the Commonwealth Games approaches we see the arts and cultural program that will continue to showcase great Queensland stories.

(Time expired)

Building and Construction Industry

Ms LINARD: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister please advise how project bank accounts are supporting Queensland tradespeople? Has there been any policy debate or alternative approaches recommended for adoption?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Nudgee for the question. I know the member for Nudgee will be watching closely as the 10 apartments of social housing are constructed in Nudgee—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I should remind you that we are coming to the end of question time. You have one minute to answer the question. I had not picked that up.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My understanding is that question time finishes at 11.13.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister was on his feet until he was interrupted by your point of order. I will allow him to continue for one minute.

Mr de BRENNI: As I mentioned yesterday, three projects supporting 186 jobs across the state are the first three projects which will be considered through project bank accounts. I can add today that a further project for four homes in the electorate of Townsville on Palm Island to support government employee housing will be administered through project bank accounts. This is about ensuring that Queensland's subcontractors get paid on time in full every time. We are very proud of this initiative, and I look forward to updating the House on its progress.

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.14 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

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

- 10 minutes for each member; and
- total debate time before question put—60 minutes.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Distribution of GST



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.15 am): I move—

That this House—

1. notes the Productivity Commission's recommendations for changing the distribution of the GST which could see Queensland's share of funding cut by almost \$1.6 billion a year, the equivalent of losing 5,000 teachers, 5,000 nurses, 3,000 police officers and 1,135 firefighters;
2. calls on the Turnbull government to rule out any changes to the distribution of the GST that would disadvantage Queensland; and
3. calls on the LNP to stand up for Queenslanders and lobby the Turnbull government to guarantee Queensland's share of the GST.

Today is an opportunity for every single member of this House to support this motion, which is that Queensland will not lose any share of our GST. In just nine minutes time we will hear whether or not the Leader of the Opposition is going to agree with this motion. She is finally going to be on the public record to say whether or not she agrees with the government's stance to not lose up to \$1.6 billion a year in GST.

From the outset, I want to thank the Deputy Premier and the Treasurer for asking the Productivity Commission to come here to Queensland so Queensland could put its case clearly to the Productivity Commission and to the federal government. The Deputy Premier asked the Productivity Commission to meet in Townsville, because this is not just a Brisbane issue. This is an issue for all of Queensland. Finally, the Productivity Commission agreed to come to Queensland. They met here in Brisbane and

the Deputy Premier in her capacity as Treasurer went along to their committee and put Queensland's case. When I have gone to COAG I have personally put this case to the Prime Minister along with the other premiers. What we see in other states is a united front. In Victoria the opposition leader has supported Premier Daniel Andrews's views in standing up for Victoria's share of the GST.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the minister's interjection. This is what Matthew Guy, the Victorian Liberal leader, said: 'Our state is entitled to its fair share.' Let me repeat that: 'Our state is entitled to its fair share.'

Mr Dick: And so is Queensland.

Ms PALASZCZUK: And so is Queensland. I take that interjection from the minister. He has the guts to stand up next to the Victorian Premier. Will this Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, have the guts to stand up and say, 'We back Queensland'? That is what I want to see. Will she stand in this House and say, 'I will stand with the Queensland Premier and back Queensland'?

Let me again go through what we could lose. We could lose 5,000 teachers. That is 5,000 teachers spread across this state. We all know how important teachers are for the education of our young students right throughout this state. We could lose 5,000 nurses. My government has a proud record of recognising the hard work that our men and women do on the front line providing basic healthcare services to people across this state. We could lose 3,000 police officers—we know how important our front-line police men and women are—and up to 1,135 firefighters.

Does the Leader of the Opposition support our teachers, our nurses, our police officers and our firefighters? In less than six minutes, we will hear from the Leader of the Opposition. We will finally hear in this House whether or not the Leader of the Opposition and member for Nanango will support it. Up until this time, there has been total and utter silence.

What we also know is that other organisations have put in submissions to the Productivity Commission and I want to share some of those reports with members here today. The CCIQ said in their submission—

CCIQ remains of the strong view that there need not be changes introduced to the HFE system for distributing GST revenue.

They went on to say—

Removing such a substantial amount from the budget would have to be met through an increase in taxes or through cuts to government spending. Both options are unpalatable.

That is what the CCIQ said. Will the member for Nanango stand with me and my government and back Queensland? Will she back Queensland today? That is what we want to know and that is what we are waiting to see. We are looking forward to hearing from the shadow Treasurer. We have not heard from him either.

Ms Trad: Only on asset sales.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. He has 10 minutes to stand in this House and talk about this today. What did the Local Government Association say? The CEO of the Local Government Association of Queensland said in their submission—

Queensland local governments have just seen a re-instatement of crucial infrastructure funding by the State through the 'Works for Queensland' program. This has allowed councils to address important infrastructure works that had previously been unfunded due to the removal over a number of years of capital works funding programs. In a conversation with the State Government I have been told that the continuing ability of the State to fund the Works for Queensland program would be in doubt if it were to lose up to \$2.4 billion as is possible under some of the scenarios in the draft report.

We have the CCIQ backing the government and we also have the LGAQ backing the government. Let me go to Townsville Enterprise. This is a regional issue as well because every single family in this state will be impacted if we lose our share of the GST. What did Townsville Enterprise say in their submission? They said—

As the Productivity Commission estimates, if the two reform approaches canvassed—equalising to the second highest State or to the average—were adopted and applied to the 2017-18 GST payments, Queensland's GST revenue would be \$729 million and \$1,588 million lower respectively compared to the current system. Such a reduction in revenue would negatively impact the ability of Queensland to provide similar level of services to the community including ongoing support and investment in regional centres.

I know all the Townsville members here today would support there being no cuts to the level of services in their community, because those in Townsville know more than anyone what happened after there were cuts in services under the former LNP government. Townsville felt it the hardest. Townsville


Enterprise are prepared to stand with me as Queensland Premier and my government. We are prepared to stand up to Malcolm Turnbull. In three minutes, we will hear from the Leader of the Opposition and we are looking forward to that. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union said in their submission—

At a time when the Queensland State government has acted to restore nursing and midwifery staff levels following the drastic cuts of the previous government, any further setback would inevitably come at a cost to the community. This is a vital reminder of the importance of maintaining safety and quality in health care.

The nurses union went on to say that the estimated impact would be the equivalent of employing around 13,379 nurses. The nurses are with the Palaszczuk government, and the Queensland Teachers' Union have said something similar. We know that those opposite are prepared to do deals with One Nation, as we saw during the election campaign. We know what Senator Pauline Hanson thinks of the GST. What did Pauline Hanson want to do with our GST? She wanted to give it to Western Australia. Who did the deal with One Nation during the election campaign? He is sitting over there; it is the member for Clayfield. We are happy to stand up to One Nation on this side of the House, but I do not know about those opposite.

Let me make it very clear. This debate is far from over. This is just the beginning. There is no way that Queenslanders, Queensland families or any of us on this side of the House will put up with the federal government ripping the guts out of our funding share for Queensland. We will stand for Queensland. Now let us see if the member for Nanango will stand with us.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.25 am): What an opportunity this is. Can I say one thing—at least I know the GST rate. This is nothing but a cheap political stunt by those opposite who have absolutely nothing to go on. They have no record to go on and they have no ideas, so what do they do? We heard it in the House today. We had question after question from their side as well as all of their ministerial statements but they did not talk about what they are doing or what would be best for Queensland. They were just belting Canberra because they have absolutely nothing else. They were belting the federal government—a government which is actually trying to stand up for Queenslanders and provide for Queenslanders. The federal government is trying to make sure that everyone all over Queensland gets their fair share because here in this state we have a government that simply cannot work it out.

This is a cheap political stunt by the Premier to shine the lights on to another issue. That is why I have been fighting for Queenslanders, that is why I always stand up for Queenslanders and that is why I always put Queenslanders first. That is why we have been travelling throughout this great state and talking about issues that matter to people.

Let us not forget that this House supported a motion only months ago, and I want to remind the House about that motion. That motion stated that the House—

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;

and that the House—

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.

I say it again: this motion is clearly a cheap political stunt because there is nothing else happening on that side of the chamber. I actually talked yesterday about the ICT waste in this state. If the Premier wanted a solution around funding, she should have a look at the waste in her own government because that is exactly what good governments do. I suggest that the Premier has a look at the dashboard and then maybe she should get the ministers in to have a chat. She could say, 'They seem to blow out a bit.' The minister for ICT, or was it housing, answered a question yesterday and it was fun for us to watch but I know that it was punishing for those members over there. We could see the new Treasurer saying, 'No, please stop.' Then he gave us the line that was a beauty: 'No, this is business as usual. Ladies and gentlemen, in Queensland, we let it blow out. It's business as usual. What do you mean?' We wasted \$1.2 billion on the Health payroll debacle, a Labor debacle—

Ms TRAD: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am listening patiently and trying to see the relevance of the content of the opposition leader's speech to the very specific motion put forward by the Premier. Mr Speaker, I would ask you to draw her back to the motion and ask her to stick to relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Deputy Premier. Leader of the Opposition, please pay close attention to the motion. I ask you to continue your contribution.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: What another lovely opportunity! I just sat there and had to listen to the Premier say, 'In six minutes time, in three minutes time, in one minutes time—I cannot wait to hear from the Leader of the Opposition.' I was extremely clear when I said that I would always stand up for Queenslanders, because the Premier said, 'I'm waiting to hear whether the Leader of the Opposition is going to stand up for Queensland.' I am standing up for Queensland, I am pointing out how incompetent this Labor government in Queensland is and I am pointing out the waste.

Let's get back to the \$250 million wasted on the ICT dashboard. Let's see what that money could have actually paid for. That amount could pay for 2,500 extra nurses, 2,450 extra police—and on that point I would like to congratulate the previous LNP government on appointing 1,100 new police officers when we were in government. It was not enough for those opposite to beat up on the federal government, so they tried to take credit for the 1,100 police that we in the LNP appointed. That amount of waste could also put on an extra 3,200 paramedics, who are much needed across many of our regional areas in particular. What about 6,900 police cars? That would be very handy for those areas that are doubling up in their cars and really need it. What about more schools and more school halls? What about swimming lessons for our children across Queensland?

There is another great idea for what we could have used the money that was wasted in the Palaszczuk government's ICT bungle. Let's have a look at it. This government are coming up to their fourth budget, but that is 'business as usual': they just waste money like that. It is business as usual. There is no accountability, no transparency—there is transparency because it was the LNP government that put the dashboard in place because we on this side of the House understand that the Queensland economy is very important. We understand that we need to be accountable. We need to be open and accountable to the people of Queensland when it comes to taxpayers' money. That is what our constituents expect of us when they vote for us at the ballot box. They expect each and every one of us to be accountable for their money. They do not say to me that it should be business as usual to have a blow-out of a government contract of around \$60 million in relation to the housing one. 'That is business as usual! Gee, let's think, we could maybe build the Kingaroy Hospital this year instead of waiting.' We have had to wait for that hospital due to the overruns of the budget.

When it comes to standing up for Queensland, there is no louder advocate in this parliament than me. As the Leader of the Opposition I am going to go all the way around this state and I am going to hold this incompetent Palaszczuk government to account.

Ms Bates: It is everyone else's fault.

Mr Janetzki: Stop blaming everyone else.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection from the member from Toowoomba South. Those opposite have to stop blaming everyone else. They should be standing up for Queensland and accepting that because of their incompetent way of running the government they have no-one else to blame but themselves. It is time for this new Treasurer to do something, do her job, find the holes in the budget as a good Treasurer should and stop blaming everyone but themselves.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. Exactly. I say again that this motion is simply a cheap political stunt by the Labor Party. The Premier sat there saying she wanted to hear from me; she was desperate to hear from me, but then she got up and left the chamber.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, it is not parliamentary to refer to members absent from the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw, but I would say—

Mr SPEAKER: No, you cannot withdraw. It should be unconditional. Please continue.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Sorry?

Mr SPEAKER: You used the word 'but'.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. I suggest to this House that this motion is a cheap political stunt from a government that has no record to go on, from a government that has no plan and no idea how to budget—and that has been clearly shown by 'Labornomics'. It is business as usual. The role of the opposition in Queensland is to hold the government to account, and the LNP and this side of the House will continue to stand up for Queensland. We will continue to hold this incompetent government to account.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next speaker, I inform members that students from St Laurence's College in the electorate of South Brisbane are again in the gallery. I also remind honourable members of those members who have already been warned today. I will do this as a

courtesy. We have the member for Glass House, the Minister for Tourism, the member for Everton, the member for Kawana and the member for Burleigh. I ask that you take that into consideration before interjecting in an unruly way today.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.36 am): The LNP in Canberra wants to cut Queensland's GST distribution by \$1.5 billion so they can sandbag their seats in Western Australia. It was not possible to tell from the Leader of the Opposition's contribution whether or not she supports that. She does not want to have to choose between Queensland and her bosses in Canberra, but the problem for her is that she has to choose; she cannot have it both ways. She may not have had to choose while she gave that rambling speech and did not tell us whether or not she supported the motion, but she will have to choose when the LNP comes to vote on this important motion.

If members opposite vote against this motion, they will be standing with their federal colleagues and turning their backs on Queensland. They are all paid to advocate for Queensland, but instead they are backing Western Australia. The LNP members opposite need to learn that the decisions they make have consequences. The decision they may make in a little while to send Queensland taxpayers' funds to WA will affect Queenslanders. The Premier made very clear at COAG the impact that ripping \$1.5 billion out of the state budget would have. It would be like losing 5,000 teachers, 5,000 nurses, 3,000 police officers and 1,135 firefighters.

Let's take my portfolio, Health, on its own for a moment. The amount of \$1.5 billion buys an awful lot of health care. A cut of \$1.5 billion in GST revenue to Queensland is the equivalent of about 12,880 nurses—more than one in every three nurses in Queensland. Surely the federal government does not want us to sack one in every three nurses working here in Queensland. We do know that the LNP likes to sack nurses. They did sack 1,800 when they were last in government here in Queensland—and midwives. The member for Mudgeeraba should know; she was the first nurse sacked by the Newman government. However, Labor does not do that. Labor does not sack nurses like the LNP do; we employ nurses—thousands more of them since we were elected.

If we are not going to sack nurses, let's look at some other options. The amount of \$1.5 billion is about equal to the total Health budgets for West Moreton, Mackay and Wide Bay combined. Malcolm Turnbull is saying, 'Sorry, Ipswich. I know you are expecting a hospital upgrade, but the LNP federal government wants us to shut you down for a year. Hey, Mackay. Maybe you could come back next year for that urgent emergency department treatment you need. I'm sorry, Hervey Bay, no hospitals for you this year.'

It costs more to deliver health care in a decentralised state like Queensland. That may be hard for the LNP to imagine because they do not have many regional seats—hardly any north of Wide Bay—but for their benefit let me tell you that, unlike other states, more than 50 per cent of the population lives outside the capital. Providing public hospital services to acute patients can be up to 40 per cent higher in some of the very remote parts of Queensland compared to Brisbane. It is about 1,600 kilometres from the hospital on the Gold Coast to the hospital in Mount Isa, but that is more than twice the distance between Sydney and Melbourne. It is further from Brisbane to the Torres Strait islands than it is from Sydney to Auckland. Yes, the funding arrangements in place are complex, but they reflect the reality of delivering health care in a state like Queensland compared to Victoria or New South Wales. That is precisely why the GST is divvied up the way it is.

It is not just our hospital services that are being squeezed out by Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP federal government: the federal government plays a significant role in funding public dental services for Queenslanders. In the last full financial year Queensland Health delivered more than 950,000 dental appointments in clinics across the state. Our oral health teams work extremely hard to ensure that patients receive treatment within the recommended waiting times. The majority of patients on the general dental waiting list are being seen within the clinically recommended time frame. Under the current National Partnership Agreement on Public Dental Services for Adults offered by Malcolm Turnbull and the LNP government, Queensland's funding for dental services will be cut by \$8.7 million. That is a cut of nearly 30 per cent. Make no mistake: this cut will impact Queenslanders across the state, reduce services and put increased pressure on our public dental system.

In fact, the impact of this funding cut is already being experienced across Queensland. I know this because members of the opposition have written to tell me about it. Here is just one example. The opposition Health spokesperson has written to me about a local dental practice that is seeking to be included in the dental voucher program. People who are on the waiting list for public dental treatment are offered vouchers to go and get their treatment at a private clinic. This program was established

through a partnership agreement that was struck with the federal Labor government. It has been very effective in making sure that Queenslanders get the dental treatment they need within clinically recommended times.

As a result of Malcolm Turnbull's funding cuts, more and more health and hospital services will be unable to offer these vouchers. This will have a profound impact on our waiting lists. Under the current funding provided by Malcolm Turnbull, Queensland Health has estimated that by 30 June 2019 the number of long waits on the waiting list will increase by 2,000 people. Put simply, the new deal does not provide enough funding for Queensland to continue to maintain the current performance target of seeing all patients on the adult general dental waiting list within a two-year period.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to the ongoing funding of public dental services; however, a long-term funding commitment from the Commonwealth is crucial to ensure a sustainable system. It is all well and good for members of the opposition to lobby me on behalf of their constituents like the member for Mudgeeraba, the member for Lockyer, the member for Burleigh and the member for Oodgeroo, who have all written to me in relation to dental services, but none of them are lobbying their federal colleagues in Canberra to make sure that Queenslanders get the funding they deserve. The Turnbull government is coming for free health care at every turn. They continue to owe our public hospitals hundreds of millions of dollars for services already delivered. Yesterday I advised the House that KPMG found the Commonwealth owes Queensland hospitals—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba South—it is normally the member for Toowoomba North—your interjections are not being taken. I ask you to desist.

Dr MILES: Yesterday I advised the House that KPMG found the Commonwealth owes Queensland hospitals \$1.12 billion. Despite this there continues to be nothing but silence from the member for Nanango and her Health spokesperson. Yesterday on ABC Radio the Leader of the Opposition was asked if she had called federal health minister Greg Hunt to ask about Queensland's fair share of health funding. She was asked three times. What was her response? 'Well, no, I haven't picked up the phone to Greg Hunt.' Not in the 12 days since she received my letter, not at any time this year in response to countless media reports—at no time has she bothered to call the federal health minister and make sure that Queensland hospitals are getting their fair share. It is not that difficult, member for Nanango. I have his number; I will text it to you. I will even call the number for you. You can talk to him. Maybe you could write a letter like the member for Kennedy did, or maybe you could stand up and be strong like the LNP opposition leader in Victoria—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please bring your comments back through the chair.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.


Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education and Leader of the Opposition, you have had an opportunity to speak. I would ask both of you to desist.

Mr Bennett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burnett, you are warned under the standing orders.

Dr MILES: It is not that difficult for the Leader of the Opposition to make sure that Queenslanders' tax dollars are going back to public health care, as they rightly expect. Instead, she wastes our time on stunts and distractions because she does not care if people in her electorate or right across this state can receive the vital surgeries they need within the recommended time frames. She does not care if our emergency departments are overworked and overstretched because hospitals cannot increase staffing. All she cares about is protecting her mates in Canberra and covering up for them and their agenda of vicious cuts to public services and now cuts to our share of the GST. It is time she took a stand for Queenslanders. The Leader of the Opposition and the LNP need to choose here today: do they stand with Malcolm Turnbull, or do they stand with the people of Queensland?

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.46 am): I rise to speak to this motion as well. This is a Clayton's motion. This is the motion you have when you do not have a motion. This motion is about nothing. This is pure petty politics, and this is what this government is best at. As we have already heard, all this government is good at is blaming other people for their shortcomings. They will find a conservative cause somewhere, and they will go for that conservative cause no matter what the issue is because they have no record to stand on themselves. People are tired of hearing them blame the former LNP government. They are tired of the blame game. If it is not the conservative Brisbane City Council, then it is the conservative federal government they consistently criticise—

Mr Crandon: They remember from four years ago.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Coomera. They will continue to go back, back and back because they cannot stand on a record of their own. They will be blaming Donald Trump shortly or the United Nations—you name it. If they can find another excuse for their poor performance that is what they will do. The hide of the Premier to bring a motion like this to the House when, as the Leader of the Opposition said, she did not even know what the GST is. I have a theory about that. When the radio announcer asked the Premier—who was at that time the opposition leader—that question, they did not ask, ‘What is the rate of the GST?’ They asked, ‘What is the rate of the goods and services tax?’ The Premier had no idea what the goods and services tax is. That is my theory. Had they asked about the GST maybe she would have got it, but the Premier had never heard of it because they gave the full name of the tax.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Broadwater. This government makes hollow claims. They speak about sticking up for Queensland, but when we look at the submission that they gave the Productivity Commission on this issue they do not compete with every other state in this country. We are at the bottom or in the lower half of nearly every economic indicator in this state, and we are not only in the lower half but also last with regard to the submission that this government made to the Productivity Commission.

An indication of this is the submission that was made. New South Wales made a 108-page submission to the Productivity Commission. Little ACT made a 170-page submission to the Productivity Commission. The Northern Territory made a 76-page submission. Queensland submitted a measly 30 pages of hollow claims by this government. Government members talk about sticking up for Queensland but they made no effort whatsoever in making a submission. It is a pathetic, amateur—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba South: ‘The dog ate my homework’—once again.

This Productivity Commission report is a draft report. They are hypotheticals. It is not the federal government’s report; it is the Productivity Commission’s report. They are doing the right thing by putting it out to the public, to the states, to ensure they get the best result right across-the-board. Of course, we want a great result for Queensland. Every Queenslander wants that. This government should not worry about hypotheticals but should concentrate on the here and now. It should be stimulating the economy in this state now to raise revenue and ensure revenue is flowing. To date, that effort has been absolutely pathetic.

I have already mentioned that on most of the economic indicators this state is in the lower half of states. How can we expect business to have confidence in investing in this state when this government cannot be consistent or fair with regard to how it administers its policies? It flip-flops all over the place. I refer to the ASF development on the Spit at the Gold Coast and the Logan Renewal Initiative. A contract was signed, but 18 months later the Minister for Housing and Public Works reneged. What confidence can business have to invest in this state when things can change so long after a deal has been signed?

In terms of the resource sector in the Galilee Basin, Bill Shorten, the great leader of the comrades at the national level—‘Mr Yoyo Man’ they now call him—is flip-flopping all over the place with a different message. When he visits North Queensland—

Mr Costigan: ‘Batman Bill’!

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. Can the member for Whitsunday imagine how the federal Leader of the Opposition would be received in North Queensland now?

Mr Costigan: We know.

Mr MANDER: You know! That is exactly right. My challenge to the Premier of this state is to ring the leader of the federal opposition, put him in his place and tell him to show his support for jobs in Queensland and for the resources industry. The Premier has no backbone and will not do that. We do not know where the Premier stands on this issue. We all know why they have changed their minds time and again on this issue—to protect the member for South Brisbane’s seat. I remind the member for South Brisbane that she serves South Brisbane at the pleasure of the LNP. We will decide whether or not she is in that seat next time, with our allocation of preferences—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. The strong rumour is that she is after the member for Toohey's seat. Like the former member for Mount Coot-tha, she will just take a transfer. That is what one does—take a transfer, like a government teacher.


Mr Costigan: They like Tooheys!

Mr MANDER: I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. We cannot trust this government. How can people do business in this state, and how can we ensure that we increase our revenue flows by stimulating the economy, when we have a government that simply flip-flops all over the place?

I refer to the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility. Let us compare this government with the West Australian Labor government, which was cooperating fully with NAIF and bidding on the infrastructure projects they want in their state. This government refuses to engage with NAIF and in fact criticises it. There is \$5 billion worth of investment for Northern Australia. If we are not careful, the majority of that money will go to the Northern Territory and the north of Western Australia which, I estimate, represent probably 20 per cent of the Northern Australian population while 80 per cent would be in North Queensland. This government is just ignoring that opportunity, whereas other Labor governments, in Western Australia and the Northern Territory, are taking full advantage of this. This government should focus on stimulating the economy, ensuring that we have strong investment in this state, ensuring that there is confidence and that there is no chance of sovereign risk. At the moment, we are being treated like a Third World country with regard to investing in this state.

The other side of the equation is ensuring we cut the waste. The Leader of the Opposition has already mentioned the fact that this government is starting what Labor governments are known for, that is, wasting money. If it is not the Health payroll debacle of \$1.2 billion, it is the overspend at the Lady Cilento hospital, which was \$600 million, \$700 million or \$800 million over budget. Time and again we hear about this waste. We now hear about another \$250 million overspent on ICT projects. I can assure members that that will get worse and worse. We will track that and keep this government accountable with regard to waste and with regard to its lack of revenue investment confidence opportunities. We will back Queensland. We are the only side of politics that represents all of Queensland, both the regions and the urban areas. We will not let the people of Queensland down.

Mr SPEAKER: Members for Murrumba and Whitsunday, I can hear your interjections above all others. I ask you to stop the cross-chamber comments, even if they are being taken by your own side.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.57 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Premier. In supporting this motion, I am supporting Queenslanders. I am supporting Queenslanders in our regional and remote communities. I am supporting first nations Queenslanders and Queenslanders in communities prone to natural disasters. I am supporting Queenslanders who just want a fair go and access to the same level of services as people just over the border in New South Wales.

Unfortunately, it is very clear that the Turnbull government and their colleagues in the state LNP are not interested in giving Queenslanders a fair go. We have just been subjected to 20 minutes of diatribe from the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who talked a lot but actually said nothing. I do not think anyone in this House is clear about whether or not they are supporting this motion or voting against this motion. Let us be clear: this is not a cheap shot. This is not cheap politics and this is not a Clayton's motion. This is very real to the people of Queensland in terms of this government being able to provide services to Queenslanders no matter where they live.

Let me put into context for each and every member in this House the cuts that the Turnbull government proposes via the Productivity Commission. The first budget of the Newman government in 2012—the same budget that was developed by the Cabinet Budget Review Committee that the Leader of the Opposition sat around the table deliberating on—sought to cut from the Queensland economy \$1.2 billion annually. I table the reprioritisation measures in that budget.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Table 1—Fiscal repair savings measures, Departments, 2012-13 to 2015-16' [269].

What the Turnbull government is suggesting is \$1.6 billion annually—\$1.6 billion—and of course Queenslanders know exactly what those cuts—what the \$1.2 billion worth of cuts annually—delivered by those opposite meant to them in regional hospitals, in regional schools, in child protection services. You name it, Queenslanders understood what those cuts meant. The Turnbull government through the Productivity Commission is proposing an even more severe and deep cut.

As the Premier has said and as I have said in this House, the \$1.6 billion being proposed by the Productivity Commission would see us needing to withdraw from the Public Service here in Queensland something like the equivalent of 5,000 nurses, 5,000 teachers, 3,000 police officers and more than

1,100 firefighters. That is not cheap politics. That is not a Clayton's motion. That is actually very real and there is only one side of this House that is prepared to get up and say that this is unacceptable and we will fight every single day against it—every single day.

The reality is that while our current funding allocation is complex it gives all states and territories the capacity to deliver the same standard of services to the community no matter where they live, and everyone here should know that this is especially important in Queensland. We are the only state in Australia where more than 50 per cent of our population lives outside the capital city, but the proposal from the Productivity Commission utterly fails to recognise just how different Queensland is. It ignores Queensland's unique characteristics such as our large and remote Indigenous population, the high cost of service delivery in the decentralised state and the frequency and impacts of natural disasters on our budget.

This is the single biggest change to the way GST is distributed since it was introduced, and what have we heard from the Leader of the Opposition? Rubbish—absolute rubbish, absolutely nothing. I know she just got to 10 minutes, but what did she actually say about the GST? What did she say? We have heard plenty from her federal colleagues Warren Entsch and Luke Howarth, for example, who have made it very clear that they would rather the money was spent in Western Australia rather than Queensland. I have to commend them on their honesty. At least they are honest. At least they will actually say something about this. They have made it clear that their allegiances lie with Malcolm Turnbull and not with their constituents, but here in Queensland what have those opposite said?

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition wants to do a page count in relation to the submissions provided to the Productivity Commission. How many pages did the LNP opposition put in to the Productivity Commission? Zero! Unlike oppositions in Tasmania, the Northern Territory and Western Australia, what did the LNP opposition in Queensland do? Nothing. Just like it cannot find a Senate candidate to replace George Brandis, it cannot put in a submission to the Productivity Commission about the effects of a GST cut to Queensland. Thank goodness Queenslanders do not have to rely on them. Like us, a number of people—community groups, councils, industry, unions, economists—did make submissions to the Productivity Commission because they understand what this impact will have on the people of Queensland and our state. Jenny Hill from Townsville City Council said—

Further deterioration in State funding to Queensland would exacerbate the difficult choice for Australians who chose to live and raise their families in regional areas such as north Queensland. We must avoid widening the opportunity gap between city and our regions.

Michael McMillan from Townsville Enterprise said—

The North Queensland region has significant concerns with the reform approaches canvassed by the Productivity Commission ... in its draft report which will compromise the ability of Queensland to deliver similar standards of service and living to other States and Territories ...

But the so-called party of regional Queensland and its members have absolutely nothing to say. They are more interested in cosying up to their millionaire mate from Point Piper than for country people they claim to represent. No wonder they are the third biggest party in North Queensland now! Honestly, this has become a pattern for those opposite. What have they said about the billion dollars owed to Queensland for our health services? Nothing. What have they said about remote housing? They have said nothing. What have they said about training for apprentices and skills development here in Queensland? Nothing.

This has become a chronic disease in the Liberal National Party—its inability to stand up for Queenslanders. Yesterday I made it really clear that people should not just take our word; take what the officials from the Commonwealth Grants Commission had to say about the changes to the GST carve-up. What did they have to say? They said that Queensland would have to cut services, reduce the quality of services, increase debt or increase taxes if we are to plug this hole being left by the GST redistribution changes.

A government member: That's the truth.

Ms TRAD: That is the truth from a Commonwealth Grants Commission official. My question to the Leader of the Opposition and every single one of them opposite is this: what are they prepared to do? They say they stand up for Queensland but we do not know whether or not they are supporting this motion. What are they prepared to do? Are they prepared to lobby their federal counterparts? I do not think so. They have not indicated one way or the other. Are they prepared to speak out in the media about this? I do not think so. They have not demonstrated so far. Let me say this: today in this House will they have the guts, will they have the courage, to vote on this motion?

It is easy to get up and say nothing. It is easy to get up and talk a lot and say nothing, but every single Queenslander will be watching to see whether or not those opposite actually vote on this motion. My prediction? I reckon those opposite do not have the guts. I reckon they do not have the guts to stand up and vote to articulate a position when it comes to ensuring that Queensland gets its fair share out of Malcolm Turnbull.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the next member to make their contribution, I remarked earlier on the member for Murrumba and his behaviour. I meant the former member for Murrumba. I was actually referring to the member for Bancroft. My apologies to the member for Murrumba.

Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (12.07 pm): We have just had a conga line of Labor ministers blaming everybody else, including Canberra, for their own failures. Quite frankly, these ministers need to get on and do their jobs. That is what they are there for. That is what they get paid the big bucks for, so go and do your job and stop blaming everybody else. It has been barely three months since we saw the crucial Health portfolio handed over to the member for Murrumba. Already we have seen crisis after crisis as Labor's reckless mismanagement of the health system is putting patients at risk.

In December Queenslanders saw an ongoing saga unfold over an appointment of the clinical director of mental health at the Cairns Hospital. We saw reports that this man was running for a \$400,000 a year role at Cairns Hospital, all while a quick search of his work history on Google revealed he was banned as a company director for seven years in the UK. This ban occurred after he had failed to adequately safeguard patients' wellbeing and safety. But where was the Minister for Health during this first major test of his leadership? He was ducking for cover. He was refusing to reassure Queenslanders that the system was not slipping—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Member for Mudgeeraba, I am listening very closely to your contribution because I am looking at the motion in front of me and whilst it does have reference to health matters, I would like to hear a bit more about the core of the motion.

Ms BATES: Sure. I am talking about all of the waste, particularly around what we have already seen over the last couple of days in terms of the waste on the ICT dashboard, which was something that was implemented by the former LNP government and directly because of an ICT audit across whole of government which showed billions of dollars worth of waste. Nobody in Queensland will ever forget the Health payroll debacle—the \$1.25 billion Health payroll debacle that the Labor government brought back from Germany for us thanks to Robbie Schwarten.

We know that there are still nurses who are suffering because of the Health payroll debacle. We know that this government is still pursuing nurses for unpaid amounts. While this government is talking about Queensland getting its fair share of funding from the GST, we know that former Labor governments, particularly the Gillard Labor government, slashed Queensland Health funding by \$103 million. I refer to the following article in the *Courier-Mail* of 21 February 2013 with the heading 'Gillard talks tough on federal funding for state hospitals, threatens to withhold \$234 million from Queensland Government.'

Mrs Frecklington: Where was Annastacia Palaszczuk?

Ms BATES: Where was Annastacia?

Mr SPEAKER: Members will be referred to by their correct title.

Ms BATES: Sorry, the Queensland Premier. The article states—

AMAQ president Alex Markwell said the average patient 'didn't care where the money comes from'.

'They just want to know that when they go to hospital, they'll get the treatment they need,' Dr Markwell said.

This article stated further—

The Gillard Government slashed Queensland health funding last December by \$103 million when it revised population estimates.

We know that we had a federal Labor government that had a history of playing games and we now have a Queensland government that has a history of blaming everybody else but itself. The ministers of this government need to stop hiding behind media spin. We have seen the Minister for Health on a roadshow around Queensland blaming everybody else but his own government for the failings in Queensland Health—'It is the federal government's fault', 'The dog ate my homework', 'It's the flu season'. It is every other reason for the fact that we are now going back to the bad old days of Queensland Health.

This week we saw that this minister cannot even run his own office. Why would Queenslanders have any faith that he can run effectively our public health system? All he has been doing is blaming the federal government. He cannot blame the federal government for ambulance ramping being back on the rise. That is not a federal government issue.

Waiting times in our emergency departments are blowing out because of bed block in our hospitals. They are not blowing out because the federal government is not providing funding. Under the watch of the former minister for health, ambulance ramping came back. Our emergency departments are in all sorts of crises. Our nurses, doctors and paramedics need more assistance with these wait times. As I said, no-one will ever forget the \$1.25 billion Health payroll debacle or the Tahitian prince. All of that money was wasted and, nine years later, this government is still chasing nurses. As the Leader of the Opposition said, this ICT blowout alone would pay for the employment of 2,300 nurses, 2,350 police officers, 3,600 fireys, 3,200 ambos and 5,465 ice rehabilitation beds.

We also have the Minister for Health blaming the federal government for our EDs being supposedly full because GP costs are going up. Unfortunately for the minister, the new Medicare data for July and December 2017 showed that Queenslanders received almost \$750,000 fully bulk-billed GP services more than they received the previous year. You are saying that the federal coalition government has not delivered, but it delivered almost \$3 million more in free services for Queenslanders than federal Labor delivered when it was last in government.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, could you please direct your comments through the chair. I would also like to hear a little bit more about the core of this motion.

Ms BATES: Certainly. I am talking about Labor blaming us—blaming everybody else and the GST. We have a Premier who, on the radio, could not even tell us what the GST rate was. The government cannot keep blaming the federal government for everything that has happened. It has a role to play. This government is given money by the federal government. It needs to get on and do its job. Under Labor, we do not want to see Queensland Health going back to the bad old days. We want to make sure that the ministers of this government are accountable.

The LNP stands up for Queensland. In terms of health, it has always stood up for Queensland. We want to have a world-class health system. All Queenslanders want to have that. Queenslanders do not want a Labor government blaming everybody else for what is happening in Queensland. This government has the responsibility for the Queensland Health portfolio. It needs to make sure that it is delivering the services that Queenslanders need.

On 19 January, the independent administrator for the National Health Funding Pool issued a statement on this issue, which is being debated as part of this GST argument. That is an independent process. All states, territories and the Commonwealth have been advised that these independent bodies are undertaking this independent investigation. All governments across Australia should let the independent bodies do their job and identify any of these so-called anomalies and make corrections where needed. The Queensland government should support the work of these independent bodies, which report to all states, territories and the Commonwealth, not just Queensland.

The Queensland Minister for Health is simply making up the numbers. There is no missing money. He is embarrassing himself. The truth is that the Commonwealth funding for Queensland hospitals is increasing to record levels every year. In fact, federal funding has grown from less than \$2.8 billion under the previous federal Labor government to more than \$4.8 billion under the current federal coalition government in 2020 to 2021. That is record funding under the Turnbull government. That means more doctors, more nurses and more surgeries for Queensland.


Meanwhile, in its last budget the Palaszczuk government cut funding to Queensland hospitals by \$63.8 million. We have the facts in front of us. We know that this government is not doing its job. It is blaming everybody else. As I mentioned before, it is, 'The dog ate my homework', 'It's the flu season.' The flu season finished 12 months ago. Why are we still having backlogs in our hospitals? Those backlogs have nothing to do with the federal government and everything to do with the incompetence of this government and its mismanagement of our health system. We are seeing ambulance ramping to record levels. We are seeing dental health waitlists blowing out. It is all because of mismanagement under this government. The ministers should stop blaming the federal government and get on and do the job that the people in Queensland pay them for and stop blaming everybody else.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES REGISTRATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.18 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act 2003 and the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2015 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2018 [270].

Tabled paper: Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [271].

I am pleased to introduce the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2018. While this is not a large bill, it makes an important and necessary amendment to ensure true marriage equality is realised for sex and gender diverse Queenslanders. The bill makes an amendment to the Births, Deaths and Marriages Act 2003 to remove a discriminatory and now outdated restriction that applies where a married person is seeking to have the reassignment of their sex noted on their birth or adoption registration.

Section 22 of Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act currently prevents a married person having the reassignment of their sex, following sexual reassignment surgery, noted on the birth register or adopted children register.

This restriction was a result of the definition of marriage prior to the introduction of marriage equality. The Commonwealth Marriage Amendment (Definition of Religious Freedoms) Act 2017 amended the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 to repeal the current exemption from Commonwealth anti-discrimination law for a refusal to alter a married person's sex on an official record. The amendment will come into force on 9 December 2018. Since the passage of the marriage equality legislation, stakeholders have rightfully called for the urgent removal of the discriminatory requirement to divorce and stakeholders have requested that this be done well prior to the date of 9 December 2018 set by the marriage equality legislation.

Now that we finally have marriage equality, the Palaszczuk Labor government has acted quickly to ensure that Queenslanders who have undergone sexual reassignment surgery no longer have to divorce their partner to have their sex legally recognised. The current restriction imposed by section 22 is discriminatory and has caused significant anguish for many sex and gender diverse Queenslanders. It is unjust and unfair that some members of our community are forced to face the distressing decision of choosing between their marriage and the legal recognition of their gender identity.

The bill includes a transitional provision to ensure applications to note a person's reassignment of a sex, made prior to the commencement of the amendments contained in this bill, are to be decided in accordance with the new requirements of this bill. The bill also amends the BDMR Regulation to remove the requirement that a person provide evidence that they are not married to note the reassignment of their sex on the births register or adopted children registry.

The Palaszczuk government is strongly committed to ensuring our laws support the rights of sex and gender diverse Queenslanders. The focus of the first public discussion paper for the recently commenced review of the BDMR Act is examining how Queensland life event registration services can improve legal recognition of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex Queenslanders and their families. I encourage all Queenslanders to access the discussion paper on the Get Involved website and have their say.

Alongside this review, the government is also examining whether other changes are needed to Queensland legislation to ensure all married couples and their families, regardless of their sex, are treated on an equal and consistent basis to ensure consistency with the principles of equality. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.22 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 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

**POLICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (IDENTITY AND BIOMETRIC CAPABILITY)
AMENDMENT BILL****Second Reading**

Resumed from 6 March (see p. 253), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.22 pm), continuing: Prior to the adjournment last night I outlined what the bill would do in relation to a series of pieces of legislation and I do not intend to travel over old ground.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the committee to thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill, those who briefed the committee and those who appeared at the committee's public hearings. I would particularly like to thank our committee secretariat, Hansard, the Queensland Police Service, the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Liquor and Gaming Division of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The committee appreciates everyone's efforts and hard work in helping us to meet our shortened reporting deadline.

The committee's report made two recommendations. The first recommendation is that the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 be passed. The second recommendation of the committee was that there be a review of the changes made by this legislation regarding biometrics and the use of identity-matching services. The committee noted evidence from submitters and witnesses regarding the potential for function creep in respect of identity-matching databases and concerns that there be appropriate review of database access and usage. Accordingly, the committee recommended that a review be conducted two years after the commencement of those provisions to evaluate the frequency, purpose and type of identity-matching services used, the users, the error rates and any incidents of service expansion.

The bill also amends the Liquor Act to automatically authorise licensees in the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts to sell liquor for consumption on premises for an extra hour each night of the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. The 2017 interim evaluation report on the operation of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy concluded that the widespread and systematic use of temporary late-night extended hours permits was potentially compromising the impact of the policy as it allowed licensees to effectively circumvent last drinks times and exposed the community to an increased risk of alcohol related harm. In response to these findings, the government reduced the frequency and extent to which the permits can be used to access late night liquor trading, reducing the number of permits from 12 to six in a calendar year and introducing new criteria that must be met before such a permit could be granted.

The aim of these measures was to support harm minimisation while still providing licensees the opportunity for temporary late-night liquor trading to cater for special occasions. Increasing the number of available permits would undermine the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy and expose the community, and Queensland's reputation as a safe tourist destination, to an increased risk of harm. The shadow minister in his contribution failed to acknowledge this fact. The simple fact is that longer opening hours leads to an increase in the danger of alcohol related violence. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.27 pm): I rise in support of the bill. I will leave most of the larger contribution to the member for Southern Downs who is the deputy chair of the committee and very able. I want to specifically speak regarding the extension of the liquor trading hours, something that is very important for the economy of the Gold Coast. I will start by saying that I certainly welcome the extra hour that has been put on the table. That is better than nothing, but it does fall well short. The member for Toohey has outlined his view about alcohol fuelled violence. I do not believe there is a correlation between a specific time when a bar is closed and when all hell breaks loose. I believe that if we address and tackle the problem with those who are the troublemakers we can control the vast majority of normal, sensible people who want to go about their business.

During the games the eyes of the world will be upon us. There are more than enough police resources. It is a time when we can put our best foot forward. We can show the world what a wonderful, progressive city the Gold Coast is. Above all, the economy can benefit. The shadow minister outlined quite articulately how many people will be on the Gold Coast. These people are there because they want to have a memorable experience. They are not there to cause havoc. They are not there to misbehave. They are there to enjoy themselves. Whether they are competing or supporting, when the event concludes they have the right to go out, have a drink and celebrate sensibly and not be treated like schoolchildren.

I will make a prediction. We are not going to see a situation where people from throughout the world who are quite accustomed to being treated like adults will go to bed when the government says it is time to go to bed. They are going to go back to where they are staying and the party will continue. It will continue in hotels, which are designed for people who are staying on a short-term basis. However, in the modern world of Airbnb, the party will also be taken back to places where people live day in, day out. I like to think that those people have a right to a decent night's sleep at any time, including during the games.


This is one of those situations where if you treat people like babies, if you impose a level of regulation for no good reason, always there will be a side effect. That side effect will impact the people who are going about their everyday business. There are controlled safe night precincts. People can be treated responsibly, without addressing the full force of the law on the small percentage of idiots. People who come to our state should be able to go back to their homes throughout the world and say, 'What a wonderful and progressive city! What a great place!' We do not want them to say, 'My goodness, I was treated like I was in part of the nanny state!'

I say to the government: please stop saying we are doing things because of what happened at Glasgow, whether it be the political correctness argument or whether it be this argument. We are giving an extra hour because of what happened in Glasgow? People are coming to the Gold Coast because they want an experience in board shorts, not kilts. They are coming to the Gold Coast because they want to try Aussie cuisine, not haggis. They are coming to the Gold Coast because they want sand, not thistle. This is going to be a unique games.

An opposition member: Beer and not whiskey.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Whiskey is okay. Let people come and experience a wonderful and progressive city for all it is worth.

My final comment is about the sensible suggestion from the Queensland Hotels Association that one-off extended trading hours permits be excluded from the six per year. I think that makes a lot of sense. Those licensees absolutely should be encouraged to stay open. We do not know which nights will be busier than others, which is all the more reason why people should be encouraged to visit as many venues as possible. Let us spread people out. It will be a wonderful event. In closing, I ask the minister to please be open-minded about the option of extending the hours a little bit further. Please let the Gold Coast put forward its best foot so that the world can see what a wonderful city it is. Please do not allow people's suburbs to be turned into makeshift nightclub precincts, as the government treats the vast majority of people like fools because it cannot control a handful.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.33 pm): As deputy chair of this parliament's Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, I rise to speak in the debate on the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. This is my first speech in the parliament after my maiden speech. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the other members of the committee, including the chairman and my honourable friend the member Toohey. I thank them for the convivial atmosphere we have on our committee.

This bill has three effects: firstly, it provides for Queensland's participation in and use of the new national facial biometric-matching capability system; secondly, it seeks to amend the Criminal Code to address limitations in its treatment of homemade explosives; lastly, it provides for a limited extension of liquor trading hours for Gold Coast venues at the time of the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The LNP supports the first and second of those elements, but we have reservations about the third inasmuch as it unduly constrains the staff and small businesses of the liquor and hospitality industry on the Gold Coast from obtaining full benefit from the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The national facial biometric capability system, which this bill facilitates Queensland's participation in, aims to enable the collection, use and disclosure of facial images and identity information for security and law enforcement purposes. Underpinning this capability would be a nationally available image matching service for the sharing and matching of biometric templates. Those

templates are derived from images and biometric data shared between participating state and federal agencies, that is, driver's licence photographs from the state agencies, and passport photos and biometric data from the federal government.

This service will enable three lines of inquiry: firstly, facial verification, which is a one-to-one image matching service to identify that someone really is who they say they are; secondly, face identification for use only by law enforcement agencies for identifying an unknown person from their image; and, thirdly, the reduction of unlawful multiple driver's licence holdings across Australian jurisdictions. I believe these are worthy and necessary ends with positive implications for the safety, security and good order of the community as a whole.

There were understandable community concerns about the very short time frame for the consideration of the bill and about privacy and judicial and parliamentary oversight of the capability's use. As part of the committee, I carefully considered community and peak body submissions concerning these matters. I believe that the urgency of this part of the bill is genuine, but only insofar as it relates to adopting this capability. I will talk more about my reservations at the end of my speech.

Along with the other states and territories, Queensland signed the intergovernmental agreement to establish this capability only in October last year. I agree with the desire of the Queensland Police Commissioner to have the capability available in time to assist in policing and security operations associated with the 2018 Commonwealth Games next month. In respect of community concerns about privacy and oversight, I accept that on balance the existing state and federal safeguards and accountabilities described by the minister, together with those still to be developed, will be sufficient. In my view, the balance of public interest justifies the adoption of this capability. This is particularly so when regard is had to the counterbalancing advantages of having this capability available now, in time for the Commonwealth Games. After all, we wish to aid our security and law enforcement agencies in the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension of offenders.

Nevertheless, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has recognised the need to provide the community with certainty that this capability will be used only in accordance with its stated aims and to ensure that all impacts of the bill will be reviewed once all necessary safeguards are developed. Accordingly, we recommended a review of the legislation be undertaken two years after taking effect. I thank the government for agreeing to this.

The second intent of the bill is aimed at the Criminal Code with respect to the making, storage and use of explosives, including highly volatile homemade explosives. Those offences constitute a considerable risk to public safety. The bill amends the Criminal Code offence provisions dealing with explosives offences under section 470A, unlawful deposition of explosive or noxious substances, and section 540, preparation to commit crimes with dangerous things. This is in order that the definitions and penalties for those offences better reflect the danger posed by highly volatile homemade explosives.

Section 470A of the act makes it an offence to wilfully and unlawfully throw, leave down or otherwise deposit any explosive or noxious substance in any place whatsoever under circumstances where it may cause injury to a person or damage to the property of a person. Section 540 makes it an offence to make or knowingly possess an explosive substance with intent to commit a crime by using it or enabling its use by another person. For offences against these sections of the Criminal Code, the maximum penalty would rise from two and three years respectively to seven years. The LNP supports this effect of the bill.

The final intent of the bill is to provide for the temporary extension of liquor trading hours for the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. It is with this part of the bill that the LNP has reservations, which were shared by all non-government members of the committee. Whilst the government ostensibly understands the need to expand liquor trading hours to cater for the multitude of visitors to the Commonwealth Games, its bill is very disappointing. It does not go nearly far enough to promote and support our liquor and hospitality industry in Queensland. We are talking about small businesses. It does not provide the opportunity for our international and interstate visitors to the games to enjoy themselves to the full.

The bill only provides for a one-hour extension of trading hours for those outlets located within the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts. Given that the Commonwealth Games is expected to be attended by more than half a million visitors, this limitation is a significant lost opportunity—a lost opportunity for Queensland small businesses and those operators and families who depend upon them, and a lost opportunity for guests to enjoy themselves.


The Queensland Hotels Association in its submission and in its appearance before the committee made it clear that extending trading hours should not apply just in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts, but throughout the entire Gold Coast local government area and the other areas where there are Commonwealth Games events. The government has not listened to this very sensible advice. We can only wonder why. The minister and the Deputy Premier, only this morning, waxed lyrical about the importance of the Commonwealth Games as a way to showcase Queensland and provide economic benefits for the community. To our visitors and to the small businesses that will miss out on the chance to fully benefit from the Commonwealth Games, this rapturous talk is just that—just talk.

The problem with the bill is that the government has not listened to the needs of business and it has a disorganised legislative program. The liquor trading hours aspect of this bill ought to have been introduced into the House last year. The Commonwealth Games has been on the radar for years, but the parliament has had only two or three weeks to consider this matter. Industry stakeholders too have been blindsided by the extraordinarily tight time frame available to make submissions and mobilise their members to demand a better deal. This is not good enough and it is why the non-government members of the committee included a statement of reservation in the committee's report.

I note the contribution to this debate last night by my honourable friend the member for Toowoomba North and also the contribution by the member for Broadwater who spoke just before me. They pointed out that this bill will only result in extended trading hours for a handful of businesses and a handful of outlets around the Gold Coast. It will be absolutely insufficient to cater for the increased demand that we expect to see as a result of the influx of people from the Commonwealth Games.

I agree with the member for Toowoomba North when he postulated that this may do more harm than good. We hear the government talking about the need to protect the community and restrict alcohol trading hours, but I wonder whether the issues are properly understood when making that judgement. The member for Toowoomba North said last night that perhaps it will cause more problems because we will have tens of thousands of people who want to go out for a drink or a bite to eat after the games but will be denied that opportunity because there will simply not be enough venues open.

I suspect the government's hand-wringing about this is more a fig leaf to cover up for the fact that it was rushed and that there was not proper consultation. I certainly believe that it is common sense that if we massively increase the number of patrons there must be a corresponding increase in the services available for them to use. I really do think that the government ought to yield to the industry's sensible suggestions and amend this bill accordingly. With these reservations, I support the bill.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.42 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment to the role of Deputy Speaker in the 56th Parliament. I am sure you will do a fantastic job in that role.

I rise to make a brief contribution on the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. In doing so, I acknowledge the good work that the committee has done in this space. I acknowledge the bodies that made submissions and provided assistance to the committee along the way—the Queensland Police Service, the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and the Office of Fair Trading from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Transport Regulation Branch from the Department of Transport and Main. I also acknowledge the witnesses who attended the public hearing—the Queensland Law Society, the Queensland Hotels Association and the Office of the Information Commissioner.

It is interesting looking at the composition of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to note that there are so many new members on the committee. I congratulate the chair and his team of new members—the member for Southern Downs, the member for Mirani, the member for Lockyer, the member for Macalister and the member Mansfield. I appreciate that many of them have not had the opportunity to make their first speech in this place and perhaps this will not be the opportunity to do that. I acknowledge the contribution the member for Southern Downs made immediately preceding me.

My next-door neighbour in the chamber, the member for Lockyer, moments ago actually offered to write my speech for me. It was an offer that I certainly declined. I told him that the trust between us had not quite been built to the level where I think it would be good to rely on his notes. Having listened to the contributions from the member for Southern Downs and the member for Broadwater and having read the statement of reservation, I think I made the right choice.

I will be very interested to read back through the transcript because it seems as though the member for Broadwater almost did a total rewrite of the policy that the LNP has around alcohol fuelled violence. He attacked the policy that he supported as a previous LNP member in this place. He also attacked the researchers who do so much good work in providing us with information on which to make informed and sensible decisions.

For every extra hour into the evening or early morning that we have patrons in our establishments we know there is an increased risk. We know that through decreasing hours we alleviate that risk. To hear that brought into question today by the member for Broadwater and for him to seemingly rewrite the policy that the LNP has around alcohol fuelled violence, I found, as a previous committee member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, to be really quite alarming.

For the rest of my contribution I will speak to the safeguards in this bill. I find when I am out in the community talking to people about legislation such as this before the House that a lot of questions come up. There are a lot of questions about privacy and about the innate and intricate operation of bills like this.

I will talk about the safeguards that surround the elements of this bill and how they will play out practically. Facial biometrics matching is not a capability that will be used for the passive surveillance of people in public places. I had a situation earlier in the last term of government—I cannot remember exactly which year—where my local council was actually looking to put in place CCTV cameras with listening capability. People were certainly concerned about the ability to increase the operational capability and methodologies in this space.


The facial biometrics matching in this bill will not be used for the passive surveillance of people in public places. The bill allows for the use of identity matching only for permitted purposes that are consistent with those listed in the intergovernmental agreement signed off by the Prime Minister and the state and territory leaders. That has already been mentioned by others in this House.

The specific permitted purposes are: the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of identity crime and other offences against state and Commonwealth law; national security related investigations and intelligence gathering; the security of participating agencies' assets or personnel; identifying individuals who are at risk or who have experienced physical harm; improving road safety; and verifying an individual's identity with consent or as authorised by the law. The capability is a single transaction query and response system and its use is contingent on meeting one of the permitted purposes that I have just outlined. The bill also creates a specific offence provision in the Transport Planning and Coordination Act for the misuse of the information of the Department of Transport and Main Roads. I think that is an essential component of the bill.

Additionally, the policy regime that will frame the use of the capability will provide stringent privacy safeguards including the development of participation agreements that will commit participating agencies to clear guidelines with respect to their use of the capability; a requirement to undertake independent privacy impact assessments designed to ensure any potential privacy issues are identified and addressed; training regimes for staff using the capability; and auditing requirements.

Further, the Australian government's proposed legislation, the Identity-matching Services Bill 2018, creates a framework for privacy safeguards at the Commonwealth level including constraining the use of the capability to specific purposes that are designed in a substantially similar way to clauses 17 and 24 of the Queensland bill; the creation of an offence provision for the unauthorised disclosure or recording of information from the interoperability hub; reporting requirements on the use of the capability; a requirement for the responsible Commonwealth minister to consult the Information Commissioner and the Human Rights Commissioner where there is an intention to expand the identity-matching services by way of a statutory agreement; and a mandatory five-year review of the capability. I note that many contributions to the House thus far have picked up on that and the intention for this bill that is now before the House to have a two-year review on commencement.

In closing, I would like to commend the committee on their good work, particularly with the tight time frames around this. It is essential for us leading into the Commonwealth Games that we have a fantastic experience for local Queenslanders, for Australians and for those wonderful international visitors who will be coming along and enjoying the games spectacular. I would like to thank the committee for their work and also the ministers and departments for their work on this bill.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (12.51 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill. There is one particular aspect that I wish to focus on, and that relates to the liquor licensing and security arrangements that are associated with this bill. In particular, the bill proposes to amend the Liquor Act to grant each licensee whose licensed premises is located in one of the Gold Coast safe night precincts with the authority to sell alcohol for an additional hour. The bill also grants a new power to the Commissioner for Liquor and Gaming to issue public safety restriction notices in order to minimise the harm that may arise from the additional hour of liquor trading to safeguard public safety.

It is highly anticipated that there will be close to 700,000 visitors—I think my colleague the member for Toowoomba North, the shadow minister, last night spoke about 690,000 unique visitors—to the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games. They will be particularly focused around the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts. One of the objectives of the government's bill proposes to 'help enhance tourism and hospitality experiences'. If the Labor government have proven anything over the last couple of years it is that they have little to no idea as to how best to 'help enhance tourism and hospitality experiences'.

Let us remind ourselves of their record. They scrapped the LNP's safe night out implementation panel. They ignored industry concerns ahead of the introduction of ID scanners. There were no evidence based discussions or risk based decision-making. There were glaring inequities applied to different venues in the same safe night precincts from one side of the street to the other side of the street. They completely ignored the wishes and will of the hospitality industry. Then when ID scanners were introduced there were severe technical issues that led to massive queues outside of pubs, clubs and small bars right across Queensland. That led to queues snaking their way down streets and that ultimately feeds into the violence problem anyway because, as we know, most violence is witnessed and perpetrated in queues outside of licensed venues and not therein.

It got worse because it was not just about those issues. It had an impact on Queensland hospitality workers—generally young workers who need the flexibility of working in the hospitality industry—who lost jobs. Businesses have lost income as club and pub owners struggle to deal with the administrative and financial consequences of the ID-scanning system. Communication to the industry remains non-existent with the flow-through severe detrimental effect it has had on our vibrant night-life in Brisbane and across the Gold and Sunshine coasts.

The perfect example of this detrimental effect on our vibrant night-life in Brisbane was seen late last month with the announcement that the Zoo, Brisbane's iconic live music venue, would be closing at midnight and would be taking out their ID scanners. Effectively, that means that the Zoo will be stopped from operating after midnight by this Labor government. It is appropriate to put on the public record what the owners of the Zoo had to say. They said that Labor's ID scanners had put 'unnecessary strain on small businesses, Brisbane's night-life and live music venues'. All of this has come at a time when we are trying to sell Brisbane to the world. We all remember Prince Frederik. We all remember the French champagne makers who were denied entry to The Gresham. There are multiple instances now of Brisbane's vibrant night-life being shut down because of the failure to have any risk based or evidence based ID-scanning regulation.

The Zoo went on to say that the ID scanner program was 'inefficient, inaccurate, expensive and useless'. The Zoo also went on to say that they take safety 'very seriously and over the past 25 years without scanners we've had no issues so we will continue this trend moving forward'. This is the problem that we are facing when you do not take a risk based or evidence based approach to ID scanners. Finally, the Zoo pleaded for people to support live music. Many of us who were university students here in Brisbane, as I was, went to the Zoo and saw Powderfinger. There is grave concern about selling Brisbane to the world and Brisbane's vibrant night-life to the world at a time when our iconic live music venue has to close its doors at midnight. There are real problems. It runs counter to what Brisbane Marketing are trying to achieve and we hear from the state government week after week about trying to drive tourism numbers into Queensland.

It is right that Queenslanders would be sceptical when under this bill the government proposes to 'help enhance tourism and hospitality experiences'. Clearly that was something that was picked up by the non-government members. In particular, I acknowledge the contribution and deputy chairmanship of the member for Southern Downs in what he had to say about the issues, together with the member for Lockyer. It was their first time on the committee, and it was great to see them put their feet under the desk and make a contribution to this bill. They raised a couple of good comments in relation to the missed opportunities of this bill—in particular, the failure to expand extended trading hours to encompass all licensed venues in the entire Gold Coast local government area. The member for Toowoomba North went through this at some length yesterday.

I cannot help but think that, when the investment is being made into CCTVs and when staff and ownership of these venues have gone through the RSAs, the RMLVs and all the training that is associated with this, obviously all licensed venues in the Gold Coast local government area would have loved a piece of the pie of the extraordinary opportunity of having 690,000 unique visitors to the Gold Coast. Those visitors are obviously coming here for sport but they are also coming here to enjoy the very best of what our night-life has to offer. It is a shame that this opportunity has not been extended across all licensed venues in the Gold Coast local government area.

Mr Molhoek: Everything in Southport shuts.


Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection from the member for Southport—everything in Southport is shutting. The basic arithmetic is that there will be 31 licensed venues in the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts, but hundreds of other venues, including the member for Southport's licensed venues, will miss out on the economic opportunities and also the cultural benefits of having visitors from 70 nations spending part of their evening at these licensed venues. There is an economic loss and a cultural loss by not considering further expanding the safe night precinct zone. I also note that the Queensland Hotels Association submission to the committee stated explicitly that it was 'unrealistic' to expect Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts to singularly accommodate those tourism numbers and that it would 'exacerbate safety and transport concerns'. Safety is one of the prime government reasons for driving this bill. There are ongoing and grave concerns with this.

We only need look to the case of Caleb Maraku, who threw a coward punch at a teenager on the Gold Coast during schoolies last year. He was given 12 months probation and a \$361 fine. The member for Surfers Paradise has spoken often about this. The disappointing part was that this gentleman should never ever have been in the Surfers Paradise safe night precinct. He had a court ordered ban. He was there and he offended again, yet still his name did not appear on any banned list. We know the database has been updated now, but there remain significant concerns, and we need to make sure that anyone on court ordered bans appear on the banned list.

That brings me to the media release that was issued on 10 February by the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games and the Attorney-General. I note that the ID-scanning regime will apply during the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

(Time expired)

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.00 pm): I rise to make a short contribution in support of the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. This bill amends the Criminal Code, the Liquor Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Police Service Administration Act 1990, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 and the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994. As the Minister for Police, the Hon. Mark Ryan, pointed out in his introductory speech on 15 February—


The ability to identify people via their facial features is the latest in a catalogue of forensic tools that have been used over more than a century—tools like fingerprints and DNA matching. All are biometric matching capabilities available to police to prevent and solve crime. Facial recognition is the newest addition to this catalogue of police investigation and crime prevention tools.

Identity crime is one of the criminal activities that the provisions of the bill will address. Identity crime is an enabler of serious crimes and terrorism. Traditional name based identity checking is vulnerable in terms of stopping identity crime, and this has been a driver for the development of a better way of sharing and matching facial images across jurisdictions.

The Martin Place siege review recommended that agencies should strengthen identity checking through a national facial biometric-matching capability. The use of fake identities is not a new phenomenon. However, the ubiquitous presence of technology and the transmission of personal information online has increased the prevalence and impact of identity crime in Australia. In its 2016 report *Identity crime and misuse in Australia* the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department identified that about five per cent of the Australian population were the victims of identity crime annually—at a cost of about \$2.2 billion to the Australian economy. On a population pro rata basis, this means identity crime costs Queenslanders about \$440 million each year.

These statistics highlight the significant impact both on individual victims and the wider community. We know that in Australia fake identities have been used by people convicted of terrorist offences to purchase items such as chemicals, explosives and mobile phones. It is even more concerning when you consider that in the last 3½ years in Australia 85 people have been charged as a result of 35 counterterrorism operations and there have been six terrorist attacks and 14 major disruption operations in response to potential attacks in Australia. The identity-matching services that form part of the new national facial biometric-matching capability will limit the capacity of people to obtain and use fake identity documents. This will prove to be a significant preventative benefit in terms of the prevention of fraud and identity crime and also in the prevention of crime that is enabled by identity crime.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, of which I am a former member, as well as the committee secretariat and the submitters. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.04 pm): I rise today to contribute to the debate on the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. The Liberal National Party opposition does not oppose this bill. It is of vital importance that Queensland hosts a safe Commonwealth Games protecting not only our athletes but also the tens of thousands of visitors who will converge on the Gold Coast on 4 April 2018—that is, of course, assuming they will be able to utilise the M1 in a timely manner or be able to catch a train, both of which are extremely problematic under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

An opposition member interjected.

Dr ROWAN: I take that interjection. This bill provides the legislative framework to facilitate Queensland's participation in identity-matching services. It removes the requirement to obtain an access approval order for Queensland police to access Queensland driver's licence digital images for non-transport related offences.

The bill also removes the requirement for the Department of Transport and Main Roads to report annually to parliament via the minister on access to Queensland's driver's licence digital images. Importantly, it overcomes the current limitations in the Criminal Code to adequately address the threat of homemade explosives and it provides for extended liquor trading arrangements for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

In April 2015 the Council of Australian Governments agreed to implement a recommendation from the *Martin Place siege: joint Commonwealth-New South Wales review* for government agencies which issue documents relied upon as primary evidence of identity, to strengthen name based identity-checking processes and explore greater use of biometrics including via identity-matching services through the national facial biometric-matching capability process. The national driver's licence facial recognition system has been developed as part of the IMS to enable cross-jurisdictional matching of driver's licence images. Drivers' licences are the most widely used identity document in Australia, and thus their inclusion in the IMS is at the core of its capability.

On 5 October 2017 at the special meeting of COAG on counterterrorism, the Premier, in conjunction with all other first ministers, agreed to establish the IMS and signed the Intergovernmental Agreement on Identity Matching Services. The intergovernmental agreement is an agreement to share and match identity information to prevent identity crime and promote law enforcement, national security, road safety, community safety and identity assurance outcomes.

Under the intergovernmental agreement, each jurisdiction has agreed to make necessary legislative amendments to facilitate the collection, use and disclosure of facial images and associated identity information between participating entities. The main sources of information include driver's licence images and associated data held by states and passport and immigration images held by the Commonwealth. Given the volume and growing importance of this information for counterterrorism purposes and law enforcement, the IMS will establish a streamlined and nationally consistent process for sharing it. The existing Criminal Code offences do not cover the manufacturing or possessing of an explosive in circumstances that may cause injury to a person or property.

It is extremely important in today's global terrorism climate that these offences are included in the Criminal Code. At this point I would like to acknowledge that we have a number of new LNP members in the 56th Parliament such as the member for Ninderry, the honourable Dan Purdie MP; the member for Nicklin, the honourable Martin Hunt MP; the member for Bundaberg, the honourable David Batt MP; and the member for Lockyer, the honourable Jim McDonald MP, who, given their professional experience, understand the importance of this legislation.


The bill also amends the Liquor Act to automatically provide each licensee whose licensed premises are located in one of the Gold Coast safe night precincts—namely, Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach—with the authority to sell liquor for an additional hour beyond their current permanently approved liquor service hours for each day of the 2018 Commonwealth Games period.

The non-government members of the committee felt that the Labor government missed some opportunities to capitalise on what is undoubtedly this state's largest ever event. Their concerns specifically related to the Liquor Act 1992 and its application during the Commonwealth Games. The Queensland Hotels Association raised some common-sense suggestions that were ignored by the Palaszczuk Labor government. For a government that so enjoys inquiries and reviews, it makes little sense that they would not be receptive to suggestions put forward by industry stakeholders.

These suggestions were with specific reference to, firstly, the extended hours trading period for the Commonwealth Games not being deducted from the usual six-day allocation given or provided; secondly, expanding extended trading hours to encompass all licensed venues in the entire Gold Coast local government area; and, thirdly, safe night precincts across the state where other Commonwealth Games events occur be afforded the same extended hours as the Gold Coast safe night precincts.

Consultation on changes regarding the Liquor Act 1992 was not widespread and, as such, possibly suggested that there was a predetermined outcome. It seems that there was no consultation undertaken with broader industry and tourism stakeholders, such as Clubs Queensland, the Queensland Hotels Association or Restaurant and Catering Australia. That is an indication of a Labor government which is not consultative and does not represent the views of the broader community.

Finally, I, like all Queenslanders, look forward to a safe and secure Commonwealth Games. I conclude by wishing all participants, visitors and residents all the best for a successful Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in the coming months of 2018.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.10 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Stevens, can I start by congratulating you, I think, on your appointment to your position. I suspect that only one young chap yesterday afternoon beat you by way of capacity and capability into that position.

I rise to make a contribution to the bill before the House. I want to start by thanking the committee for the work they did in regard to the bill, and I also thank the secretariat. I acknowledge the member for Southern Downs and the member for Lockyer—two new members in the House who undertook their role on the committee for the first time in the first week or so of becoming a member of this august body. They undertook the challenge gratefully and they have provided a report that raises concerns in regard to the liquor licensing act and the extension of hours for only a short-term basis to a very limited capacity on the Gold Coast.

Section 2.1 of the committee report raises the question of identity crime and identity checking. It discusses such things as organised crime, drug trafficking, money laundering and terrorism. The bill itself goes some way to dealing with the issue of identity checking and also ensuring that the best outcome can be achieved in the Commonwealth-state relationship. Those matters cost \$2.2 billion annually in Australia. The fact that the figure is so high means that those involved in these activities are well resourced and well financed and we will continue to play a catch-up game in regard to their capacity, so I think it would be wrong to suggest that this will be a panacea for the issues raised in section 2.1. Rather, this is one cog in a very large wheel dealing with what is a very serious matter both globally and here in Australia.

The amendments deal with the capacity of the state and the Commonwealth to exchange information where relevant in regard to both transport and police matters. I do note, however, that pages 5 and 6 address concerns that have been raised by a number of bodies, including the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, the Bar Association and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. They raise the issue of what information will be obtained and the fact that, when the law was passed some time ago, this sort of legislation was not envisaged.

I note that there is a proposal that protocols will be put in place in relation to how things will proceed in regard to both the receiving end and the requesting end. I have a concern with that and the fact that the committee has proposed that the PIM be the body to oversight the review in two years time. I note that the minister did say he would put in a review and it may well be the PIM. The Public Interest Monitor is a very important body that deals with covert search warrants, surveillance devices and appearing before the Supreme Court in relation to applications for such use of warrants or devices. My concern is how this will operate on the ground. How will this function between the requesting body and the body that will provide the information? What protections will be put in place to ensure those people who are authorised to access the information and also receive the information are the appropriate people?

I raise the issue of the PIM because in its report released in October 2016 for the reporting period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 they raised four examples on page 7 of where things did not go right. One example was that a replacement police officer was not authorised due to oversight; however, they exercised powers contained within the PIM jurisdiction. Another example was when an officer who had been on secondment returned they were not able to have the appropriate authority to deal with the issues they were required to deal with in their position. A final example was that logs were not created for matters recorded by surveillance devices.

The PIM is a unique body. I get that, but the problem I have is that human nature is such that, if we are going to have a body that is going to oversight or do a review, it is most important that the internal mechanisms of the police, state and Commonwealth accurately deal with the matters they are

required to deal with—that is, those persons who have the authority to look at the information and receive the information are authorised to do so. I am just concerned that the information requested and provided is done by the appropriate person and received by the appropriate person. How is the information dealt with by the receiving body when it is actually received? How is it secured by the Commonwealth, in this case, in relation to information regarding identity? Who can and cannot access it? More importantly, how does the Commonwealth secure the information so it cannot be downloaded by other parties or other officers who are not authorised to deal with it?

The report also made the point that the proposed amendments were never meant to be used as evidence. The question is raised in the report about whether or not the bill actually clearly states that. The Bar Association makes the point that it believes it does not clearly state that it cannot be used as evidence. The QPS responded by saying—

It is not intended to be used as a definitive form of identification in criminal prosecutions.

The committee made the point that the QPS response did not address directly the concerns raised by the Bar Association and also the OIC. I ask the minister about this again, because I understand the Greens said it could not be used as a means of evidence. The QPS seem not to be making that clear statement in their response to the committee, and the committee raised the issue again—that is, is it in fact in or out in regard to it being used as evidence?


The last point is the liquor licence issue in regard to Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. We have to remember that these games were allocated to the Gold Coast in February 2011, if I recall correctly. That is some seven years that the government has had the capacity to actually plan this and get it right. We now find ourselves with the starter's gun almost set to fire and we have in this place a bill that offers, at best, a moderate solution to a problem. If we accept the figures, there will be 600,000 to 700,000 people on the Gold Coast during this time and it does not seem logical to try to crowd them into the areas of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. This has been years in the making and in the planning; this has been years in the failure yet again to deal with this very simple procedure. We have been advocating the Gold Coast across the globe. The Gold Coast is not just Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. The Gold Coast is I think the fourth largest city or the fifth largest city in this nation.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): The sixth.

Mr McARDLE: It is the sixth largest city in this nation. I take the guidance and protection of the Deputy Speaker. The Gold Coast is indeed the sixth largest city in this nation. I cannot understand why for a short period of time we want to crush this population into a small strip. Don't we want them to see the whole of the Gold Coast and the whole of Queensland?

It is illogical, it is irrational and I suspect it is driven by sectional interests and the government's concern about what they think they should be doing to enhance both the Gold Coast and the games. Though I support the bill, I note the statement of reservation by the members of the LNP that the Liquor Act amendments do not go far enough. They are inadequate and in my opinion they fail to showcase the whole of the Gold Coast for the full time of the Commonwealth Games.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Capalaba, I would like to welcome staff and students from the Geham State School in the electorate of Condamine. I hope you enjoy your visit here today.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.20 pm): I rise, too, in support of the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill. I start by thanking my old committee, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, for the work they have done.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr BROWN: I do miss it. I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. We were both members of that former committee and we do miss that great committee. They did some fantastic work in a short period to produce the report and the legislation we have before us.

This is legislation with regard to counterterrorism that obviously has come from COAG and an intergovernmental agreement. I do note that we are the first state to implement this agreement. I am going to focus my contribution on a couple of sections, one of which is the explosives amendments. This bill increases the penalties for the explosives offences contained in sections 470A and 540 of the Criminal Code and expands the scope of the offence in section 470A.

Section 470A of the Criminal Code makes it an offence to wilfully and unlawfully throw, leave down or otherwise deposit any explosive or noxious substance in any place whatsoever under the circumstances where it may cause injury to any person or damage to property. The current maximum


penalty for this offence is two years. The amendment increases the maximum penalty of this offence to seven years and expands the scope to capture the manufacture or possession of the explosive in circumstances that pose a risk of injury to a person or damage to property.

Section 540 of the Criminal Code makes it an offence to make or unknowingly possess an explosive substance with intent to commit a crime by using it or enabling its use by another person. That offence currently attracts the maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. However, this bill amends that section and increases the penalty, again, to seven years. The threat from homemade explosives is an increasing one and one that has been borne out by the substantial growth in the number of calls for services to our Queensland Police Service Explosive Ordnance Response Team in recent years. These amendments ensure that the current offence provisions in the Criminal Code adequately address the threat and are reflective of the serious nature of this kind of offending.

I also want to quickly touch on the changes in the liquor laws to obviously cater for the Commonwealth Games. I think they are smart and sensible changes to the laws to allow safe night out precincts—we have heard those opposite say there is going to be a flood of people in these areas at certain times. However, we are talking about only six occasions when these establishments can ask to extend trading for an extra hour. Everyone is not going to be there at the one location at the same time, but these establishments have the flexibility to apply for it.

I do note a recent article in the *Medical Journal of Australia* that looked into the effect of changes to Sydney's laws over the last four years, particularly at St Vincent's Hospital. They took into account the two years before and the two years after the new laws were introduced. It was found that the number of fractures associated with violence and assaults were significantly lower during that period of time. In the two years leading up to the introduction of the laws the number of orbital fractures seen at St Vincent's Hospital was 196. That dropped to 155 after the laws were introduced. As someone who has actually had an orbital fracture, I do know the pain involved. I did not get it through an assault due to liquor licensing; it was in my days playing Rugby League—poorly. I do know that it is quite an invasive surgery and one which I would not wish on my worst enemy. That reduced number meant there were 27 fewer cases at St Vincent's Hospital that had to go to surgery. That is a significant saving of over half a million dollars on those operations alone.

I caution those opposite when they talk about these laws being nanny state laws. These laws are here to protect people to ensure that they go to the Commonwealth Games and have a good time. We want as many people as possible to experience the whole of the Gold Coast and areas even further away. They should come up to Straddie and the Redlands and experience the tourism that we have to offer there such as the Quandamooka country. We want to ensure that everyone has a safe and fun Commonwealth Games, one in which they do not have to suffer at the hands of alcohol fuelled violence. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.25 pm): The Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 was introduced by the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services on 15 February, which was the first full sitting day of the new 56th Parliament. The committee report was due to be tabled on Friday, 2 March. I note the recommendation that the bill be passed as well as the recommendation that there will be a review of the changes made by this legislation two years after the bill commences.

The objectives, as we have heard, of this bill are: to provide a legislative framework to facilitate Queensland's participation in the identity-matching services; to remove the requirement to obtain an access approval order for Queensland police to access Queensland driver's licence digital images for non-transport related offences; to remove the requirement for the Department of Transport and Main Roads to report annually to parliament via the minister on access to Queensland's driver's licence digital images; to overcome the current limitations in the Criminal Code in inadequately addressing the threat of homemade explosives; and to provide for extended liquor trading arrangements for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

This bill amends a number of acts but primarily follows through on the Commonwealth's Intergovernmental Agreement on Identity Matching Services, which commits Queensland to further boost the support available to our state and national police and security agencies by agreeing to establish a national facial biometric-matching capability. This capability will be delivered through the implementation of the identity-matching services, which cover face verification and face identification services and the one person, one licence service. These services will be available through a central hub or exchange hosted by the Commonwealth and linked to the systems of participating agencies. In order to enable this legislation, a number of acts need to be amended, and components of the identity-matching services will be in use during the 2018 Commonwealth Games. In addition, a range of privacy safeguards will be put in place.

We can be thankful that the raft of legislation coming forward in recent years relating to terrorism has not had to be used yet. However, the threat of terror on Australian soil remains probable, and tougher laws and protections for civilians and visitors are warranted. As with many bills of this nature, the potential breaching of some fundamental legislative principles has been raised, but the protection and safeguarding of civilians is paramount in situations such as these.

As the minister stated in his introductory speech, this bill also includes amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 to provide an extra hour of liquor trading during the 2018 Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast safe night precincts of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. It also amends the Liquor Act to waive the application fee for a requested temporary late-night extended hours permit during the games by safe night precinct licensees, or SNPs.

It is these amendments that are of special interest to businesses in the Currumbin electorate. Promoter and former nightclub owner Billy Cross raised the issue of extended trading times during the games in an article in late 2016. I supported his views and called for special games times. The Attorney, the honourable member for Redcliffe, said at that time there were 'no plans to relax the current regulations during the games'. She hoped the event would have a special focus on families, which of course we all do. The Palaszczuk government, however, had plenty of time to think about it but did nothing. Moving forward to 2018, in his introductory speech the minister said—

In particular, the Palaszczuk government recognises that the Commonwealth Games presents a significant opportunity for restaurants, pubs, clubs, bars and nightclubs to showcase their exceptional hospitality to visitors from around the world.

It seems this hospitality is limited and does not extend to Coolangatta. It only applies to SNPs in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise, thereby denying Coolangatta an extra hour of trading even though volleyball events finish at 10.30 pm. Our supermarkets can open for 24 hours; why are our licensed venues being punished? In June 2017 on behalf of the Coolangatta Liquor Accord, which represents local licensees, I asked a question on notice about the process required for the Coolangatta entertainment sector being granted SNP status. The reply stated that it was not the intention of government to review precinct boundaries or consider increasing or reducing the number of precincts before a full evaluation of its tackling alcohol fuelled violence laws and policies is completed in 2018. As we all know, it is now 2018.

I table a submission from Commercial Licensing Specialists, who are acting on behalf of Coolangatta Liquor Accord. This submission was sent at 12.36 pm on Tuesday, 27 February, the day after submissions closed.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 27 February 2018, from Commercial Licencing Specialists to the member for Toohey and Chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Mr Peter Russo MP, regarding the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 [\[272\]](#).

This submission to the committee requested that the 70 plus licensed venues in Coolangatta and Currumbin be included in the one-hour licence extension during the games. Coolangatta Liquor Accord is still keen to be designated an SNP, but they are not at present and therefore they are not eligible.

I am known to be a stickler for not accepting late submissions unless there are special circumstances or as agreed with the committee prior but, given the very short time frame and the fact that the submitter was not on the invitee list, I believe it is important for it to be tabled here in the parliament. Submissions for this bill closed on Monday, 26 February and cannot have been open for too long—maybe four days, and perhaps two of those were over a weekend—so there was not much time at all for interested parties to prepare and put in submissions.

This is a new bill and, given the effect these amendments to the Liquor Act will have on so many small and medium sized businesses, surely more consideration could have been given to our southern region. After all, Currumbin is hosting three separate sporting events. The volleyball in Coolangatta is ticketed, but the road cycling and walking events are not. This means that there is a park-and-ride at Tugun for the volleyball but none for Currumbin. Approximately 3,000 people will use the park-and-ride which will service Coolangatta every day. They will have to be out before each session, so that is morning, afternoon and evening sessions. This means that Coolangatta traders are missing out on 3,000 sales, as visitors cannot stay for lunch or dinner after their sessions.

It is little wonder that some are feeling angry and discriminated against and why my office staff are being bombarded with frustrated residents. Just as we felt we were finally getting some proper information via pop-up stalls and a visible games presence, it seems that we are also being cut out of the extra trading hours as outlined in this bill. I ask the minister to consider the request from the Coolangatta Liquor Accord. As mentioned earlier, the minister said—

Additionally, the bill amends the Liquor Act to waive the application fee for temporary late-night extended hours permits sought by Gold Coast safe-night precinct licensees on days during the Commonwealth Games. This will facilitate licensees in being able to apply to serve liquor to 5 am, to cater for increased tourism ...


The minister showed either his ignorance or his dislike for the southern Gold Coast with this language, which would have people think that night-life only occurs at Broadbeach or Surfers Paradise. Perhaps it is this attitude that has the people of my electorate feeling as though they are second-class citizens. There are 70 or so venues in Coolangatta, yet the minister denies us that status. They really do not get small business and do not care how much they hurt them.

The statement of reservation from non-government members highlights missed opportunities and were echoed by the Queensland Hotels Association, which made some suggestions on behalf of their members. These include widening the automatic one-hour extension to the broader Gold Coast region and not subtracting days used during the Commonwealth Games from the six-day extended permit allocation. Given these were reduced from 12 by the Palaszczuk government, some establishments will have used some of their six already since New Year. This is hardly a gain.

In closing, I am sick and tired of being labelled a nitpicker regarding the games. I have invested more in the games than most here in this House, and I dearly want them to succeed. However, my first duty is to the residents of Currumbin and not salaried Commonwealth Games officials or the ego-driven minister, who simply likes to turn up at events and announcements. It is Currumbin residents whom I serve, and if they have issues I will do my utmost to get answers for them. Do not tell us to 'suck it up' while you have your noses in the trough.

Goldoc and this government have failed to inform people in a timely manner and treated them as ignorant fools, only telling them what they want and drip-feeding them on a need-to-know basis. People deserve time to make alternative arrangements, and it is more time than this regime has allowed. This bill has some important safety amendments within its provisions that will add another layer of protection for civilians and supply our law enforcers with more tools—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (2.35 pm): I rise to speak to the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. The identity-matching service is a large national project that is technically complex and requires significant coordination between participating agencies. This includes the finalisation of participation agreements and associated privacy impact statements. For that reason, it is not anticipated that the full facial biometric-matching capability will be available to QPS for the security operation—which is known as Operation Sentinel—for next month's Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. However, contingent on the passage of this bill it is anticipated that QPS will at a minimum have access to the face verification service. This will allow the comparison of images with Commonwealth held visa and passport records.


By virtue of the proposed amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 which are included in this bill, access to Department of Transport and Main Roads digital photographs will also be available to QPS in time to support Operation Sentinel. Although the Commonwealth Games do not officially commence until 4 April, the first operational phase of Operation Sentinel began with the start of the Queen's baton relay on 13 March. The final phase of Operation Sentinel started on 5 March with the commencement of bomb searching and venue lockdowns. Further developments will certainly ramp up as the opening of the games draws closer.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to providing Queenslanders and visitors with a memorable Commonwealth Games. Queensland Fire and Emergency Services is partnering with QPS to ensure the safety of the public and athletes attending the games. The wellbeing of all athletes, officials, spectators and visitors at the games is our priority. The Palaszczuk government's \$11.35 million QFES Commonwealth Games program includes the deployment of 850 personnel. A substantial part of this funding will ensure public safety and ensure the QFES will be ready to respond to any emergency. QFES's involvement will include 400 paid employees and 450 volunteers; 850 personnel will undertake a total of 3,500 shifts. This is part of a three-year program which has involved the establishment of a dedicated QFES Commonwealth Games office. This office employs 19 full-time staff who work closely with games partners to ensure a collaborative approach to emergency planning at Gold Coast 2018.

QFES have entered the final phase of preparations and are actively involved in multi-agency and cross-partner Gold Coast 2018 exercises leading up to the April games. This final phase involves exercises and training to test our capabilities and processes ahead of the event, which will be held at venues across the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Cairns and Townsville. I was on hand recently when QFES personnel took to the skies to deal with Commonwealth Games emergencies and went through their specialist air training at Archerfield. The ready reaction team, which will be deployed in two helicopters,

involves 35 QFES staff and volunteers, including Fire and Rescue Service and Rural Fire Service firefighters and State Emergency Service operators. Of these, 12 Fire and Rescue Service firefighters are urban search and rescue—or USAR—accredited.

Apart from the extra training, the air capability of QFS will be considerably enhanced during the games. QFS will provide personnel during the games for command, firefighting, scientific, specialist urban search and rescue and rescue officers, support staff and volunteers. Whilst this identity-matching service will not be at optimum capability in time for the Commonwealth Games, any technology that enables the rapid identification of people is of value in a security operation the size and complexity of Operation Sentinel. This is why the Palaszczuk government has given the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 a high priority. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.40 pm): I rise to speak specifically about changes to the Liquor Act and its application during the Commonwealth Games which is addressed in the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. As a proud Gold Coast local and the shadow minister for the Commonwealth Games, I have always been excited about the myriad of opportunities that the games will present to our city. Together with our community, I am looking forward to showing off our vibrant city to other Commonwealth countries and welcoming interstate and overseas visitors. We are home, as members will know, to some of the most beautiful beaches in the world. We have amazing local businesses, diverse communities and a reputation for being famous for fun but, of course, the greatest thing about the Gold Coast and Queensland is its people.

There is no doubt that the Gold Coast is truly unique which is why, along with the Gold Coast community and businesses, I am perplexed by the Labor government's insistence to apply Glasgow's Commonwealth Games liquor policy to the Gold Coast. Whether it is licensing hours or instructions to volunteers about how we should be greeting visitors, we do not want a copy and paste version of the Glasgow games when it comes to policies for our games. The Gold Coast is vastly different to Glasgow, yet Labor continues to fall back on to the excuse that if it worked in Glasgow it must be the best plan for the coast.

Usually I am supportive of legislation that has precedent from interstate or even overseas jurisdictions, but in this instance it is ridiculous to expect one rule that worked for Glasgow to be the best rule for the Gold Coast. This is just lazy legislation. Even Billy Connolly, the Big Yin, would not say that Glasgow is anything like the Gold Coast. In fact, Billy Connolly actually said about Glasgow, 'The great thing about Glasgow is that if there's a nuclear attack it will look exactly the same afterwards.' Admittedly, that was before the last Commonwealth Games where Glasgow was made over, but when I lived in England and visited Scotland you did not go to Glasgow, you visited Edinburgh. Glasgow now has turned itself into a great events city because of the changes of the Commonwealth Games, but it is still not the Gold Coast. This is something about which Gold Coasters are very perplexed, that these licensing laws have been applied as they were in Glasgow.

Our games are our unique games and should be showcasing Queensland and Australia with policies and plans designed for our unique city. We had more liberal trading hours for the Commonwealth Games in 1982 when I was at university in Brisbane and for Expo in 1988 when I just returned from the UK. In the 21st century, Labor has taken us back to the 20th century when it comes to licensing hours for our Commonwealth Games. This is just a missed opportunity for our city. Once again, the Gold Coast has been ripped off by a Labor government that just does not get our city. During the games our city will be buzzing—restaurants will be open for 24 hours, supermarkets will be open for 24 hours, the light rail will be operating for 24 hours and train services will be operating for 24 hours, but our pubs and clubs get one measly extra hour to trade. To add insult to injury, the extended hours for the Commonwealth Games trading period is deducted from the standard six-day allocation given to licensees.

I also note that the bill only extends trading hours in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts where there are 232 liquor licences. I acknowledge that they both are in the Surfers Paradise electorate but, as the member for Currumbin mentioned to me, I think there are nearly 70 licensees in Coolangatta not able to take advantage of this extension and, of course, all the other areas—Pimpama, Ormeau, Nerang, Mudgeeraba, Burleigh. As the Queensland Hotels Association rightly pointed out, considering Commonwealth Games venues and increased visitor accommodations span the length of the Gold Coast including locations such as Coolangatta, Currumbin, Robina, Nerang, Southport, Carrara, Runaway Bay and Coomera, the extended trading hours should be applied more broadly than just the two safe night precincts of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. The Gold Coast is a linear city and visitors will be staying from Coolangatta to Coomera.

Labor has made it clear that public transport will be the best way to get around during the games, but what will our visitors in Currumbin, Coomera, Pimpama, Ormeau, Nerang, Mudgeeraba, Burleigh or Broadwater do? They cannot get on the light rail to Surfers or Broadbeach. We certainly do not want them partying in suburban areas where there is no targeted police presence. It is disappointing that there has not been a more comprehensive plan to ensure our city is a fun and safe place during the games. Again, I reiterate that this is a missed opportunity. Labor has been in power for almost four years, yet this plan seems like it was put together at the last minute with not a lot of thought.

In fact, that is the point that I made—that over the last year the issues concerning the Attorney-General and the extended licensing hours have been quite clear. The Attorney-General flatly refused to consider any extension of trading hours, yet the small business minister, as I think I mentioned yesterday, said that restaurants and cafes will be able to open as supermarkets will be. That is where I made the point about confusion between ministers. Labor has just taken a carbon copy of Glasgow's plan, because it was too lazy to come up with a plan that would show off the Gold Coast whilst balancing the need to keep our patrons safe. Upon reading the explanatory notes, it is clear that consultation could have been a lot more comprehensive. It seemed to me that some really valid suggestions made by industry stakeholders were shut down. These included, and I quote from the statement of reservation—


That the extended hours for the Commonwealth Games trading period not be deducted from the standard usual 6 day allocation given to licensees; to expand extended trading hours to encompass all licensed venues in the entire Gold Coast local government area; and that the Safe Night precincts (SNPs) across the state where other Commonwealth Games events occur be afforded the same extended hours as the Gold Coast SNPs.

I expected more from a minister who said in his introductory speech—

The Palaszczuk government recognises that the Commonwealth Games presents a significant opportunity for restaurants, pubs, clubs, bars and night clubs to showcase their exceptional hospitality to visitors from around the world. The government also recognises that due to the massive influx to the Gold Coast in particular, demand for these services will be high.

I point out that the Commonwealth Games beginning on 4 April will be almost an immediate roll-on from the Easter weekend. We will have significant visitors in our city and in our state from Easter, the weekend before the opening of the Commonwealth Games, who will be affected as well by the restrictions on Good Friday trading and the general rules about public holiday trading that have led to difficulties for small business operators. It would have been good to have some concessions potentially at least for this year, but that was also something not considered by the government. I expected the minister to understand how important these games are for our city and for him to legislate accordingly. Like the M1, once again Labor has left it too late to make any changes that would benefit the Commonwealth Games.

Given that this bill contains provisions for counterterrorism and organised crime policing operations, we will not oppose the bill today. Whilst I wholeheartedly support the legislation that makes our city safer, it is really disappointing that Labor was too lazy to come up with a better plan to ensure that businesses and patrons get the most out of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.48 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. This bill aims to facilitate Queensland's participation in the identity-matching services national program. It will also allow our police to access Queensland driver's licence digital images for non-traffic offences, meaning they have another tool to identify potential suspects who may be involved in a crime. The bill also deals with the issues of homemade explosives.

This bill makes amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act which outlines the role our police play in our community. Ensuring that our police are supported and given the tools they need to ensure the law is upheld is one of the fundamental responsibilities of any government. Police need to know that they have the support of this parliament and their government as they carry out their important duties to protect the community, but how can we expect our boys in blue to protect us if we fail to protect them, give them the tools that they need or give them the support that they deserve? This is the question we should be asking as we hear this Labor government attempting to cobble together an ineffective solution to a string of dangerous incidents involving vehicles at the Mudgeeraba Police Station.

As this bill gives police another tool to use in the form of accessing digital licence imaging, sadly our police at Mudgeeraba are still being put at risk. Three times in the last three years the Mudgeeraba Police Station and the hardworking officers who work there have been put at risk by people behind the wheel of motor vehicles. In the most recent incident, a man intentionally rammed through the wall of the station, narrowly missing an officer who could easily have been killed. This was a shocking and cowardly attack on our police and it warranted an appropriate response to keep them safe in the future.

That is why on 1 August 2016 I wrote to the then Labor minister for police to urge him to secure the safety of officers through the installation of boom gates at the police station. I wanted the minister's help to support our officers. Sadly, the response I received was dismissive and failed to commit to any new measures to keep our police safe.

After the current Minister for Police was sworn in, I wrote to him on 14 December 2016 imploring him to help where his predecessor would not and install these security measures. Again, we had to wait and were left wondering whether the Mudgeeraba officers were going to be kept safe or whether we were going to get another hollow promise. To date no additional security measures have been installed to prevent further incidents of this nature. That is why I was so surprised to read a recent media release from the Minister for Police, which I will table for the benefit of the House, where he announced an apparently sweeping response to a similar incident in Brisbane last year.

Tabled paper: Media release by the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, titled 'Security audit into all police workplaces' [279].

It seems that when a man drives his vehicle towards the main entrance of police headquarters causing minor damage to the front stairs this calls for a massive statewide response, but a man driving his car purposely through the wall of a police station in Mudgeeraba elicits nothing more than a shrug of the shoulders. I wrote to the minister on 21 February this year expressing my surprise at his media release and his new-found concern for the safety of police. I again urged the minister as part of his security audit to ensure the Mudgeeraba Police Station receives the boom gates it needs to keep officers safe in the future. I table my letters to Labor ministers on this issue for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Bundle of letters from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, and the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Hon. Craig Crawford, regarding the deliberate ramming of the Mudgeeraba Police Station in July 2016 [273].

I now find that Labor's reported solution is going to be bollards, not boom gates, and they are apparently only going to be installed on one side of the station. These bollards would only protect the station from the western side, Minister, leaving the station exposed on the eastern side. Whilst I appreciate that there is action about to be taken, it was the western side of the police station where a man drove his car down the ramp through the garage where police have their cars and almost killed one of the officers.

Mr Ryan: You can always talk to me about it.

Ms BATES: I will again, Minister. Thank you for the bollards on the M1 side, but we certainly need to have bollards on the other side to prevent a repeat of what happened last year.

Today as we debate amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and the ability of police to keep us safe, I want to reflect on another key issue on policing for my electorate in the Nerang division. I have spoken repeatedly in this House about hoons gathering in my electorate at the intersection of Nerang Murwillumbah Road and Pine Creek Road, putting the community at risk.

For three years I have been urging Labor ministers to finally do something about this dangerous hooning activity. The community is sick and tired of inaction from Labor and wants a plan to be put in place at this intersection. We know that more than 30 hoons at a time meet at this intersection. We know they have spotters in place to watch out for approaching police and warn their mates to disperse. We know that when the hoons are done for the night they set their tyres on fire in the dense Numinbah bushland, just several hundred metres from sleeping schoolchildren at the Numinbah Valley Environmental Education Centre. When police do arrive at this remote and isolated location, they are frequently outnumbered and put in danger. The latest example of this was just a few days ago at the weekend.

Our police in Nerang are frustrated. They have been proactive in their response to complaints for increased patrols and intelligence gathering, but we cannot expect our police to deal with this issue if we do not put a deterrent in place for the hoons at this intersection. We cannot expect our officers to do their jobs unless they have the infrastructure in place to help. That is why in the 2015 and 2017 state elections the LNP committed \$300,000 for CCTV cameras and a road realignment at this intersection which would have included concrete bollards to deter hoons and stop them from gathering there.

This announcement came after a submission from senior police from the South Eastern Region who confirmed this issue was considered urgent and that the area was at high risk. The submission said that covert policing strategies are not guaranteed to be successful and pose a significant risk to our police. Unfortunately, despite the LNP coming up with a solution, to date Labor has expressed no interest in dealing with this issue. It does not care about keeping the community or our police officers safe.


After two letters and a meeting with the then Labor minister in 2015, nothing happened. After two questions on notice in this place to the next Labor minister, nothing happened. Now we have a third Labor Minister for Police and yet again so far nothing has happened. I table for the benefit of the House my letter to the minister on 21 February where I again called for action. I am awaiting a response. I call on the minister to act now before a tragedy occurs. We need to take action to implement the LNP's solution to protect our local communities.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 21 February 2018, from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services, Hon. Mark Ryan, regarding hooning activity in the Numinbah Valley [274].

As we debate this bill today which has implications for our police officers it would be remiss of me if I did not acknowledge the contribution of former Senior Sergeant Mark Anderson of the Mudgeeraba police. For many years Mark has ably led the Mudgeeraba police as they protected the Mudgeeraba community. At the end of last year he handed in his badge and began his well-deserved retirement. As well as being a hardworking old-school copper, Mark is also a fierce community advocate who wanted to include the community in all that he did. Mark would never hesitate to roll up his sleeves to keep the community better informed or to travel to remote areas of his division to speak to residents about police matters. He knew that his role as a community leader did not stop when his shift ended.

It was Mark who kicked off the Mudgeeraba Police Community Consultative Committee, which is still going strong today. Our PCCC provides an opportunity for those who may be intimidated or overwhelmed by the formal complaints process to come along for an informal chat with their senior sergeant. It also gives residents a chance to raise concerns about broader issues that they want addressed. Mark believes in good, old-fashioned police work and Mudgeeraba is a much better place for it. I am lucky to be able to call Mark a friend after all of the support he has given me since I was first elected in 2009.

I have never hesitated to pick up the phone and talk to Mark about a law and order issue. My office has always been able to send through a constituent query to him when the police are best placed to assist. Mark's response to me and my office was always swift and they were always candid. Mark can certainly be a man of few words, but he has always got the job done. He always went above and beyond to keep Mudgeeraba safe and I want to place on the record of this House my personal gratitude to Mark Anderson for his years of outstanding service to the Queensland Police Service and the broader community. He will be sorely missed and his successor will have some very big shoes to fill.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (2.57 pm): I am very pleased to stand in support of the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill and in particular the amendments with regard to liquor trading hours. As members would know, the Gold Coast will be hosting the largest event that Queensland has ever hosted and indeed the largest Commonwealth Games that have ever been staged.

I know how excited you are, Mr Deputy Speaker Stevens, as a local member. Indeed, members on both sides might not always agree on everything—and today we have heard some different opinions and some colourful contributions from some of my good friends on the opposite side—but, at the end of the day, as we approach the Commonwealth Games with 28 days to go that momentum is building and I expect that all members, particularly Gold Coast members, will be there joining what will be the best games and what I think will be a game changer for the Gold Coast economy moving forward.

I want to make some comments in my contribution with regard to the reforms that Labor is bringing into law here today to enable the most streamlined process for licensed cafes and restaurants and licensed venues on the Gold Coast to apply for extensions to liquor trading hours. The reforms that we are introducing into the parliament today mean that they will not have to do individual applications where they have to apply for the time during the games. This has been something that has happened but not at the last minute, as some of those opposite have said. It would have saved me a hell of a lot of time if it had been done at the last minute, but that is not what happened.

What happened was that over a long period of time I attended many meetings with key stakeholders such as the mayor of the Gold Coast, Gold Coast Tourism representatives, Safe Night Out Surfers Paradise representatives including Tim Martin and Louise Huxom, the spokesperson from Safe Night Out Broadbeach. I have also had multiple meetings with the Attorney-General, the minister responsible for the legislation. I want to thank the Attorney-General for her time and her flexibility on what is a tough issue for her as the first law officer of this state. We know that we made a number of commitments in Queensland to ensure that we get the balance right so that we have safe venues where people can go out and have a good time in Queensland but know that they will get home safe.

The Attorney-General has to take all of these considerations into account. Certainly, as the Minister for Tourism I know that one of the great things about our offering is that, compared to other places in the world, we are a relatively safe destination. Certainly, I want everyone who comes to the Gold Coast—and to Queensland—to have a great time while they are here, maybe even let their hair down and, if they feel in the mood, do a bit of a chicken dance. I could not help myself. I am not going to do one.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Minister, if you want lessons I will let you know.

Ms JONES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I will see you at the games. I will meet you at the Broadbeach safe night out precinct. This legislation is about getting the balance right. The members for Surfers Paradise in his contribution talked about when he was a university student and probably doing the chicken dance at the German pavilion at Expo. Times have changed, but I think we have the balance right. It is interesting to note that the member for Surfers Paradise is still making those comments today in the parliament.

Some weeks ago now when we made these announcements about extending the hours his honourable leader said that she was deeply concerned that, if we extended the trading hours, we would not have the police numbers to patrol it. The Leader of the Opposition was against it, but here we are, sitting in the parliament today, and we still have division and no clarity on the LNP position on this issue. Once again, I state that, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to come in here and make a contribution to this debate, she can explain why her position is different from that of the other members on her side of politics. As we have seen today, the members opposite cannot hold a position from breakfast to lunch.

We consulted the police on this issue. I thank the Police Commissioner and the police minister for their support. They have to walk that line between doing what is responsible and doing it safely and the government taking advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that the Commonwealth Games provides for the Gold Coast and the rest of Queensland.

I say to all members of parliament that I think this legislation is a great step forward. I think it gives us the opportunity to showcase what the Gold Coast has to offer. Most of the events—the festival program and the sporting program—finish at around 10 o'clock in the evening. There will be ample opportunity for people to go out and experience the hospitality that the Gold Coast is known for. I thank the stakeholders who have been involved in this process for giving their feedback to us and for engaging with us in a meaningful way. As I say, I think that, with the passing of these reforms, we have the balance right.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.02 pm): It is a great honour to speak to this bill. I will concentrate on the changes that the bill makes to the Liquor Act 1992. I think we have a missed opportunity here in regard to the Commonwealth Games. It is going to be the biggest event that Queensland has ever seen. A lot of hard work has gone into organising the Commonwealth Games. Therefore, businesses on the Gold Coast should be able to take advantage of what is going to come from the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games will provide an opportunity for the eyes of the world to be on the Gold Coast.

These changes to the Liquor Act 1992 affect the two safe night out precincts at Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. Why can we not extend those changes to other areas of the Gold Coast? The Gold Coast is a fantastic city that provides many opportunities for holiday-makers and people visiting from not only all over the world but also from Western Queensland.

The Commonwealth Games has been very much on the minds of many Western Queenslanders, including people from the electorate of Gregory. They regard the Commonwealth Games as an opportunity for them to take their annual holiday and go down to the Gold Coast and partake in what is going to be a significant sporting event. Even my family and I are down for the Commonwealth Games. We were lucky enough to pick up tickets for netball and Rugby through the lottery system. We are very much looking forward to staying on the Gold Coast.

Mr Costigan: Are you playing?

Mr MILLAR: I am not playing Rugby, no. The Queensland Hotels Association made some common-sense suggestions to this legislation that have been ignored by the Palaszczuk Labor government. The Commonwealth Games is going to be the biggest event ever in Queensland, so it is important that we maximise the opportunities for our small businesses and other businesses on the Gold Coast, whether they be the bars, the restaurants or the people who are involved in providing food and entertainment. A lot of taxpayers' dollars have gone into getting the Commonwealth Games here

to Queensland. We should take an opportunity to maximise that by allowing more restaurants and more bars across the Gold Coast to be able to open for extended hours. It is only common sense to give these businesses an opportunity to grow their businesses.

Mr Costigan: Share the love.


Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. We have to spread the love. People are going to take up accommodation offers not only in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach but also in other areas of the Gold Coast, including Burleigh, Nerang and right down to Coolangatta. Once people have gone to an event at the Commonwealth Games, although it might finish late at night, they might want to continue to celebrate the opportunity of not only being at the Commonwealth Games with their family and friends but also to have a night out.

For many people who will go to the Gold Coast to attend the Commonwealth Games, and certainly those from Western Queensland, it is an opportunity for them to have the holiday that they have not had for a long time. If they are going to go to the Gold Coast, they want to be able to not only go to the events but also spend their hard-earned cash in restaurants and bars to be able to give a bit back to the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is a significant economic contributor to the Queensland economy and it deserves to have every opportunity to be able to take advantage of the Commonwealth Games. I call on the minister and the Palaszczuk government to see if we can spread those safe night out precincts further than just Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise.

I wish our police and protection services all the best for the Commonwealth Games. It is going to be a magnificent event, but it is not going to happen without a lot of hard work and a lot of effort by our police, our emergency services, our fireys—everybody who is involved in the background to make sure that it is a safe event. I certainly wish them all the best. I know that we have the best capabilities to be able to pull off the best event that we have ever seen.

It was 1982 when the Commonwealth Games was last here in South-East Queensland in Brisbane. At that time, we successfully put Brisbane on the map. I think everybody can remember those games. The Gold Coast is going to come through with shining colours. We have to make sure that everything goes well—and I know that it will go well. There is also an opportunity to make sure that small business, bars, restaurants and clubs benefit from the Commonwealth Games. People from overseas will come to the Gold Coast. I encourage them to not only visit the Gold Coast and go to the bars, clubs and restaurants there but also after the Commonwealth Games go to Western Queensland—the outback. We will be able to show them a good time as well. We can host people from overseas so that they can see the real outback. Hopefully, when people get out there the outback will be a little greener, a little more colourful than it has been for the past few years.

I call on the Palaszczuk government and the minister to consider those safe night precincts. People will be staying at Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise, but they will also be staying from Coolangatta, or Burleigh, all the way up to Coomera. We need to make sure that, if those people want to go out after an event, they have an opportunity to go to a club, or a restaurant. I think it is just common sense to make sure that businesses on the Gold Coast get great opportunities out of the Commonwealth Games.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.08 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. I do not intend to cover ground that has been covered so well and so eloquently by government members. The purpose of this bill is to set up Queensland for the games, which are coming very soon.

The locals in my area are excited about the Commonwealth Games. It is going to be a fantastic event. It is going to be the biggest and best event that we have ever held in Queensland. We could tell that, during her contribution to this debate, the Minister for the Commonwealth Games was excited. She talked about people letting their hair down and people doing chicken dances. I think it is fantastic that the excitement is continuing to build in my local area, throughout Queensland and internationally. I am really looking forward to attending some games events.

I entered the ballot. I did not get all the tickets I was seeking, but I did get some tickets to the swimming and the boxing. I am looking forward to those events. I attended the Melbourne Commonwealth Games, which was a wonderful event, but I am extremely confident that the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games will be bigger and better than Melbourne.

Contrast all that positivity and excitement to the contributions that we have heard from those opposite. One would think that the Commonwealth Games would get these guys excited but, sadly, no. We had the usual dose of negativity from the member for Gregory.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the member for Southport.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Direct your comments through the chair, please, member for Stretton.

Mr PEGG: I was taking the interjection from the member for Southport because he clearly was not listening when I referred to the tickets I bought.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are not debating it. Direct your comments through the chair as I have said.

Mr MOLHOEK: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is accusing us wrongly by saying we are not enthusiastic.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr PEGG: Hopefully the member for Southport's enthusiasm will continue to build. I would have hoped that the Gold Coast MPs in this place would be a lot more excited. Instead they have got up here one after the other and talked down the games. The member for Burleigh will be next. Maybe he will be able to demonstrate some enthusiasm. I was looking through report No. 1 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I commend the chair of the committee, the member for Toohey, and the government members of the committee, the member for Macalister and the member for Mansfield, for getting their first report through. I congratulate them for a very solid report.

Page 28 is where it gets really interesting. There is a statement of reservation. For those members who read these types of reports, having a statement of reservation at the back is not all that unusual. On reading through it there was the usual antigovernment diatribe. There is nothing new about that. There were slightly less spelling errors and less punctuation errors than normal. Then I got to the bottom and I saw who had signed it.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take all those interjections from the member for Southern Downs. It is signed by the member for Southern Downs, an LNP member. The next signature beside the member for Southern Downs is that of the member for Lockyer, again a member of the LNP. Who was the third signatory? It was the member for Mirani, a member of One Nation. Here we have a statement of reservation where the LNP and One Nation are all of the same mind on this particular bill. I am glad the member for Southern Downs has started to get excited. It is the most excitement we have seen from the LNP in relation to the games. I have some serious questions about this statement of reservation. Clearly we have a situation in this House where the LNP and One Nation are in complete lock step despite their denials.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is completely irrelevant. He should just sit down at this point. He has not once spoken about the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr PEGG: Quite clearly the member for Burleigh has not read page 28 of the report. I am trying to take him through it part by part. We have a situation where the two LNP members and the One Nation member on this particular committee are completely in lock step. They agree with every word on page 28. I do not know how long it took them to put this together. Are these electronic signatures or did they all sit there and affix their signatures personally? It does raise serious questions.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr PEGG: We had the denial of the deal between One Nation and the LNP before the last election when, in fact, on the actual preference cards, which were released in 50 seats, as the member for Toowoomba North would know, the LNP put One Nation ahead of Labor. This is interesting in relation to the statement of reservation at page 28 of this particular report because I wondered how the One Nation-LNP deal was going to end up with the new leadership from the member for Nanango.

Mr HART: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is clearly irrelevant. The member has not spoken about the bill once in five minutes.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, resume your seat. You have made that point of order before and I ruled it out of order. The member for Stretton has the call. Please stick to the long title of the bill.

Mr PEGG: I once again draw the attention of all members of the House, and the member for Burleigh in particular, to page 28 of report No. 1 of the 56th Parliament. That is what I am speaking about. The member for Burleigh seems to be having some difficulty in understanding that. As I said, it really hit home for me with the member for Southern Downs, the member for Lockyer and the member for Mirani all signing the exact same statement that they had authored together because I had wondered what the member for Nanango's approach was going to be.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take all those interjections from the member for Southern Downs. He tells us it will not be the last time. This is where it gets interesting.

Mr Power: It is a permanent deal!

Mr PEGG: It is a permanent deal, says the member for Logan. I quote from the *Australian* on 14 December 2017—

Mr WATTS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance as to the relevance of a media release before this bill was brought into the House and how it can possibly have anything to do with the long title of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resume your seat, member for Toowoomba North. I am attempting to listen to the point that the member for Stretton is making. I am giving him a little bit of latitude. He has made the point several times in relation to who signed the statement of reservation. Member for Stretton, I would like you to move on to your next point and make it relatively soon.

Mr PEGG: Thank you very much for your guidance. For the benefit of the member for Toowoomba North, the article that I am about to table is not a media release; it is an article by Sarah Elks in the *Australian* on 14 December 2017. The article states—

Ms Frecklington also confirmed the conservative party would not do any preference deals with Pauline Hanson's One Nation,

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian* on-line, dated 14 December 2017, titled 'LNP rules out demerger but Adani "on the table"' [275].

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Stretton, I will bring you back to the long title of the bill, please.

Mr PEGG: As I said at the outset, excitement is building for the Commonwealth Games. It is building in my local area. I am excited to be attending the Commonwealth Games. I know that government members are excited. People all around the world are getting excited. In conclusion, I say to all those members opposite, particularly the member for Southport, get excited! It is going to be a fantastic event.

Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (3.17 pm): I rise to speak to the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. The objectives of the bill are to provide a legislative framework to facilitate Queensland's participation in the identity-matching services; remove the requirement to obtain an access approval order for Queensland Police to access Queensland driver's licence digital images for non-transport related offences; remove the requirement for the Department of Transport and Main Roads to report annually to the parliament via the minister on access to Queensland driver's licence digital images; to overcome the current limitations in the Criminal Code in adequately addressing the threat of homemade explosives; and to provide for extended liquor trading arrangements for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.


Identity crime is a significant criminal threat that is estimated to cost Australia \$2.2 billion annually. It is also a key enabler of serious and organised crime such as drug trafficking, money laundering and terrorism. Australians have been convicted of terrorism offences or planning attacks, including purchasing ammunition and chemicals to make explosives and prepaid mobile phones to communicate anonymously and have done so by using false names to avoid detection.

The majority of identity checking currently undertaken in Australia is based on matching names and other biographical details between different sources. Name based checking is vulnerable to identity fraud. It cannot detect instances where criminals, for example, have stolen someone's identification and substituted their own images. Detecting this type of fraud requires the comprehensive matching of facial images.

The Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018 makes amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 to remove legislative restrictions on access to Department of Transport and Main Roads images by the Queensland Police Service. Currently, Queensland police officers have direct access to Department of Transport and Main Roads digital photos for the enforcement of transport acts. However, if they are investigating a non-transport related offence they must make an application for a process order under chapter 7 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act.

The current position of the law means that the QPS can access Department of Transport and Main Roads digital photos directly if they are investigating a traffic offence, but they must obtain an authority from a justice of the peace before they can access images for an offence like terrorism, murder

or robbery. The amendments in the bill will allow the QPS to have access to the Department of Transport and Main Roads digital images in circumstances where one of the permitted purposes, as outlined in clauses 17 and 24 of the bill, exists. The amendments in this bill will not only strengthen the integrity of the use of facial biometrics but also improve access to DTMR images, which will be particularly beneficial to the security operation for the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games and will ensure that the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games are the best games ever.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.21 pm): I rise to add to the debate on the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill. I congratulate the member for Lytton for speaking about the bill, unlike the heavy hitter from Stretton who, unfortunately, is not going to hear my speech—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Burleigh, you will not continue in that vein, because that is not in the long title of the bill. I bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr HART: The member for Stretton spoke for seven minutes and did not mention the bill once.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, I am not debating the point, thank you.

Mr HART: I intend to speak about the bill. The Commonwealth Games has not come on just in the past couple of days or months. It has been coming on for a long time. When the LNP was in government, we started the process of building the Commonwealth Games village, as well as most of the venues on the Gold Coast. Therefore, it is strange that this government keeps taking the credit for those things happening on time.

The bill puts in place a number of serious things that are needed for the Commonwealth Games to occur. Identity-matching services are one of those things. It is something that we have all come across in the past. Identity fraud is a big problem. Having access to photographs that are part of the licence procedure nowadays will absolutely help. I commend that part of the bill to the House.

The bill deals with limitations in the Criminal Code with respect to homemade explosives. Last year or the year before in Brisbane, homemade explosives—I am not sure what they actually were—severely injured some people. Therefore, we need to ensure that the Criminal Code is up to speed when those sorts of events happen.

The biggest changes in the bill that impact my part of the world are the changes to the liquor licensing laws. Mr Deputy Speaker, as you know I am from Burleigh, which is a very active area of the Gold Coast. As the shadow minister said in his contribution, during the Commonwealth Games a lot of people are going to come to the Gold Coast. I think he mentioned we will have 690,000 unique visitors. We are expecting 15,000 volunteers. Some of those volunteers will come from the Gold Coast and some will come from Brisbane and further away. Some 6,600 athletes will attend the games. Those people will want to do something at night after they have been to the games, competed in their events or done their volunteering stints. It would be nice to see the Gold Coast opened up to those people.

In a very short period, people from all over the world will visit the Gold Coast. People will come to the Gold Coast from about 70 countries. They will want to enjoy the atmosphere of the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is known for its night-life. Those people will not be able to go out and enjoy themselves at night, even though the G:link will be operating 24 hours a day. It will be available to carry people around the Gold Coast, but they will not be able to go into most of the Gold Coast clubs to enjoy themselves. Under this legislation, they will be able to go only to the safe night precincts in Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise. Up and down the coast buses will be running 24 hours a day. Obviously the government thinks people will be out and about at all times of the night, but our restaurants and bars will not be open for those people to enjoy themselves. Not everybody goes to a bar to get drunk, to misbehave or to cause trouble.

Mr Watts: Most people.

Mr HART: Most people go out at night to be social, to mix with their friends and relatives and, in the case of the Commonwealth Games, to mix with other athletes, volunteers and visitors from overseas. Trains will be running for extended hours to link up with G:link and will carry people all over the place.

Therefore, it was a little surprising that on 10 February the Minister for the Commonwealth Games issued this press release, a copy of which I will table for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 10 February 2018, by the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development, and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Kate Jones, and the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, titled 'Restaurants and clubs to get extended hours at Games time'. [\[276\]](#)

The press release was issued not that long ago. The press release states, 'all 162 licensed cafes and restaurants on the Gold Coast will be able to serve alcohol until 1 am or 2 am during the Games'. It further states—

"Giving all venues an extra hour liquor trading will allow more local businesses to make the most of our biggest event this decade," Ms Jones said.

That is what the minister said. What has changed? I totally agree with her that there is an opportunity for the Gold Coast people who run those venues to benefit from the extra trade over that period. The press release continues quoting the minister—

We've consulted with tourism chiefs and City of Gold Coast, listened to local businesses and heeded community concerns and believe we've found the perfect balance for Games time.

That relates to the 162 licensed cafes and restaurants that were to open, allowing people to come through their doors to socialise. However, all of a sudden apparently we have changed our mind, because that is not what this legislation does. For the benefit of the member for Stretton, that is why the LNP opposition is raising this matter while not opposing the bill. We would like to see it expanded to every part of the Gold Coast, to give every opportunity to people—

Mr WATTS: It is 1,200 licences.

Mr HART: There are 1,200 licensed venues on the Gold Coast, as the shadow minister says. The 10 February press release also quoted the Attorney-General on the subject of ID scanners. If a club extends its hours for one hour, it has to extend any ID scanner requirements that apply to that particular venue. Many times in this place we have spoken about how the rollout of the ID-scanning regulation was messed up by the government. The press release quotes the Attorney-General as saying that Goldoc accreditation passes will be accepted in venues as they would be recognised as sufficient ID to enter licensed premises in the safe night out precincts. Apparently, that is what will happen there.

We would have to think that if Goldoc accreditation passes are to be an accepted form of ID then possibly the government thinks that people holding these IDs are going to be going out. Those people are not going to be able to go down to Coolangatta, Currumbin, Nobby Beach, Miami or Burleigh Heads. They will have to stick to the safe night out precincts because these places will not be open.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr HART: I am not taking interjections from the cheap seats.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Logan, he is not taking your interjections.

Mr HART: Apparently the Attorney-General also thinks that those people coming from overseas—coming from some 70-odd different countries—for our wonderful Commonwealth Games, that we on the Gold Coast are all excited about, need to carry their passports with them. I am not sure that is a crash hot idea, but apparently they will not be able to get into some of these venues if they do not do that. We saw that with some sailors in Cairns who were refused entry to some clubs up there. There was the instance of some soldiers in Rockhampton who were told they could not get into a nightclub or pub there. Then we had the instance involving Prince Frederik, one of the most popular royals in the world, who was not allowed into a venue.

Mrs D'Ath interjected.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Attorney-General, the member for Burleigh has the call.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, the member for Burleigh has the call.

Mr HART: The question is what happened between 10 February when this press release that I have tabled came out saying that all 162 licensed cafes and restaurants would be allowed to open—

(Time expired)

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (3.31 pm): I will make a brief contribution and a parochial one in relation to the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Whitsunday, you can be as parochial as you like as long as it is within the long title of the bill.

Mr COSTIGAN: All the best with your new job, Mr Deputy Speaker. I will make a brief contribution to the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018. In doing so, I acknowledge the fine men and women who keep our communities safe. From the Queensland

Police Service to the Australian Federal Police, the people at ASIO and the people at the many other agencies at a state and federal level, they all do an outstanding job, an incredible job, a professional job of keeping Queenslanders safe and Australians safe.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the great work in this area of public policy and counterterrorism by my old boss, former senator George Brandis.

Mr Power: Who's got his job now?

Mr COSTIGAN: I too will not be taking injections from the cheap seats this afternoon. I wish George Brandis all the best in his new role in London.

Mrs D'ATH: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. I have heard the comment about cheap seats twice now. Every member of this parliament stands equal and is elected by their constituents. It is derogatory to refer to them in any other way.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. There was no personal reflection. The Leader of the House may not like the expression, but there was no personal reflection on any individual member of the parliament. Therefore, there is no point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind the member to refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr COSTIGAN: I apologise to the member for Logan if he took offence. I am not sure whether there are cheap seats available for the member for Logan to go to the Commonwealth Games, but I would encourage him to buy a ticket, whether it is cheap or expensive.

I want to acknowledge the work of my former boss, former senator George Brandis, in the area of counterterrorism measures. This is a serious business. We have seen bipartisan support in relation to these matters because it is in the national interest to keep Australians safe and Queenslanders safe. I wish George all the best. His work as Attorney-General in this area was very well documented.

In relation to any changes to the Liquor Act, the Palaszczuk Labor government has had ample opportunity to get their House in order in relation to the bill before the House. That has been documented by a number of members on this side of the House. I do not care who signed the statement of reservation. Non-government members signed it. I do not care if Santa Claus signed it.

The fact of the matter is that that statement of reservation resonates with a lot of people. We have heard from a number of MPs on this side of the House, including Gold Coast MPs, about the lack of spreading the love around the great city of the Gold Coast. The Whitsundays and the Gold Coast have some great common denominators, particularly in the area of tourism. I can only imagine if Airlie Beach were given a special privilege and Proserpine and Bowen missed out. I am sure the member for Burdekin would be miffed if Bowen was denied the same status.

I can understand my colleagues from the Gold Coast blowing up deluxe in relation to the safe night precincts not being spread out. I think this argument has been very well articulated in the debate this afternoon by the member for Surfers Paradise and other members on the opposition benches.

It is not just the Gold Coast that is hosting events. North and Far North Queensland are hosting events. A lot of people in Cairns and Townsville and many other communities are aware of the basketball program coming to those cities as part of the Commonwealth Games. I will go a step further. I encourage the minister—and I say respectfully—to get her head around the idea of a safe night precinct in Cairns and Townsville also being encompassed as part of some changes for the common good.

We talk about spreading the love. What about the nightclubs in Cairns such as Gilligan's, the Courthouse and those on the pier and in Townsville along Flinders Street East—a strip that I know pretty well—places like the Mad Cow Tavern and the Exchange Hotel?

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members!

Mr COSTIGAN: Sometimes we get a little nostalgic and sentimental. I love a bit of CJ Dennis. The point I am making is that we need to be spreading the love. Those safe night precincts in Cairns and Townsville should be embraced.

I want to go through the Commonwealth Games program. For the record, in Cairns we have Jamaica, India, New Zealand and Malaysia coming for the women's basketball. For the men's basketball we have the Boomers—the national team—Canada, Nigeria and the Tall Blacks, whom I fondly remember from my life before coming into this place calling NBL basketball, international basketball and trans-Tasman basketball.

In our part of the world basketball is pretty important. We had two teams for a number of years. We only have the one now in the National Basketball League. A number of great players from North Queensland have gone on to NBL honours and higher honours such as playing for the Boomers or the Opals.

My constituents Dino and Estelle Brondello are the proud parents of the national women's coach. Sandy Brondello and the Opals are going to Far North Queensland and fans will be coming from far and wide, and yet we will not have the same trading hours in the Cairns safe night precinct as we will see in Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. I do not think that is a good thing for tourism. I am sure Mayor Bob Manning would not like it. I do not think the good people at TTNQ would like it. It is not good. It is not spreading the love at all. I think that these matters should be investigated in the interests of spreading the love.

I respect that the Gold Coast is the host city for the Commonwealth Games. It is not the first time we have seen other sports taken away for practical reasons. It is good to see that preliminary games will come to both Cairns and Townsville. In Townsville the men's basketball program will be contested by England, Scotland, Cameroon and India whilst the women's section involves Canada, England, Mozambique and the Opals. A lot of people in North and Far North Queensland, including many of my constituents, have tickets and are looking forward to going up to support our national basketball teams.

The member for Surfers Paradise was right in what he said. The Gold Coast is not Glasgow. I remember Glasgow pretty well from my time living in Yorkshire, working in rugby league and working in the media in the north of England. Glasgow is a bit of an ugly duckling but she scrubbed up pretty well to host the Commonwealth Games. There is more to the Gold Coast than Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise, as has been articulated. There is more to Scotland than Glasgow. I spent a lot of time travelling around Scotland. I am sure it was not just Glasgow that benefited from the Commonwealth Games. Places like Aberdeen, Thurso, Wick, Brawl, Portree, Fort William, Edinburgh and St Andrews spread the love as well and enjoyed the benefits from a tourism point of view. To grow tourism in North and Far North Queensland, I believe that safe night precincts in Cairns and Townsville should be bolted on to an expansion of SNPs on the Gold Coast. There is more to it than those SNPs at Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise.


As I conclude I want to acknowledge the great heritage in relation to Commonwealth Games representation from my area. I heard the member for Gregory talking about 1982. Most of us in this place would remember Matilda and the big wink at the old QEII stadium. What a great moment it was, showcasing Queensland to the world. In 1982 Sue Howland from Mackay won gold in the javelin. Plenty of proud Mackay-ites like me remember that ever so fondly. Justin Lemberg was in the pool that year. We have plenty of other swimmers too thanks to the legendary swim coach Pat Wright. Linda Mackenzie comes to mind. There is Geoff Huegill, 'Skipper' himself, and on it goes. There is none bigger for the benefit of all members in the House than the legendary Cathy Freeman, a proud Mackay girl.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for Whitsunday, as fascinating as the history of the 1982 Commonwealth Games is, we are here to talk about the long title of the bill, so please restrict yourself to that.

Mr COSTIGAN: Needless to say we have a great appetite for the Commonwealth Games. The government's cut-and-paste approach to this is not only poor form but bone lazy. In fact, it reminds me of Norm from 'Life. Be in it' fame.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, please members! The Attorney-General will be heard in silence.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.41 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police and Other Legislation (Identity and Biometric Capability) Amendment Bill 2018, in particular, in relation to the proposed amendments to the Criminal Code Act 1899 and the proposed amendments to the Liquor Act 1992. The threat from homemade explosives is an increasing one. This has been borne out by increased calls for service for the Queensland Police Service Explosive Ordnance Response Team and unfortunately incidents in which Queenslanders have been injured as a result.

The bill increases penalties for the explosives offences contained in sections 470A and 540 of the Criminal Code to a maximum of seven years. Additionally the bill expands the scope of the offence in section 470A to capture the manufacture or possession of explosives in circumstances that pose a risk of injury to a person or damage to property. These amendments ensure that the current offence provisions in the Criminal Code adequately address the increasing threat and are reflective of the serious nature of this kind of offending.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that hosting the 2018 Commonwealth Games presents a once-in-a-lifetime generational opportunity to showcase all that Queensland has to offer. This does include the exceptional hospitality of our restaurants, pubs, clubs, bars and nightclubs. However, Mr Speaker, you would think from listening to the speeches in this debate that it is the only thing we had to offer in Queensland—it is drinking or nothing else. We have nothing else to showcase other than how late we can drink in our bars.

We do want to create an environment where athletes, officials and visitors for the Commonwealth Games can have a good time and feel safe at sporting events, eateries, entertainment venues and accommodation facilities. Accordingly, the government has adopted an approach that strikes an appropriate balance between the liquor industry's interest in maximising economic opportunities afforded by the games and the public interest in minimising alcohol related harm. It is this second element that we have not heard those on the other side talk about. It is only the first element, which is the economic opportunities for licensed venues, we have heard them talk about. We absolutely recognise that there are real opportunities as part of the Commonwealth Games, but that cannot be the only issue we look at in relation to this.

Amendments in this bill preserve the integrity of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy by making appropriate concessions that do not fundamentally change the operation of the regulatory framework for liquor in Queensland. The bill provides for licensed premises in the Broadbeach CBD and Surfers Paradise CBD safe night precincts to be granted a Commonwealth Games extending trading hours authority for liquor service.

All licensees of licensed premises in the Gold Coast SNPs will be automatically granted an additional hour of liquor service at the end of their permanent liquor trading hours each day from 3 April to 17 April 2018 inclusive under the games authority. Limiting the automatic extended hours to these two SNPs is in line with the extended trading hours for retail outlets that have also been granted for the same period, from 3 to 17 April, and are also limited to the Gold Coast area. We have heard about Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns. In fact, the extended retail trading hours, 24-hour retail trading, are limited to the Gold Coast from 3 to 17 April. It is limited to that time frame and limited to the Gold Coast but particularly the safe night out precincts, which have always been treated differently from other venues. The safe night out precincts have higher security and high regulation to ensure protection because they are areas where there is greater risk.

Where a licensee would normally have been required to undertake ID scanning, the licensee will also be required to scan patron IDs during the additional hour of liquor trading authorised by the games authority. Where a licensee would normally not have been required to undertake ID scanning, it is intended that the licensee will not be required to scan patron IDs during the additional hour of liquor trading authorised by the games authority. On top of this extra hour, licensees can also apply for temporary late-night extended hours permits up to their allocation of six per calendar year. I emphasise that because those on the other side have fundamentally missed the point on this.

We have heard the member for Toowoomba North talk about how everyone is going to be funnelled into those two safe night out precincts on really big nights like the closing ceremony because they are not going to have anywhere else to go. That just shows a laziness of understanding the legislation that is in place because every single licensed venue across Queensland, including every single one on the Gold Coast, can apply to use any one, including multiples, of their six permits.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Toowoomba North, the Attorney-General has the call.

Mrs D'ATH: If all licensed venues across the Gold Coast want to apply for the closing ceremony to extend their liquor hours under an extended permit to serve liquor up to 5 am, they could make that application.

Mr Watts: Then they have lost one of their six.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Toowoomba North, you have had your opportunity to make your points. The Attorney-General is responding to those. The Attorney-General has the call.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection, which was that they are losing one of their six. That was not the argument being put by those on the other side. The argument was that no-one is going to be able to go anywhere else but to those two safe night out precincts. Many members on the other side used the member for Toowoomba North's argument and debate on this bill to reinforce that message that everyone is going to be pushed into those two precincts, but that is just not true. They can apply for a permit. Yes, they are using one of their six but do not pretend that they cannot trade.

Do not lead people inside this chamber and outside this chamber to believe that they cannot trade beyond their existing liquor hours on a big night like the closing ceremony. It is not an absolute. They can apply. Yes, they are using their permits. That is what the permits are there for—for special events. That is absolutely what the permits are established for—applying to extend liquor hours for special events. We know that the closing ceremony of the Commonwealth Games is a special event. We have made that clear. Let us be honest. Let us have the debate by all means. It is an important debate, but let us be clear on the facts and how it actually works.

I do want to pick up on some of the points that other members, including the member for Whitsunday, have raised about other areas of Queensland. We have heard this argument about somehow tourists are not going to come. They are buying tickets. They are booking flights. They are booking accommodation. They are coming. They are not coming here because they know they can drink past 2 am or 3 am or 5 am. They are coming here because of these wonderful events.

Redcliffe has just hosted the Rugby 9s Commonwealth Championships, a two-day event comprising 11 nations and 17 teams, in the lead-up to the Commonwealth Games. The teams were there all week enjoying the hospitality across the peninsula, and not one of those players came up to me and said, 'Excuse me, local member and Attorney-General, I'm furious that we can't drink until 5 am in the morning.' They loved the place. They loved the hospitality of the Redcliffe Leagues Club, Mon Komo Hotel and the many restaurants. I will not start naming restaurants because I will get in trouble for missing some, but they were enjoying the hospitality—

A government member: The Rustic Olive.


Mrs D'ATH: Yes, the Rustic Olive. They loved the hospitality across the area.

The allocations are not being increased for the permits because, given that the games authority provides an automatic extra hour of liquor trading in the Gold Coast safe night out precincts, increasing the number of available permits would undermine our tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy and expose the community to increased risk of alcohol related harm. The existing permit framework appropriately balances the harm minimisation benefits of limiting late-night liquor service with providing licensees the opportunity for temporary late-night liquor service hours to cater for legitimate special occasions.

Under the bill the application fee for these permits will be waived for licensees in the Gold Coast SNPs. The arrangements in the bill deliver significant benefits to Queensland's tourism and hospitality sectors by reducing the financial and administrative burden associated with accessing additional post midnight liquor service hours. I think it was the member for Toowoomba South—and I stand to be corrected—who talked about the Zoo having to close at midnight. Those are commercial decisions to not trade beyond midnight. They can apply to alter their permanent liquor hours beyond midnight. That is a business decision. It has nothing to do with any restrictions in relation to the Commonwealth Games.

I want to echo the words of the former member for Southern Downs, who said when he wandered down the streets of Townsville at five in the morning for a walk and saw people stumbling out and passed out on the footpaths of nightclubs that that is not the message we want to send. We want all of our tourists remembering that we have a beautiful vibrant state night-life but it is a safe one as well. We want everyone—families, seniors and people of all ages—to enjoy the Commonwealth Games. That is what they will do and this law supports that.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.52 pm): I want to address some of the matters raised in the House this afternoon. Some of the comments from the government side of the House are disgraceful. For the member for Stretton to suggest that members on this side of the House are not enthusiastic about the games is an absolute nonsense.

I want to address some of the issues raised in the bill. We just heard the member for Redcliffe saying that venues can apply for one of their six special event permits. She is right: they can apply. But I have members of the Southport Precinct Liquor Accord who have venues in the Southport precinct who have applied, and they are still waiting for the department of liquor licensing to get back to them. When they get back to them they ask questions and then they ask more questions and then they ask more questions. I would suggest to the House that the offer of special event permits for venues outside of Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise may be somewhat disingenuous, because there are venues that are applying for permits and they are not finding a very cooperative response at the other end. I would ask the government to look into that.

One venue in Southport—and I am not sure whether this one has applied or not—Club Southport, the old trades and labour club of Southport, has just spend \$3 million renovating their club in anticipation of the extra business and the opportunities that will come from the Commonwealth Games. The renovation is absolutely stellar, but are they able to trade on the same basis as Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach? No, they are not. Where is the games village? Right in the middle of Southport. Where is the aquatic centre? Right in the middle of Southport. Where is the hockey centre? It is in Southport. Every night for 12 days there will be some 10,000 people pouring out of the new Gold Coast Aquatic Centre into the Southport precinct late at night.

I was at the Australian swimming titles last week and we all poured out at about 10.30 at night. It was a magnificent event, and I have to congratulate the organisers of that event. The stadium was sensational. The atmosphere was brilliant. There was no bad seat in the House. The planning and hard work that has gone into preparing for the games has been outstanding, but how disappointing to pour out of the venue to find everything is shut. How are those 120,000-odd people who will pour out of that venue each night in Southport going to feel when everything is shut? We have the new Chinatown. Are they allowed to extend their trading hours? No, they are going to have to tell people to go to Surfers Paradise or Broadbeach.

What we have from a government that is accusing us of lacking in enthusiasm is rules and regulations. Here we are just 28 days out from the games—this should have been sorted out a year or so ago—debating trading hours for venues on the Gold Coast. I am enthusiastic because this is the biggest party—the biggest event—that Queensland will see this decade and the Gold Coast is excited about it. I have heard all the nonsense in the House that we were not keen about the games and those opposite were responsible for the games. Dare I say anyone who had been in government at the time the suggestion was made would have been enthusiastic about chasing the biggest event and it is simply a case of timing. We embraced it.

I sat in the office of the former deputy premier, Jeff Seeney, as his offsider to oversee the planning of all the venues. What are we hearing from the international Commonwealth Games committee members? They are saying this is the best organised Games that they have ever seen. They have never seen a city in the world where the venues have been so well prepared. Those decisions to bring some of those venues forward, to move the temporary facilities from the Broadwater to Coomera and to build the new, magnificent Coomera Indoor Sports Centre which the northern part of the city needed were decisions that were made by our side of the House when we were in government. I find the comments of the member for Stretton that ‘you don’t care about the games’ and ‘you’re not enthusiastic’ absolutely insulting. I asked him a question which he did not answer, and that was how many tickets he has purchased for the games.

Mr Brown: He said it in his speech.

Mr MOLHOEK: How many did he say because I did not hear what he said?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! We will not have conversations across the chamber. Direct your comments through the chair.


Mr MOLHOEK: I can assure the House that I will be going to an event every single day of the Commonwealth Games. I am excited about it. I have purchased tickets and have been paying them off for the last 18 months so I can take my family, friends and visitors to the city because I am very enthusiastic about the games. I will be taking some of my constituents along as well. I cannot wait to go to the Rugby 7s at Cbus stadium. I cannot wait to see a couple of nights of the swimming and the beach volleyball at the southern end of the coast. As a House, as a parliament, as a government, as an opposition, we have all worked hard for this. I am sure we are all enthusiastic about it. I am a little fed up with these nanny state rules. We have the biggest party this decade and some 1,130-odd venues on the Gold Coast are being precluded from the opportunity of being able to apply for permits, and for those few that are applying to be given such a difficult time I think is inexcusable.

I should turn to the other part of the bill, the main purpose of the bill, and that is the issue of identity-matching services. These are simple, sensible, straightforward proposals which absolutely deserve the support of both sides of the House. We are seeing the world over massive changes in technology. When you walk through Brisbane Airport now, as I have on occasions, the identity-scanning equipment is amazing. You just slide your passport into a device, it takes your photo and it lets you through. I read recently that it is getting to the point where you will not have to scan your passport because the identity-matching services and facial recognition technology are just so good. I have seen some of that technology firsthand in other parts of the world as I have travelled as well. These are sensible changes that are being proposed, and that is why the opposition is also supporting these changes.

I want to talk about some of the great venues in Southport because this is a chance to give Southport a bit of a plug ahead of the games. I mention the evolution of Chinatown in the core of the Southport business precinct. The declaration of the PDA that was made by the previous LNP government allowed for greater development rights in Southport, and it is bearing fruit. We now see some 40,000 people working in the electorate of Southport every day. It is exciting to see the progress that has been made and the growth that is happening.

I am just disappointed that, as we come into the games, people will not get the opportunity to go out and make the most of those evenings. We will be standing at the light rail station saying to them, 'Sorry but there's no point going back that way towards Helensvale because there's nothing's open, and there's no point going the other way down the street into Southport. If you want to get on the light rail, you can go to Surfers or Broadbeach and you might find they have what you're looking for.'

I want to raise one final point in relation to an email I received from a concerned constituent. This is an important point to make because it is my job to stand up for Southport. As the train approaches Helensvale station, an announcement is made which simply says that those travellers wanting to get off the train can catch the tram to Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach but there is no mention of Southport. The suggestion in the email was that this was a deliberate ploy by the government's side of the House. I did write back to them to say that I was sure it was just an unintended omission. I have raised this with G:link which has subsequently raised it with the department of transport, and I have been assured that it will be fixed. I raise it in the House today and I sincerely hope that by the time the games start the announcement will say that the train can be caught to Southport, Surfers or Broadbeach.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.01 pm), in reply: I take the opportunity to thank all members who have made a contribution to this debate. This bill ushers in important legislation that will: facilitate Queensland's participation in identity-matching services made possible under the national facial biometric matching capability; provide a stronger deterrent to those who would harm Queenslanders through the unlawful use of homemade explosives; and boost tourism and hospitality experiences for participants and attendees at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games by granting an additional hour of post midnight liquor trading to licensed premises in the Broadbeach and Surfers Paradise safe night precincts for the duration of the games.

Identity-matching services will revolutionise the way identity verification is undertaken right across our nation. The capability provides all states and territories access to passport, visa and citizenship images, and it will make driver's licence images available through a common facial recognition system hosted by the Commonwealth on behalf of participating state and territory driver licensing agencies. It will help to protect Queenslanders from identity crime, and it will enable police to stay one step ahead of criminals seeking to exploit any weaknesses they detect in Australia's identity-checking processes.

Identity crime affects one in 20 Australians every year at an estimated cost of \$2.2 billion annually. Even on a population pro rata basis, identity crime is costing Queenslanders \$440 million each year. As we know, identity crime is also a key enabler of organised crime and terrorism. People convicted of terrorist offences in Australia have used fake identities to purchase chemicals to manufacture explosives, ammunition and mobile phones to communicate anonymously.

The identity-matching services incorporate two new biometric face-matching services—the face verification service and the face identification service. The face verification service helps to detect and prevent the use of fake or stolen identities, such as stolen drivers' licences with substituted photos, which would not be detected by most current name based checks. It will also help address weaknesses in background-checking regimes and support field based identity checks at major events, like the Commonwealth Games.

The face identification service will help our law enforcement agencies identify unknown people and detect people using multiple fraudulent identities. The face identification service will also assist police to more quickly identify people during and after terrorist incidents or other major crimes in order to help differentiate between whether they are a perpetrator or an innocent victim. The system will also assist to help identify victims of disasters and to locate missing persons.

As I have previously stated, a range of privacy controls and oversight mechanisms will be built into this capability, and participating agencies must have a lawful basis to access the service. Use of the capability will be constrained through formal data-sharing agreements, informed by independent privacy impact assessments. Furthermore, each agency's use of the services will be audited annually and will be subject to public reporting.

In terms of the amendments to the Liquor Act 1992, I want to make one thing very clear: the Queensland government takes seriously its responsibility to provide a safe environment for the athletes, officials and visitors who are expected for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): There is a lot of noise in the chamber. I ask members in the chamber to keep their conversations down or take it outside.

Mr RYAN: As one of the largest public events in the state's history, the Commonwealth Games gives rise to a number of security issues that must be addressed, including the risk of alcohol fuelled violence and public disorder in and around licensed premises. With the largest portion of participants and attendees of the Commonwealth Games expected to gather on the Gold Coast, the party atmosphere of Queensland's own glitter strip will offer plenty of opportunities to celebrate this unique and significant event.

The Palaszczuk government has committed to ensuring that the tourism and hospitality industries are able to maximise the economic opportunities afforded by the Commonwealth Games. At the same time, the government has pledged to address the problem of alcohol fuelled violence in and around licensed premises by implementing the evidence based tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy. Accordingly, this bill reflects the government's approach to striking a balance between these vitally important considerations via the Commonwealth Games Extended Trading Hours Authority. The games authority provides for an automatic additional hour of liquor trading during the 2018 Commonwealth Games for Gold Coast safe night precinct licensees. In conjunction with this, the bill provides for appropriate harm minimisation mechanisms consistent with the objects of the Liquor Act and the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy framework.

I will now take an opportunity to address some of the matters raised by members during this debate. I start by thanking all members who contributed to the debate and for their contribution to the development of this bill. The member for Toowoomba North suggested that there were missed opportunities in relation to the liquor amendments being made for the Commonwealth Games and that the government should have been more receptive to industry suggestions as to liquor trading arrangements. As I have said before, but I will say it again—and the Attorney-General articulated this very well—we want to be very clear that the Palaszczuk government made very deliberate and considered choices as to liquor arrangements for the Commonwealth Games, with the impact on community safety and police resources being primary factors in these determinations. The government intentionally chose not to make any changes to the existing temporary late-night extended hours permit framework.

In 2017, we strengthened this framework, including by reducing the number of permits available from 12 to six in each calendar year. These changes were based on the findings of an interim evaluation report on the operation of the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy, and they were intended to balance the harm minimisation benefits of limiting late-night liquor service with providing licensees with the opportunity to cater for legitimate late-night special occasions. The government considers the existing permit framework represents an appropriate number of opportunities for licensees to engage in very late-night liquor trading, beyond the hours otherwise allowable on a permanent basis, for the period of the Commonwealth Games. Increasing the number of available permits would expose the community to an increased risk of alcohol related harm.

The government also made a deliberate determination to automatically extend an additional hour of liquor trading only to licensees in the Gold Coast safe night precincts. The games authority automatically grants an additional hour of liquor trading, without the need for an application process or the associated fees. Given this, the government determined the games authority should only apply to licensed premises in the Gold Coast safe night precincts, as these areas will become a particular focus for visitors to the games and already have additional safety measures to address the increased risks associated with the sale of alcohol late at night, such as extra policing, extra transport and ID scanning.

An additional hour of liquor trading has not automatically been granted in other areas of the state, as this could considerably elevate the risk of harm. It would mean a significant increase in the number of high-risk sites open throughout the highest risk times of the night without the scrutiny of an application process to assess particular trading circumstances of the licensed premises. I note that the committee in its report did not want to extend the games authority to areas outside the Gold Coast safe night precincts. Page 13 of the committee's report stated—

The committee considers that the anomalies that would result weigh against adding further areas to the extended hours trading.

However, it is important to remember that licensees throughout the state can still access late-night liquor trading by applying for a temporary late-night extended hours permit. These permits can authorise liquor service up until 5 am. There are up to six of these permits available per premises

per year, all of which can be utilised during the games period if a licensee wishes to do so. These applications are subject to scrutiny by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation, including consideration of comments or objections by the Queensland Police Service.

I note particularly the Attorney-General spoke at length about this particular matter. Hearing those opposite during this debate one would think that that opportunity for licensees across the state did not exist. I feel a bit sorry for those members opposite, who were obviously reading from the set points put together by the member for Toowoomba North, for failing to correctly identify that opportunity for licensees to apply for those extra hours trading through the permit scheme. However, it was not a secret at all, and I think it is important to highlight this. This is something which was highlighted during the committee's hearings and it was in the report—the very public report. In fact, it was in an answer to a question asked by a member of the LNP. The answer was provided by David Ford from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. He said—

Any licensee within Queensland is entitled to apply for an extended hours permit and that can last until five am. They can apply for an event and the act is quite specific about the sorts of events and circumstances for which they can apply. The Commonwealth Games would meet those criteria.

He went on to say—

Normally you can have only one a month but, because of the nature of the Commonwealth Games, they could have the whole five or six, depending on how many they have left, in that period. In theory, any one of them could trade until five six times, or five times, during the period of the Commonwealth Games. In practice, for most venues, particularly restaurants, they have no interest in doing that anyway.

It was not a secret; it was there in black and white in a public report in response to a question asked in a public hearing.

As noted during my second reading speech, the approach being taken in relation to liquor arrangements for the Commonwealth Games is supported by the Queensland Police Service, as it provides a 'reasonable balance' between tourism and the impact on policing services. I note particularly the comments from the member for Broadwater that there are more than enough policing resources for the Commonwealth Games. I thank the member for Broadwater for acknowledging the hard work that the Queensland Police Service has put in in preparation for these games.

On the issue of police resources, it is important to highlight that the combined might of the Queensland Police Service will also be supported by the Australian Federal Police and the Defence Force as well as tier 1 private security providers during the Commonwealth Games. When we are referring to police resourcing and responding to the member for Broadwater's comments, this large-scale deployment is in stark contrast to what lies ahead beyond the Commonwealth Games for national security. I think it is an appropriate opportunity, because we are talking about police resources, that we highlight the savage cuts that the LNP government in Canberra is inflicting on the Australian Federal Police.

Reports from just a week ago from the recent Senate estimates have highlighted that the Australian Federal Police budget will face a cut of \$137 million in four years time. This builds on more than 253 Australian Federal Police personnel losing their jobs over the last two years. We see those opposite missing in action when it comes to actually supporting police, when it comes to ensuring that their mates in Canberra are appropriately resourcing the Australian Federal Police. In fact, they are missing in action on this. The members opposite need to step up and call on their mates in Canberra to ensure appropriate funding—

Mr WATTS: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is a point of relevance. I do not think the minister is being relevant to the long title of the bill.

Mr RYAN: Mr Deputy Speaker, on the point of order—I am speaking to the point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Minister, I would just ask you to stick to—

Mr RYAN: On the point of order, I was specifically referring to a comment made by the member for Broadwater about policing resources. I am talking about policing resources.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would ask the minister to stick to the long title of the bill.

Mr RYAN: Those opposite need to step up when it comes to police resourcing and call on their mates to support police right across Australia.

The honourable member for Caloundra raised concerns about the practical, operational use of biometric information, in particular, security and access controls and the use of biometric-matching results as evidence. On the matter of security and access controls, I reiterate that the system does not

create a single database of images. Government images will continue to be controlled by the agencies that own those images. This minimises the risk of any data breaches. The Commonwealth has adopted best practice security and access arrangements in accordance with the government's protective security policy framework and the information security manual. The Commonwealth has also advised that the system will be subjected to independent penetration and vulnerability tests as well as an independent security review by the Australian Signals Directorate. Further, the system will go through the full Information Security Registered Assessors Program certification process, which is the best practice Commonwealth information security assessment.

Concerning the use of biometric matches as evidence, I assure the member for Caloundra and all members of the House that the results produced by the identity-matching services are simply a probability match; they are not intended to be used as conclusive evidence. Queensland identity information can only be shared with an entity with whom Queensland has a participation agreement. This agreement is implemented through system controls.

In terms of the use of the capability by the QPS, I point out that Queensland Police Service staff are already subject to a rigorous statutory framework that governs improper disclosure. Specifically, the Police Service Administration Act provides offences for the unlawful disclosure of information that has come to the officer's knowledge through the exercise or use of any power. Depending on the individual circumstances of the disclosure, the officer may also be dealt with for misconduct in relation to public office or computer hacking under the Criminal Code. Additionally, an authorisation regime will be developed for Queensland Police Service staff access to the identity-matching services. Access to the face identification component of that service will be limited to specific and appropriately trained individuals. Access by these authorised staff will be auditable through the IT system, and any access or disclosure breaches would be dealt with through internal discipline processes or criminal charges, if appropriate.

Regarding the use of results returned by the identity-matching services as evidence of proof of identity, again I assure the member for Caloundra that the results are a probability match and are not intended to be used as definitive evidence of identity. In that context, this capability is just another tool that will enable our police, in combination with other existing tools and methodologies, to more accurately target their investigations.

In combination, the various provisions contained in the bill to amend police legislation, transport legislation, and the Criminal Code are all, first and foremost, aimed at protecting the Queensland community from harm. Again, I thank all members for their contributions to this debate. Collectively, the provisions contained in this bill to amend police legislation, transport legislation and the Criminal Code are about making our community a safer place. This is undeniably the first responsibility of our government, the Palaszczuk government, and we place great importance on it.

Finally, the amendments to the Liquor Act 1992 represent a balanced approach to facilitating a vibrant and safe night-life during the Commonwealth Games without compromising the tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy framework. I again 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 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—

 **Mr WATTS** (4.20 pm): This part of the bill talks about extended trading hours and increased regulatory powers for the period of the Commonwealth Games. I want to make the point that of course we are aware that people from premises all around the state are able to apply to use one of their six late-night permits. That, of course, defies the purpose of having the biggest event that Queensland has ever seen, because people use those permits every year to run their business. An additional one or two may have been something that could have been considered, and I think this is a missed opportunity.

I think also that, in areas where other events are being held away from the coast, to extend the same conditions to those areas as has been extended, particularly if they have a safe night precinct in one of those areas, is also a missed opportunity. These are things that would have been common sense policies and would have allowed people to maximise their opportunities during the games.

We know that the games will attract a lot of people from many countries. Some will only be here for a week, some might be here for two weeks and some might extend their holiday, but we know that when people travel they will have come from all different time zones so I think that the casino, with its extended hours, will be very busy. I think that the premises that have the extra hour will take great advantage of that.

What I am concerned about is the sheer volume of people trying to access the public transport network after leaving events who are simply trying to have a late-night drink. We know that by the time you get out of some of these events and by the time you get onto public transport that window of opportunity is going to be very small. I personally believe that means there will be a lot of funnelling down to these two particular precincts which have additional hours. I think there has been a missed opportunity here.

I understand the minister's approach to this. I am worried about pushing it out onto public areas. Our hardworking police are resourced and have been well trained and prepared for this event, but they will be stretched. Those 690,000 unique visitors means they will have to work hard during that period of time. Having the police look after our streets when some of those people may well have been at a venue that has various security and alcohol distribution management practices in place I think is a missed opportunity. I hope the minister is correct that these businesses and precincts will not be overwhelmed, but I am concerned they may be. I think this is a missed opportunity, particularly for cities that are hosting Commonwealth Games events outside of these precincts and the Gold Coast.

Mr RYAN: We canvassed this matter significantly throughout the debate and in my response, but I want to point out two absurdities with what the member for Toowoomba North has said. The first is his advocacy for the automatic additional hour to be extended to safe night out precincts in other places like Cairns and Townsville, for example, for the period of the games. Those towns only have those games activities for a few days, so it is absurd to say that it should apply across the state in all other licensed venues, and it flies counter to all of the evidence around alcohol fuelled violence and keeping people safe.


Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr RYAN: Of course it stretches police resources. I take the interjection from the Attorney-General. The other absurdity is the suggestion that we have extended trading hours for the casino. It already trades 24 hours a day. I am not sure how you can get more than 24 hours in a day, but that is an additional absurdity. The fact of the matter is that these special permits are for special events. Any licensee in the state can apply for extended trading. That is the appropriate balance that we have in place under our tackling alcohol fuelled violence policy. We are very supportive of it, and that is why we have made the decision that we have in respect of the Commonwealth Games.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 10 to 27, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.26 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. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (4.26 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.

TOW TRUCK AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 85).

Second Reading



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.27 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Firstly, I would like to thank the members of the Transport and Public Works Committee and the members of the former Public Works and Utilities Committee for their time considering the matters contained in this bill. The Transport and Public Works Committee has now delivered its report and recommended that the bill be passed. I thank the chair of the committee, the member for Kurwongbah, and all committee members for their hard work on the inquiry. I would also like to extend my thanks to the committee staff.

This bill addresses three very important issues: firstly, it introduces much needed reforms to the towing industry, particularly regarding private property towing; secondly, it progresses a number of important measures, including road safety measures, required as a result of 17-year-olds transferring back into the youth justice system; and, finally, the bill provides a clear statutory basis for aggregating unpaid tolls and associated image processing fees on demand notices, putting beyond doubt a toll operator's ability to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls with only one administration charge applied.

As was indicated when introduced in February, this bill implements recommendations and matters for consideration outlined in *Independent investigation into the towing industry: removal of vehicles from private property*. I am sure that members are familiar with that report by Mr Michael Forde which was commissioned by the Palaszczuk government and finalised in the second half of 2017. This comprehensive report analysed a complex legal environment and took into account information received from 368 callers to the tow truck hotline, 41 written submissions and meetings with a range of stakeholders. Rarely have we seen an issue garner such community outrage as the practices occurring in the private property towing industry prior to this report.

I can advise that, as of yesterday, more than 500 calls had been made to the tow truck hotline about private property towing alone. Notably, many of these complaints have come from areas within the Clayfield electorate, notably along Racecourse Road, highlighting the lack of action by those opposite on this issue when they were led by the member for Clayfield. This is clearly a genuine issue impacting a lot of real people—property owners or occupiers being frustrated by motorists parking on their property unauthorised and also motorists being charged excessive amounts to recover their vehicle after it has been removed.

There are also stories of people turning up with no idea of where their car was taken, leaving them stranded and feeling unsafe and very distressed. By implementing the recommendations in the report, this bill balances the competing interests of property occupiers and motorists. Property occupiers can still remove unauthorised vehicles from their property and motorists are not exploited.

Perhaps the most recurring complaint relating to private property towing was excessive charging. The investigation revealed 74.4 per cent of complainants were charged more than \$500 to regain their vehicle, with at least one report of a person being charged \$920. As a result, a significant protection for motorists in this bill is the capping of private property towing charges and providing clarity around when a motorist cannot be charged.

Firstly, the vehicle is to be released with no charge if the owner returns to the property and agrees to remove the vehicle before it is fully loaded and secured onto the tow truck. Secondly, if the vehicle has been loaded and secured onto the tow truck when the motorist returns, a \$150 on-site release charge will apply, ensuring the vehicle is released before being towed. Otherwise, a standard tow will be capped at \$250 which includes three days storage at the holding yard. After the initial three days, storage charges are capped at \$25 per day. No other charges are able to be charged for a standard tow. There have also been reports of aggressive behaviour from some tow truck drivers towards motorists, and privacy concerns raised that tow truck operators might inappropriately use motorists' personal information in the future, when it has only been provided for the purpose of recovering a vehicle.

This bill deals with these issues by introducing tow truck licensing, accreditation and conduct requirements, including provisions prohibiting the disclosure of personal information relating to the towing or release of a private property motor vehicle. The licensing, accreditation and conduct

requirements for private property towing are consistent with the requirements that already apply to other areas of the tow truck industry. Importantly, licensing and accreditation will mean only 'appropriate' persons who have undergone a thorough criminal history check will be able to provide private property towing services, and there will be significant penalties applied if they step out of line.

But the bill has been drafted with an understanding of the practical realities of private property parking and towing. As I mentioned when the bill was reintroduced, in line with the recommendations in Mr Michael Forde's report, this bill will not regulate signage. Regulating signage for private property parking would affect private property owners and occupiers' common law rights and the legal basis for removing vehicles from private property. There is no general right to park on another person's property, and this bill does not deny property owners and occupiers' legitimate rights to remove unauthorised vehicles just because a regulated sign has not been installed.

Regulating signs could also lead to these businesses installing signs to pre-empt the possibility they may have to remove a vehicle in the future, imposing unnecessary costs and inconvenience for them, as well as potentially unnecessarily restricting parking for motorists. Instead, guidelines will be published on the Department of Transport and Main Roads website tomorrow to assist property occupiers to ensure their signage provides motorists with clear conditions for parking and the consequences for breaching these conditions. The guidelines will cover: sign positioning, size, design, and content such as parking conditions, consequences of noncompliance, towing operator details and towing costs.

Another common story heard throughout the investigation was of people returning to where they had parked their vehicle with no idea where it had been taken. This bill will therefore ensure tow truck licence holders must notify the police as soon as practicable after the vehicle is towed, helping motorists to locate their vehicle as soon as possible. In addition, the bill does not impose maximum towing distances. The evidence from the independent investigation is that 97 per cent of vehicles were towed less than 25 kilometres, with 90 per cent being towed less than 10 kilometres.

As tow truck holding yards must comply with certain standards including local government planning requirements, mandating maximum towing distances could limit the ability for property occupiers to remove unauthorised vehicles if there is no holding yard within the maximum distance. Instead of maximum towing distances, this bill requires motor vehicles to be towed to the nearest holding yard for the tow truck licensee. The maximum penalty for noncompliance is \$2,523 and, coupled with capped towing charges, there is little incentive for tow truck operators to tow a vehicle further than necessary as extra costs for them in time and petrol would erode any of their profit.

In essence, this bill will put rigour and enforceability around who can tow a vehicle from private property, their conduct and what they can charge, with significant penalties for those who do not comply. Consequently, this bill aims to promote a professional approach from industry, weeding out the unscrupulous operators for a fairer outcome for all.

Turning now to the other amendments in the bill. The Palaszczuk government has been progressing wide-sweeping reforms to our youth justice system. On 12 February this year one of those reforms saw 17-year-olds transitioned out of the adult justice system and included in the youth justice system. In the interests of road safety, however, this bill will amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 to ensure that mandatory driver's licence disqualifications will continue to apply to 17-year-olds who commit serious traffic offences, including drink driving, drug driving and disqualified driving.

In addition, the bill amends the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 to ensure SPER can enforce unpaid infringement notices issued to 17-year-olds for demerit point offences. This will mean that demerit points will continue to apply to 17-year-olds and, again, this is an important road safety measure.


This government's fundamental principle is that 17-year-olds are to be treated as children. So a sound rationale is required for making them subject to the enforceability of infringement notices or mandatory disqualifications as if they were adults. This rationale is road safety. At 17 years of age, a person becomes eligible to obtain a P1 provisional driver's licence which authorises them to drive without supervision. P1 licence holders are six times more likely to be killed driving than learners, and twice as likely to be killed as other drivers.

While the Palaszczuk government's primary focus is to improve education and awareness for these drivers, compliance and enforcement is also a vital component. The threat of fines, licence loss through demerit points and driver's licence disqualification are key tools to deter drivers from committing traffic offences and engaging in unsafe driving behaviour.

The changes outlined in this bill will ensure that 17-year-olds can continue to be held accountable for their behaviour on the road. Amendments in the bill will also allow SPER to continue to enforce any debts owed by 17-year-olds who were registered with SPER prior to 17-year-olds transitioning to the youth justice system.

The bill also amends the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 to provide a clear statutory basis for demand notice aggregation when a toll road operator aggregates unpaid tolls and associated image processing fees on demand notices. The amendments put beyond doubt a toll road operator's ability to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls with only one administration charge, and ensure consistency of this approach on both state toll roads and local government tollways.

The current bill reflects the former Public Works and Utilities Committee's recommendation with regards to tolling demand notices. Demand notice aggregation will result in a significant decrease in the number of demand notices issued and a reduction in the value of fees passed on to toll road users, in other words motorists. Today is a very important day for those who have been victim to any of the dodgy and dishonest practices that have plagued private property towing in this state for years. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.39 pm): I rise as the shadow minister for transport and main roads to address the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill introduced into the parliament on 15 February this year by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and considered by the Transport and Public Works Committee. This committee tabled its report on 2 March 2018 and recommended that the bill be passed.

It is worth noting that this bill is substantially the same as a previous bill that had been introduced into this House on 22 August last year. This bill was referred to the former parliamentary Public Works and Utilities Committee, which tabled its report on 4 October with a recommendation that the bill be passed with just one amendment relating to limiting administrative charges for multiple deferred toll amounts. In view of the above, I want to thank current and previous committee members for their deliberations in seeking to provide the regulatory framework for addressing the disturbing issues within the tow truck industry.

Many members in this House have received disturbing reports about the behaviour of certain tow truck companies around the state and indeed legislation to tidy up this important industry was well overdue, and that was acknowledged on this side of the chamber as well. To quote a well used phrase by the Deputy Premier, let me be perfectly clear: I have major concerns about the ability of the current Minister for Transport and Main Roads in many aspects of his portfolio—and why wouldn't I?—but the bill before the House of which he has carriage will be supported in the interests of Queenslanders.

My role as the shadow minister is to conduct myself in a responsible way and to hold the minister to account in his portfolio. It is not my intention nor that of my fellow colleagues on this side of the chamber to oppose merely for the sake opposing. If a bill or actions make sense, we will support them. Such is the case here.

There are certain aspects of the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that I would like to make comment on as part of my contribution to this debate. I also want to acknowledge the work undertaken by officers of the transport and main roads and treasury departments and their contribution to this bill. Many of these issues causing such community concern had fallen between the cracks but, regrettably, they had serious consequences for consumers.

I refer more specifically to the unsavoury practices associated with the removal of vehicles parked on private property which fell outside the legislation. These practices included intimidating behaviour, excessive towing and distance related charges and outrageous fees—in some cases, extremely absurd fees for releasing a towed vehicle. As stated earlier, some of these practices caused extreme angst in the community and the tow truck industry, like all industries, was tainted by the terrible actions of a few.

Normally when speaking on bills one of the things that one zeros in on straightaway when one reads the explanatory notes is the section on consultation. Despite the harking from the government, I have to say that its level of consultation in many bills is sadly woeful and inadequate. In the interests of a little bit of bipartisanship, I know that the minister is struggling in his portfolio—the fourth one in a matter of 12 months—so I will give him a bit of a break. I think that the level of consultation in this particular—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr MINNIKIN: I take the interjection: all-round, absolutely. I believe that the level of consultation with this bill has been sound. I stand to be corrected, because I was going to read from the explanatory notes that there had been around 368 records of complaints. I believe on the complaint odometer it is

now up to over 500 according to the minister's second reading speech in bringing on this debate. The investigation considered over 500 records of complaints and feedback received from the hotline. At the time when these explanatory notes were released there were 41 written submissions and feedback provided by a range of stakeholders during meetings. That comes as absolutely no surprise given the unsavoury way that the tow truck industry was heading.

Further contributing to the situation was the confusion and lack of consistency of private property signage which often made it difficult for consumers to decide whether or not a car was legally parked. It was a huge issue. We need consistent signage so that motorists clearly understand the situation and the ramifications, just like pool signage. Enforcement was also complicated due to some of these actions being either outside existing legislation or the uncertainty over clear lines of responsibility for officers of different agencies.

It is important to note that between 2015 and 2017 the LNP repeatedly raised these issues in the media, calling on the Labor government to act before the situation got completely way out of hand. In fact, we need a big gold star for my colleague the member for Glass House. The member for Glass House even prepared a private member's bill to help provide the legislative framework that was needed to address this situation.

Finally, in 2017, after years of inaction and hundreds of complaints, the Labor government was obliged to act. On 14 May 2017 it announced that an independent investigation would be conducted by former District Court judge Michael Forde, who was tasked with examining these practices and recommending ways to regulate fees for towing and the storing of cars. In this regard, I want to acknowledge the fine work undertaken by Michael Forde and note the quality of his recommendations, which the government accepted in full. It was abundantly clear to all, even Labor, that legislation was needed to prevent many of the unsavoury activities being perpetrated by the tow truck industry. Furthermore, the industry itself could benefit through the introduction of a range of measures designed to improve its practices and accountability.

As outlined in the explanatory notes, amongst other things, the bill seeks to amend the following legislation for particular purposes: the Tow Truck Act in terms of regulating various forms of towing including breakdown, trade towing, compliance towing and of course removing vehicles from private property that is presently not covered by the regulatory framework; the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 and the Youth Justice Act 1992 to ensure that our young drivers very importantly continue to be accountable for their driving behaviour by ensuring that they are subject to mandatory disqualification periods for serious driving offences, liable to enforcement action with the State Penalties Enforcement Registry for unpaid penalty infringement notices, for demerit offences and subject to the demerit points scheme; and, finally, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 to provide toll operators and local government tollway operators with a clear statutory basis for aggregating unpaid bills.

This is by far one of the most important amendments in the bill because there have been troubles with this issue for many years. The associated image-processing fees, for example, on demand notices is a huge issue, thereby putting beyond all doubt a toll operator's ability to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls with only one administrative charge.

This last change is particularly relevant at this time, bearing in mind the recent Auditor-General's report of 22 February of this year that raised the alarm about the ever-increasing amount of revenue that is not being recovered by this government from outstanding fines. In fact, it is concerning that the Auditor-General identified the extent of the state's growing pool of unpaid funds and that debt has risen to a staggering \$1.2 billion. Just imagine how many extra kilometres of road, improvements to bridges, level crossings and intersection upgrades could be delivered for the state with this \$1.2 billion. Granted, it is still—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The simple fact is that the member for Chatsworth has strayed way off the bill. He is not speaking at all to the provisions within this bill, and I ask him to come back to the matter before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Chatsworth, keep your comments to the long title of the bill if you could please.

Mr MINNIKIN: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. This area is one that needs to be addressed as a separate issue, but it is outside the long title of the bill before the House. I again would urge the minister to absolutely do everything in his power as a member of cabinet to address the burgeoning SPER debt rate of \$1.2 billion.

Therefore, any measures that are designed to make it easier and more convenient for motorists to pay their fines and encourage compliance is indeed welcome. It can only be hoped that this lazy and totally inept Labor government manages to come up with some fresh debt recovery mechanisms for dealing with what is an extremely worrying problem in extremely worrying times for an extremely worried minister.

Of course, once these legislative amendments that clarify and codify the practices that were the source of so many consumer complaints have been passed, the real test then becomes one of compliance. There is little point in having legislation for dealing with a problem without the attendant enforcement follow-up to encourage compliance—something the Labor government is not particularly strong on among a suite of things. I would like to be convinced that the government will ensure that there is a robust compliance plan put in place to effectively manage this area but, based on past performance, I have my reservations. Why would I not? This minister is more intent on brushing up the grey areas of ministerial accountability as it pertains to the proper use of ministerial email accounts.


In addition to penalties and relevant operator accreditation, we need to be confident that a maximum fee for a standard property tow applies, direct routes to the nearest holding yard are taken, a simple on-site release procedure is in place and evidence of the occupier's approval is held prior to a tow being undertaken. Importantly, notifying the Queensland Police Service as soon as possible of any vehicle's removal from private property needs to be an essential feature that is given due priority.

Furthermore, an information campaign for the operators as well as consumers needs to be part of the overall strategy to ensure that all parties understand their rights as well as responsibilities. I stress that this information campaign needs to be more than typical Labor window-dressing, as there is a culture that has been propped up about the tow truck industry.

From the consumers' point of view, these measures will go a long way to giving them some confidence that they will be treated fairly should their vehicle be towed from private property. As a result of these amendments and an appropriate enforcement regime, we can reasonably look forward to seeing a significant decline in consumer complaints. However, where they arise, it is expected that the Department of Transport and Main Roads inspectors will both investigate and report via their website on the nature of the complaint as well as the outcome of the investigation.

It is recognised that, in a modern community where motor vehicles are an integral part of the overall transport task, tow trucks will inevitably play a role. It is certainly hoped that the proposed legislative amendments, along with the subsequent compliance measures, provide an effective framework to protect consumers from the unscrupulous practices that we have seen for many years in this industry. Importantly, this is a much needed wake-up call for those tow truck operators who choose to wreak havoc in the community. I encourage all tow truck operators to respect these changes and use them to improve standards across the industry.

This is a fairly uncontroversial bill. We do not believe in opposing just to score cheap political points. The people of Queensland are tired of this old, dated approach. If proposed legislation makes sense, if it is in the best interests of Queenslanders, it should be supported. This bill addresses the majority of the concerns identified by stakeholders, including consumers, property owners and the tow truck industry at large. As such, the bill is supported by this side of the chamber.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.53 pm): I rise to also make a contribution to the debate on the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, on which the Transport and Public Works Committee, which I chair, has reported to the House. This bill was also reported on in the 55th Parliament by the previous committee that I chaired, the Public Works and Utilities Committee.

After many complaints about operators ripping off consumers, this bill seeks to make changes to the tow truck industry. As well, it tidies up some issues with SPER, the Youth Justice Act and toll charges. This bill addresses the issue of unlicensed operators and provides that private property towing may be performed only in regulated areas by drivers and assistants who have the necessary certificates and are using licensed tow trucks. The bill also seeks to increase penalties for those operators who operate unlicensed. It sets maximum charges for private property towing and requires towing operators to have towing consent, demonstrating an arrangement with the occupier to remove vehicles from a property.

The bill makes amendments to the Youth Justice Act and SPER to ensure that young drivers aged 17 years will continue to be held accountable for bad driving behaviour by ensuring that they are subject to mandatory disqualification periods for serious driving offences, be liable to enforcement

action by the State Penalties Enforcement Registry for unpaid penalty infringement notices for demerit point offences, and be subject to the demerit points scheme. Finally, the bill provides toll road and local government toll operators with a way to aggregate administrative fees on unpaid demand notices so that the operator will be able to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls with only one administration fee.

This bill is substantially the same as the bill that the former committee agreed should be passed in the 55th Parliament but which lapsed. The changes in this bill are minor. The commencement date has been amended. Some cross-references have been corrected. A reference to a repealed act has been updated. A transitional provision has been updated. There are some minor changes about which tow truck offences need to be dealt with by a court versus those that are dealt with by infringement notices.

With regard to the demand notice aggregation recommended by the former committee, this bill is amended to put beyond doubt the requirements for toll road operators issuing aggregated demand notices to limit administration charges to one per notice as per the previous committee's recommendation that was made on the lapsed bill.

This bill will implement the carefully considered recommendations, which have been mentioned, that were made by former District Court judge Mr Michael Forde following the independent investigation that he headed into the towing industry. His report made 22 recommendations to reform the towing industry for the removal of vehicles from private property and outlined eight matters for consideration regarding broader issues relating to tow truck legislation.

I note in the statement of reservation by the member for Southport in the report made by the previous committee that he was disappointed that the bill does not impose maximum towing distances. Michael Forde's report recommended against that, as doing so could leave property occupiers with no options for the removal of unauthorised vehicles if there are no holding yards within that imposed distance.

However, to assist motorists, this bill requires vehicles towed from private properties to be taken by the most direct route to the towing operator's nearest holding yard, thereby limiting the inconvenience for motorists when recovering their vehicles. Once a vehicle has been towed, the towing operator must also notify the police as soon as practicable, reducing driver confusion about the location of towed vehicles. I think it would be smart business for an operator to be minimising their towing distances and the report agreed with that, stating that 'by capping the towing fee there would be little incentive for vehicles to be moved long distances as it would limit the work that could be undertaken by the tow truck'.


The member also had a bit of a bleat about regulating car park signage, which this bill does not propose to do. Once again, this is consistent with the independent investigation into the towing industry report, which did not consider it appropriate to regulate signs on private property given that parking on private property is not a regulated matter. The investigation suggested that guidelines be developed to promote visible, clear, comprehensive and consistent signage. Guidelines would also support the education of motorists, occupiers and towing operators about private property towing, which may alleviate the potential for conflict.

The department advised the former committee that it proposes to develop guidelines in line with the investigation's recommendation. I note the contribution by the member for Chatsworth. He acknowledged how great the independent report was. Maybe he could counsel the member for Southport on why we did not make those changes. I will not go on about that bit in the statement of reservation about the LNP Nicholls government, because I think the people of Queensland made a decision on that one.

On 12 February 2018, amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 raised the age of an adult within the criminal justice system to 18 years. When that happened, 17-year-olds became treated as children, which impacted on disqualifications and demerit points for drivers under 18. This bill will fix that by changing the State Penalties Enforcement Act so that 17-year-olds will once again be held accountable for their behaviour on our roads.

This bill will help operators to simplify aggregate demand notices in the following ways: firstly, it will separate the image processing fee for each unpaid toll from the administration charge on the demand notice; it will allow for more than one unpaid toll to be included on a demand notice; it will only allow one administration charge per notice; and, finally, it will enable demand notices to include unpaid tolls from both state and local government toll roads.

Our committee decided unanimously in our report that this bill should be passed. Deliberations were easy as the work was mostly done during the last term. That aside, I want to thank the members for Hervey Bay, Callide, Traeger, Aspley and Bundamba for working with me to get this report done in a very short time frame. It would also be remiss of me if I did not give thanks to our new secretariat staff, Deb, Margaret, Lyn and Mishelle, for their hard work in researching and preparing the report, as well as Kate and Rachelle for their work in the last parliament on the lapsed bill. This is good legislation that will make positive changes and I am proud to recommend it to the House.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I am a member of the Transport and Public Works Committee. I note that the member for Kurwongbah was the chair of the committee that reported on the Tow Truck (Towing from Private Property) Amendment Bill 2017 which lapsed. This report was tabled in a short time frame. Even though most of the work was done last year, it took a bit of work to get up to speed on this legislation. On 21 February the committee received a public briefing from the Department of Transport and Main Roads and Queensland Treasury. I thank them for their input.

The objectives of the bill are to introduce reforms to the towing industry in respect of private property towing in South-East Queensland; ensure young drivers aged 17 continue to be accountable for their driving misbehaviour; provide arrangements to ensure any debts registered with the State Penalty Enforcement Register can be enforced when 17-year-olds are transferred out of the adult justice system; provide state and local government toll road operators with the flexibility to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls and associated image processing fees with one administration charge applied to that notice.

In Hervey Bay a lot of people move around and they do not always change their name and address on their driver's licence or organise to redirect their mail to a new address and as a result sometimes mail goes out to a wrong address and is not returned to the SPER office. As a result people may end up with massive bills from SPER. I have seen one for nearly \$9,000. The person did not realise that it was \$9,000 because the occupants of the premises where he was renting previously never bothered to forward his mail.

There are some worrying complications in this area. When someone comes to my electorate office with a bill for a couple of thousand dollars it freaks them out. We need to look into that situation. A person's email address could be added to a driver's licence so that fines could be emailed straight to that address. Technology is changing all the time. At the end of the day if the fine could be emailed through there would not be so many stuff-ups and the person would not be able to deny that they got the email.

This bill was initiated by the LNP in a private member's bill introduced by the member for Glass House, Andrew Powell. I thank him for bringing that bill to the House. The bill before us today contains some changes to that bill. Some in the tow truck industry, but not all, have worked in the past to profiteer from their trickery and unsavoury practices. I have heard stories of people coming down to Brisbane from Hervey Bay, parking where there is no signage and then having their vehicle towed away. For many people from out of town it is a daunting experience. It is very difficult for them. They think it is pretty unfair to not have any signage on these private car parks. There should be signage to say it is a private car park and that if you park there your car will be towed away.

The member for Surfers Paradise put in a statement of reservation to the committee's report, part of which states—

The government also has refused to act on signage standards to set a minimum threshold to ensure the person in control of a car park and the tow truck licence holder are accountable to these standards.

In the committee briefing I asked the department representative about that situation. The answer was—


The legislation does not mandate the requirement for signage. However, the Department of Transport and Main Roads will be providing a signage guideline. The point I make is that the legislation is about regulating the towing industry and not about regulating the parking industry. In those cases we would expect those private property owners and businesses to provide appropriate signage. We will be providing guidance as part of an overall communications package to make sure they are clear about what they are required to provide.

I have had a number of complaints from people who have driven to Brisbane, parked somewhere where there is no signage and their car has been towed 25 kilometres away. Surely we can do something for those people. Some of them are elderly people and have driven down here for medical purposes. They come out from seeing a doctor to find that their car is not in the car park. We need to have a good look at that.

In relation to the toll roads, there are two types of users. There are those who have accounts with go via, and their details are kept, and there are casual users. Under the legislation go via is entitled to go to the registration database and get information on casual users.

That is one of the problems when people shift around. Sometimes up to 400 people move in and out of Hervey Bay in a month, which gives an idea of how transient the population can be in seaside areas. I would really like to know how often SPER checks the addresses on drivers' licences, because some people do have a change of address after receiving a SPER fine. That is why I asked the question about email addresses. There is a privacy issue with the use of emails, although I am not quite sure what it is.

We need to look to modern-day technology to give people a fair go. I have seen how some fines have accumulated and it can be unbelievable. It is not fair on a lot of people. The original fine might have been only \$20, but after 12 months it can be up to \$1,000. We need to see how we can avoid some of those situations, especially for elderly people. Hervey Bay is a retirement village and we have to ensure that we look after the pensioners.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.10 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This was a red-hot topic. Many constituents came to see me to tell their stories, such as how they took a simple trip into the Valley for shopping but when they came back, as we have heard from a few previous speakers, they found their car gone or on the tow truck ready to go. I also have constituents who are towies and they have told me that they support the bill because they want the cowboys out of the industry. They want to ensure that we are tough on them and are weeding out this sort of thing.

I was fortunate to attend the semifinal win by the Bandits and chat to Mark Ready. For those who do not know, Mark Ready is the CEO of the Brisbane Bandits. I seek the indulgence of the House for a moment to go off track. Three times in the row, the Brisbane Bandits have won the national baseball league, which is a tremendous effort. At the moment, it is one of the most successful teams in Queensland. We hosted the Bandits at parliament. It was fantastic to have the lads here.

Ms Pease: And the girls.

Mr BROWN: And the girls.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Capalaba, I bring you back to the long title of the bill.

Mr BROWN: I think there was some indulgence from the other side. I congratulate the Brisbane Bandits on their third consecutive win.

To support the private property towing reforms, the bill introduces new penalties, some of which will apply to existing offences as well as to private property related matters. The most significant penalty increases relate to operating an unlicensed tow truck and driving or assisting with the use of a tow truck without proper accreditation. Currently in Queensland, operating an unlicensed tow truck carries a maximum penalty of \$5,046. This legislation more than triples that penalty to over \$20,000. Similarly, the current maximum penalty for driving a tow truck without accreditation is \$5,046. The legislation increases the penalty to more than \$7,500.


These penalties are consistent with similar offences in the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994. The changes to the penalties aim to provide significant disincentives from offending and ensure that there is no profit for anyone who operates outside the law. This is an important approach as we know that, when there are sufficient measures to dissuade individuals from offending, the community will have confidence in the industry.

As has been touched on by many speakers, the bill seeks to amend the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 to provide a clear statutory basis for aggregating unpaid tolls and associated image processing fees on demand notices. These changes will put beyond doubt a toll road operator's ability to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls with only one administration charge and will, in fact, require it.

Demand notice aggregation addresses the potential for the rapid accumulation of toll related debt. Historically, toll road operators would issue individual demand notices for each of the unpaid tolls, with an administration fee on each of those notices. It is easy to see how that could quickly escalate for drivers who frequently use the toll roads.

The bill facilitates the demand notice aggregation by addressing four major elements. The first element separates the image processing for each unpaid toll from the administration charge on the demand notice. The second element allows for more than one unpaid toll to be included on the demand notice. The third element requires only one administration charge per notice and the fourth element enables the demand notice to include unpaid tolls from both state and local government toll roads.

The new demand notice aggregation process will streamline toll road operators' processes and minimise the administration charge for motorists while maintaining the integrity of enforcement procedures. Transurban Queensland estimates that demand notice aggregation will result in up to 1.7 million fewer demand notices being issued each year and a reduction of up to \$36 million per year in fees being passed on to motorists—money that can be spent in our economy. This is another example of the Palaszczuk government listening to the community and acting in the best interests of our community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.16 pm): I rise to address the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. It is probably best that I start where I started on 8 August 2017, when we introduced the LNP private member's bill titled Tow Truck (Towing from Private Property) Amendment Bill. I think all members in this House would agree that the response was required because a number of unscrupulous operators were removing private vehicles from private property and, in some cases, towing them excessive distances and, in nearly all cases, charging exorbitant prices. That happened because that area of towing was not regulated in the same way that, for example, towing from an accident has been regulated for many years through the acts we are amending in the bill before the House today.

Unfortunately, last year we saw a classic example of the Palaszczuk Labor government mark I: a government that dithered, a government that reviewed and a government that procrastinated. We had an issue that was clearly burning in the community but that was relatively simple to fix. We had a minister who did nothing for some time, before finally calling for a review and instigating the Forde investigation. That investigation took three months, from May to August. On 8 August we helped them out by introducing into this House a bill. A fortnight later, the minister finally submitted the government's response and the government's bill.

However, because the minister did not want it shown that the LNP's bill was far superior to his own, rather cheekily he convinced the leader of government business to ensure that the committee responsible for reviewing the bills was given a report-back date of 5 October for the ALP bill and a report-back date of 8 February for the LNP bill. Despite all the efforts of the LNP deputy chair of that committee, the member for Southport, there was no swaying the chair, the member for Kurwongbah as the electorate is now known, to convince the government to allow the committee to look at the two bills cognately.

It was quite clear that the minister was ashamed that the LNP's bill was far superior and did not want the committee to consider the bills at the same time, because that would have been clear to everyone who considered them. Therefore, we had the farcical situation where the committee was to report back to the House on the ALP bill by 4 October and it did not even look at the LNP's bill before the House rose for the election late last year.

Mr Bailey: Nonsense.

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the minister. He says that it is nonsense. It is not. The Palaszczuk Labor government's bill continues to be deficient in two areas. We even helped him out. When the former committee reported on the bill last year, our then deputy chair, the member for Southport, provided a response for the government's consideration. He pointed out where the legislation was deficient. He said—

The Palaszczuk Labor Government's bill also does not act on a number of significant concerns raised by the community, namely car park signage and maximum towing distances.

It did not. The LNP's bill did, but Labor's bill did not, and this current bill still does not. Despite the fact that they have had an additional number of months since the election to sort this out, they have chosen not to fix this up.

I refer to some of the commentary on the original bill particularly with regard to signage. We actually heard not just from the community, but from the Queensland Law Society. They were very specific in saying that there should be an obligation placed on tow truck drivers not to tow a car from a relevant car park unless the required signage is present at the time the car is towed. It is not just the LNP saying this. It is not just the community saying this. The Queensland Law Society is saying that a relevant car park must have the required signage present at the time the car is towed.

The response from the department and therefore the government was that this is pretty much too hard for us, we cannot solve this and it is beyond our capacity to solve. The response from DTMR to the committee at the time was—

... the bill covers the removal of vehicles from private property, the towing of vehicles. It does not address the issue of parking on private property. That issue is a complex area of common law in many ways.

There are possible scenarios where people park on private property. If you were to regulate the actual parking on private property, the reach would be quite significant.

It was put in the too-hard basket. The government squibbed it on one of the community's key concerns—that was signage on private property. Contrary to this, the LNP actually made the effort in terms of our bill of consulting with the Queensland Law Society before we tabled the bill in the House. I refer to my introductory speech of 8 August. I stated—

The Queensland Law Society was consulted on the draft of this bill. While raising issues of clarification on provisions contained in the bill, correspondence from the Queensland Law Society to the office of the Leader of the Opposition was broadly supportive of the proposed amendments, stating—

The Society has previously advocated for standards to be imposed on tow truck drivers and for the introduction of set fees that represent the real cost of towing a car, thereby removing financial incentives for nefarious activity. Such fees should be comparable to fees to which proper contractors charge for removal from clear ways.

Unlike with the Labor bill, we spoke to the Queensland Law Society. We heard what they were saying around things like signage. We included it in our bill. We reminded the government when it came time to consider their bill in committee that it was deficient in that area and they still have not addressed it with this bill.

They have not looked at the issue of maximum towing distances either. I recall this quite clearly because I actually participated in the committee's consideration of this issue. A number of people were quite concerned about this. Some of the worst situations we heard about in the committee were not just that a vehicle was towed and that the fees to release it from the impounding yard at the tow truck premises were steep, but the fact that the premises were so far removed from where the vehicle was actually taken or from where the owner of that vehicle lived. We had situations where cars were being towed from the inner city and ending up in Logan or in North Lakes. One of the key concerns of the community was the maximum towing distance.

I have heard others say that the issue may be that there may not be a compound for that company within a given area. What the government has chosen to do is put a maximum fee on it thereby saying that economics will judge—that is, the company is not going to tow a car too far because the cost of the fuel for towing it too far means the fee would not be recovered. I am sorry, but I do not think that cuts it. The committee report states—


The department advised that while the bill proposes to limit where vehicles may be towed by requiring that a vehicle removed from private property may only be taken to the nearest holding yard of the tow truck licensee, by the most direct route, it does not propose to impose a maximum distance that vehicles may be towed ...

Again, that is a deficiency that was addressed in the LNP's bill. The minister has had every opportunity now to address that and has not. Whilst there is, as the shadow minister said, plenty in this bill that the LNP is comfortable supporting, the fact is that those two key areas that were in the LNP bill that was punted into the long grass by a minister who did not want to be shown up by handing in the LNP's homework—albeit a bill that is inferior to the LNP's homework—could not be reported on by the committee.

In the time remaining I want to turn briefly to the other aspects contained in the bill—that is, the provisions dealing with youth driving offences. The bill includes amendments to the Youth Justice Act 1992 and the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 to include 17-year-old drivers. I must reflect that my eldest son is about to turn 17. He is only a matter of months away from getting his P-plates. I hope if he does the wrong thing that you throw the book at him. We have taught him to drive the right way and to abide by the law, but if he is going to learn the hard way then make sure he does and he gets fined accordingly. Everyone would see this change as eminently sensible and therefore support it.

The other aspect of the bill is around tolling demand notices. The amendment proposed in the 2017 bill and again in this bill provides toll road operators with the flexibility to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls, streamlining the operators' processes and minimising administration fees for motorists while maintaining the integrity of the enforcement procedures. Again, that is eminently sensible. The idea of compounding fees on multiple notices is not what we should be doing with people who owe these kinds of debts. By consolidating them, and therefore consolidating the administration fees and minimising those fees, it is a far more sensible outcome.

I echo the words of the shadow minister that SPER continues to be an area where more work is needed. There are some ridiculous situations. I have been dealing with a number in my former capacity as the shadow minister for transport and main roads. I would ask the government to seriously look at SPER and make sure we sort out some of those worst instances of its implementation and make sure that we get a far fairer outcome for all Queenslanders.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Bill 2018. One of the key issues this bill seeks to address is the licensing and accreditation of the tow truck industry. We understand that many of the current operators conduct their business responsibly and lawfully. Like the member for Capalaba mentioned, my local towies do a great job. They also want the cowboys out of the industry.

However, in order to protect both members of the public and the responsible tow truck operators, this bill introduces clear guidelines for licensing and accreditation and is in response to community consultation. To obtain or continue to hold a tow truck licence or driver or assistant accreditation, the applicant must first be deemed to be an appropriate person.

An integral part of this assessment of appropriateness is a criminal history check. The current definition of criminal history in the Tow Truck Act and regulation creates some ambiguity about the operation of rehabilitation periods and the matters that could be included in a criminal history. The bill amends the definition of criminal history to clarify that the person's entire criminal history is able to be considered.

While the current provisions allow charges for offences under the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 or the Weapons Act 1990 to be taken into account, the amendment will allow all charges that have not been withdrawn or discontinued to also be included in the person's criminal history. The new definition is broadly consistent with the approach in passenger transport legislation which is applied when assessing applicants for driver authorisation or operator accreditation.


Towing operators and drivers sometimes find themselves in situations where a person is injured or vulnerable and so their appropriateness to act in these situations should be ensured by proper checks. This is in line with community expectations for any persons responsible for transportation under these circumstances.

The Palaszczuk government prides itself on being a consultative government. We are a government that listens to our community. When the minister announced an independent investigation into the tow truck industry it was only natural that community consultation would be comprehensive and would play an integral role.

The stakeholder groups involved in the consultation included local governments, towing operators, private property owners and occupiers, motorists, and community and industry representative organisations. Information was gathered from the community through the tow truck hotline established by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to receive complaints and feedback on the towing industry. The investigation also received written submissions and held meetings with a range of stakeholders. The investigation considered 368 records of complaint and feedback received via the hotline. They also considered 41 written submissions and feedback provided by a range of stakeholders during meetings.

The stakeholder consultation informed the recommendations presented by the independent investigation which have largely been reflected in the bill. Based on this extensive consultation, it is the view of this government that this bill strikes the correct balance between the rights and responsibilities of private landowners, the rights of vehicle owners and the interest of the tow truck industry itself.

Finally, I became a member of the former Public Works and Utilities Committee during the consultation period on this bill. I would like to acknowledge the great work of the chair of that committee, the member for Kurwongbah. He had a great leadership role and managed the committee very well. I would also like to acknowledge my fellow committee members at the time and the secretariat who did an outstanding job. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill seeks to make amendments to the Tow Truck Act 1973 and the Tow Truck Regulation 2009 to make changes in relation to the removal of vehicles from private property. These aspects of the tow truck industry were previously unregulated. This bill is just the latest example of Labor handing in the LNP's homework and trying to take the credit.

We know that many of the changes introduced in this bill were actually included in a private member's bill introduced by the member for Glass House in the 55th Parliament. Now we have Labor trying to introduce many of the same amendments in their own bill. Then they are trying to make the

grandiose claim that they were the ones who responded to the community's concerns. Despite Labor finally showing up to the party, the record shows that it is the LNP who first acted on this issue. It was the LNP who introduced the private member's bill last year. Our action was in response to a documented increase in consumer complaints about the unsavoury practices by some elements within the towing industry which have occurred under Labor's watch.

Under Labor we know that there were many recorded instances of vehicles being removed from private properties only to be towed inordinate distances or owners being charged outrageous sums to get their cars back. Those opposite sat idly by for their entire first term as consumers continued to be harassed and ripped off because rogue elements in this industry were not being properly regulated. After Labor let this slide for far too long, the LNP acted to finally regulate these practices in the tow truck industry. Now we see those opposite coming in here crossing out 'LNP' from our policy, writing 'Labor' in red pen and trying to pass off the initiatives as their own.

We on this side of the House will never stand for Queensland consumers being bullied or exploited by rogue elements of any industry. It is pleasing to see, three years after taking office, those opposite finally have their act together with this bill. It is very timely that we are in here today debating changes to the Tow Truck Act because in less than a month Gold Coasters will be stuck in traffic on the M1 during the Commonwealth Games after Labor's failure to plan.

We all know that there are going to be tow trucks lined up on exit 77 and exit 79 in my electorate just waiting for the consequences of Labor's failure to do anything. Those opposite have had three years to put in place a strategy to combat the congestion on the M1, but they have sat back, twiddled their thumbs and hoped for the best. Now it is residents of my electorate who will be forced to suffer as they battle congestion every time they use the M1. For weeks I have been receiving a number of phone calls from my constituents who are dreading the traffic that they are going to have to suffer through. What was Labor's purported solution to the huge amount of traffic the M1 will see during the games? It was to lower the speed limit by 10 kilometres an hour on the northern Gold Coast.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As much as the member for Mudgeeraba would like to cover her inaction for three years on the M1, it is not relevant to this bill. I ask for her to come back to the topic before the chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Mudgeeraba, I request that you remain within the long title of the bill, please.

Ms BATES: I am referring to the long title of the bill, which is the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am talking about all the tow trucks that are going to be lined up on the M1 over the next three weeks, as they already do, by the way, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is well known that at exits 77 and 79 during peak hours on the M1 there are numerous tow trucks all lined up ready to take on all of the accidents that are going to occur on the M1. I personally have seen on the Gooding Drive roundabout some seven to nine tow trucks all lined up just waiting to pick up all of the accidents.

Whilst the minister bit, which he always will do, the facts about the upgrade of the M1 are that the M1 was upgraded by the LNP from exit 77 to exit 79 in 2013. In fact, I have a media release here from me and Karen Andrews, the federal member for McPherson, who did the sod turning on 11 March 2013.

An opposition member: They are still parking seven to nine tow trucks there.

Ms BATES: Thank you very much. I table that media release.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 11 March 2013, by the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, titled 'M1 Déjà vu as first sod turned on widening' [277].

The Minister for Main Roads said this was an example of Labor 'pulling out all the stops' to make sure the games go 'as smooth as possible'. Mr Deputy Speaker, I was on the M1 last Friday for 4½ hours. There was an accident on the M1—

Mr Minnikin: How did the tow truck get there?

Ms BATES: A tow truck could not even get there. In fact, nobody could get to the accident. It was in the Gaven electorate. A car hit a truck and caused a traffic jam for hours and hours on the M1. On the way back we were introduced to the new 100 kilometres an hour limit on the Gold Coast, and I sat at Smith Street—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The bill does not cover in any way the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games transport plan, which the member for Mudgeeraba is now referring to at length.

Ms BATES: No, I am not.

Mr BAILEY: I ask her to come back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are drawing a very long bow. I counsel you to come back to the long title of the bill; otherwise you will resume your seat.

Ms BATES: As I mentioned, we are going to have tow trucks lined up on the M1, particularly now that the speed limit has been reduced to 100 kilometres an hour.

Mr BAILEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The bill refers to the regulation of tow trucks on private property. The M1, I can inform the member, is not private property.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, I have given you some very clear guidance. Remain within the long title of the bill or I will instruct you to resume your seat and we will continue on with the debate.

Ms BATES: I will conclude my remarks by saying that tow trucks are certainly going to have a very busy two weeks thanks to this Labor government, whose inaction will make sure that people on the Gold Coast do not forget.

Ms FARMER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You have continually warned the member for Mudgeeraba. She has gone on after you gave her that warning and asked her to take her seat and she continued in the same vein.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, what is your point of order?

Ms FARMER: The point of order is relevance and showing disrespect to the chair for ignoring your warning.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Mudgeeraba said tow truck drivers are going to have a very busy period. If you do not think that is in the long title of a tow truck bill then God knows what is.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, we do not need a debate. Thank you, member for Mudgeeraba. I now call the member for Bancroft.



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (5.37 pm): I rise to commend the bill to the House.

Mr Russo: Keep it relevant.

Mr WHITING: I will keep it relevant, but I will address a couple of issues that have just been raised. In response to saying that we have sat back and twiddled our thumbs on the M1, I point out that when we came into government there was no plan to ready the M1 for the Commonwealth Games. There was nothing.

Mr CRANDON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to rule on relevance with regard to the member's contribution.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr CRANDON: I ask you to rule on relevance in relation to this contribution.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, I will take this opportunity to remind you that when one person is on their feet with a point of order it means silence from the rest of the House; otherwise we will start naming people under the standing orders. Member for Bancroft, I counsel you to stay within the long title of the bill.

Mr WHITING: As I said, I rise to commend this bill to the House. I think we can easily remember why this bill was brought forward. We remember the exposés in the media on the less than fulsome practices in the towing industry we have seen previously. We remember the outpouring of stories from people about what they had experienced. I am one of those people as well.

Last year I was on the Gold Coast for a weekend. My car was towed from a hotel where we had paid for accommodation. I had parked not entirely correctly—they had a tiny sign—but there were no other available car spots in the car park. I wanted secure parking as part of my hotel accommodation as I had two expensive surfboards on top of my car. I may have been partially at fault, but should that have cost me \$660?

Mr Russo: No admissions.

Mr WHITING: I take the interjection from my learned colleague. Part of that extra cost was for having an extra truck—two tow trucks in total—to take away a Prius. What that experience showed me—

Mr Bleijie: You had surfboards on your Prius?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Kawana, your interjections are not being taken.

Mr WHITING: It is great to hear these interjections from the people opposite. We have heard those opposite talking about how terrible congestion is going to be during the games, but I would really like to hear those opposite talking up the Commonwealth Games a bit more when it starts in 28 days.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bancroft, I will counsel you once more to remain in the long title of the bill, otherwise I will ask you to resume your seat and we will continue with the debate.

Mr WHITING: Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I saw how easily you will shell over money to get your car back, and I saw how easy it is for a private car park owner to set up a system that routinely separates parkers from their money. It gave me an insight into an industry that has been too easy to exploit over recent years. We all know that this is an industry that was crying out for reform and we have delivered it.

We want to provide protections for motorists to protect them from exploitation. There is currently no regulation of private property towing, and the provisions in this bill will address that. Firstly, as we have heard, employees must meet suitability criteria and they will undergo a criminal history check. The people in this industry have control over a family's most crucial assets and tools of trade, and they know it. They know we will pay extraordinary amounts of money to get the car back. They know we are vulnerable and at times desperate, so it is crucial that we have operators and employees who are of the highest possible character.


Secondly, there will be conduct requirements for those performing private parking towing. They must take reasonable steps to locate the owner. For example, a hotel like the one I stayed at would insist on the paying customer leaving their car registration and a contact number when they book in. It would be far easier for the hotel to call their customer than simply opening the gates and letting the tow trucks in.

Thirdly, if the car owner is found before the car is fully loaded, it can be removed without charge. Fourthly, the maximum charge will be \$250 and that includes three days maximum storage with no extra charges loaded on. An on-site release will cost \$150 if you get there and the car is fully loaded. The maximum charge of \$250 is a long way from \$660. As we have heard in the media, there are times when charges have been way in excess of that.

Fifthly, the penalty for aggressive and intimidating behaviour has rightly been lifted. If you are a rogue operator trying to bully more money from a Queenslander who is trying to get their car back, that can cost them over \$6,000. Combined with the new operator requirements, this also helps keeps rogues out of the industry.

Sixthly, this bill limits where vehicles may be towed. We are mandating that the vehicle may be towed only to the nearest approved holding yard of the tow truck licensee. Seventhly, we are saying that there must be towing consent between a property owner and a tow truck licence holder. This means a tow truck licence holder is acting at the request of the private property owner-occupier only. They are not independently monitoring and enforcing the parking conditions on their own initiative.

Finally, I want to say how glad I am to see in this bill an amendment requiring the aggregation of administration fees and toll notices when they are sent to a customer. We have all had constituents coming through our doors with horrendous bills for accumulation of admin charges for tolls—bills that have been vastly inflated by the constant charging of administration fees for each letter sent. Often we found that the person who came to us was not the one who incurred the tolls. Some people may have had an errant or a wayward son or daughter who was taking advantage of a generous parent who either owned the toll charge account or the car. Some people had sold their car to a new owner but had not got the change of ownership papers signed. For those people who have been unfairly hit with constant aggregation of fees for all the letters sent, this brings back fairness. Let us hope other people in those situations do not suffer as these people have. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.44 pm): I too would like to make a short contribution to the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This has been a long time coming. We all remember this issue being raised by the media in the last parliament, whether it was in the *Courier-Mail* or on commercial television such as *A Current Affair*. Obviously something had to be done. We saw some tow truck operators not acting in the right way. We saw people who were parking in car parks legally in some regards who had their cars towed away. As the previous member stated, he parked his car in an accommodation area and it was towed away and, to his surprise, he had to pay \$600. This is why this legislation needs to be brought in. We need some accountability, some transparency and some rigour around this industry.

In saying that, the main role of tow truck operators where I come from in Gregory is to come and get you out 50 kilometres or 60 kilometres down the road because you have hit a roo or you have hit a bull. The tow truck operators that I know in the seat of Gregory are very good people and they provide a service that is to be commended. Normally they are called at all hours of the night. It could be on a Sunday night. Members might remember me mentioning the great late mayor of Winton 'Butch' Lenton. He was a tow truck operator with the RACQ.

Mr Krause: I bet he didn't rip people off.

Mr MILLAR: No, he did not. He was one of the most honest, loving and respectful men I have ever met, but I do remember Butch telling me the story about picking up a hearse somewhere out west of Winton and trying to get it back on the road and getting the hearse and the body to the right place. It was quite a funny story even though it was a tragedy that had happened. It just shows you the character of some of these tow truck operators. There are good tow truck operators out there and 'Butch' Lenton was a very good bloke.

The operators in Emerald work all hours of the night just to get people back on the road. We get a lot of tourists whose Winnebagos break down and they do a good job. I want to put that on the record: there are good tow truck operators out there. In Western Queensland it is not so much a business as it is a service that they provide. They usually have a mechanical or body works business that fixes cars and the tow truck is part of that.

This bill has been a long time coming. Something had to be done, and I do commend the parliament for doing something about this. We do have to remember the history. It is a little disappointing that the government decided not to consider the Tow Truck (Towing from Private Property) Amendment Bill 2017, which was a private member's bill introduced on 8 August 2017 by the member for Glass House, the then shadow transport minister. Here was a good piece of legislation prepared by the member for Glass House, who is diligent in what he does. He does it well, he understands the issue and he wants to make sure that we get it right.

The government could have passed that bill which was introduced in the last parliament. We would have had this fixed up, yet we had toing and froing and delaying and we are talking about it now. We are passing it today. I think that is disappointing. If any member of parliament comes up with a good bill, it should be considered and not thrown out because it was not the bill of the government of the day.

The bill seeks to achieve similar outcomes through different policies and legislative changes. The LNP non-government members consider the decision of the House not to consider both bills in a cognate debate to be a matter of petty politics rather than in the interests of policy, and I think that is disappointing.

The Palaszczuk Labor government's bill also does not act on a number of significant concerns raised by the community—namely, car park signage and maximum towing distances. The government's proposal does not seek to limit the distance a car can be towed from a private property, meaning a car can be towed from Fortitude Valley and could potentially end up in Logan, North Lakes or out at Ipswich.

Mr Hart: Emerald.


Mr MILLAR: I do not think it would end up out in Emerald. If it ended up in Emerald, it would be a very long way to go and get your car. This is a serious issue. People find it disappointing when they find out that their car has been towed, whether they have done the wrong thing or not. They might have their kids with them or they might be doing some shopping and suddenly they find out that their car has been towed out to North Lakes when they live at Kenmore. There is then a cost associated with going to get that car.

There has to be some more scrutiny and better legislation to make sure that if a car is towed it is towed to the nearest place so that people do not have to try to find out where their car is. If they do not have two cars and that is their only form of transport, they then have to try to find transport to go out and pick up their car that has been towed. If a car is to be towed, it should be towed to the closest area so it can be picked up. I call on the government to look at that in the legislation. While the government has introduced provisions for vehicles to be taken to the most direct route to the nearest holding yard, this will still disadvantage motorists who have been towed by companies that are based many kilometres away. I think we need to look at that.

In closing, I say that we are finally doing something about this. We are putting some transparency and accountability around the tow truck industry. Again, I do express that there are plenty of good operators out there, but we need this to make sure we have some transparency and accountability

because we all saw what happened last term when it was in the *Courier-Mail*. People were very, very concerned and there were trust issues around the industry. We need to make sure we have trust around the industry because they do provide a very important service.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Ipswich West, I remind members of the House to keep your conversations to minimal auditory levels. It is starting to get a bit difficult to hear the speakers.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.52 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The Department of Transport and Main Roads has periodically received complaints about the removal of vehicles from private property parking areas; however, issues came to a head in the first half of 2017. In response to rising community concerns, the Queensland government commissioned an independent investigation into the tow truck and vehicle removal industry. The independent investigation culminated in a report titled *Independent investigation into the towing industry: Removal of vehicles from private property*.

One of the worrying practices uncovered by the investigation was the outrageous charging that was taking place. In response to this, the bill seeks to cap charges relating to the towing of vehicles from private property. Firstly, the bill ensures a vehicle must be released without charge if it has not been completely loaded and secured onto the truck prior to being taken from the property. The bill also introduces an on-site release charge. This charge is capped at \$150 and is payable if the vehicle is released at the scene after it was fully loaded onto the truck. If the vehicle is towed, the charge for a standard private property tow will be capped at \$250. This charge covers 60 minutes working time at the scene, the towing of the vehicle to the holding yard and up to 72 hours storage.


If it is a non-standard tow—for example, if special equipment is required to remove the vehicle—the bill requires any charges to be reasonable. The cost of storage will be capped at \$25 per day. The bill also ensures the chief executive of the responsible department can investigate charging for private property towing, including the reasonableness of charges for a non-standard tow. The amounts of the charges outlined in the bill were calculated by the independent investigation. In doing so, consideration was given to the fees and charges of other jurisdictions, the current charges for damaged vehicle tows and recent QCAT decisions.

The ability to effectively enforce the changes proposed in the bill is essential to their adoption. To achieve this, the bill provides authorised officers, including police and transport inspectors, with powers that will enable efficient and effective investigation of complaints. These powers include: power to enter premises with the occupier's consent; power to enter business premises, including holding yards of tow truck licence operators, during business hours or when the premises are required to be opened under a licence; and power to enter premises where the officer reasonably believes a prescribed vehicle, such as a private property vehicle or a vehicle that has been towed from a crash scene or off-street regulated parking area, is located.

Upon entry, authorised officers will have the power to search, inspect, copy and take extracts from documents and have a general power to require production of documents required to be kept under the act. Importantly, authorised officers under the tow truck legislation are also authorised officers under the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, so the proposed new powers are consistent with their powers under that act.

I would also like to briefly touch on the changes the bill seeks to make with regard to the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994 and tolling demand notices. These changes should be welcomed by road users for the impact they could have on the amount of fees incurred when using toll roads. The changes will make it clear that a toll road operator has the ability to issue a single demand notice for multiple unpaid tolls with only a single administration charge. In the past, toll road operators were able to issue an individual demand notice and an administrative charge for each and every unpaid toll. We have all heard the stories of how this practice could quickly result in a snowballing toll debt for some unknowing Queenslanders. I would also like to note that these changes will streamline the demand notice process and they have been welcomed by toll road operators.

The Palaszczuk government is all about making things easier while also protecting Queenslanders, and that is exactly what the changes in this bill will achieve. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.57 pm): I understand that I will probably have to adjourn my contribution midway through for the six o'clock debate. I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I want to commend the shadow minister, the member for Chatsworth, for his contribution, and his predecessor, the member for Glass

House. As has already been mentioned, the member for Glass House brought in a private member's bill in the 55th Parliament but the Palaszczuk Labor government, of course, dragged this out and then ripped it off and brought in this bill. Admittedly, it has some refinements and I will be interested to hear from the minister about those.

I say to the member for Glass House that he can take solace in the knowledge that his contribution has made a difference, as I have found with a number of issues that I have brought to the House in the time that I have been here—whether it was fluoridation, the production, display and sale of drug implements, or the provision of alcohol to minors in my electorate. They are the things we can be proud of and the changes we have made. Even though the government may not accept everything that we say from opposition, it certainly brings the debate to the fore.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

MOTION

Fuel Price Monitoring



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.58 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk government to adopt the LNP's plan for real-time fuel price monitoring so that third-party fuel applications can fully inform motorists and to drive competition and lower fuel prices.

Queensland families from Cairns to Coolangatta are struggling financially. From up further in the cape to all the way out to the west, everyone in Queensland is struggling. Their wages and salaries are stagnating, but their household bills simply are not.

Their bills are going up and up and up year in, year out, and one of the biggest costs to Queenslanders is running the family car. We all know that car registration has rocketed under this tax addicted government. However, drivers are not being stung by their own government; they are being stung by petrol retailers too. Queensland has some of the highest fuel prices in Australia. Queensland motorists are being taken for a ride every single time they go to the fuel station. Queenslanders everywhere have had enough of being ripped off just because they want to drive their car.

I have to ask: does anyone on the other side of the House—and their one little seat on our side; I am not sure what she did wrong to get that seat—particularly the ministers because they get driven around in their cars, have any idea at all what it would cost to fill up a car?

An opposition member: Out of touch.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection because after three years of this Labor government they are out of touch. They would have no idea how much it would cost to fill up a car. Today it costs around \$80, depending on the size of the tank of course—not for Lachy Millar, who would be filling up his—

Mr Powell: 160 bucks!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It costs \$160 for this member here. It has been even higher. Recently it has cost \$80 for a standard tank but it has been up as high as \$90 in other weeks. An amount of \$80 or \$90 might not mean much to those opposite, particularly the ministers, but it is a huge hit on millions of Queensland households. A car is not a luxury for so many Queenslanders; it is an essential item. It is a necessity in many regional areas in particular. However, I should point out that, under this great fuel rip-off that is happening at the moment, for the first time in a generation fuel is cheaper in some of the more regional areas than it is in Brisbane. It is an interesting anomaly.


It is the LNP that wants to help these struggling people—the struggling families—so we looked for a solution. The member for Maryborough may like to laugh about the struggling families in his electorate—those opposite may like to laugh—but the LNP will not laugh. We on this side of the House do not laugh about struggling families who cannot afford to fill up their car or who cannot afford to take their children to school because of this incompetent Labor government which has been given a solution. This is their opportunity today. How about they take the LNP's solution that we have kindly offered? The homework has been done. We did not have to look far. I get that Labor do not do economics really well and they really do not understand.

In New South Wales the competition caused by real-time fuel price monitoring has knocked about \$6 off the price of a tank of fuel. Now there is flip-flopping all over the place from those opposite. We have the transport minister who said it will do nothing to bring down petrol prices and then we have the Premier who has refused to adopt our policies. Then, five days later, flip-flopping again, she goes back

into the media to state her position, 'I'm not going to say either way.' She has no comprehension of this. This is the opportunity for the Premier to come into this chamber tonight and say, 'Thank you, LNP. We understand that you have offered us the solution and we will do something about struggling families in Queensland.'

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Before the minister speaks, I remind members that laughter is not an acceptable interjection.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (6.03 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

'on the Turnbull federal government to take real action and adopt a nationally consistent approach to address the issue of price gouging in the retail fuel market.'

Just last week the Leader of the Opposition said—

A thorough investigation of Queensland's petrol price cycle is needed and I welcome the ACCC's decision to take action.

It is pleasing to see that it has finally dawned on the Leader of the Opposition that definitive national action is required. The ACCC's website shows that the gap between the international benchmark petrol price and the price Australians are paying for fuel has widened not just in Queensland but across the nation. I have written to the federal government about petrol prices. Has the Leader of the Opposition taken any action at all? I think not.


We need the ACCC to act decisively, but the federal Treasurer is now proposing that there be no Queensland commissioners on the ACCC despite the findings of the reports on the Brisbane and Cairns petrol markets. The Premier is again standing up for Queensland and has written to Canberra to fight for this. What is the Leader of the Opposition doing to stand up to her mates in Canberra? Nothing! We have heard nothing from the Leader of the Opposition despite the fact that federal taxes make up 38 per cent of the petrol price, and in 2014 it was the federal LNP government under Tony Abbott that ambushed motorists and reindexed the fuel excise. That move was labelled weak, sneaky and tricky. Was there a word from those opposite back in 2014 to defend Queensland motorists? Not one! How much of the new fuel excise is being spent on infrastructure here in Queensland such as Cross River Rail? Not one cent!

We are talking to a wide range of stakeholders including the RACQ, the Australian Convenience and Petroleum Marketers Association, independent retail operators and information data suppliers about additional potential solutions. We continue to consult and work cooperatively. We thank all stakeholders, especially the RACQ, for their continued and valued input.

We all steadfastly agree that a lack of competition is the underlying cause. However, we cannot rush into a scheme here without giving due consideration to any unintended consequences such as increased compliance costs that may inadvertently push up prices for motorists. Compliance costs will be borne more heavily by independent retailers, who are the very people we need to encourage to create additional competition. It is worth noting also that a recent Victorian parliamentary report dated 20 February 2018 on mandatory real-time price reporting stated that the committee did not receive convincing evidence that these schemes have reduced fuel prices and there were also doubts about whether these schemes could deliver cheaper fuel in regional areas.

A national solution is required. It is clear that this is a national issue. We need a national, considered and effective response. We need real competition in markets across Australia and here in Queensland. Only the ACCC can deliver this. The ACCC website clearly states that they are responsible for ensuring that petrol retailers comply with the competition and consumer protection laws and for taking action where there is evidence that these laws have been broken. We need real action here. We need the ACCC to have some real resolve and some teeth on this important issue. We do not need the acceptance from the Leader of the Opposition that gouging Queenslanders on fuel prices at the bowser is okay.

This is another test of whether the Leader of the Opposition will support Queenslanders or support her mates in Canberra. The LNP ignored calls for action on fuel price boards and the Leader of the Opposition has recently welcomed the lack of action from the ACCC on fuel prices. It is clear that only members on this side of the chamber are after a real solution to the problem, and we are working tirelessly towards that goal.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.08 pm): I rise to second the motion that the Leader of the Opposition has moved. The Minister for Energy has continued the same theme that we heard earlier today, 'If we can't fix it, we'll blame somebody else.' The amendment to this motion shows again that same theme, 'We've got no solutions. We can't do anything about it. We're going to blame somebody else.'

While Queensland motorists are paying through the nose for petrol, this Labor government is ignoring solutions that we are putting right before its eyes. These are simple solutions that they can adopt tomorrow. Why do they hate motorists? I do not know. Fuel prices affect a heck of a lot of Queenslanders, whether it is mums and dads, whether it is students, whether it is tradies, whether it is transport companies—

An opposition member: Unions.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection. Unions as well would be affected by fuel prices. The latest ACCC report on the petrol industry for the December quarter outlined that retail prices in Brisbane are regularly higher than those in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Prior to that the ACCC released the findings of its report on the Brisbane petrol market in October last year, and I will quote this because it is very important. It states—

Petrol prices in Brisbane have been significantly higher than those in the other four largest cities ... in Australia for the last eight years. Between 2009-10 and 2016-17, Brisbane motorists paid on average 3.3 cents per litre more for petrol than motorists in the other four largest cities.

The main factor influencing the higher prices in Brisbane is higher retail margins on petrol, which have contributed to profits in Brisbane being significantly higher than the average across Australia.

The report continues—


The cost to motorists in Brisbane of higher petrol prices has been significant, at [least] \$50 million per annum.

The report also found that retail pricing is less competitive in Brisbane, with retailers setting prices higher at the top and bottom of the price cycle than retailers in Sydney. Furthermore, Brisbane has fewer retail chains which price competitively and aggressively. There is no doubt that petrol prices in Queensland are higher, particularly in Brisbane, than in other capital cities right across the country.

The latest quarterly inflation figures released by the ABS for the December quarter indicate that the most significant price increases for the quarter were automotive fuel at 10.4 per cent. Meanwhile, regular Queensland household budgets are under strain through increasing electricity costs all because of fuel prices. The simple fact is that fuel prices in this state are far too high. The LNP knows it, the RACQ knows it, the ACCC knows it and the motoring public knows it. The only people who seem to be oblivious to this fact is this lazy Labor government.

We have seen the Premier come out and flatly refuse to adopt this. The Minister for Transport said the same thing, but a week or two ago we did see the Minister for Energy backtrack a little bit and say that they will consider these options. This, of course, is while the Premier was overseas in Hollywood. The Minister for Energy thought, 'I have a bit of an opportunity here while the boss is away to backtrack on this,' because they are feeling the heat from Queensland motorists. We know that this government is a flip-flop government. It flip-flops all over the place, whether it is Adani, ASF or the Logan Renewal Initiative, but we are begging the Premier to flip-flop on this. We want her to flip-flop. We will welcome this flip-flop so that the Queensland motoring public can benefit. Mr Speaker, I am asking the Premier to swallow her pride, admit that she is wrong and adopt the LNP policy.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.13 pm): I oppose the motion and I support the sensible amendment put forward by the minister. It is good to see that we have been upgraded from 'do nothing' to 'lazy'. This is a step in the right direction, but clearly opposition members are much harder taskmasters than the people of Queensland, who returned us to government. When it comes to this motion, I was pleased to hear opposition members talk about having a plan, even if it is not a particularly good one. I wonder if any of them have recently taken out their smartphones and had a look at them. I was with a group of young folks when I heard this plan reported on the media and several of them said, 'Why don't they just get their phones out and use MotorMouth?' If the members opposite took their phones out of their pockets right now, in my electorate in about 30 seconds—even if they were pretty slow—they would be able to find the cheapest fuel available, so there are already multiple opportunities out there to do that.

Presumably this motion, according to the Leader of the Opposition, is about the cost of living, so perhaps we should have a discussion about the cost of living. Let us have a look at what those opposite did when they were in government. Power prices up went by 43 per cent, flowing right across the entire

economy and pushing up the cost of living. Let us talk about the sacking of 14,000 public servants. That was good for the cost of living! In my electorate my constituents are very thrilled about Fairer Fares. That is a real initiative to deal with the cost of living. Owning our electricity-generating assets has helped us deliver things like the Powering Queensland Plan, which has kept prices stable and down. Of course, there is also the Affordable Energy plan, which has resulted in energy efficient appliance rebates and support for householders and landlords to move to solar.


This motion is about a plan, so let us talk about some plans. I am sure the Minister for Housing and Public Works is rightly proud of the 10-year housing strategy. How will the GST cuts impact the ability to implement this plan? We already know what it means for Indigenous housing in remote communities, and this is shameful. Where is the Leader of the Opposition when Indigenous housing agreements are being torn up? Let us turn to health.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, I am listening very closely. I am very pleased that the amendment speaks to the Turnbull government, however, it still I think does come back to the core issue of fuel pricing.

Mr KELLY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will happily come back to that plan if you so desire. Of course, we as a government have taken many, many steps to bring down the cost of living, as I was saying, and we intend to continue to move in that direction and we have many plans to do that. There are many plans that we are rolling out which have been put under serious jeopardy by the intended budgetary cuts we face. These things will have a direct impact on the people of Queensland. If those opposite are serious about cost-of-living issues, instead of coming in here and putting up motions that are really a plan to grab headlines, they should come in here and put up motions that really look at serious plans, as this government has done for the last three years and will continue to roll out for the next three years.

We have been taking action in the areas of education, health and jobs. All they can do on the other side is come up with plans, as I said, that are just a plan to grab headlines. I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition develop a real plan to stand up for Queensland. Go down to Canberra, raise your voice and tell Mr Malcolm 'Scissorhands' to look elsewhere for his cuts. Those on this side of the House are proudly in here standing up for Queensland. We will continue to work to ease the cost of living for all Queenslanders as we have done for the last three years. That is why we were returned to this place with a majority government. We always back Queenslanders and we will continue to back Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, before you speak, I was having great difficulty hearing in terms of general interjections, the general unruly order of the House and not anything specific. I ask members to listen to the debate or leave the chamber if you are not willing to do so. Members should put themselves on the speaking list if they would like to make a contribution. I also note that I have allowed the amendment to be put forward today on the basis it is related to the core issue of fuel pricing. It is on that basis that the amendment has been allowed. I call the member for Burleigh.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (6.20 pm): It is also five minutes of my life I will never get back! I rise to support the Leader of the Opposition's motion and to oppose the government's amendment. Seventeen of the last 20 years have been Labor governments. For the last 28 years we have had 23 years of Labor governments. For those opposite to try to blame somebody else by shifting this motion to the federal government for a solution is just the utmost hypocrisy. Members opposite have a solution that the opposition has offered them. We have offered them a clear solution, a solution that has saved the people of New South Wales \$111 million.

The RACQ tells us that, if we were to put in real-time fuel monitoring in Queensland, we would save the people of Queensland \$40 million a year that they could spend elsewhere on creating jobs in this wonderful state. But, no, the Labor government will not accept this because it is not its idea and it would hate to see the LNP credited with its ideas. Instead, members opposite moved an amendment to the motion to get the federal government to do something. What might the federal government do? It may introduce this and we would end up with it anyway. Why will the Labor government in Queensland not offer a real solution here?

The member for Greenslopes said that we have a MotorMouth application here. That is great, we do, and it works okay, but it is not real-time monitoring. That is what this motion is about—offering the people of Queensland real-time monitoring. If for a few minutes ministers get out of their chauffeur-driven limousines, drive their cars, go to service stations and pay for their own petrol, they might know the difference in petrol prices. I drive around my electorate a fair bit and tend to go to one service station, Brian's Auto in Miami, on the way to my office, because they are pretty good. They always have reasonable prices.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr HART: I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. They always have reasonably priced fuel. But if I had an app that told me that if I drove past them and went to the next place and it was even cheaper again, I would absolutely do that because every dollar in my pocket is a dollar saved. This is a great idea for the people of Queensland. It is a solution.

For years and years, members of the Labor Party told us that they have thought about everything, have consulted and talked to people, but what solutions have they offered? They have not offered us any solution. What is Labor's position here? Quite frankly, who would know, because they are flip-flopping all over the place. In question time last week, the Premier was asked a direct question by the member for Chatsworth—would she implement the LNP's real-time fuel policy? What was her answer? It was, 'No.' One tends to think that is a pretty straightforward answer, but then a couple of hours later—


Ms Grace interjected.

Mr HART: I take that interjection from the Minister for Education, because obviously, no, it is not. Half an hour later the Deputy Premier almost endorsed it and then the Minister for Energy and the Minister for Transport apparently were consulting with the RACQ and 'The RACQ think this is a good idea,' but then they started to back away and say, 'Maybe this is something we need to think about.' All of a sudden it was, 'No.' I make a prediction: in another six months suddenly this will become the Labor Party's idea. They will bring it back to this parliament, pass it, put it in place and rewrite history, because they are very good at rewriting history. They have done it in how many other pieces of legislation? How many other times have they—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr HART: Tow trucks. There you go. They rewrite history and pinch our ideas. They cannot even hand in their own homework.

(Time expired)

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amended motion moved by the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. There is no doubt that fluctuating and rising petrol prices are placing significant pressure on Queensland households. It is arguably one of the greatest cost-of-living pressures that concern and often confuse motorists across the country. It is a conversation that has been taking place at the national level intensively for the past 20 years. There is no doubt that consumers should be empowered by widely available price data from websites and apps when and where they need it to make the best and cheapest choice for them and their families, and they can.

In recent years, there has been a move towards fuel price transparency not just here but also overseas, including in Germany and Chile. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission website and quarterly reports have long provided information on when to buy, but apps such as Petrol Spy, MotorMouth and GasBuddy are providing the critical missing piece of where to buy, providing station-by-location information to consumers.

Queenslanders need certainty about what is happening with fuel prices. Queenslanders are sick of being gouged at the bowser. They want to be listened to and they want relief. We know that people are hurting in the hip pocket, so not only have we listened but have acted. We have taken action to ensure that Queensland motorists will not pay more than the fuel prices they see, ending confusing conditional prices on service station price boards. We introduced the biofuel mandate, giving assurance to producers and creating a positive environment for new investment. We have worked cooperatively with industry and across portfolios to identify solutions to tackle this issue for Queenslanders. But the state government has its limits. Queensland cannot do it alone because, of course, this is more than a state issue; it is a national issue. Petrol prices are not an isolated issue here in Queensland. They are an issue nationally, and a national approach is needed.

I return to where I started. Queenslanders want certainty. Everyone in this parliament can work together to give Queenslanders that greater certainty. All it requires is the will to stand up and together call on the Turnbull federal government to take real action and adopt a nationally consistent approach to address the issue of price gouging in the fuel retail market because, let us get real, we know that the current system is not delivering for Queenslanders. Every cent of excess fuel excise taken out of our state is money that is not going to support Queensland jobs, Queensland services and Queensland infrastructure. We know what the consequences are: it is less money for the things that matter.

What does this Canberra tax grab look like in the real world? What does it look like in my community? Every cent of fuel excise taken out of our state looks like less money for Queensland roads like Sandgate Road or the Gateway Motorway in my electorate. It looks like less money for Queensland schools like Earnshaw State School or Boondall State School in my electorate. Every cent of fuel excise taken out of Queensland looks like less money for Queensland hospitals, and that is on top of the billion dollars the health minister has spoken about. It is another example of abdicating responsibility to Queenslanders now and Queenslanders in the future. It is fast becoming the Turnbull government's modus operandi.


Queenslanders want and need action on fuel prices and this parliament can work together to apply pressure to see that action taken, because without fuel the nation stops and the same could be said of leadership. We on this side of the House know that people are hurting in the hip pocket, and not only have we listened but also we have acted, as I outlined earlier. We always will act on behalf of the best interests of Queenslanders regardless of the issue. I now ask my colleagues opposite: will you finally stand up for Queenslanders? Will you stand side by side with us?

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the member for Nudgee to direct your comments through the chair.

Ms LINARD: Will the opposition stand with us and call on their federal counterparts to act on behalf of Queenslanders too, to take real action and adopt a nationally consistent approach to address the issue of price gouging in the fuel market?

We have seen the federal government tear itself apart of late. It is incumbent on the state branches of the coalition to step into the void to project some leadership into the Turnbull-Joyce-McCormack void. We on this side of the chamber have made our position clear. We will always do everything in our power to act on behalf of Queenslanders, particularly when they are hurting. Queenslanders need certainty about what is happening with fuel prices.

Queenslanders are sick of being gouged at the bowser. They want to be listened to and they want relief, so I will support the amended motion because it makes sense for Queenslanders who are sick of being price gouged at the bowser. I will support the amended motion because it makes fuel pricing more transparent and more accountable and I urge everyone else to support the amended motion to stand up for Queensland consumers and to stand up for their constituents.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.29 pm): The only thing this Labor government does fast is to pass the buck—to flick it off, to blame Canberra, it is never its fault, not get an answer, does not want to do anything, says it is not its problem to solve. It is its problem to solve. There is a solution that will help many Queenslanders. New South Wales has already adopted this. It is doing it, so why can Queensland not get with the act and start putting some real transparency into fuel pricing and give poor Queenslanders a break? Queenslanders throughout this state are paying more for their petrol than people in most other areas of Australia on average. We are seeing price gouging that this government is turning its back on by saying that it is not its problem.

New South Wales has introduced a real-time monitoring system and other jurisdictions are going that way as well, yet this Queensland government is saying that it cannot do it and it wants to leave it up to the federal government to do its work. This government needs to get with it, because in the meantime there are literally thousands of Queenslanders paying up to \$70 million more for their petrol because this government is doing nothing.

I have heard people say that there are already apps that tell people where they can get cheaper petrol but, as the RACQ's Renee Smith said, there is not sufficient data because not all petrol stations are supplying that data. Only select retailers are supplying that data. That is why it is necessary to capture all of that data in order to empower motorists to be able to see transparently where they can get the best deal. It has been proven that it does drive down the price of fuel. It cuts out a lot of that gouging because it exposes the marketplace and allows them to understand where they can get cheaper fuel. It is just incredible that we are seeing a situation once again where this government does not have an answer.


As one of my colleagues said before, maybe those opposite will just wait a few more months and suddenly they will rebrand it and say that it is their idea and launch it and say that they have the solution while tweaking the name a little bit. In the meantime, mums and dads are literally having trouble putting petrol in their cars because they cannot afford it while this government is fiddling. It is just not good enough.

We believe that we must look at everything that is possible to drive down the costs of living reasonably to help people, and this is a reasonable way of helping people. It has been proven. In New South Wales alone it is estimated that, by bringing this in, motorists have saved about \$111 million due

to lower petrol prices. If the same model were brought into Queensland, the RACQ estimates that the saving would be about \$70 million. Those opposite need to get with the act. This is an opportunity to do something. We are providing this to the government. Those opposite should be bipartisan for once rather than churlishly throwing it out, saying that they cannot do it and passing the buck to somebody else.

There is an opportunity to do this today, to make it happen, to make it work, to provide that information. Those who put these apps together will have all of the information so the motorist has all of the information and finally this price gouging, which has seen Queenslanders paying far too much, will be addressed in that there will be real-time information so they will get the best advice. This will have an impact on driving down the prices of petrol, as seen in other jurisdictions. I urge Labor MPs to cut the fake outrage, just commit to the idea and for once be bipartisan about this to put in place a model that will work and empower motorists to drive down the costs of petrol.

Our motion before the House promotes mandating that price changes are reported and made available to third-party fuel applications—electronic platforms—to help motorists save money. As I have said, this Labor government moves with the speed of frozen molasses when it comes to fixing a problem, but all Queenslanders are paying for the cost of that inaction. In my own area of the Sunshine Coast the tourism drive market is a vital market that depends on people's ability to get in the car to come to visit us. We would love to have public transport to everyone's door—and we certainly want it improved—but our region is 100 kilometres or more long and quite wide, so the reality is that most people still have to drive. The high prices of fuel are hurting people. We urge this government to join with us and act.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (6.34 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment to the motion before the House. I listen to my constituents in my electorate of Kurwongbah and I know that they are sick and tired of being hurt in the pocket at the bowser. It is time for some transparency and accountability from the LNP. It is time for it to show where it stands. As a motoring enthusiast with a great iconic venue, Lakeside raceway, in my electorate, I and my constituents as well as many other enthusiasts who travel from far and wide to enjoy this facility know how much a spike in fuel prices can affect not only business and the day-to-day commute but also recreational time at the track.

The federal government's Australian Competition and Consumer Commission has identified fuel price transparency as a national issue that is not unique to Queensland. Anyone would have to agree that the ACCC would be the best placed organisation to regulate these matters consistently for Australian motorists and industry. In looking at this issue, our government must consider and ensure that any mandatory real-time monitoring system does not add red tape that may inadvertently add extra costs to the price of petrol, because we know that those opposite would be quick to throw a tantrum over that.

Also, many retailers are national operators and the regulatory burden of a real-time fuel price reporting system would be reduced by a streamlined, nationally consistent approach. However, this is not enough. I am informed that on 27 February both Minister Lynham and our Treasurer wrote to the federal Treasurer to urge him to take national action on this issue as this issue is not unique to Queensland and a federal solution would benefit everyone. I for one look forward to the federal Treasurer's response, but I am not holding out hope. I am not holding out hope because time and time again the LNP has failed to stand up for Queensland and Queenslanders. We have spent considerable time in this place this week trying to educate those opposite about how little regard Malcolm Turnbull apparently has for Queenslanders and our state. The member for Nanango and the member for Everton should think long and hard about putting Queenslanders before their mates in Canberra when they speak. In fact, when they next speak maybe they could stand up and tell their federal mates that they need to look at not cutting our GST. I am pleased that now members of the LNP want to discuss this issue. They must have a short memory.

The issue of fuel prices is not new, and what did they do in their three years of government? Nothing. I suppose with all of the cutting, sacking and selling going on there was little time to worry about fuel prices. We on this side of the chamber have always recognised the impact of fuel pricing—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, member. The clock was paused. It had been paused since when I just spoke before.

Mr KING: About 25 seconds?

Mr SPEAKER: Yes.


Mr KING: We have always recognised the impact of fuel prices on Queenslanders. In fact, Minister Bailey held a fuel price summit in 2016 and from that summit we put an end to misleading price boards. Because of this fine work, from 31 January 2018 the price people see is the price they pay at the pump. The RACQ has called for changes to misleading fuel price boards since 2012, and I commend it for its persistence and great work in looking after the motorists of our great state.

During the 2012 election the LNP claimed that it would have a look at it during government. Those opposite either did not care enough to have a look or did have a look and could not see an issue, and I have already suggested why that may have been the case—cut, sack and sell. The previous LNP government was all talk and no action, promising petrol price board reform for Queenslanders yet sitting on its hands for three years.

To now think that there is a silver bullet solution is at best wilfully ignorant and at worst incompetent. It is abundantly clear that those opposite are blinkered on the issue. As I said, they could help by getting on the phone to their mates in Canberra but, once again, I will not hold my breath for that. Judging by their reaction this week to our request for them to act for Queensland and not for Canberra, they seem content to let Malcolm Turnbull and their LNP mates in Canberra run all over Queensland. If they were half serious, they would be screaming at them to act in support of our great state.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr KING: The evidence is clear. It is right before us. They are doing it again. I urge the members opposite—and all members—to support the amended motion.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.40 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition to introduce real-time fuel price monitoring in Queensland. Every motorist, truckie or business operator pulling into a petrol station across this great state knows that Queensland fuel prices are too high. Our trusted motoring organisation, the RACQ, knows it, the ACCC knows it, and the LNP also knows it and wants to do something to alleviate the long-term financial pain that is being inflicted like a repetitive kick in the guts each and every day throughout the state.

Fuel prices in this state are, on average, still three cents per litre higher than they are in other parts of the country. It is rightly questioned why we allow this blatant rip-off to continue at the expense of Queensland motorists and businesses. The ACCC report into the Brisbane market, released late last year, found that retailers achieved higher margins and profits owing to weak retail competition. Surely, this finding must have rung alarm bells for the government to spring into action and do something about it. But no, the members opposite continue to sit on their hands and put the issue in the too-hard basket, saying that they have done everything in their power to tackle this issue.

The LNP has the answer and other states have found and implemented the answer. If the government really wants to help Queensland motorists, a solution exists. Instead, the members opposite choose to sit back and blame the federal government. According to the ACCC, over the past eight years fuel prices in Brisbane have been, on average, 3.3 cents per litre higher than prices in other large cities. When there is no cost based reasoning behind this—just petrol companies making higher profits at the expense of motorists—that is disturbing to say the least.

I applaud last week's announcement by the ACCC that it will conduct a major investigation into the fuel price cycle, among other things. The commission has indicated that real-time fuel price monitoring has the potential to save motorists money by finding the cheapest fuel prices available. It is not rocket science; just plain common sense.

Without question, petrol prices are a major contributor to the cost of living, being the third largest household expense item behind housing and food. The high price of fuel also has a detrimental effect on the cost of doing business for employers. It is acknowledged that fuel costs are passed on with everything we buy.

The RACQ has stated that Queensland motorists are paying more than the average that motorists in the other states and territories are paying for registration which, in turn, adds further to the cost of living. In the past three years under Labor, registration has increased annually by 3.5 per cent. This is close to double the rate of inflation. Motorists are tired of being continually hit in the pocket by the Palaszczuk government.

We know that this government, and previous Labor governments, have not listened to motorists or acted upon the financial stresses that have been imposed upon them. In 2009, the LNP warned that motorists would have to pay between \$250 and \$300 a year more for petrol if the Bligh government


scrapped the seven cents per litre fuel subsidy. At a time when Queenslanders were already facing higher electricity prices, soaring water bills and increased car registration, scrapping the fuel subsidy was a cruel blow to families and small businesses across the state when they could afford it the least.

The fuel subsidy was a tax rebate that was introduced by the coalition to ensure that families and businesses did not have to incur a fuel tax like other people did in all the other Labor states. It was a popular decision that delivered substantial benefits to the regions across the state.

An analysis completed by the NRMA showed that, since the introduction of the New South Wales government FuelCheck program, unleaded petrol prices have fallen, saving motorists \$111 million per annum. It is working elsewhere, so what are we waiting for in Queensland—especially when the RACQ has suggested that mandatory fuel price reporting in our great state could collectively save motorists \$71 million each year? Unlike this Labor government, which is asleep at the wheel, the ACCC, the RACQ and the LNP care about motorists and businesses. I support the opposition leader's motion.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Miller.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.45 pm): The member for Chatsworth was next on the speaking list, but if he wants me to speak, I will speak. I am very happy to do that. I am very happy to speak in support of the amendment, which is a sensible amendment that has been moved by the member for Stafford, a fellow minister.

When it comes to petrol prices in Queensland, the record shows that, over the past three years, the Palaszczuk government has taken real action. It is a bit rich to be lectured by the LNP members on fuel prices after they sat on their hands for three years. They did absolutely nothing. They refused to take action. That is why they have lost two elections in a row. Their interest in this issue is very much a new thing. In fact, their interest is contrary to comments made previously by the member for Chatsworth. On 8 August, he rubbished national efforts to introduce an increased level of transparency into fuel prices. This is a little backflip by the member for Chatsworth, which is very convenient.

In March 2016, I convened a petrol price summit in Brisbane, which brought together key stakeholders, including industry representatives, consumers and motoring groups. Additionally, I invited the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission to the round table as well as asking the commission to conduct an in-depth review of petrol prices in Brisbane and North Queensland. The ACCC agreed and went on to conduct investigations into both of those locations—something that the LNP failed to do in the three years that it was in government. Did the LNP lobby the Abbott government at any stage? No, it did not. It did not do anything in that regard either.


On 20 May 2017, the Cairns report was released and found that the Cairns market lacks vigorous and effective competitors, with weak competition seeing higher prices for motorists. On 9 October 2017, the Brisbane report was released and found that a lack of competition is causing Brisbane motorists to pay more than motorists in other capital cities. A key reason that Brisbane prices are higher than other capital cities is the lack of independent chains. Mr Speaker, on 27 June 2017, in your role as treasurer, I co-wrote with you a letter to the federal Treasurer asking for the federal government to investigate national real-time fuel disclosures, but the federal government did not take that up. Did we hear the LNP members opposite stand up to Canberra on that issue? No, we did not. They will back up Canberra, but they will not back Queensland. We can count on that.

Another key stakeholder that played an important role at the summit and in the public debate that has occurred since then is the RACQ. Since 2012, the RACQ has been calling for the regulatory reform of fuel price boards. The Palaszczuk government listened to the RACQ and the fuel industry at the petrol price summit. Between February and May 2016 the government undertook three months of public and industry consultation to get the balance right between protecting consumers and avoiding high regulatory costs that would unintentionally push up petrol prices.

After listening to all the stakeholders, our regulatory reforms took a similar approach to laws in South Australia and Victoria. Our Fair Trading (Fuel Price Board) Regulation 2017 was formulated in September last year and commenced on 31 January this year in order to give every motorist accurate information on the fuel boards at service stations. That is a very important reform. Again, it was something that was ignored by the LNP members, who talk big but, when they are in government, they are meek.

Under the E10 OK campaign, we brought in the biofuels mandate to make sure that there were more Queensland jobs, more Queensland manufacturing and that E10, which retails at a lower price, is available at many more outlets. That campaign has been very successful.

That has been very successful. There has been a 60 per cent increase. Let us be very clear what this motion is about. This motion is about the Leader of the Opposition trying to build her profile to stave off the inevitable challenge to her leadership by that well-known shark, the member for Broadwater. He is out there networking. We know the challenge is on. They have gagged the member for Broadwater. He is not allowed to ask a question during question time. He is not allowed to get on the speaking list. They are hiding him in a cupboard because they know the hunt is on. The temporary team know that the challenge will be on. This is a desperate attempt by an opposition leader to build her profile because she knows the Broadwater shark will get her in the end.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (6.50 pm): For the benefit of the minister, I will outline to him that I am Minno, not Simmo, so he can get his little email working and email me at steve.minnikin@yougetthedeal. Well done, mangocube!

I am looking forward, along with every member on this side of the chamber, to listening intently to every forthcoming maiden speech on that side of the chamber. I will tell members why: this front bench has absolutely no talent whatsoever. I stand corrected: with the exception of the member for Mundingburra they have absolutely nothing going for them whatsoever. I know that Mr Pegg is thinking he is high in the pecking order. We will hear the maiden speeches, Boyo, and see where he ends up.

Mr SPEAKER: Use the member's correct title, please.

Mr MINNIKIN: For my first exhibit rewind the videotape back to 15 February. In this very chamber on this very chair I got up and asked a very specific question to the Premier. In fact, here is another plug for you, Mr Speaker, because I will repeat it exactly according to *Hansard*. I got up and said, very simply, 'Mr Speaker, congratulations on your appointment,' earning some brownie points there. I then went on to say—

My question without notice is to the Premier and I ask: will the Premier adopt the LNP's real-time monitoring of petrol prices, which is known to save motorists hundreds of dollars a year at the petrol bowser in New South Wales?

Her very curt, some might say arrogant, answer was no. I am so glad that, with that contribution, Minister Grace could follow the bouncing ball. Well done, Minister Grace. I invite the minister to do the pub test. She should do what I have done: walk down the street and have a word to a good neighbour of mine, Lee, whom I was very delighted to take the opposition leader out to meet. We did a presser there a couple of weeks ago. He was asked whether a third-party app would do him any good. He said, 'Absolutely. Why wouldn't it?' Why wouldn't it when our petrol prices in Queensland are absolutely ridiculous?

Let us rewind the videotape even further back. We do not need *Hansard*; we only need to have been here or have ears. Which side of the chamber scrubbed the fuel subsidy of about 9.2 cents a litre back in 2009? It was the government side.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! This is a robust debate but I would like to hear the member.

Mr MINNIKIN: Every time those opposite get their Toorak tractors filled up they know who should be blamed—themselves! In fact, it is almost incredible. What is in the Kool-Aid in the politburo at Peel Street? We had the response from the erstwhile leader the Premier, who got up and said no. Even Minister Grace could follow for a change, which is fantastic.

We then had a letter to the editor of the *Beaudesert Times* from the good doctor over there, the minister, saying, 'You know what, maybe something. Maybe. Maybe. Maybe.' Then the coup de grace: it was chocks away, start up the engines, wheels up, away with the Premier. She had pretty much only just cleared Brisbane airport air space and the Deputy Premier had a presser, within about two seconds. That was the start of the U-flip. She got up and said on ABC News that maybe they would look into it as well.

Then we have the minister for emails, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, the star of the six o'clock news tonight, who also got up and said, 'Well, you know what, gee, maybe, because I tell you what, I am not too popular with my colleagues at the moment.' It is like the proverbial Chokito bar. We have all seen the movie. We know exactly what his colleagues think of him at the moment.

The bottom line is that this is a sensible option. Why will it not be adopted? It is because of arrogance. This is a bit of homework that it does not suit those opposite to hand in because it makes absolutely perfect sense. I implore the government to get on board.

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

AYES, 48:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 41:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Pair: Furner, Crisafulli.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, for all future divisions the bells will ring for one minute.

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

In division—

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I am using some discretion this evening regarding the automatic adjournment at 7 pm, given that we are in the middle of a division. Once the division is completed, we will move immediately to the adjournment.

AYES, 48:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 41:

LNP, 38—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Pair: Furner, Crisafulli.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House calls on the Turnbull federal government to take real action and adopt a nationally consistent approach to address the issue of price gouging in the retail fuel market.

ADJOURNMENT

Pinaroo Roma Inc.



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (7.05 pm): I rise to advise the House of my constituent Mr Dexter Kruger who, in January this year, celebrated his 108th birthday with family and friends. I am advised that he holds the title of Australia's oldest man. Just a few days apart from Mr Kruger's birthday is that of another constituent of mine, Olive Reade, who also turned 108 years old this year. After holding the title of Australia's oldest man for over six months, Mr Kruger reckons he has been asked every question in the book when it comes to growing old. He attributes much of his enduring constitution to his love of writing and having published his 10th book, *Dexter at His Best*, in July last year.


Up until the age of 103, Mr Kruger lived on his own before moving into the aged-care facility at Pinaroo in Roma. Both Mr Kruger and Mrs Reade live at the Pinaroo aged-care facility, which is one of the only aged-care facilities in Australia owned and run by a service club, the Roma Rotary Club. Pinaroo itself has celebrated some success with the opening of another 10 aged-care beds in the new

\$2.2 million Maranoa Wing. There is nothing easy about running or operating an aged-care facility and I commend for their dedication those who have served on the Pinaroo boards throughout the years. I particularly acknowledge Baden Waldron for his exemplary service to the aged-care facility.

There is something very special about Pinaroo. The community engagement that is present, from Rotary, families, staff and the community, absolutely sets Pinaroo apart from many other aged-care facilities. The Pinaroo Maranoa Wing received support from the now-closed Maranoa club, with over half a million dollars contributed. There were many public appeals and internal financial planning. The Maranoa Regional Council contributed. There was also much cooperation from the National Australia Bank. It was great to have Jason Coonan to officially open the new Maranoa Wing. In appreciation, the presidents' and associated presidents' honour boards from the Maranoa club will be located at the entrance to the new aged-care wing.

Roma Rotary Club members have steadfastly stood behind the Pinaroo board that operates Pinaroo, as have the auxiliary, families and staff. I commend the rotary members for their support of aged care over the years and the dedicated staff at Pinaroo: CEO Ian Murphy, Melanie Hoday, Angela Lorenz, Karen Dries, Leslie McCormack, Matt Densley and the other 47 staff who make Pinaroo a very special place for our community and our loved ones. Our population is ageing and, through Pinaroo, Rotary is hoping to meet the needs of the future. I thank them for their efforts.

Cook Medical Australia


 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.08 pm): This evening I rise to speak about an industry located in my electorate. Cook Medical Australia, a medical device manufacturer, is situated in Brisbane Technology Park at Eight Mile Plains. On 1 February this year, I was at the facility with the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, the Hon. Cameron Dick, for the announcement that Cook Medical Australia is recruiting extra staff to boost the manufacture of its potentially life-saving medical device. Cook Medical is one of the few manufacturers worldwide of custom-made stent grafts to treat abdominal aortic aneurysms. The addition of 94 staff at the Brisbane Technology Park facility will mean not only more jobs for Queenslanders but also that Cook Medical Australia can speed up and increase the volume of production to meet demand for its life-changing stent graft devices.

The Queensland biomedical sector operates within a global value chain that has seen Cook Medical's 2017 exports exceed \$150 million, with 94 per cent of its locally manufactured products being exported to 64 countries. The benefit of this increase in production at Cook Medical's Eight Mile Plains facility is twofold: not only will Queensland patients benefit but also patients and hospitals across the world will benefit. I am thrilled that a manufacturer in my electorate is supporting one of the Palaszczuk government's key priorities by creating more jobs for Queenslanders.

The addition of an extra shift at a growing company such as Cook Medical provides a fantastic opportunity for jobseekers, especially those in our local area and those seeking more flexible work arrangements to fit in with their lifestyles. While the minister and I were visiting the facility, it became known that three of the additional staff to be recruited to Cook Medical manufacturing were from the minister's electorate. They had worked previously at Cook Medical and were returning because the new flexible working hours meant that rejoining the work force did not impact on family life.

A manufacturing facility of this calibre and worldwide reach operating in my backyard is a real coup for the electorate of Toohey. No doubt Cook Medical Australia will support jobs and the economy of the local area, as it continues to grow and expand. The minister advised that the Palaszczuk government is backing the biomedical sector.

Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.11 pm): I want the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games to be brilliant. I want our athletes to be successful and I want my beloved Currumbin to shine as we host three events. But poor governance and poor communication, coupled with arrogance and an over-the-top politically correct attitude, are causing unease and tension that could have been avoided. The Palaszczuk government has no-one to blame but itself.

As a local resident of Currumbin Waters for over 30 years and the local MP for 14, I am appalled to have been left out of important discussions. For over 12 months I have offered to help, but to date my offers have been ignored. No wonder the natives are getting restless in Currumbin.

I have offered to circulate news through my electorate-wide newsletters and online, but my offers have been declined despite the minister's office and Goldoc representatives telling me they are being taken on board. Worse, I found out there was a Currumbin community advisory group formed, but I was

refused any participation in it. The withholding of information and anger hurled at my staff caused my office to survey residents on 31 January and ask them simple questions about whether they felt they were being informed. Eighty-eight per cent said they were not.

After my meeting with Mark Peters and a Goldoc senior strategist I hoped things would change, but they had to be chased for answers. The website does not stack up. People spent ages on it and are not getting answers on issues like wheelie walkers, getting to work and medical appointments or servicing 900 buildings' smoke alarms. I table a letter I wrote to the director-general for the Commonwealth Games two weeks ago outlining these and other issues.

Tabled paper: Letter, undated, from the member for Currumbin, Mrs Jann Stuckey MP, to the Director-General of the Department of Innovation, Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, Mr Damien Walker [278].

The Minister for the Commonwealth Games should spare a thought for my electorate staff who are being bombarded with calls, emails and visits. Things went crazy when bulldozers started carving up sand dunes on the iconic Greenmount Beach. Park-and-ride tickets were not available. People call my office in tears worried about getting their dialysis or getting their kids to child care.


In my inaugural speech in 2004 I said residents—

... wanted a grassroots local member who is prepared to stand up and fight for them, a member who will ensure that consultation processes are made openly available to a broader range of residents, not just committed business groups or recognised community associations.

My commitment to the people of Currumbin is to provide ample avenues for consultation, to listen actively, to gain a thorough understanding of concerns, to speak on constituents' behalf, to care and to be ready to assist ably when injustice, disability or unemployment affects them. Above all, my commitment is to be honest.

That promise has not changed. I have written to the minister regarding legacy projects for Currumbin and requesting some rows of temporary seating be gifted to a couple of local schools and sporting clubs, but I have been told this afternoon that this will not be possible. I will continue to lobby for some legacy measures for my beloved Currumbin.

XXXX Brewery

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (7.14 pm): I rise proudly tonight to support the 'Milton mango' being made in Milton. For those who do not know, the 'Milton mango' is the iconic brand XXXX. There are not too many iconic brands like XXXX. We also have Bundaberg Rum. We saw the fantastic deal done by Bundaberg Brewed Drinks with the US.

There is a threat that the mighty 'Milton mango' will be made in New South Wales, which would be an absolute disgrace. It would be like seeing a VB logo on the State of Origin jersey. Workers at Milton are under threat. They are under threat of labour hire and the creation of insecure jobs.


I actually became a microbiologist because I wanted to be a brewer. During my university degree I visited the mighty XXXX brewery hoping to one day become a brewer. That did not eventuate. I got the next best job. I was able to represent the workers at XXXX at the negotiation table.

Those workers are under threat again. They are under threat around the issue of labour hire. In my close to a decade as a union official at the site I saw automation across the site. I get that technology changes and the number of jobs reduce as a result. We do not want to see secure jobs at the XXXX site become insecure jobs because of management's push.

They are using two tactics. They are bringing in labour hire to undercut the wages and conditions of employees at the site. They are moving production to sites in New South Wales that have labour hire. I urge the management of the XXXX brewery to make sure they protect this iconic brand and protect the workers to ensure they have secure jobs now and into the future. We do not want to tarnish XXXX. I noticed on XXXX Bitter that they say that they are proudly Queensland made. We want to ensure that that continues into the future.

I implore management to get around the table and avoid industrial action. Let us make sure that the 100 or so jobs that are left at the XXXX brewery are well paid jobs and jobs that the workers are proud of and that they continue to produce this fantastic drop, if I do say so myself.

Baby Gives Back

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.17 pm): One in six children aged under 14 years on the Gold Coast lives in poverty. Baby Give Back was founded by Carly Fradgley out of a desire to help people and provide for children less fortunate than her own. The team consists of four dedicated directors and

countless volunteers who work with several agencies on the Gold Coast to give back by providing clothing packs, nappies, wipes and essential baby equipment to families in need. People can drop those items at my office and they collect them from there.


Carly works with fellow directors Kylie Gregson, Julie-Anne McBride and Ainsley McLaren to run this much needed charity service while all juggle motherhood and employment. Baby Give Back is a professionally run organisation operating locally to accept, safety check, recycle and rehome donated, new and second-hand baby items. They help families in need feel cared for by their community by providing this preloved and new material aids in partnership with social services agencies and networks.

Such is the service's need and success on the Gold Coast, Baby Give Back has quickly outgrown its garage storage in private homes. The directors have been tirelessly fundraising the past year via local events to raise the \$30,000-plus needed to secure a warehouse facility. These events have included a successful golf day that I sponsored and attended last year and most recently a ladies high tea which my wife and daughter attended—in fact, my daughter took a table there—which I am told was a fantastic event and which saw the team hit their immediate fundraising goal to finance a warehouse.

Baby Give Back has now started the search for a warehouse, but they still need funds and donations to continue the important work they are doing in giving every baby an equal start. I applaud these young ladies for their time, their hearts and their commitment to those who are so vulnerable in our community.

I would encourage anybody in my electorate listening to parliament tonight who would like to donate some used baby products or new baby products to drop them into my office. My staff will collect them, put them all together and the ladies will come and collect them. People such as my wife and daughter pack those products up and they are delivered to very needy young mothers. These people are doing a wonderful job and they really need to be supported, and I am doing everything I can to help them.

Ipswich Cycle Park

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.19 pm): I rise to speak about the new Ipswich Cycle Park and criterium track. The new cycle park is a \$3.3 million project jointly funded by the Queensland government, the Ipswich City Council and the 24/7 Safe Cycling Fund. It will provide competitive cyclists with a first-rate criterium track for training and competitive events and give recreational cyclists a safe and enjoyable space to ride. I am delighted that Minister Mick de Brenni and I have the pleasure of attending the official opening of the first stage of this world-class facility this Sunday.

The track was the vision of Troy Dobinson, an Ipswich cyclist and safety advocate who planned the cycle park after the death of his mother, Narelle Dobinson, who was tragically killed in a cycling accident on 24 July 2011. I want to sincerely thank Troy for envisioning this park for Ipswich and fighting so hard for it. Thanks also go to the Ipswich City Council, especially councillors Cheryl Bromage and David Morrison, who both worked hard to secure funding for the project.


Troy's tenacity helped bring the cycle park to fruition even when the Campbell Newman government was turning the park into a political football and there was a strong possibility that it may never go ahead. During the 2015 election campaign, Campbell Newman promised Ipswich voters that we could have our cycle park but only on the condition that we re-elect the then LNP member for Ipswich. Ipswich people cannot be bought, and they voted out the LNP and helped Labor to government in 2015.

The Ipswich Cycle Park, like all good projects, has gone ahead under the Palaszczuk government, and I was a very proud advocate for it from the outset. In the 2016-17 budget the Queensland government allocated a total of \$1.5 million in funding, through its Get Playing Plus initiative, to the cycle park's development, with another \$1.5 million in matched funding coming from the Ipswich City Council. The 24/7 Safe Cycling Fund contributed a whopping \$70,000 to the project through its own impressive fundraising efforts.

A factor for people deciding whether or not to take up cycling is the issue of road safety. This is of particular concern for women, who are much less likely to take up cycling for exercise or recreation or even to cycle to work because of concerns about their personal safety on the roads. A recent Heart Foundation survey found that 60 per cent of women would like to cycle more for health and fitness and fun and enjoyment, but to help encourage them to ride more they want improvements such as more bike lanes, better lighting of paths, and bike lanes that provide enough separation between themselves and cars. The new Ipswich Cycle Path will help encourage more women to take up cycling in a safe environment to improve their health and wellbeing.

Ipswich is a community passionate about sport and keen to participate in sporting activities that contribute to a healthier lifestyle. This new cycle park will mean that we can make it easier for people to get outside and get active.

Prostate Cancer


 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (7.22 pm): Tonight I want to talk about prostate cancer. I had a conversation recently with the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. They gave me some figures. In Australia nine men die of prostate cancer each day—nine men. There are 20,000 Australian men diagnosed each year with prostate cancer. There are believed to be 200,000 men at this point in time in this nation living with prostate cancer. One in five will be diagnosed before turning 85 years of age. If you live in regional and remote areas of Queensland, you have a 21 per cent greater risk of dying from prostate cancer than those who live in the south-east corner. More men die of prostate cancer than women of breast cancer. That is a startling figure.

Finally we are talking about prostate cancer. This is the first step in understanding and learning about the disease. We know that men do not want to go to the doctor. This is where family members, particularly wives and female partners, become very important. A blood test, a PSA test or examination by a doctor can be the start of the road to recovery. Indeed, family history is a strong marker that you may contract prostate cancer. Research is ongoing and they have told me that they are trying to get to a point where it is treated as a chronic disease such as diabetes or other such diseases. Research includes DNA sequencing, smart radiotherapy and improving the PSA test.

The word 'cancer' still strikes fear into people but, if diagnosed properly and early, it is not the end of the world. I say to the men in this chamber: make certain that you get a test done. I say to the women in this chamber: as a wife or a partner, ensure that your male partner gets a test done. It does not take much. It can quickly eliminate or alert the doctor to further tests being needed and could save your life and much pain and suffering.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Caloundra. That was very inspiring.

Lady Cilento Children's Hospital

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (7.25 pm): Last term I had the great pleasure of chairing the parliamentary health committee. That role, as well as my role as a local member, provided an invaluable opportunity to learn more about our health system, the workforce and the legislation, policy and procedures they operate by and the challenges they face. All of the policy documents, public hearings, meetings and tours do not show you or teach you anywhere near as much as seeing that system in action firsthand.

On 31 January this year my seven-year-old son, Jordan, started coughing in the early hours of the morning. By the next morning, it did not seem to have developed, so we sent him to school, as many parents in here would have experienced and done the same. My husband, himself an RN, felt terrible when he was later called to come and pick him up from school because of vomiting. Within half an hour of arriving home, he deteriorated from being sick to having extremely laboured breathing and being almost nonresponsive. Seven to 10 minutes later he was in the back of an ambulance on his way to the Emergency Department of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, met by the CCP en route.


After six intense hours of treatment in the Emergency Resuscitation Unit, he was stabilised and some time later admitted to the ward with high-flow oxygen to keep him breathing. For us, like anyone faced with a medical emergency, it was a point of crises, but for the health professionals we came into contact with, and indeed for all Queensland health professionals, it is what they do each and every day.

I feel very lucky to have the opportunity tonight, by virtue of my role in this chamber, to personally thank those health professionals: QAS paramedics Luke and Tim, CCP Katie, emergency doctors Adam Michael and Karin Heeney, emergency nurses Annie and Tahlia, and ward nurses Adele, Tori, Chantelle, Cassie and Elise at LCCH for their outstanding professionalism and care and for their kindness. I extend these thanks also to the volunteers who played Yahtzee by his bed and the hospital school teacher who made him keep up with his maths—yes, even in hospital you cannot avoid maths homework! When I thank them, I am thanking all of our hardworking health workforce on behalf of all of the Queensland families who have been assisted in their time of need.

It is a deeply held value within the Labor Party that how a society treats its most vulnerable is always the measure of its humanity. The ability of our health system to respond to the demands placed upon it, to resource the people who work within it and to care for the people who call upon it depends

on the will of governments. The current federal government funding shortfall shows a lack of will and places at risk the treatment of thousands of Queenslanders. Canberra's own health funding umpire shows that Queensland is owed in the order of \$979 million for the 2014-15 to 2018-19 period. These are not numbers on a balance sheet but real services needed and real lives affected. I implore Canberra to take urgent action to meet their obligations to sick and vulnerable Queenslanders.

Neighbourhood Watch

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.28 pm): Tonight I rise to speak about reported funding cuts by the Palaszczuk government in relation to Neighbourhood Watch in Queensland. When the LNP was in office we allocated \$2 million over four years for Neighbourhood Watch. It was money well spent. Now in the 30th year of Neighbourhood Watch we hear that funding will be cut—yes, cut, cut, cut—under a mean-spirited government. If it were the other way around, we would not hear the end of it. They would be screaming blue murder.

Locally in my great electorate of Whitsunday we have had Mr Neighbourhood Watch himself, Ken Rehbein, blow the whistle on these cutbacks. I commend Mr Rehbein for having the guts to come out publicly and draw a line in the sand to speak out about these funding cuts that he has heard about. I also want to acknowledge his contribution to Neighbourhood Watch as area coordinator and as the Mackay police district representative on Neighbourhood Watch Queensland's Community Advisory Committee.

I also want to acknowledge the other volunteers in Mackay's northern beaches Neighbourhood Watch group: Clare Rehbein, Janelle Schembri, Jo Walker, Russell Walker, John Young, Frank Cowell, Linda Cowell—it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the Cowells' recent marriage late last year; congratulations to them both—Faye Griffin, Doug and Kaye Petersen and Anne Jansen. I could go on and on. I also want to acknowledge the hardworking local police officers who are connected to Neighbourhood Watch in the northern beaches: Sergeant Nigel Dalton and Senior Constable Steve Smith. Officers Dalton and Smith are part of Mackay's crime prevention unit. They do a terrific job. Needless to say, their workload is not getting any easier.

Shoal Point and Bucasia and Eimeo and Blacks Beach used to have their own stand-alone Neighbourhood Watch groups. They have since combined. With the cuppa and chat concept that has come along, they have kicked along in leaps and bounds. The state conference has been held over many years going back to the early 1990s. One wonders with these funding cuts what will happen to the state conference and awards with Neighbourhood Watch. Time will tell. There are 400 Neighbourhood Watch groups in Queensland. They all do a terrific job, but how are they supposed to share a meagre \$75,000? That is the mail coming out as reported in the *Daily Mercury* this year on 23 February.

Crime is certainly a concern in my electorate of Whitsunday. Dolphin Heads Resort was robbed just a few days ago. The ATM and the safe were stolen. I saw a recent report that 81 cars have been stolen in Mackay in the space of three months. A lot of people remember Labor's promise back in 2001 to build a 24/7 police station in Mackay's northern beaches. Guess what? It has not happened.

(Time expired)

The House adjourned at 7.32 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahan, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson