



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

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## TUESDAY, 1 MAY 2018


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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.

### ASSENT TO BILLS

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

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

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

Date of Assent: 29 March 2018

A Bill for an Act to amend the City of Brisbane Act 2010 and the Local Government Act 2009 for particular purposes.

A Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment, administration and oversight of entities to hold and manage property for particular objects to benefit public health in Queensland, and to amend this Act, the Drugs Misuse Act 1986, the Drugs Misuse Regulation 1987, the Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Provisions Act 2009, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Justice and Other Information Disclosure Act 2008, the Mental Health Act 2016 and the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 for particular purposes.

A Bill for an Act to amend the Queensland Competition Authority Act 1997 for particular purposes.

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

Yours sincerely


Governor

29 March 2018

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 29 March 2018, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker, advising of assent to bills on 29 March 2018 [\[541\]](#).

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


#### New Senator, Swearing In

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that Ms Amanda Stoker, being elected by this House to fill the casual Senate vacancy caused by the resignation of the Hon. Senator George Brandis QC, was sworn in as a member of the Commonwealth Senate on 22 March 2018. I table my letter to His Excellency the Governor advising of the election of Ms Stoker and the Acting Governor's response for the information of the House.


*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 21 March 2018, to His Excellency the Governor advising of the election of Ms Amanda Stoker to hold a place in the Senate of the Parliament of the Commonwealth on 21 March 2018 [\[542\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 22 March 2018, from the Acting Governor to the Speaker advising that she has certified the appointment of Ms Amanda Stoker and forwarded that certification to His Excellency the Governor-General [\[543\]](#).

### Mackenroth, Hon. TM


 **Mr SPEAKER:** I am saddened to learn of the passing of former deputy premier and treasurer Terry Mackenroth. At some point the House will formally note its condolence with the passing of Mr Mackenroth, however, I wish to briefly say that with the passing of Mr Mackenroth we have lost a truly passionate Queenslander who contributed greatly to the state we live in. I was very proud to call him a mentor and friend. When it came to sport he loved all sports, but he put Rugby League over and above all others. My thoughts go out to his wonderful wife, Mary, and daughters, Rachel and Jessica, and the extended Mackenroth family.

### Heart Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Heart Week runs from 29 April to 6 May 2018. This year's focus is on the importance of physical activity in reducing the prevalence and impact of risk factors for heart disease. Increasingly greater numbers of Queenslanders are spending too much time sitting or being inactive—travelling to school or work by car, sitting at work and using screens for leisure. The Heart Foundation's Don't Get the Sits campaign encourages all Australians to get moving and keep your heart strong because, like any other muscle, your heart needs exercise.


I thank the member for Greenslopes, who is hosting a Heart Week event today on the Green Deck from 11.30 to 2.30. Representatives from the Heart Foundation will be on hand to provide honourable members with a Heart Week information pack and some tips on getting active during the workday.

### Question on Notice

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 21 March 2018 the member for Ninderry asked a question on notice to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Due to an administrative error, the question on notice was incorrectly directed to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, both in the *Notice Paper* for Thursday, 22 March 2018, and in the questions on notice database. Once they became aware of the mistake, on 4 April 2018 the Table Office corrected the question on notice database and contacted the relevant departmental officers to advise them of the error. I note that the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development's response to question on notice No. 271 of 2018 was due on Friday, 20 April 2018. I certainly thank the minister for her cooperation in this matter.

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by the Premier

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 5 April 2018 I received correspondence from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Everton regarding the answer to a question without notice given by the Premier. On 8 March 2018 the Leader of the Opposition asked the Premier—

Yesterday, the Premier told the media three times that she would look into the ETU's pick for a taxpayer funded job in the Palaszczuk government and twice promised to report back the facts of the matter. However, it was reported late last night that the Premier reneged on those promises. Will the Premier now honour her promises and tell the House: did this person receive a taxpayer funded job in the Palaszczuk government? If so, who was it and what was the job?

In reply the Premier stated—

I gave an undertaking to the media yesterday that I would look at the tabled document that was put forward in this House. I had a look at that tabled document and it was redacted.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition alleged that the answer was deliberately misleading because the Premier referred to an answer to one reporter but did not refer to the actual undertaking given to find out the truth of the appointment. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition claims that by omitting specific information to put her statement in the proper context the Premier has deliberately misled the House.

On 6 March 2018 I made a statement in the House regarding my expectations concerning allegations of contempt for deliberately misleading parliament. In that statement I detailed my expectation that in such matters I require sufficient particulars of not only the allegedly deliberately misleading statements but also clear analysis demonstrating that such statements were not only misleading but were deliberately misleading. In my statement to the House I was very clear that any correspondence not providing sufficient evidence may be simply dismissed by me without further action.

In his correspondence to me the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has not provided sufficient evidence that the Premier's answer to the question without notice was deliberately misleading. The correspondence does not present any evidence other than mere assertion that the Premier was aware at the time of making the statement that it was incorrect or that the Premier intended to mislead the House. Standing order 269(4) states—


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

In the absence of any substantive evidence supporting the allegation, I consider that the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee. I table the response in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence in relation to the allegation from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Mr Tim Mander MP, that the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, deliberately mislead the House in an answer to a question without notice [544].

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Contravention of Parliament's Terms and Conditions of Broadcast

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, since the last sitting I have received two complaints alleging breaches of the terms and conditions for the broadcast of proceedings. The member for Kawana complained about the use of a picture taken from the broadcast and tweeted by a ministerial staff member. The Leader of the House complained about a video appearing on the LNP's website which included an excerpt from Channel 7 news which was either a republication of the broadcast or a republication of the TV's pooled footage.

I am satisfied that both complaints were, on their face, valid and the use of the broadcast in each instance was in breach of the terms and conditions, which include that the broadcast cannot be used for satire or political advertising. However, in both instances the offending publications were removed after requests by either my office or the Clerk. Although in both instances the material could have been removed more quickly, given the removal of the material I have decided not to refer either complaint to the Ethics Committee. I table the relevant correspondence.

*Tabled paper:* Correspondence in relation to two complaints alleging breaches of the terms and conditions for the broadcast of proceedings [545].

Honourable members, given these complaints, I need to make clear the rationale of the terms and conditions for the publication of the broadcast and the extent of the prohibitions. I therefore seek leave to incorporate a statement I have circulated on the matter.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE BROADCAST OF PROCEEDINGS

The broadcasting of Legislative Assembly was an e-democracy initiative that arose out of the Beattie government's 2001 election platform, Restoring Integrity: the Beattie Good Government Plan for Queensland.

It was agreed during intra-governmental planning that the implementation of this initiative would be achieved through a three-phase approach:

- (i) the audio broadcast over the Internet of the proceedings of parliament;
- (ii) the video broadcast over the Internet of the proceedings of parliament; and
- (iii) the development of a system capable of providing archived broadcast material on demand.

In April 2003, the audio broadcast of the proceedings of parliament over the Internet commenced. In June 2007, the video broadcast of the proceedings of parliament over the Internet commenced. More recently the system has been upgraded to provide archived broadcast material on demand.

It is emphasised that the broadcast was about opening up the democratic process to Queenslanders. But from the inception of broadcasting, it was appreciated that the broadcast should only be used for the purpose of fair and accurate reports of proceedings and a balanced presentation of differing views. The Assembly has always sought to ensure it is not used for used for commercial advertising, political advertising, satire etc. or otherwise distorted.

Therefore, before the broadcasting of the proceedings, section 58 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 was inserted into the Act which enabled terms and conditions on use to be imposed.

The Legislative Assembly and its committees have authorised further publication of the broadcast subject to the following conditions:

1. The material must only be used for the purposes of fair and accurate reports of proceedings and must not in any circumstances be used for;
  - i. political advertising, election campaigning or any advertising campaign that would normally require at law a broadcaster to announce who has authorised the material;
  - ii. satire or ridicule; and
  - iii. commercial sponsorship or commercial advertising;
2. Reports of proceedings must provide a balanced presentation of differing views;
3. Excerpts of proceedings are to be placed in context so as to avoid any misrepresentation;
4. Excerpts of proceedings which are subsequently withdrawn may be rebroadcast only if the withdrawal is also rebroadcast; and
5. Points of order, and matters claimed to be points of order may be rebroadcast except:
  - (i) statements in respect of which a member claims misrepresentation or otherwise seeks withdrawal, and which are subsequently ordered to be withdrawn, or are voluntarily withdrawn, are not to be rebroadcast; or
  - (ii) if the House or the Speaker or Committee Chairperson, in accordance with the Standing Rules and Orders and practice of the Legislative Assembly, orders that a statement be expunged or deleted from Hansard, either at the time that the statement was made or at a later time, the statement, the Speakers or Chairpersons direction and the proceedings relating to the matter, are not to be rebroadcast

Use of the broadcast material in contravention of the terms and conditions imposed by the Legislative Assembly or its committees will constitute a contempt of Parliament.

The above terms and conditions apply to the broadcast facilitated by the Parliamentary Service obtained via the Parliament's website and any broadcast by the media of the proceedings, including those obtained by the medias cameras from the floor of the House. That is, it applies to a "republishing" or "rebroadcast".

Furthermore, terms and conditions apply to any subsequent republishing.

Thus, for example, the terms and conditions apply to:

- a photograph taken of the broadcast;
- an excerpt from a news report which is republishing the broadcast.

It also does not matter what platform is used to republish or rebroadcast. It applies to websites, twitter and other social media.

I would ask all members to pass on the above information to their staff and political parties.

## PETITIONS

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

### **Deagon, Biarra Street, Pedestrian Crossing**

**Hon. Hinchliffe**, from 149 petitioners, requesting the House to consolidate the current signalised pedestrian crossing on Braun Street into a signalised intersection at Biarra Street, Deagon [546].

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, sponsored by the Clerk—

### **WorkCover and WorkCover Appeal Acts**

From 1 petitioner, requesting the House to amend time frames and procedures to WorkCover and WorkCover Appeal Acts [547].

### **Indooroopilly, Bridge**

From 273 petitioners, requesting the House to build a new bridge across the river at Indooroopilly, east of the existing railway bridges [548].

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

### **Vegetation Management, Fodder Harvesting**

**Ms Leahy**, from 15,462 petitioners, requesting the House to recognise the need for Queensland landholders to sustainably manage regrowth/thickening and the importance of using Mulga as a fodder, and to not impose any further restrictions through legislation/regulation on fodder harvesting or through other Self Assessable Codes, legislation or regulation [549, 550].

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

### **Kedron State High School, Performing Arts Centre**

**Mr Nicholls**, from 708 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding for a new Performing Arts Centre for Kedron State High School [551].

### **Eprapah Creek, Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway**

**Mr McEachan**, from 305 requesting the House to refuse the relevant permits and call on the Redland City Council to cease construction of a pedestrian/bicycle pathway crossing the Eprapah Creek and to vary the infrastructure agreement with the developer to allow upgrade of the existing bicycle track or similar infrastructure [552].

#### Nambour Hospital, Birthing Unit

**Mr Hunt**, from 482 petitioners, requesting the House to re-open Nambour Hospital Birthing Unit by the end of 2018 [\[553\]](#).

#### Mackay Eungella Road, Traffic Lights

**Mr Andrew**, from 88 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure installation of traffic lights on the intersection of David Price Way and Marian/Hampton Road that intersects Mackay Eungella Road to allow safe access to shops [\[554\]](#).

#### Mackay-Marian, Bus Shelters

**Mr Andrew**, from 30 petitioners, requesting the House to provide bus shelters under local consultation for the people who wish to use this bus service to and from Mackay to Marian [\[555\]](#).

#### Marian Shopping Centre, Roundabout

**Mr Andrew**, from 54 petitioners, requesting the House to install a roundabout at Marian Shopping Centre, where Hadley Street meets Mackay Eungella Road, to allow traffic to access the shopping centre precinct from both ways and leave from both ways safely [\[556\]](#).

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

#### Religious Violence, Royal Commission

From 52 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a Royal Commission to investigate all organisations registered to operate in Queensland as religious organisations, affiliations, groups or companies, to see if any of them are promoting philosophies, teachings or practices that could be seen as promoting future terror or violence that might affect the safety and well-being of the people of Queensland [\[557\]](#).

#### Burrum, Gregory, Isis and Cherwell River System, Gill Netting

From 57 petitioners, requesting the House to close the Burrum, Gregory, Isis and Cherwell River systems to professional gill netting to save our river systems and allow the fish stocks to recover [\[558\]](#).

#### Moreton Bay Regional Council, Road Corridor

From 398 petitioners, requesting the House to advise when the Moreton Bay Regional Council will be conducting an investigation into a major road corridor to the west of the existing Bruce Highway; reject the proposed major roads shown in the proposed major amendment No 1 to the regional plan; ensure developers are not provided with information on proposed roads prior to notification of affected land owners and to engage in consultation and engagement [\[559\]](#).

#### Moreton Bay Regional Council, Koala Corridors

From 3,582 petitioners, requesting the House to recall the Moreton Bay Regional Council Local Planning Amendment for review and require the existing koala corridors in the Warner Investigation Area to be retained and the corridor be revegetated to allow for safe koala movement [\[560\]](#).

#### Abortion Laws

From 11,835 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the removal of restraint on abortion in Queensland [\[561\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

23 March 2018—

- [428](#) Queensland Fisheries Joint Authority—Report for the period 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
- [429](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to an e-petition (2873-18) sponsored by Mr. Bennett, from 38 petitioners, requesting the House to close the Burrum, Gregory, Isis and Cherwell River systems to professional gill netting to save our river systems and allow the fish stocks to recover
- [430](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 6, 56th Parliament—Exempt subordinate legislation tabled on 23 October 2017
- [431](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 7, 56th Parliament—Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

26 March 2018—

- [432](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 3, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2017 and 24 October 2017

28 March 2018—

- [433](#) Queensland Theatre Company—Annual Report 2017
- [434](#) District Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [435](#) Magistrates Courts of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17
- [436](#) Supreme Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17



29 March 2018—

- [437](#) University of the Sunshine Coast—Annual Report 2017
- [438](#) University of Southern Queensland—Annual Report 2017
- [439](#) Griffith University—Annual Report 2017
- [440](#) Central Queensland University—Annual Report 2017
- [441](#) Queensland University of Technology—Annual Report 2017
- [442](#) University of Queensland—Annual Report 2017
- [443](#) University of Queensland—Financial Statements 2017—Volume 1
- [444](#) University of Queensland—Financial Statements 2017—Volume 2—subsidiaries
- [445](#) James Cook University—Annual Report 2017
- [446](#) Queensland College of Teachers—Annual Report 2017
- [447](#) Brisbane Girls Grammar School—Annual Report 2017
- [448](#) Board of Trustees Brisbane Grammar School—Annual Report 2017
- [449](#) Ipswich Girls Grammar School and Ipswich Junior Grammar School—Annual Report 2017
- [450](#) Ipswich Grammar School—Annual Report 2017
- [451](#) Rockhampton Girls Grammar School—Annual Report 2017
- [452](#) Board of Trustees of the Rockhampton Grammar School—Annual Report 2017
- [453](#) Townsville Grammar School—Annual Report 2017
- [454](#) Toowoomba Grammar School—Annual Report 2017
- [455](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an official visit to the United States of America by the Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk), 20 February—1 March 2018
- [456](#) Public Interest Monitor—Annual Report 2016-17
- [457](#) Office of the Public Guardian—Annual Report 2016-17

03 April 2018—

- [458](#) Murray-Darling Basin Authority—Annual Report 2016-17

04 April 2018—

- [459](#) Inspector-General Emergency Management Report 2: 2017-18 Review of capability at a district and local level—Townsville disaster district

05 April 2018—

- [460](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (2884-18) presented by Ms Lui, from 227 petitioners, requesting the House to provide respite care facilities in Cooktown
- [461](#) The Public Advocate—Annual Report 2016-17
- [462](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (2855-18), sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 343 petitioners, requesting the House to remove the proposed amendment to the Moreton Bay Regional Planning Scheme to include a connection road between Greensill Road and Leitchs Road South, Albany Creek and to maintain its local collector road status on the Road Hierarchy Overlay Map

06 April 2018—

- [463](#) Director of Child Protection Litigation—Annual Report 2016-17

09 April 2018—

- [464](#) Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 2, 56th Parliament—The Nature Conservation (Special Wildlife Reserves) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
- [465](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 5, 56th Parliament—Local Government (Councillor Complaints) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
- [466](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee—Report No. 4, 56th Parliament—Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
- [467](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 3, 56th Parliament—Plumbing and Drainage Bill 2018
- [468](#) Right to Information Act 2009 and Information Privacy Act 2009—Annual Report 2016-17
- [469](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2886-18), presented by Mr Costigan, from 674 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the existing boat ramp at Dingo Beach and leave Blackcurrant Island in its pristine state
- [470](#) Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions—Annual Report 2016-17

10 April 2018—

- [471](#) Final response from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham), to an ePetition (2790-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 154 petitioners, requesting the House to take action to reduce electricity prices
- [472](#) Merlwood Water Board—Final Report 1 July 2016 to 6 July 2017

12 April 2018—

[473](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission: Deaths of children and young people Queensland—Annual Report 2016-17

13 April 2018—

[474](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 51, 55th Parliament—Consideration of the recommendations of the strategic review of the Queensland Audit Office, government response

19 April 2018—

[475](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 5, 56th Parliament—Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

[476](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2833-17) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 1,070 petitioners, requesting the House to enact legislation for the reversal of the burden of proof in collisions between motor vehicles and vulnerable road users

[477](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2889-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 275 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules), REG 154 bus lanes and REG 156 transit lanes to include all signed and regulated public passenger services, including booked hire

[478](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2895-18) presented by Mrs Stuckey, from 660 petitioners, requesting the House to decrease the speed limit on Tallebudgera Connection Road to 50 kph between 5 pm and 5 am and to 60 kph during all other times

[479](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2896-18) presented by Mr Bennett and an ePetition (2834-17) sponsored by Mr Bennett, from 4,173 and 4,015 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to ensure harsher penalties apply for negligent driving causing death or grievous bodily harm

[480](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to an ePetition (2875-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 280 petitioners, requesting the House to re-engage Ms Sharon Kelsey as Chief Executive Officer Logan City Council

20 April 2018—

[481](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 6, 56th Parliament—Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018

[482](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 4, 56th Parliament—Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

[483](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 5, 56th Parliament—Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018: Erratum

[484](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (2883-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 1,583 petitioners, requesting the House to review the Moreton Bay Regional Council's Planning Scheme, Amendment 1 Warner

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[485](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 7, 56th Parliament—Local Government Electoral (Implementing Stage 1 of Belcarra) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

[486](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 8, 56th Parliament—Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Bill 2018

[487](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), to an ePetition (2876-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 250 petitioners, requesting the House to intervene in the Wynnum Road corridor upgrade Stage 1 and stop the BCC from proceeding further

[488](#) Response from the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning (Hon. Dick), to a paper petition (2900-18) presented by Mr Dametto, from 1,355 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently address the dredging of One Mile Creek

[489](#) State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 6, 56th Parliament—Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

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[490](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 5, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2017 and 24 October 2017

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[491](#) Explosives (Commonwealth Games Transportation Restrictions) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 27

[492](#) Explosives (Commonwealth Games Transportation Restrictions) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 27, explanatory notes

Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017—

[493](#) Land and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 28

[494](#) Land and Other Legislation Amendment (Postponement) Regulation 2018, No. 28, explanatory notes

## Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Act 1971—

[495](#) Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2018, No. 29

[496](#) Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2018, No. 29, explanatory notes

## Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2018—

[497](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 30

[498](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 30, explanatory notes

## Ambulance Service Act 1991, Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Private Health Facilities Act 1999—

[499](#) Health Legislation (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 31

[500](#) Health Legislation (Information Sharing) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 31, explanatory notes

## Motor Accident Insurance Act 1994, National Injury Insurance Scheme (Queensland) Act 2016—

[501](#) Motor Accident Insurance and Other Legislation (Fees and Levies) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 32

[502](#) Motor Accident Insurance and Other Legislation (Fees and Levies) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 32, explanatory notes

## Work Health and Safety Act 2011—

[503](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Stevedoring) Amendment Notice 2018, No. 33

[504](#) Work Health and Safety (Codes of Practice) (Stevedoring) Amendment Notice 2018, No. 33, explanatory notes

## Education (General Provisions) Act 2006—

[505](#) Education (General Provisions) (Woorabinda) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 34

[506](#) Education (General Provisions) (Woorabinda) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 34, explanatory notes

## Labour Hire Licensing Act 2017—

[507](#) Labour Hire Licensing Regulation 2018, No. 35

[508](#) Labour Hire Licensing Regulation 2018, No. 35, explanatory notes

## Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act 1990—

[509](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 2018, No. 36

[510](#) Superannuation (State Public Sector) Amendment Notice (No. 1) 2018, No. 36, explanatory notes

## Fisheries Act 1994—

[511](#) Spanner Crabs Quota Amendment Declaration 2018, No. 37

[512](#) Spanner Crabs Quota Amendment Declaration 2018, No. 37, explanatory notes

## Disaster Management Act 2003—

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[514](#) Disaster Management (Disaster Districts) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 38, explanatory notes

## Education (Overseas Students) Act 2018—

[515](#) Education (Overseas Students) Regulation 2018, No. 39

[516](#) Education (Overseas Students) Regulation 2018, No. 39, explanatory notes

## Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995, Environmental Protection Act 1994, Forestry Act 1959, Marine Parks Act 2004, Nature Conservation Act 1992, Queensland Heritage Act 1992, Recreation Areas Management Act 2006, Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011—

[517](#) Environmental Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 40

[518](#) Environmental Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 40, explanatory notes

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[520](#) Liquor (Regulated Car Parks) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 41, explanatory notes

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[521](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Animal Management, Biosecurity and Vegetation Management Activities) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 42

[522](#) State Penalties Enforcement (Animal Management, Biosecurity and Vegetation Management Activities) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 42, explanatory notes

## Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008—

[523](#) Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) (Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 43

[524](#) Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) (Northern Peninsula Area Regional Council) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 43, explanatory notes

## Education (Overseas Students) Act 2018—

[525](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 44

[526](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 44, explanatory notes

## Public Sector Ethics Act 1994, Public Service Act 2008—

[527](#) Public Service and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2018, No. 45

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## Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995—

[529](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) (Special Interest Vehicles) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 46

[530](#) Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) (Special Interest Vehicles) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 46, explanatory notes

## Legal Profession Act 2007—

[531](#) Legal Profession (Community Legal Service Practitioners) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 47

[532](#) Legal Profession (Community Legal Service Practitioners) Amendment Regulation 2018, No. 47, explanatory notes

## Nature Conservation Act 1992—

[533](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2018, No. 48

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## Legal Profession Act 2007—

[535](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice 2018, No. 49

[536](#) Legal Profession (Society Rules) Amendment Notice 2018, No. 49, explanatory notes

## MEMBER'S PAPER

The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Glass House (Mr Powell)—

[562](#) Nonconforming petition requesting the House to act now to provide a direct bus service from Mooloolah township to Maleny State High School

## REPORT BY THE CLERK

The following report was tabled by the Clerk—

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

**Hospital Foundations Bill 2018**

Amendment made to the Bill\*

**Clause 161 (Insertion of new ss 497A and 497B)**


At page 93, line 9, **479B**

*Omit, insert—*

**497B**

\* The following page and line number references relate to the Bill, as amended.

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS****Mackenroth, Hon. TM**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): This is a sad day for me and a sad day for Queensland. We have both lost a friend. Today I rise to pay tribute to Terry Mackenroth. Terry sadly lost his battle with cancer yesterday. His was a life of Labor values, of Queensland values. Coming from a strong Labor family he decided on his future career as a politician in grade 8, but he was not silly enough to do it without a trade behind him, and so at 15 he left school and got that trade. Terry was a welder—in the literal sense and the metaphorical one because he brought people together. Terry knew that together we are stronger. He was always a friend of the worker and knew the value of hard work.


In 1977 he was elected to the seat of Chatsworth, an electorate he would go on to represent for 28 years. From the time he first became a minister with the election of the Goss government, he served across a wide array of portfolios—from police and emergency services to housing, planning, rural communities and local government, rising of course to become treasurer and deputy premier. He was

as comfortable in short sleeves in the electorate as he was in a suit in the boardroom. There is a great truth in the Labor Party: given the choice between having the numbers or the argument, you should always choose the numbers. The Fox, as Terry was fondly known—and sometimes feared—seemed always to have both the numbers and the argument. The Fox: a great tactician, a great parliamentarian, master and commander of this chamber that we all sit in today.

When he stepped away from nearly three decades in parliament, Terry did not step away from public life. He had many great interests, but above all he loved Rugby League, and especially the Broncos, and at every Brisbane State of Origin match he would take me down to the rooms to thank our mighty Maroons for another famous victory. He also loved his local community and community sport. In our last lengthy conversation, we discussed the new Terry Mackenroth gym at the Clem Jones Centre which will officially open in less than a fortnight on 12 May. He said to me, ‘Annastacia, this is not a small gym,’ and then he suggested that I should open it. For my friend, of course I agreed. In Terry’s way, he then offered a few ideas for what I might like to say in the speech that day.


Today as we pay tribute to Terry, may it be said that for Labor he always kept the faith. March 2012 were our darkest days when many Labor supporters and members had lost their faith. Terry, who had retired from politics seven years earlier, reinvested his faith in our caucus of just seven. He helped us to find our faith again. For Terry Mackenroth yesterday his last great fight and campaign came to an end. He was not just respected but liked on both sides of this chamber and, as his wife, Mary, has commented, it is telling that in these few hours the tributes have flowed from all sides of politics, and I thank everyone for that. Many have commented on his sense of decency, of always doing what was right. Terry was decent and honourable. He was very witty, intelligent and humble, yet Terry’s greatest love was his family. After speaking with them, it is my honour to say today that a state funeral will be held for Terry Mackenroth so that Queenslanders have their chance to say goodbye. To Mary and his daughters, Rachel and Jessica, and to Terry and Mary’s grandchildren, we offer our deepest condolences and prayers. Vale, Terry Mackenroth.

### **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, National Redress Scheme**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.46 am): Yesterday I announced \$500 million for the survivors of child sexual abuse in government run institutions. It is part of the national redress recommended by the royal commission. It is also the right thing to do. Queensland has never shied away from our responsibilities. In 1998 we established the Forde inquiry. The following year it delivered its findings, including \$100 million for survivors. I hesitate to use the word ‘compensation’ because nothing could compensate for the loss of a childhood.

Mary Addams lost her childhood in Neerkol orphanage near Rockhampton. It shattered her into silence. For decades she carried the undeserved burden of an innocent destroyed by another’s sin, and yet somehow Mary and others like her found the strength to speak out and to fight. Many of her friends died fighting, but not Mary—not yet. She stood next to me yesterday a little frail on a walking stick, but her voice is still strong. She said, ‘I was worried, but I knew that you and your government would not let us down.’ There are as many as 10,000 Marys, victims of child sexual abuse, in Queensland alone—5,000 from government run institutions and another 5,000 from church or charity run organisations. I encourage those groups to do what we have done and opt in to the scheme. Actually, I do not encourage it; I demand it. For Mary and all the others, do the right thing.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Economic Benefits**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.48 am): It is two weeks since we hosted the best Commonwealth Games of all time, and Queensland is still on a high. We had 11 days of sporting action in which Australia racked up a record medal tally. Incidentally, Queensland would have come third overall if it competed separately, knocking the rest of Australia back to second behind England in the process! That sporting success was complemented by the largest arts and culture festival this state has ever seen. We welcomed more than a million visitors to Queensland while 1.5 billion people around the world watched, and the benefits from tourism will be seen for many years to come. For the first time these Commonwealth Games were accompanied by a trade program that stands to create jobs for Queensland for many years into the future. The success of our trade and investment program rivalled the feats of our athletes in the pool and on the track. More than 2,500 people took part in our Games Time Trade and Investment Program, which comprised 32 events across the Gold Coast, Brisbane, Townsville and Cairns.


Delegates from some of the fastest growing economies in the world were represented at the games, all eager to seek out new opportunities and see what Queensland has to offer. We attracted 38 international delegations from 26 countries, including England, India, Canada, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Singapore, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. We even had representatives from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, which represents more than 2.5 million people across India.

Economic modelling shows that the Commonwealth Games will generate additional exports and foreign direct investment of around \$488 million over the next four years. My government is committed to making sure that taxpayers' investment in the Commonwealth Games reaps benefits for ordinary Queenslanders. Our investment in the games has delivered infrastructure that will help us compete as a major events powerhouse for generations but, just as importantly, this event has strengthened our ties with our neighbours and shown business partners exactly what we are capable of. The Commonwealth Games will herald a new golden age of economic prosperity for Queensland.

I want to give a shout-out to the 15,000 volunteers—our wonderful games shapers—who worked day and night welcoming our friends to the Gold Coast and always with that genuine Queensland smile. I also want to pay tribute to our police and emergency services workers who kept us safe and looked after those in need during the games. I thank all those people who worked behind the scenes for all they did to make the Commonwealth Games a success.

I want to add my thanks for the fact that these games were the most inclusive games that we have ever seen. Even up to today, many people are commenting to me that it was wonderful to see our para athletes competing in between the events of our other athletes. I think this is a sign of things to come. On behalf of all Queenslanders, thank you very much. We have had a wonderful Commonwealth Games. I am excited by our future. The games may be over, but Queensland's time in the sun has only just begun.

### **Mackenroth, Hon. TM; Gold Coast Commonwealth Games**

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.51 am): I look forward to the time when we can come together in this place and pay proper tribute to a man who served the Labor Party, the people of Queensland and his community in this House, Mr Terry Mackenroth. Before doing so, I echo the beautiful tribute to Terry that the Premier paid this morning. I also express my deep condolences to his family. I know that they will be in shock, as the members of the Labor Party are today. I want to acknowledge that there is a big community of supporters who want to express their love and affection for Terry's family at this particular moment in time.

The Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast were an outstanding success. I want to particularly congratulate the Premier and the Minister for the Commonwealth Games for all of their hard work. Above all, I want to thank the athletes who inspired, entertained and amazed us over 11 days. These Commonwealth Games were unique and historic. As the Premier just said, it was particularly because they delivered an impressive number of records and firsts. These were the first games to award an equal number of medals for men and women and they included the largest fully integrated parasport program ever seen in the world. During those 11 glorious days we saw nine new world records and 83 games records.

Gold Coast 2018 was also the first Commonwealth Games in history and major sporting event in Australia with a reconciliation action plan. For the first time an invitation to attend the games was extended to Commonwealth nations by Yugambeh elders, Patricia O'Connor and Ted Williams, at Buckingham Palace in March 2017. The elders also launched the Queen's Baton Relay. Gold Coast 2018 also saw a first nations welcoming ceremony, delivered by people from the Yugambeh-speaking region, to representatives from Commonwealth nations at the commencement of the games.

Gold Coast 2018 was also about a legacy to the Gold Coast. We have built an impressive legacy from the games that will pay dividends on the Gold Coast for many years to come. The Gold Coast will continue to enjoy new and upgraded sporting venues, an expanded Gold Coast Light Rail network—which moved around 100,000 spectators each day—the duplication of the heavy rail line between Coomera and Helensvale, as well as significant road upgrades right across the coast. Importantly, the games are estimated to have provided a boost of around \$2 billion to Queensland's gross state product and generated more than 16,000 full-time-equivalent jobs. Indigenous businesses across Queensland secured nearly \$8 million in contracts and over 200 jobs were created for Indigenous people, boosting employment, training, procurement and business capability.

We know that innovation, technology and health sectors are where the jobs will be in the next 10 to 20 years. Work has already begun on transforming the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct into one of the most advanced health and knowledge innovation hubs in the Asia-Pacific. Thanks to our \$550 million games legacy project, the precinct will support thousands of jobs for Queenslanders and generate almost \$3 billion for the economy in the next decade. Although Gold Coast 2018 has already brought significant benefits to the state's economy, the Palaszczuk government's focus now is to make sure that those benefits continue in the future, just as Expo has for the past 30 years since it was held on the south bank of the river.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; Mackenroth, Hon. TM**



**Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.55 am): I could not agree more with the Premier. On behalf of all Queenslanders and the Gold Coast, we are so proud that we have delivered the best Commonwealth Games ever at Gold Coast 2018. The exposure generated by the games is priceless and a significant down payment on Queensland's tourism growth for years to come. The games attracted an international audience of 1.5 billion people, a record number of Australian TV viewers, dominating the TV ratings throughout the games period, and more than 108 million visits to the official GC 2018 social media channel alone. In fact, during the Commonwealth Games the official GC 2018 app and Channel 7's live broadcast app were the two most downloaded applications in the world.

There is so much that the Gold Coast and Queensland can be proud of. The Australian Olympic Committee CEO, Matt Carroll, said—

The games were expertly organised and efficiently delivered with great attitude and friendliness. Congratulations on an outstanding 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games.

Prominent Gold Coasters have heaped praise on the games. Former premier and legacy committee chairman Rob Borbidge said—

We have shown the Gold Coast is capable of staging a major international event and the legacy of this is only just the beginning. This has taken the Gold Coast to the world and we will never be the same again.

Even the Suns chairman, Tony Cochrane, who is not known for giving out compliments lightly, said—

The Games were an incredible success which laid the foundations for a very exciting five to 10-year period for the city.

We had 11 days of getting worldwide attention for all the right reasons.

Because of the Commonwealth Games we are in a unique position to build Queensland's reputation as a major event capital and to deliver a games legacy for all Queenslanders. We will be aggressively pursuing sports tourism opportunities. We are in a position to do this only because of the significant investment that has been made in the venues on the Gold Coast and across Queensland. We know that there will be significant tourism growth as a result, with independent modelling forecasting that, following the games, an additional half a million visitors will come to the Gold Coast alone.

I want to join with the Premier in thanking our games shapers—our 15,000-strong team of volunteers—who helped make the games such a great success and quintessentially showed what it was to be a Queenslanders.

I want to finish by adding to the record today and sharing my condolences for Terry and Mary. I look forward to the proper motion being debated later in the parliament. Yours in unity.

### **Mackenroth, Hon. TM; Gold Coast Commonwealth Games**



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.58 am): I want to begin my ministerial statement by associating myself with the comments made by the Premier, the Deputy Premier, the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, and you, Mr Speaker, about the late Terry Mackenroth. As today's editorial of the *Courier-Mail* states—

He made a mark, stood by what he achieved and what he set out to do.

Terry was a great champion of the Australian Labor Party, Queensland, the south side of Brisbane and the mighty Easts Tigers Rugby League club. I know the thoughts of all honourable members are with Mary and Terry's family today.

The Commonwealth Games may be over, but Queensland will keep on winning. The Palaszczuk government is delivering the dividend of the games with more jobs, more investment and more opportunities as we drive home the trade opportunities that come from the 21st Commonwealth Games. That is why, at the conclusion of the games, the Premier asked me to travel to London to represent her at the Commonwealth Business Forum from 15 April. I was there representing Queensland, the only Australian state to have representation at the Commonwealth Business Forum.

That meant Queensland had a clear run to make a pitch for a bigger slice of Commonwealth trade, which is predicted to be valued at US\$1 trillion by 2020. My message to the senior business leaders from around the Commonwealth was clear: Queensland is open for business and we are primed to partner with them.


What was absolutely clear from the 800 business leaders who gathered there was that they were so impressed with Queensland's conduct of the games. My response to them was that this is just the start. I delivered that message to the United Kingdom business leaders by hosting a high-level round table that brought together key British business and industry leaders interested in two-way trade and investment opportunities between Queensland and the United Kingdom. This was an important opportunity to support Queenslanders doing business in the United Kingdom and hear from great Queenslanders like Leanne Kemp, founder and CEO of the company Everledger.

From London I travelled to Germany to discuss further opportunities for Queensland business to join Rheinmetall's global supply chain in support of Land 400, other Australian defence projects and their broader export plans. One thing is clear to me: the 450 jobs that are locked in with Rheinmetall for Land 400 are just the beginning. We are looking at major opportunities for export and in the broader supply chain and that means more jobs for Queenslanders.

I also had the opportunity to meet key leaders from the world's leading applied research organisation, the Fraunhofer institute, to discuss the future of advanced manufacturing, fuelling our government's focus on exploring and delivering new manufacturing jobs across Queensland. I topped off my trip by attending the Global Bioeconomy Summit, where I promoted Queensland as Australia's bioeconomy leader to the world market.

One thing is clear: the Commonwealth Games, brought to Queensland by Labor and successfully delivered by Labor, are the catalyst for a new decade of optimism and opportunity for our state and the Palaszczuk government is going to make sure Queensland keeps on winning.

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

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.01 am): After countless hours of hard work by dedicated transport workers, the 2018 Gold Coast Commonwealth Games Transport Plan delivered in spades. I am pleased to advise the House that more than seven million trips were made on the network during the games, with a massive 5.3 million trips being made on the public transport network.

The Palaszczuk government delivered nearly \$1 billion in transport infrastructure for the games and for the Gold Coast which ensured the network ran smoothly and created a long-lasting legacy for Gold Coast residents. For the first time, eight trains per hour ran to the Gold Coast. Why? It is because the Palaszczuk government duplicated the heavy rail line from Helensvale to Coomera to allow that to occur, something ignored by the previous government. We funded the \$119 million upgrade of the Smith Street Motorway, Olsen Avenue and the connecting interchange and delivered \$160 million in road network improvements at Southport-Burleigh Road, Ross Street, Olsen Avenue and Nerang-Broadbeach Road. We also delivered the \$74 million exit 54 upgrade. Almost one million trips were taken to and from games venues on the light rail, boosted for the games thanks to the \$420 million stage 2 extension project we delivered in a record 18 months, opening last December. The games would not have been as successful as they were without the G:Link light rail. The G:Link light rail stage 2 would not have been built without the Palaszczuk government.

Making transport during the games a success was so much more than building infrastructure. It was about introducing games lanes for officials and athletes, tripling heavy rail services and running them 24 hours a day to and from the coast, and an engaging campaign encouraging locals to consider using public transport for the first time ever—which many of them did. I was very glad to go to the games with the Premier and the Minister for Sport and engage with the public who were having a terrific time.

**Opposition members** interjected.




**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, this is not an opportunity for a running commentary. I ask you to keep your interjections to a minimum.

**Mr BAILEY:** Despite the negativity and the doomsaying of the opposition, the M1 flowed freely throughout the games. It was proof of our campaign. The success of the games would not have been possible without our incredible staff and volunteers. I particularly want to thank the 16,000 drivers, control centre logisticians, engineers and customer service staff and volunteers. They went above and beyond to make the games a once-in-a-lifetime experience for the 6,500 athletes and team officials, 1,000 officials, 3,000 media and, of course, 1.5 million spectators. The games are now behind us but their Gold Coast legacy lives on every day: the heavy rail, the light rail, the road upgrades. The Gold Coast infrastructure this government built will continue to be used well into the future, including by many who previously may not have used it.

In the week following the games I was very happy, along with the members for Macalister and Gaven and federal minister Fletcher, to help turn the first sod for the M1 upgrade from Varsity Lakes to Mudgeeraba with works at the M1-M3 merge also underway—two major M1 upgrades underway by this government after not a single new dollar was spent on the M1 by the previous LNP government. These are two huge upgrades kickstarted by the Palaszczuk government. It is good to see the federal government following our lead with support for the M1 with its recent announcement of additional funding. It is a good start but there needs to be more. The Palaszczuk government will always stand up to Canberra to ensure Queensland gets its fair share.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the minister, I remind all members that ministerial statements are a time to provide public information. However, it is important that we can hear what the ministers are saying. On the flipside, I would appreciate it if ministers could refrain from using the opportunity to attack those opposite.

### **Mackenroth, Hon. TM; Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; Get Going Clubs Funding**

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.06 am): I join with other ministers in expressing my deep sorrow at the passing of the Hon. Terry Mackenroth.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games was an outstanding event that saw thousands of athletes converge in Queensland on the Gold Coast. It was a triumph not only for the medal winners but also, as we have heard, for the games staff and volunteers. Queensland showcased the best of our state to the world. During competition Australia blitzed the competition across all events, winning 198 medals in total.


Our Queensland athletes blew everybody out of the park. One hundred and twenty-nine Queenslanders represented Australia at these games and 89 of those were competing for the first time. Impressively, Queensland athletes collected 89 of those 198 medals. They dominated in the pool, taking out close to three-quarters of Australia's 28 swimming gold medals, and overall were responsible for 36 of Australia's 80 gold medals. Queensland excelled in all fields: gymnastics, the marathon—you name it. I want to take this opportunity to thank and pay tribute to the staff of the Queensland Academy of Sport at the Queensland Sports and Athletics Centre—home of the 1982 Commonwealth Games and soon to be home of our new State Netball Centre—for preparing our athletes.

Our elite pathways in Queensland are second to none. The Commonwealth Games did more than simply increase Aussie pride; they provided the Palaszczuk government with a platform to inspire our future athletes and give Queensland kids the opportunity to succeed. We can encourage more children to play sport by investing in our local clubs. That is why our government is committed to removing barriers that prevent children from getting out and having a go. To capitalise on the Commonwealth Games fever, on the final day of the games I announced the bringing forward of round 7 of the Get Going Clubs program to open last week, on 23 April. Through this round we are set to provide a further \$3.5 million in funding to make it easier for Queenslanders to be more active more often. To complement our commitment, in October 2017 we began developing a comprehensive sport and active recreation strategy. Our strategy will chart a pathway from grassroots club and active recreation level right up to how and where we showcase our elite sports men and women.

The development of the strategy provides the opportunity to deal with the biggest challenge that faces us in terms of sport—that is, inequality in sport. Analysis shows that there is a difference between children of wealthy families and working-class kids. Working-class kids have fewer opportunities to get into sport. The gap is stark and it is widening. This government believes that every child in Queensland deserves the chance to get in and have a go.

It breaks my heart to see that some of the kids who could benefit the most out of being part of a sport or recreation club are the ones who can least afford it. We now have in Queensland a great opportunity ahead of us. Part of the great Commonwealth Games legacy and our sport and active recreation strategy will be to make sure that every Queensland kid has the opportunity to get into sport.

### **Mackenroth, Hon. TM; Fuel Price Monitoring**

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.09 am): Mr Speaker, I join with you, the Premier and my ministerial colleagues in expressing my deep sorrow on the passing of Terry Mackenroth, who indeed was a great Queensland.

The Palaszczuk government knows that Queensland motorists are rightly concerned about high fuel prices. While the primary responsibility for fuel pricing remains with the federal government and the ACCC, the Palaszczuk government is prepared to do whatever it can to assist Queensland motorists. We have studied reports from Griffith University and the RACQ on fuel price monitoring. While the reports provide differing views, we have determined that a two-year trial of fuel price monitoring should take effect in Queensland as soon as possible. We thank the RACQ, Griffith University and industry representatives for the constructive input they have provided.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, resume your seat.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cooper. Members to my left, I have already spoken today about ministerial statements and listening to the ministers delivering those statements. If the interjection is relevant obviously I will allow it if there is provocation, but I will not allow it on the basis of factual information.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I think the minister may be misleading the House, because the Premier ruled out fuel price monitoring. I suspect that that is why the opposition members were interjecting.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, I warn you under standing orders for a frivolous point of order. Members, we have been away for a few weeks. I hope you remember the previous sittings. I will not tolerate a disorderly House.

**Dr LYNHAM:** We will establish a working group with industry stakeholders, including the RACQ, to oversee the implementation of a fuel price monitoring system. The two-year trial will ensure that more current data is available to motorists and will not disadvantage small independent retailers. All fuel retailers will be required to publish their latest prices online within 15 minutes of any change. The system will be required to have in-built safeguards against price fixing by retailers and will not inflict unnecessary red tape.

We have very real concerns about the LNP proposal. Their proposal, which has surfaced only of late and after years of inactivity, including when they were in government, is an expensive airy-fairy scheme based on limited information. Our proposal is supported by a Griffith University study of petrol price monitoring schemes in New South Wales and the Northern Territory. Despite the \$20 million price tag for the New South Wales scheme, the study reports a very limited impact in metropolitan Sydney and no impact in regional New South Wales. A similar scheme actually showed fuel price increases in Darwin. For metropolitan Queensland, the report says—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister for State Development, you are not helping the cause.

**Dr LYNHAM:** For metropolitan Queensland, the report states 'a similar scheme implemented in Brisbane may have a less significant downward impact on ULP retail prices compared to the observed impact in Sydney'. For regional Queensland, the study says 'results for New South Wales and regional Northern Territory suggest that such a scheme will have either negative or upward impact on the average monthly retail ULP prices'. In summary, the study says what we have been saying all along, that is, the key to lowering the price of fuel is increasing competition. I table the Griffith University report.


*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Griffith University, DNRME 18018, The Impact of FuelCheck on retail ULP prices in New South Wales, Final Report, March 2018' [[564](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Griffith University, DNRME 18018, Variation 1, The Impact of MyFuelINT on retail ULP prices in the Northern Territory' [[565](#)].

We cannot do this alone—a fact conveniently overlooked by those opposite. A streamlined national approach is necessary. A federal excise of 38 cents a litre is a significant percentage of the price of petrol, which could be addressed as soon as next week in the federal budget. The ACCC has the powers to monitor and act on price gouging at the pump, but all it has done so far is announce yet another review. The Palaszczuk government will continue to examine options of how we can increase competition in the fuel market and ensure that motorists are not ripped off by the big players in the petroleum industry. We are prepared to stand up for Queensland motorists. It is time that the federal government did its bit as well.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### Fraser Coast Regional Council

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (10.14 am): I rise to discuss the figures I quoted in the House on 20 March in a speech I delivered during debate on the Local Government Legislation (Validation of Rates and Charges) Amendment Bill, which gained the attention of the LGAQ. The LGAQ said that I grossly overquoted figures. I table Fraser Coast Regional Council documents for the last financial year.

*Tabled paper:* Fraser Coast Regional Council—Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2017 [566].

*Tabled paper:* Fraser Coast Regional Council—Accumulated Payment (\$200,000) redacted to show LGAQ [567].

Those documents state that the Local Government Association membership subscription paid by the Fraser Coast Regional Council was \$426,512.57 and not the \$400,000 I quoted. I quoted audit fees paid by the Fraser Coast Regional Council as being \$240,000; it should have been \$277,000. I asked the Fraser Coast Regional Council CEO for a complete breakdown, particularly of the yearly membership subscription to the LGAQ for the same year, which also came back with a different figure. The figure was \$205,431 for the year 2016-17. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Local Government Association of Queensland membership figures [568].

*Tabled paper:* LGAQ transaction detail [569].


I table an email dated Monday, 12 February 2018.

*Tabled paper:* Email from Mr Rolf Light to Mr Ken Diehm regarding a request for a briefing on the costs of the membership of the LGAQ [570].

The email was sent by Councillor Rolf Light to the CEO, asking if the councillors could be briefed on the breakdown of the membership costs to the LGAQ by the Fraser Coast Regional Council. In addition, Councillor Rolf Light asked if the LGAQ published its financial results. I think there needs to be a full audit of this whole episode.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Reports

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (10.17 am): Before I table my report, I must say that I knew Terry Mackenroth for a lengthy period and, whilst we disagreed on many aspects of policy, as you would expect, he certainly made an enormous contribution to the parliament, to executive government and to the state. I join in paying my respects and also offer my condolences to Mary and his extended family.


I table the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report titled *Report of the work and activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission under chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000* dated 16 November 2017; and also the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Police Minister, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2017 and relevant correspondence. The committee is required to table the reports within 14 sitting days of receipt. These reports were received on 16 November 2017 and 31 January 2018 respectively.

*Tabled paper:* Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report of the Work and Activities of the Crime and Corruption Commission Under Chapter 11 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, November 2017 [571].

*Tabled paper:* Crime and Corruption Commission: Certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Police Minister, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2017 and related material, pursuant to section 4.7 of the Police Service Administration Act 1990 [572].

## HEALTH, COMMUNITIES, DISABILITY SERVICES AND DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

### Report

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (10.17 am): They say that we stand on the shoulders of giants. Those words could not have more meaning than they do today with news of the passing of Terry Mackenroth. I met Terry in 2015, when we had a couple of beers late one night. Needless to say, I was in awe. I know the state will miss Terry Mackenroth and I pass on my condolences to his family.


I lay upon the table of the House report No. 4 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2017 and 24 October 2017*. This report covers the Health Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2017, which has a disallowance date of 3 May 2018. The amendment regulation impacts on requirements for mandatory staff-to-patient ratios at the Caloundra Hospital and the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and imposes new restrictions on certain high-risk cosmetic surgical procedures to improve patient safety. Those restrictions must now be performed in licensed health facilities, rather than in practitioners' private rooms. The committee did not identify any issues in relation to the policy or fundamental legislative principles or the lawfulness of the subordinate legislation. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 4, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 October 2017 and 24 October 2017 [\[573\]](#).

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.19 am.

### Rural and Regional Queensland

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.19 am): My question without notice is addressed to the Premier. This morning hundreds of Queenslanders gathered outside this place concerned about their children, their properties and their future. The Premier has ignored their request for her to go and listen to them. Will the Premier show some common decency and go out and listen to those Queenslanders' concerns?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Not only do I listen to people right across this state; I actually go out into their communities and listen to them. I am more than happy to meet with a delegation of farmers, as I do no matter where I travel. It was just the other week that I was out in Winton.

**Mr Mander:** Why didn't you accept their invitation?

**Mrs Frecklington:** Did you speak to any?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I just said that. I was in Winton for the opening of the new Waltzing Matilda Centre, which had key investment from the state and federal governments. Not only did I listen to the farmers; I also went to the pub and had drinks with them. I also went to a lunch that the honourable member was also at. There was plenty of opportunity for people to come and speak to me. I stayed overnight. I do not know whether the honourable member stayed overnight or whether she came in and left. Did you stay overnight? I stayed overnight and I met with farmers—fly-in fly-out—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, I am not.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, please resume your seat. Premier, I remind you to please address your comments through the chair. That goes equally for the Leader of the Opposition. I would also caution all members, including the Premier in terms of her current answer, about legislation that may be before the House. I would appreciate people treading that line very carefully. I would suggest that we will have several days to debate that legislation and I do not intend to see that debate play out in question time.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I was also out at Longreach, where I had the opportunity to meet with a number of people. Let me tell members the one thing that people spoke to me about when I was out at Longreach and that they still remember to this day—that is, the savage cuts by the LNP. When jobs are cut from regional communities, people hurt and families hurt. That is the record of the LNP. Do not think that people have forgotten about that. They have not. That is the No. 1 issue that they raised with me. Let me also clarify—

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order relates to relevance. I clearly asked—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am talking about the entire communities.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, I will hear the point of order.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No frivolous point of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I will hear the point of order.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** In relation to relevance, I clearly asked the Premier, after she ignored the request of the farmers out the front today, whether she will go out and address their concerns.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, thank you for your point of order. I have said on numerous occasions that a point of order is not an opportunity to restate your question—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, I am ruling. The point about relevance relates to the question you asked which was a reasonably broad one. Whilst it related to particular matters, it was about consultation. I believe the Premier is answering along those lines.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As the honourable Minister for State Development said, he represented Queensland in London at a post Commonwealth Games opportunity. I told the people of Winton that I made a commitment to be at Winton rather than be in London. That is my commitment to this state. That is my commitment to the people of western communities. That is my commitment to the people of Western Queensland.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, I am hearing repeated interjections. I have made myself clear. I will start naming members under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I respect farmers as I have and always will. I have a father who was a minister for primary industries for eight years in this state, who travelled the length and breadth of this state, as I do, and who is still revered in communities right across Queensland as the farmers' friend. I will always honour his legacy. I will always respect people who work and live on the land in very tough conditions and tough environments. They go through droughts and floods.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Mr Speaker—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will always be a government for all of Queensland.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, will you please ensure that time has expired before you rise to your feet. There was still time left on the clock.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, there was one second left on the clock. Members are entitled to use their full time allotted.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games**

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Speaker. My second question without notice is directed to the Premier. With the government falling over itself to take credit for the Commonwealth Games, Premier, how about a closing ceremony where athletes were cut for VIPs, commuters were labelled as lunatics for wanting buses to run on time and businesses were trading in a ghost town because Goldoc told people to stay at home? Premier, who is responsible for the bungles?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you have not asked that question through the chair, you have asked it directly to a member. I ask that you ask the tail of that question through the chair, as is appropriate.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Mr Speaker, would you like me to repeat the whole question?

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, I have asked you to only repeat the tail of the question.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am providing a ruling; it will be heard in silence. I have asked that the tail of the question be directed through the chair, as per the standing orders.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question is directed to the Premier. Who was responsible for the Commonwealth Games bungle as outlined in my question?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me say to those opposite: if you did not like the Commonwealth Games, why did you go and accredit your partners when no-one on this side took their partners and had them accredited because we were there working? You might get up and explain why you took your partners and why they were accredited. I say to Leader of the Opposition—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members!

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. I was on my feet. I will have the House come to order. Premier, I would ask that you please direct your comments through the chair. I have made that consistent in my warnings.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I want to thank the Minister for the Commonwealth Games and members of the government for working incredibly hard over the years to deliver what I believe was the best Commonwealth Games ever. I also want to thank those from the opposition who also attended and tweeted at length about how good the Commonwealth Games was. I want to thank the athletes who participated and did Queensland proud. I want to thank the 15,000 volunteers, whom we thanked publicly at a ceremony on a Saturday afternoon. We chipped in and paid for the food and drinks for them as a sign of our appreciation for the enormous work they did as part of the Commonwealth Games.

I want to thank Goldoc for working with the government in terms of providing the most inclusive games the Commonwealth has ever seen. I received a letter the other day from Louise Martin of the Commonwealth Games Federation. She thanked Queensland for hosting such an inclusive Commonwealth Games.

Many years ago we made a decision in this state—

**Ms Trad:** Labor.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It was. I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. A Labor government made the decision to go ahead and bid for the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. I am proud to say that I sat around that cabinet table, along with some of my ministerial colleagues, when we backed then premier Anna Bligh on her proposal to have the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. Unfortunately, I have heard rumours which I would like clarified—and perhaps the member for Currumbin may be able to help us here—that the former premier, Campbell Newman, and the member for Currumbin were looking at axing the Commonwealth Games. That is a rumour that has been circulating. I would be more than happy for them to clarify that.

These games were the most inclusive games, with equal events for men and women, and they have left a Commonwealth Games legacy that will be felt for many, many years to come. The visitors had a wonderful experience. The transport system worked very well, as did the arts and entertainment. The regional communities of Townsville and Cairns also put on a great show.

*(Time expired)*

### Regional Queensland

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to regional Queensland and any upcoming announcements for the Mackay and Whitsunday region?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mackay for that question. We know how important our regional communities are. As part of our government listening, we travel to the regions and make sure that we engage as much as possible. We have had very successful Governing from the Regions meetings right across the state.

I am pleased to announce that from 20-24 May my government will spend the week governing from Mackay and the Whitsunday region. I know that the member for Mackay will be looking forward to hosting the cabinet. Where is the member for Whitsunday? We are not sure whether he is going to be there. He was talking about going federally but not yet. He put out a tweet. I do not know whether he wants to stay or go. We want him to stay. We do not want him to go anywhere.

It is very important for the regions. I think everyone in this House would share with me that the region felt the brunt of Tropical Cyclone Debbie. This is a chance for us to go there and see how things are progressing. We will be meeting with both mayors as well—Andrew Wilcox and Greg Williamson, both outstanding mayors for their local communities. It will be wonderful to see the progress that has been happening.

My government has a very strong commitment to that region. We have recently put in over \$23 million worth of school upgrades, and \$70 million has been spent this year as part of the \$498 million Mackay Ring Road. It is always wonderful to see the Vines Creek Bridges that the Minister for Transport, the member for Mackay and I have visited on many occasions. It is going to be great to see the final works happening there. We have invested \$520 million in the region, supporting some 2,300 jobs. Back to Work is going very well up there, as is Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

Once again, it is a great opportunity for us to go out to the regions, listen and spend some time talking to people, meeting with people and staying overnight, not flying in and flying out, because we like to meet with as many people as we possibly can. Since coming to government we have governed from Townsville, Central Queensland, Cairns, Gold Coast and Ipswich. I am very pleased that from 20-24 May we will be in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

### Queensland Rail

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. QR's train crew pocketed nearly \$2 million in bonuses and turn-up-to-work payments just to do their jobs during the Commonwealth Games. Why do the minister's union mates keep getting grubby deals from departments under his control?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are clear imputations in that question in the terms that have been used by the opposition. They should know now how to word questions. We ask that that question be ruled out of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, thank you for your point of order. What I noted immediately was that there was some unparliamentary language in that question. I ask the member to withdraw. I will give the member an opportunity to restate the question without said unparliamentary language and I will give the minister latitude to answer the question in any way he sees fit.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw. I will restate the question. QR's train crew pocketed nearly \$2 million in bonuses and turn-up-to-work payments just to do their jobs during the Commonwealth Games. Why do the minister's union mates keep getting preferential treatment from departments under his control?

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for McConnel, you are warned under standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for his question. We remember the two or three months of doomsaying by the opposition before the Commonwealth Games when they said that we were going to be an international failure and that the trains would not run. They did everything they could to undermine people using the public transport system. What happened? The trains ran at a record level—eight trains per hour during the high-demand periods. They ran 24 hours a day, seven days a week for the entire Commonwealth Games. I did not see the member for Everton on the system or checking out what was going on.

We were making sure that there was a very high level of service delivery. We were asking people to work 24-hour-a-day timetables. We were asking staff to do extraordinary things to move a significant section of 5.3 million trips—600,000 trips on heavy rail. We ran eight trains per hour for the very first time. We had to make sure that that was fully staffed at every stage. Despite the negativity of the opposition for months beforehand, the trains were an outstanding success for the Commonwealth Games—absolutely outstanding.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I rode the trains just about every day including the light rail and the buses. The level of satisfaction from people using them was very, very high. We saw 600,000 train movements throughout the Commonwealth Games on the heavy rail network. We saw a record level of train usage to the Gold Coast throughout the Commonwealth Games because we did the preparation. The opposition criticised our preparation when we did a lot of maintenance work on the weekends leading up to the games to ensure reliability. Where was the reliability? It was there right throughout the games. The train system did not miss a beat. The train drivers are an important part of that. They were working 24 hours a day. They were starting work at all kinds of hours. They had commitments to make sure they worked every shift.

Reliability was key to hosting the biggest international event in Australia in the last decade. It was the biggest sporting event in Queensland history. We made sure that we delivered a world-class train service and that is exactly what we did.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** We heard the doomsaying by the opposition for two or three months before the games. Did their predictions work out? No, they did not. People stuck with the train system right throughout. I talked to people every day. They kept coming back time and time again. Our staff were getting to know the spectators because they were seeing them four or five times as they went back and back because we ran a reliable system. It is called good management, after the LNP did not start training a single train driver in the last year that they were in power.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next questioner, member for Chatsworth, I grow tired of your consistent and repeated interjections. They are designed to disrupt the member on their feet. You are warned under the standing orders.

### Infrastructure

**Mr KELLY:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier please outline some of her government's key priorities for developing Queensland infrastructure and what support those job-producing projects receive from the federal government?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Greenslopes for that important question. We are coming up to federal budget time and state budget time. Unfortunately, what we have been seeing from the federal government is key investment in infrastructure in other states but it not matching that commitment here in Queensland. There is no starker choice than my government's commitment to funding Cross River Rail—over \$5 billion. It was wonderful to see that the federal Leader of the Opposition, Bill Shorten, recently pledged \$800 million towards Cross River Rail. Unfortunately, we have not seen any funding coming from the federal government when a business case has been provided to the federal government.

Unfortunately, what we have seen in other states like New South Wales is \$3.5 billion for a second airport rail link and in Victoria a commitment by the federal government of \$5 billion for an airport rail link when there is no business case and no alignment. I want to know why Malcolm Turnbull favours those southern states and does not give Queensland its fair share.

We will always stand up for Queensland. It is great to see that, since this parliament last met and we passed the motion about the Rookwood Weir, the federal government has finally come to the party and matched my government's commitment to build the Rookwood Weir. I thank the ministers very much for their hard work. When it comes to other great infrastructure in our state, we can draw a comparison with how my government is committed to reviving the sheep industry in this state with cluster fencing which came about as a direct result of being able to sit down with people around—

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Are you laughing?

**Mr Hart:** Yes.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You are laughing at that?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, please direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You are laughing at measures to bring back the sheep industry in this state. You are disgraceful.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I ask you to direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member for Burleigh is disgraceful. The investment my government is making in cluster fences will bring back the sheep industry in this state, and that is something which I am incredibly proud of. If you want to talk about listening and delivering, that is a key example of something that my government has done in terms of getting out in the west and hearing from people firsthand and delivering. Next week—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We never sacked 14,000 workers. If you go out to west you will see—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members for Burleigh, Glass House, Toowoomba South, Caloundra and Gympie, you are skating very close to receiving a warning. I am cautioning you.



### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Closing Ceremony

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Minister for the Commonwealth Games. The minister's hand-picked director-general sat on the Goldoc board as her representative and sent her the minutes of their meetings and decisions. Does the minister honestly expect Queenslanders to believe that she did not know beforehand that our great athletes were going to be cut out of the closing ceremony?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for Surfers Paradise for the very first question he has asked me as the shadow minister for the Commonwealth Games. That is how much work he has put into it. Now that it is over he has woken up. He tweeted while enjoying the Commonwealth Games, 'In the green and gold watching the Rugby Sevens. Stacey's gold is a lime margarita.' Oh, that is the drink. I thought that was the colour she was wearing. To answer the question, I have been up-front and honest about this outside the parliament. I will do exactly the same inside the parliament. I expressed very clearly that I expected the athletes to be part of the broadcast and feature in the closing ceremony.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. Members to my left! Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

**Ms JONES:** I take that interjection from the member for Burleigh. Where was he during the Commonwealth Games?

**Mr Dick:** Where was he?

**Ms JONES:** He was not in Burleigh. He was not on the Gold Coast. He was in the Whitsundays, tweeting from the Whitsundays.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for State Development, your interjections are drowning out the minister who is trying to answer the question.

**Ms JONES:** We are seeing a very clear theme here this morning, one that dates right back to when they first formed government in 2012, which is that they never wanted the Commonwealth Games to go ahead. I am advised that they sought legal advice once they were elected to ditch the Commonwealth Games from Queensland entirely. That is how they repay the people of the Gold Coast for voting them in.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to relevance. The shadow minister asked a question about the athletes being cut out of the closing ceremony. I would suggest that the minister is going way off what the ambit of the question was.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I appreciate that you are talking about the Commonwealth Games. However, in accordance with standing order 118, I ask you to continue to be relevant to the question asked.

**Ms JONES:** I answered the question in my initial remarks, but the point is that there would not have been a closing ceremony if they were re-elected. Thank goodness for the people of the Gold Coast that we were elected in 2015. This is relevant to what they were talking about this morning. On 28 January 2015, three days before Anastacia Palaszczuk was elected as Premier of Queensland, it was reported in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that Campbell Newman would not build stage 2 of the light rail in time for the Commonwealth Games. Who was in his cabinet? The honourable member for Nanango and the honourable member for Surfers Paradise. Every single one of them sitting there asking questions were part of a cabinet and an election committee that would not build light rail in time for the Commonwealth Games. I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 28 January 2015, titled 'Stage two of the Gold Coast light rail to proceed but won't be finished before Commonwealth Games' [574].

Imagine what would have happened if we had not built stage 2 of light rail in time for the Commonwealth Games and, God forbid, Campbell Newman got another term. Those opposite should be thanking me for getting elected to the seat of Ashgrove. If it were not for me, it would have been a bloody disaster. Do not knock the thousands of volunteers.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired.

**Ms JONES:** Do not knock those athletes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister's time has expired. Resume your seat, Minister.

**Ms JONES:** It is about time you grew a backbone—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, resume your seat! Minister, I appreciate that you might have been on a roll but I had asked you to resume your seat and your time had expired for quite some time. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Glass House, I was not going to interrupt the minister given that your interjections were designed to disrupt her, but I now warn you under the standing orders.

### Distribution of GST

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier please inform the House of the impact the federal government's decision to reduce Queensland's GST allocation will have on the budget?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. I know that the member for Maryborough, like all members on this side of the House, cares about what happens to the GST and the GST allocation to Queensland. The GST distribution is fundamentally based on an allocation of fairness. The rules are geared towards fairness. GST is not allocated in this nation based on how many people live in various jurisdictions. It is allocated based on a whole range of factors including regionality, indigeneity and a range of economic performance.

What we saw recently in the lead-up to the Council on Federal Financial Relations was the Commonwealth Grants Commission make a recommendation that Queensland's share of GST be reduced by \$401 million for next year's budget. We can cop that because it was based on the rules of fairness, but the rules are being gamed by a federal government that does not care about fairness and does not care about equality. Let me explain for the benefit of the House.

Over the past four years we have seen the Turnbull government, and before them the Abbott government, exclude more than \$7 billion worth of specific payments from the GST calculation. The formula works simply: the more the federal government gives a state jurisdiction in terms of specific payments, that should go into the GST calculation in terms of its distribution. There has been a number of specific payments to Western Australia and to the Northern Territory for big infrastructure projects. Recently, the pet project of Malcolm Turnbull, the \$2 billion snowy hydro scheme Snowy 2.0, which will cost much more than \$6 billion, has been excluded from the GST calculation. All of the payments to different jurisdictions for asset sales have been excluded from GST calculations.

In fact, the \$5 billion for the rail line to the Melbourne airport, which does not have a business case, which does not have an alignment, is excluded from the GST calculation. That means the more that is excluded from GST, the less Queensland gets. We are not just up for \$400 million less next budget; we are up for in the vicinity of \$1.4 billion less GST revenue over the next four years. That is \$1.4 billion because of the gaming of the rules by the Turnbull government. They do not care about Queensland. They do not have colleagues in this state who will stand up for this state against that unfair treatment. They should hang their heads in shame.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Why did the Minister for the Commonwealth Games not step in to mediate between the Goldoc chair, Peter Beattie, and the Premier instead of allowing their petty spat over a speaking spot to degenerate into an undignified and ugly public brawl?

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms Jones:** I take that interjection from—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have not called you yet, Minister. Member for Mudgeeraba, I think you are very close to having some inferences in the question that you asked. However, I will allow the minister to answer the question as she sees fit.

**Ms JONES:** First of all, I want to apologise to the farmers in the gallery who thought they were coming to a question time about the issues they were rallying about outside, but it turns out they are not. Can I start by saying—

**Dr Miles:** They gave them one question.

**Ms JONES:** They got one question; you are right. That was one question in an hour. The honourable member for Mudgeeraba was also one of the Gold Coasters who was in Townsville during the Commonwealth Games. The member for Mudgeeraba was in Townsville, the member for Burleigh

was up north in Airlie Beach tweeting from the Whitsundays—but he was not part of the scare campaign about the M1, was he—and the member for Currumbin was also out of town during the games. There is one side of politics which has from day one never supported the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, and the cat is out of the bag today. We know that one of the first things they did when they were elected was to see if they could cut the games entirely.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North.

**Ms JONES:** We also know that one of the last decisions they made—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to relevance. The question was—

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. I have been very clear that the question came close to having significant inferences and I have allowed the minister to, within reason, answer the question as she sees fit.

**Ms JONES:** We know that one of the first decisions they made when they were elected was to see whether they could cut the—

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, I only just cautioned you. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms JONES:** We know that one of the first decisions they made when they were elected was to see whether they could cut the Commonwealth Games from the Gold Coast entirely. We also know that one of the last decisions they made on 28 January 2015 was when Campbell Newman publicly said in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* that a re-elected LNP government would not build stage 2 of the light rail in time for the games. I repeat my earlier comments: thank goodness Annastacia Palaszczuk became the Premier because it is only Labor that builds the infrastructure on the Gold Coast for the sixth largest city in Australia. It is Labor that built Carrara Stadium. It is Labor that built Cbus stadium. It is Labor that delivered world-class transport infrastructure for the Gold Coast.

It is only because of the public investment of Labor governments on the Gold Coast that we were able to stage the best Commonwealth Games ever. If those opposite do not want to trust me or listen to me, then I will quote their esteemed former leader, the former premier of Queensland, Rob Borbidge. Rob Borbidge did not play petty politics with the Commonwealth Games because he understood what a game changer this would be for the city that he loves—a city that he knows deserves better.

### Natural Disasters, Federal Funding

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister please advise the House on the support the Turnbull government will provide to Queensland for the 2018 storm season and other natural disasters?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba South, I was not going to interrupt the question, as you were. You are warned under standing orders. I expect the questions to be heard in silence.

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for the work he is doing for his community and also for the great resilience that the Rockhampton community shows in the face of natural disasters. There is no more basic responsibility for government than to ensure that communities are prepared for disaster and protected from disaster and can respond to natural disasters when they strike.

As of today, we have a significant problem in Queensland because we have no clarity about what federal funding arrangements will apply to any cyclone, storm, bushfire, flood or other disaster that will strike Queensland from 1 July this year because the federal coalition government, led by Malcolm Turnbull, cannot make up its mind. There are a lot of primary producers in and around the House today, and they are welcome here. This is the people's house and they are welcome to this parliament, but I am sure that a lot of those primary producers who are subject to bushfire and flooding in particular would like to know what funding arrangements are going to apply to Queensland after 1 July.

Three years ago, the national Productivity Commission tabled its report on natural disaster funding arrangements. The Commonwealth stated that it would implement those Productivity Commission recommendations from 1 July. There are two months to go and we still do not know the position of the coalition government. The Leader of the Opposition can go on at length about Queensland, but she should do one thing. She should ring Malcolm Turnbull or send him a text or an email. I will send her a fax machine if that helps her. She should write a letter to Malcolm Turnbull to

ask him what he is going to do. The truth about Malcolm Turnbull and the coalition government is that Malcolm Turnbull is more worried about his own political disasters than he is about his government's response to natural disasters in Queensland. It is about time we got some action on this from the federal government. There are some responsibilities that the federal government will shift to the states—there are some responsibilities that will shift to us—and we are willing to accept those in the national interest.

Another issue that the Leader of the Opposition could pursue her federal coalition colleagues about is the South Rockhampton flood levee, and I know that the member for Keppel is strongly supporting this too. We have our money on the table, the regional council has its money on the table but there is still nothing from the federal government. The single biggest natural disaster protection process we could implement to protect the community is that levee in South Rockhampton. We have put the money on the table but there is nothing from the federal coalition.

Enough from the opposition. Enough from the deputy, the leader, the shadow Treasurer and all of those members opposite. Enough from them about standing up for Queensland. This is one thing they could do. I commend the member for Rockhampton, the member for Keppel and other members of the government. We will stand up for Queensland, even if the LNP will not.

### **Petrol Prices**

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's answer to a question without notice on 15 February this year where she ruled out real-time monitoring of petrol prices. Given the announcement this morning of a two-year trial of real-time petrol monitoring, can the Premier explain what has changed prompting Labor's fuel flip-flop?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Chatsworth for that question. As the minister was stating this morning, the government has taken this decision in terms of making sure that the petrol companies are disclosing that information on their website. As the minister said very clearly, according to the Griffith University study, the program that was in place in New South Wales would not result in a reduction in fuel prices, especially in regional Queensland.

Secondly, we also said very clearly that there is a federal government excise of around 39 cents in the dollar. Why is the federal government not reducing that amount to make it easier on motorists? The minister will also be meeting with stakeholders to ensure the task force is set up to oversee that monitoring. If we need to introduce more competition, we are happy to look at those options as well.

We understand that this is an issue for motorists across the state. Everyone here goes to the petrol station and fills up. Unfortunately, those prices have been increasing and are having a huge impact on people's budgets. That is why my government has taken that step. I thank the minister for looking at both of the reports commissioned by the RACQ and Griffith University. He has absolutely done the right thing and he has acted swiftly. I commend him for the steps he has taken.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games**

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is leveraging the Commonwealth Games to deliver a positive legacy for Queensland?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question and I thank her for her enthusiasm for the Commonwealth Games. She knows, like every single person on this side of the House, what a game-changer this is for Queensland. As I talked about earlier, the official GC 2018 app as well as the Channel 7 app were the most downloaded apps in the world during the Commonwealth Games. I am sure that even those opposite would understand no state government, or indeed any Australian government, could afford to buy an advertising campaign of that size for the beautiful Gold Coast. We are very proud that they are exactly the images that were beamed around the world.

At the international SportAccord everyone was talking about what a great games the Commonwealth Games were. Members only have to listen to the Campbell sisters to hear that. Bronte Campbell said it was the first time in her career that the cheering of the crowd was so loud that she could hear it while she was swimming. That is what we delivered for these amazing athletes of Queensland and Australia.

I know that the LNP will continue to bag the Commonwealth Games. We know they did not even want the Commonwealth Games. We know that they were not prepared, even as late as the 2015 state election, to even build the infrastructure that they complain about now. If they had been elected it would not have even been built. On 28 January—

**Mr Watts:** We funded it.

**Ms JONES:** No, they did not. On 28 January the member's leader said that they would not deliver Light Rail Stage 2, which actually connects the village to the rest of the Gold Coast. That is the kind of hypocrisy we hear from those opposite. Everyone talks about how politics has gone into the gutter and there has been a lot of reflection about politics in the past. We see exhibit A across the chamber there.

At a time when on the Queensland stage we have seen the largest event that we have ever hosted in the history of our state, the largest event welcoming more international visitors in that period than we ever have before—you know what? I am proud to be a Queenslander. I am proud to be part of a government that showcased Queensland to the world. It is not just me; Gold Coast Tourism chairman Paul Donovan stated—

In terms of the exposure, the past two weeks have been a game changer ...

We were featured on the BBC in the UK, had a full-page story in the New York Times. Everyone we have got out of this has been superb.

The Australian Paralympic Committee chair stated—

I truly believe these games are a seminal moment for parasports in Australia.

RACQ—the mate of the member opposite—said—

The light rail has been an unqualified success and really now what we're talking about is how quickly can we roll it out for the rest of the Gold Coast.

Once again, thank goodness Annastacia Palaszczuk was elected Premier. From a KPMG perspective, they stated in a report—

It has been a privilege to be involved as a professional service provider and a major sponsor.

All of the feedback about the games we have received has been positive.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I note that we have representatives here in the parliament from the Brisbane International School based in Kenmore in the electorate of Moggill. Welcome to the Queensland parliament. Fittingly, I am calling the member for Moggill.

### Water Prices

**Dr ROWAN:** My question is to the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, and I ask: will the minister, here and now, guarantee that she will lobby the Premier to reject the Queensland Competition Authority's recommendation for higher bulk water charges and rule out slugging Queensland seniors up to \$90 more for water?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I question whether the minister being asked the question is the relevant minister on the basis that she is not responsible for those concessions.

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** Can I hear some advice from the Clerk?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I want to contribute to helping. It may assist.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have taken some advice from the table. I think that the question is relevant given that it has an impact on seniors, but I will give the minister some latitude in terms of the way to answer the question.

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** I thank the member for the question. I appreciate the fact that this is actually the very first question from the opposition relating to seniors. I applaud the interest. It is the first question relating to seniors during this term and last term.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mrs O'ROURKE:** Can I clarify that the differentiation between the support for seniors on this side of the House compared to the other side of the House could not be more stark if they tried?

To take members back in history a little bit, a decision was made by the Newman government to actually cut concessions for seniors. They were embarrassed into changing their decision and reinstating those concessions. I can say that on this side of the House the Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to making sure cost-of-living issues for seniors are well and truly addressed. We have done that not only through keeping concessions but through increasing the amount we fund concessions. In 2017-18 alone we increased that amount by \$27.9 million.

I can stand very proudly on this side of the House and say that the Premier and all of the members on this side of the House will always support seniors. We will do everything in our power to make sure the concessions they receive address their cost-of-living issues. We will give them the support that, as vulnerable Queenslanders, they deserve.

### M1 Upgrade

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on the latest works to improve the M1?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for Macalister for her question—a member absolutely committed to upgrading the M1. What a great day it was when we turned the first sod recently of the Mudgeeraba-Varsity Lakes project. That is a massive upgrade: six-laning between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes—something the previous government was unable to achieve. Not a single new dollar was spent on the M1 by the previous government in three years when they knew they had the Commonwealth Games coming. They knew that the lead-in times for such large projects are a matter of years. The time to upgrade the M1 before the Commonwealth Games was under their watch and it did not happen. The Palaszczuk government was not going to make the same sort of mistake that we saw under the LNP.

Two upgrades on the M1 are underway: between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes and also at the Gateway merge of which I know the member for Springwood and Minister for Sport has been a strong advocate as have been our Logan MPs as well. Work is underway on two huge upgrades on the M1, but there is a lot more to come as well. During the last election campaign we committed to upgrade exit 57 at Oxenford—that is a \$25 million commitment—after we commenced and finished the upgrade of the Coomera interchange at exit 54 last term, something that could not be achieved by the previous government either.

It is very good to see that after we put our \$206 million on the table to six lane the M1 all the way to the border during the last election campaign—leading the way again—the federal government, while they made a good start and they need to do more, has come to the party and added some federal money into it. We would like to see more. We would like to see the federal funding from Canberra be on a similar scale to how the M1 is funded just across the border in New South Wales and, indeed, in Brisbane where the Gateway arterial north, an urban road, it is constantly said by the federal government—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mudgeeraba, you have had a good run. You are warned under standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** It is constantly said by the federal government that urban roads should only receive fifty-fifty funding. The last time I noticed, the Gateway arterial north was an incredibly urban road. We have led the way on the two upgrades that are underway by putting our money on the table first and landing funding deals, which is something the previous government could not achieve. We have put our money on the table to do from Varsity Lakes to the border. We have seen a huge amount of progress since the last election campaign with regard to that, and we will keep working on it. Planning is underway for the next section from Daisy Hill through Logan City to connect with the upgrade that is underway. We are committed to the M1; we understand the M1. We are continuing to plan the IRTC, the so-called second M1, after the opposition stopped it when they were in power. When it comes to the management of the M1 for the Commonwealth Games, it was an absolutely fantastic achievement to see the M1 flow freely.

### Crocodile Management

**Mr DAMETTO:** My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. In Queensland there have been 258 reported crocodile sightings already this year and there have been three fatal attacks since 2016. Crocodiles continue to invade the waterways of my electorate, and the people of the north are tired of excuses and surveys. Will the minister act to prioritise human life in North Queensland by supporting a responsible crocodile cull?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask that the member clarify whether his question goes to the bill that is currently before the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. I was going to say exactly the same thing. I caution the member in terms of the question. I have listened carefully, but given that there is a safer waterways bill before the House I am going to allow some leniency in terms of the way the question is answered. I ask the minister to also keep that in mind.

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question. Obviously there will be further conversations as the bill is before the House. However, let me say that the Palaszczuk government absolutely maintains public safety as its highest priority when it comes to crocodile management. The member and others know that estuarine crocodiles are listed as vulnerable species under state legislation. They are also protected nationally under Commonwealth legislation and internationally under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species, so there is a great deal of protection for this particular species. To proceed any further in terms of my response to your question may impinge on the bill before the House, so I will leave it at that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you for walking the tightrope, Minister.

### Aged Care

**Mr RUSSO:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Will the minister please explain how the federal government's aged-care policy is affecting older Queenslanders?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Toohey for his question. I know that he is passionate about ensuring all Queenslanders receive the care they need. I was particularly pleased to join him at the recent QIMR fundraiser in his electorate, and I would urge all members to sponsor his ride to cure cancer later this year.

While the member for Toohey is passionate about ensuring that his constituents and all Queenslanders received the care they need, it is clear that the LNP—particularly the federal coalition government—could not care less. Queensland's parents, grandparents and great-grandparents deserve better than how they are being treated by the Turnbull government. They deserve better than to be fed on \$6 a day. Older Queenslanders deserve nursing care in their nursing homes. They deserve to be cared for when they are in the aged-care system.

I have heard too many stories of aged-care facilities staffed with one nurse for 200 residents, too many stories of aged-care residents being taken to hospital in an ambulance for care that should have been provided in their aged-care facility. Every day hundreds of older Queenslanders arrive at emergency departments with an ailment that should have been treated in their nursing home. Every night there are 250 patients in our public hospitals waiting for an aged-care place to be funded by the Commonwealth government. That is the equivalent of a whole hospital in Queensland being taken up because of the funding failures of the Commonwealth government.

A few weeks ago I met with Alice Mather, a patient at the Caboolture Hospital. She had been there for three weeks waiting for a nursing care bed. The day I arrived she finally found one, but sadly Alice passed away before being able to take up that bed. They are the stories across our hospitals, but next week the LNP and the federal government have an opportunity to fix it. There is a federal budget next week, which means that those opposite have a week to contact their bosses in Canberra. Those opposite have a week to stand up for Queenslanders and demand that our aged-care system is properly funded, because older Queenslanders do not deserve the stress and neglect they are suffering under those opposite.

**Mr Mander:** Pathetic!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I find that language unparliamentary.

**Mr MANDER:** I withdraw.

### Chinchilla Hospital, Maternity Ward

**Mr BOYCE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. The Chinchilla Hospital maternity ward has been on bypass since December, leaving Chinchilla families with no option but to drive one hour to access basic services. I table a *Queensland Country Life* report about one family's recent ordeal.

*Tabled paper:* Article from *Queensland Country Life*, dated 6 April 2018, titled 'Chinchilla producers left frustrated at birthing complications after hospital visit' [575].

When will the minister reopen Chinchilla's maternity ward so that Chinchilla families can have the same basic services as Brisbane families?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for his question. All of our hospital and health services work very hard to deliver the breadth of services expected by Queenslanders in what is a very big state. Often it is very difficult to attract appropriate staff to these facilities, but our HHCs do a very good job of attempting to ensure—and ensuring—that a range of services are available and delivered in as safe a way as possible. Often the challenge with maternity services is ensuring that the staff in those facilities can deliver the services safely.

I would be pleased to organise a briefing for the member with the chair and the chief executive of that HHS to hear what their service delivery plans are for maternity in Chinchilla. Obviously, though, the task of delivering those health services in a big state like Queensland gets harder and harder as the federal government not only reduces funds—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** Those opposite do not like to hear it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Dr MILES:** I will take the interjection of the member for Warrego, because the people in this place who do not care are those opposite. Those opposite have not once called on the federal government to pay us the money they owe under the current health agreement—the \$450 million still outstanding from 2016-17. I have not received a response to my letter. There has not been a single media comment supporting our health workers, who are continuing to deliver fantastic services right across Queensland in the face of an LNP federal government which does not support health services—

**Mr Mander:** Take some responsibility yourself! People are sick of your whingeing!


**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, cease your interjections. You are warned under standing orders.

**Dr MILES:** Again today those opposite have refused to support Queensland's hospitals, refused to support Queensland patients and refused to support our doctors, our nurses and our health professionals who every day are delivering important services for Queenslanders right across the state. Those opposite have about a week left. There is just a week until the federal budget and if they do not stand up for Queenslanders between now and then their failure will be so clearly on the public record. I call on them now to do so.

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

## HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.20 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Transport and Public Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018 [\[537\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [\[538\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Heavy Vehicle National Law Amendment Bill 2018, which is not to be confused of course with the Heavy Vehicle National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 that is currently before the House. This bill amends the Heavy Vehicle National Law Act 2012. The Heavy Vehicle National Law, commonly referred to as the HVNL, provides a single—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. I am having difficulty hearing the minister. If you are going to be leaving the chamber, please do so quietly.

**Mr BAILEY:** People usually get very excited about the Heavy Vehicle National Law; it is understandable. The Heavy Vehicle National Law, commonly referred to as the HVNL, provides a single national law for the consistent regulation of heavy vehicle operations across most of Australia. Operational provisions of the HVNL commenced on 10 February 2014. The HVNL regulates matters relating to mass, dimension and loading, fatigue management, vehicle standards, accreditation and enforcement. The HVNL also established the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, or the NHVR, to administer the law.



The proposed bill amends the HVNL to implement nationally agreed reforms that include strengthening investigative and enforcement powers for authorised officers, increasing freight volumes where mass is not a constraint and transferring load restraint performance standards from guidance material to the HVNL. Some minor amendments are also made to help ensure the HVNL remains contemporary and fit for purpose.

The approach taken to implement national heavy vehicle reform is through adoption of national scheme legislation enacted first by Queensland as host jurisdiction and then applied by participating jurisdictions. All Australian states and territories except for Western Australia and the Northern Territory participate in the reform and have applied the HVNL as a law of their jurisdiction. The proposed amendments were unanimously endorsed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council in November 2017 after being jointly developed by the National Transport Commission and the NHVR in consultation with state and territory transport authorities, enforcement agencies and heavy vehicle industry associations.

While Western Australia and the Northern Territory are not participating jurisdictions, they were consulted during development of the amendments. The investigative and enforcement powers amendments in the bill are the third and final stages of the HVNL chain-of-responsibility reforms that were approved by the Transport and Infrastructure Council in November 2015. Reforming chain of responsibility, or CoR, will improve safety outcomes in the heavy vehicle industry by aligning the responsibilities of chain-of-responsibility parties and executive officers more closely with national safety legislation such as the Work Health and Safety Act.

The first phase of amendments changed existing HVNL obligations on all current chain-of-responsibility parties from a reverse onus of proof approach to a positive due diligence obligation to ensure parties to the chain of responsibility comply with their primary duty of care. This means the prosecution will bear a greater evidentiary burden to prove chain-of-responsibility offences. As a result, the prosecution will need sufficient power to gather evidence to prove a breach beyond reasonable doubt, including from third parties who have relevant information. The investigative and enforcement powers amendments contained within the bill will assist the prosecution with this heavier burden of proof by providing authorised officers additional powers to gather information from a person who is not an executive officer. It should be noted that these additional information-gathering powers will be confined to information that is relevant to chain-of-responsibility offences.

Other elements of the investigative and enforcement powers amendments will allow a fleet or class of vehicles to be presented for inspection where an authorised officer has a reasonable belief that the fleet or class of vehicles does not comply with the HVNL or is defective. This approach will address those situations where there is a reasonable belief that a fleet of vehicles may be defective but the authorised officer has not physically sighted each individual vehicle. The proposed amendment allows serious safety concerns to be addressed appropriately and quick action taken to remedy serious systemic roadworthiness problems. Authorised officers will be able to issue a prohibition notice to a person where they reasonably believe there is an activity occurring involving a heavy vehicle that could involve an immediate or imminent serious risk to a person. These amendments will ensure that agencies enforcing the HVNL have sufficient and appropriate investigative and enforcement powers, including sanctions, to achieve the objectives of the HVNL.

Throughout development of the chain-of-responsibility reforms, there has been firm support across industry and jurisdictions for introducing a positive duty on all parties in the chain of responsibility to improve the safety of road transport operations. I believe I may speak on behalf of my colleagues when I say that the Transport and Infrastructure Council is committed to ensuring that the implementation of these reforms is a smooth transition for industry. That is why the investigative and enforcement powers amendments in this bill, if passed, plan to commence with the first two phases of the chain-of-responsibility reforms as one cohesive package later this year. The NHVR has assured me that it is ready and able to support the successful implementation of chain-of-responsibility reforms, particularly in providing additional support to address concerns that have been voiced by the agricultural sector and primary producers. I am convinced that these reforms will bring significant improvements for chain-of-responsibility parties managing their obligations.

Another amendment to help improve road transport safety relates to the *Load Restraint Guide*. First published in 2004, the *Load Restraint Guide*, or LRG, provides drivers, operators and other participants in the chain of responsibility with basic safety principles that should be followed for the safe carriage of loads on road vehicles. The LRG is, for the most part, a guidance document or instruction manual for safely securing and transporting loads. However, operators are currently required to comply with enforceable load restraint performance standards detailed in the LRG and referenced in the HVNL.

These performance standards are designed so that, under expected driving conditions, a load will not dislodge from a vehicle and will not move in such a way as to be unsafe. To clarify obligations for industry, the Transport and Infrastructure Council agreed to remove the enforceable load restraint performance standards from the LRG and place them in the HVNL. This will provide clear information for industry about precisely what is a load restraint obligation by ensuring that the LRG is exclusively guidance only.

A new policy recently agreed by the Transport and Infrastructure Council is to grant improved road access to heavy vehicles with increased volumetric load capacity but with no increase in mass. Heavy vehicles operating under the performance based standards scheme, or PBS, may be carrying lighter weight loads that are currently operating at less than their maximum mass limit. There exists an opportunity to permit these PBS vehicles to be physically larger and so increase their freight volume but still remain under their legal mass limit. Currently, PBS level 1 heavy vehicles like this are restricted in their access and require individual permits to operate so operators may opt for poorer-performing, less productive heavy vehicles. The Transport and Infrastructure Council approved a policy to grant access to specified PBS vehicles without the need for a permit. This will allow these vehicles to access the same road network as heavy vehicles operating under general mass limits. This general access approach will be of particular benefit for PBS level 1 vehicles that may be travelling unladen on a return journey. This increase in productivity will not be at the expense of road safety or road infrastructure.

A Queensland specific amendment has been included in this bill to address the peculiar situation that arises due to heavy vehicle fatigue offences being heard in several courts due to the fact that heavy vehicle drivers often journey through multiple districts. If a fatigue offence is detected after inspecting a driver's work diary, the current law requires that each offence be brought in the Magistrates Court district in which the offence occurred irrespective of where the driver's work diary was inspected. If a person has committed fatigue offences while driving a heavy vehicle on a journey between, for example, Cairns and Brisbane, then the charges must be brought, and the defendant is obliged to appear, at each of the courthouses in the districts in which an offence has been committed. This could, for example, include Cairns, Innisfail, Townsville, Bowen, Mackay, Rockhampton, Gladstone, Bundaberg, Gympie, Maroochydore, Caboolture and Brisbane.

If convicted, the defendant must pay an offender levy, currently at \$118.80, and filing fees, currently at \$92.55, for each matter. This means that, if the defendant has offences in six courts, as has happened in a recent matter, the defendant would have to pay over \$1,200 even before a fine is imposed.

The proposed amendment will allow the Queensland prosecution to commence proceedings for a fatigue offence in a Magistrates Court district in which an offence occurred or in the Magistrates Court district in which the offence was detected. Multiple offences that would otherwise be heard in multiple locations will be heard in a single Magistrates Court. The choice of which court will be at the Queensland prosecution's election. This amendment will bring Queensland into line with the approach already taken in some other jurisdictions as their courts have a greater discretion to determine the location of proceedings.

Proposed maintenance amendments have also been included in this bill. These are minor in nature or simply clarify a range of existing provisions, such as removing the NHVR's obligation to advertise in national newspapers when amending notices and ensuring that the annual indexation of penalties is able to operate as intended. The bill being considered today highlights the determination of industry and all jurisdictions to make the heavy vehicle transport industry safer for all parties. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.31 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Transport and Public Works Committee


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

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 8 March (see p. 415).

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Before I call the minister, I point out that, under the standing orders, the following members are currently on a warning: the members for Kawana, Nanango, McConnell, Chatsworth, Burleigh, Cooper, Glass House, Toowoomba North, Toowoomba South, Mudgeeraba and Everton. I would like members to keep that in mind before we get to lunch. Before we start the debate, I also remind members of standing order 247, which relates to comments going through the chair.

### Second Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (11.32 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for its consideration of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 and the tabling of its report on 23 April 2018. The committee's report titled *Report No. 6, 56th Parliament, State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, April 2018* contained the following eight recommendations—

#### Recommendation 1

The committee recommends the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 be passed.

#### Recommendation 2

The committee recommends the Queensland Government prioritise the investigation of options to support the establishment of Indigenous Community Use Areas under the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007.

#### Recommendation 3

The committee recommends the Minister, in his second reading speech, clarify the operation of the definition of a 'regrowth watercourse and drainage feature area' and how watercourses and drainage feature areas will be dealt with under the proposed Category R and Riverine Protection Permit amendments.

#### Recommendation 4

The committee recommends the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy explore options to streamline the processing and cost impost of development applications for relevant purpose clearing.

#### Recommendation 5

The committee recommends the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy issue local guide sheets to assist landholders with the application of accepted development vegetation clearing codes with respect to their vegetation bioregion.

#### Recommendation 6

The committee recommends the Minister review the operation of the accepted development vegetation clearing codes within three years.

#### Recommendation 7

The committee recommends the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy consider the appointment of additional extension officers in regional hubs to help foster positive relationships and engagement with communities to promote the best application of the law.

#### Recommendation 8

The committee recommends the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy commence a comprehensive public education campaign to support the effective implementation of the government's reforms to the vegetation management framework ... drawing on the involvement and expertise of industry.

This bill is the culmination of years of debate and consultation with industry, environmental groups, traditional owners and other stakeholders. Once again, I would like to thank Minister Enoch and the Deputy Premier for their contribution to this work and tireless campaign to see these laws become a reality. The passion of my colleagues and that of many stakeholders is driven by the fact that the current rate of tree clearing in Queensland is not sustainable. If this clearing continues, it will increase the rate of extinction of native wildlife; it will put jobs and businesses reliant on the land and the Great Barrier Reef at risk; it will drive up Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, preventing Australia from meeting its international climate commitments; and hinder the great work underway in regional communities to respond to climate change risk and impacts.

We have done the work on our policy and delivered a suite of initiatives that, together with this bill, will better protect our industries, our environment and our communities. Farmers know climate change. They only have to step outside their door every day. We are working with them—and working with all our stakeholders—to ensure the right balance. This legislation is balanced, it is measured, it is responsible.

On 8 March, I introduced into the parliament the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. We know that vegetation management reform has been a long journey. Over many years we have listened to Queenslanders to maintain the right balance within these laws. The previous LNP government set about removing protections. Its policies resulted in a rapid and unsustainable escalation in clearing rates around Queensland. The 2015-16 data showed us that the total statewide native vegetation clearing rate of remnant vegetation was 138,000 hectares per year—a staggering increase from 59,800 hectares when the previous vegetation laws were changed. We must take action to reverse this trend.

I can assure everyone who has had their say through the consultation process that our laws will not stop farmers looking after their farms. Landholders can still conduct necessary clearing for farm operations, such as clearing to harvest mulga to feed stock, manage encroachment, establish property infrastructure, control weeds and deal with disaster management and recovery. I will talk about this in more detail shortly.

To reinstate a responsible vegetation management and protection framework we propose to cease broadscale clearing of remnant vegetation for high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture; restore the pre-2013 mapping of high-value regrowth, which will protect approximately 630,000 hectares of freehold and Indigenous land; and expand the definition of 'high-value regrowth', which is currently vegetation that has not been cleared since the beginning of 1990. We are expanding this definition to include vegetation that is at least 15 years old, securing an extra 450,000 hectares of protected vegetation.

We are giving compliance officers more powers and boosting monitoring to support landholders to meet their obligations. Given the risks associated with the thinning of native vegetation, we will require landholders to first seek expert assessment and approval before conducting these activities. We will protect endangered, vulnerable and near-threatened species with the application of essential habitat mapping. This mapping will help protect many near-threatened species. We have also extended protection to regrowth vegetation all along the watercourses that lead to the Great Barrier Reef.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee who have worked diligently in examining the bill and hearing public submissions since its introduction. I thank the member for Bancroft for his work in chairing the committee process. This committee held nine public hearings and examined over 13,000 submissions. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the member for Ipswich West and the member for Mount Ommaney. I have read through the views expressed in the dissenting report by the member for Condamine, the member for Buderim and the member for Bundaberg and I also thank them for their efforts. I acknowledge the concerns that they and some stakeholders have expressed. I will address some of these issues now.

Let me make this clear: we recognise the importance of agriculture to the state's economy. In drafting this legislation we have worked hard to find the right balance. To set the record straight, landholders are still able to manage vegetation essential to their day-to-day business. They will still be able to manage vegetation either under an existing exemption in the planning regulation or management activities that are allowed under accepted development codes.

This bill does not ban all clearing. Rather, it seeks to ensure the sustainable management of native vegetation. Landholders still have access to a range of codes depending on the management practices they need to undertake. These new laws do prevent landholders to clear by applying under the Vegetation Management Act and Planning Act 2016 for high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture. Removing this provision will save an extra 20,000 hectares of remnant forests from being cleared each year. Land clearing still allows for landholders to start new enterprises. In fact, our package provides new pathways to enable the agriculture sector to expand and prosper in Queensland.

Analysis of soil suitability mapping shows, for example, that there is more than one million hectares of Queensland's best agricultural land currently being used for grazing that could readily be developed for cropping. Up to 300,000 hectares of this is in Northern Australia. All of this land is currently identified as category X, indicating that no clearing of regulated vegetation is required to significantly expand cropping.

I would like to take a moment to discuss the work we have done on codes. Again, let me be clear: under these new responsible vegetation management laws, landholders continue to have access to a range of codes to allow for low-risk clearing operations. There is a code for managing encroachment; fodder harvesting; improving operational efficiency of existing agriculture; managing category C regrowth; managing category R regrowth; and necessary environmental clearing, which includes clearing after a natural disaster. There also are codes for property infrastructure and weed control. In addition, there are specific industry codes for extractive industries and managing a native forest practice.

Stakeholders such as AgForce and the Queensland Farmers' Federation are supportive of these accepted development codes as an appropriate regulatory measure. Stakeholders acknowledge that their purpose is to allow landholders to engage in low-risk, essential management activities without unnecessary red tape from the government. This government is committed to retaining these tools as long as the management activities are meeting the purposes of the Vegetation Management Act. With this in mind I specifically sought advice on the managing thickened vegetation code and managing fodder harvesting code from the Queensland Herbarium and a subsequent review by the CSIRO. As mentioned previously, thinning of remnant vegetation as a management activity is not a low-risk activity. I intend to withdraw this accepted development code from the regulation following assent of this bill.

In response to the committee's recommendation that accepted development codes be reviewed after three years, I can advise that the codes are under review at present. I will retain an assessment pathway in the legislation for those landholders who need to manage thickened remnant vegetation. It will remain a relevant purpose in the Vegetation Management Act for which application can be made. Recommendation 4 from the committee asked that the development approval process for this management activity be streamlined. The Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning will support me to examine the approval process under the Planning Act, including the fee structure, to ensure landholders do not face unnecessary obstacles if seeking a development approval.

There has been a lot of misinformation about the remade fodder code, which was based on advice from the Herbarium and reviewed by the CSIRO. I am keen to set the record straight on this. We have tightened up the management practices to ensure best practice with input from farmers and technical experts with skin in the game. The harvesting of mulga to provide fodder for hungry stock is supported by this government. As we know, in times of drought and tough conditions feeding mulga to livestock to keep farming enterprises viable is critical for rural communities.

As well as hearing from landholders and the agricultural sector, the committee heard directly from Queensland scientists concerned about the dire impact that land clearing is having on native animals. It is most unfortunate that near-threatened species were removed from the essential habitat mapping layer in 2013. Land clearing has been identified as a threatening process for many of the 739 threatened flora species and 210 threatened fauna species in Queensland. As part of the major mapping update that has occurred as part of the development of this legislation, the essential habitat mapping layer used in the Vegetation Management Act will now specifically protect endangered, vulnerable and near-threatened species. In short, because of this addition to the mapping, the essential habitat of our valued animals and plants will be protected in both remnant and high-value regrowth vegetation.

Offsets will apply to approvals for any significant residual impact on near-threatened species where the clearing of remnant vegetation cannot be reasonably avoided and minimised. Application of essential habitat mapping to remnant vegetation and high-value regrowth, with the addition of near-threatened species, will protect approximately 4,865,000 hectares. This represents an additional 239,000 hectares.

This bill will regulate the clearing of vegetation within 50 metres of a watercourse for the Burnett-Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy catchments, providing consistent protection to regrowth vegetation in all Great Barrier Reef catchments. This is an extension of the regulation currently in place in the reef catchments of the Burdekin, Mackay-Whitsunday and Wet Tropics. An accepted development code for clearing of vegetation in a category R area has regulated these three catchments since 2013. The code ensures category R regrowth vegetation is conserved; there is wetland and watercourse bank stability; water quality and habitat is maintained and landscape stability is maintained. The extension of the category R code to the Burnett-Mary, Eastern Cape York and Fitzroy catchments is in response to concerns expressed by the community in relation to reduced water quality in the Great Barrier Reef and impacts on our native wildlife from habitat loss and fragmentation.

This change is one of the most important features of the new legislation. All catchments that lead to the Great Barrier Reef are now protected under these laws. The tens of thousands of jobs that rely on the reef are once again a priority. The bill will also amend the Water Act to re-regulate the removal of vegetation in a watercourse under a riverine protection permit.

Recommendation 3 of the committee's report asks that I clarify the operation of the definition of 'regrowth watercourse and drainage feature area' and how they will be dealt with under the proposed category R and riverine protection permits. I am happy to clarify this. The Vegetation Management Act and the Water Act use essentially the same definitions for both watercourses and drainage features. The key difference is that the Water Act ceases to apply below the point where a river becomes tidal, while the jurisdiction of the Vegetation Management Act extends to the coast. Category R applies to any native regrowth vegetation that is 50 metres either side of a watercourse or a drainage feature that is located within prescribed Great Barrier Reef catchment areas.

Previously, the category R designation has only applied to catchments in the Wet Tropics, Burdekin and Mackay-Whitsunday regions. Under the bill, category R will also apply to catchments in the Mary-Burnett, Fitzroy and Eastern Cape York regions. These category R areas are designated in the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy regulated vegetation management maps. A detailed property map showing the regulated vegetation on a landholder's property, including any category R areas, is available online and at no cost.

Landholders will still be able to undertake limited clearing in category R areas in compliance with the provisions of the relevant accepted development code. Requirements for riverine protection permits will be reinstated for the removal of native vegetation from within the bed and banks of a watercourse. A number of exemptions exist under the water regulation for particular routine activities. Riverine protection permits for removing native vegetation from watercourses were a requirement of the Water Act from the early 1990s. Most landholders will be familiar with how the riverine protection permitting system works.

This bill embodies the government's clear intent to pass on a secure and productive economy to future generations of which we can all be proud—an inheritance worth having. We cannot do this if we do not act to protect our environmental values and reduce the rate of clearing. Queensland's iconic Great Barrier Reef, its tropical rainforests and the outback with its unique flora, fauna and landscapes, are the most visible legacy, but they are only a part. Our remnant native vegetation, our high-value regrowth, our riparian corridors and our native flora and fauna throughout Queensland is the inheritance we need to protect for ourselves and, with pride, the inheritance we pass to those who follow.


I now table the government's response to the committee's report.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 6, 55th Parliament—Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, government response [\[539\]](#).

I will be moving a small number of amendments during the consideration in detail. One of these concerns the effect on notification when an accepted development code is revoked or replaced. The bill will be amended so that when a code is replaced there is discretion over the effect on previous notifications. The other amendments correct minor errors in drafting. I table the explanatory notes to the amendments that will be moved during consideration in detail.

*Tabled paper:* Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham's amendments [\[540\]](#).

I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.50 am): I rise to speak to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. At the outset I say that the LNP will be opposing this bill. Furthermore, during consideration in detail I will be proposing a number of common-sense, practical amendments, which I will elaborate on in due course.

There is a reason 500 farmers protested outside this parliament earlier today. There is a reason thousands of farmers from around the state attended public hearings conducted throughout Queensland by the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. There is a reason 17,500 people signed a petition protesting the introduction of this bill. That reason is anger—anger that this Labor government is demonising our farmers and introducing the most draconian vegetation management laws that the state has ever seen.

This bill breaks all the rules of responsible governance and, by doing so, breaks the Labor Party's election commitment to govern for all Queenslanders and not just the people in Brisbane who voted for it. From the outset, I say that this bill is not based on facts; it is built upon a rotting foundation of extreme

green ideology, shonky science and an ugly manifestation of the city-country divide. It is the kind of bill that sums up the white-hot frustrations the electorate has with our political system, in placing the ascetical notions of perceived ethical action ahead of the very real and direct impact these laws have on people. To put it simply, this is politics over people and those opposite should hang their heads in shame that they are a party to it.

These laws have a very real impact on our Queensland farmers and the rural and regional communities they support. Unfortunately, the very people these laws will hit the hardest were not given a seat at the table when the laws were written up. Agricultural groups and regional communities were not consulted before this bill was put before parliament. Farmers and their communities had the door slammed in their faces, while green groups cosied up to the government to get the bill that they wanted. To use the Queensland Farmers' Federation's own words—

Disappointingly, the government did not consult with the agricultural sector and key stakeholders before the 2016 bill was introduced and nor has it done so before tabling the 2018 bill.

Canegrowers CEO Dan Galligan said, 'There has been no consultation on this matter.' The advocacy group representing fruit and vegetable growers, Growcom, said it was 'deeply disappointed by the lack of consultation with the intensive agriculture sector during the development of this Bill and its previous iterations.'

On 8 March the bill was introduced into parliament, with the committee required to report back to the Legislative Assembly by 23 April 2018. That is right: seven weeks to consider a bill that proposes the biggest changes to the agricultural sector in Queensland's history. Despite calls for a regulatory impact statement, a process that would have examined the environmental, social and economic impact the amendments would have on our farmers and local communities, in its infinite wisdom the department decided not to complete an RIS—wait for it—'due to the need to avoid both panic clearing and pre-emptive applications for approvals that would negate the effect of the legislative changes to which the Government has committed'. What a slap in the face for our farmers. That illustrates clearly the attitude that this government has for our farmers and its lack of trust in them to do the right thing. Those farmers have been managing their land in some cases for generations, they know their land like the backs of their hands and they have a vested interest in taking good care of it.

The QFF and the LGAQ quite rightly called for an RIS process to be undertaken prior to the approval of the bill to enable a comprehensive understanding of the environmental, social and economic impacts across all Queensland communities. Little to no consideration has been given to the second-order effects that will likely mean that Queensland farmers and graziers will be unable to meet the food and fibre demands of the future. Make no mistake: if passed today, this bill will deliver a sledgehammer blow to our rural and regional communities, it will cost jobs and it will impact on the economic prosperity of some of our rural communities at a time when they can least afford it. During the committee hearing process, departmental officers admitted that they had not undertaken any modelling in relation to the effect the proposed legislation will have on agricultural production across the state into the future and nor did they have any intention of conducting any modelling.

During the hearings on 12 April 2018, the committee received testimony from Mr Scott Dunlop, a fourth-generation grazier from the Proston district, who articulated his concerns with regard to the potential economic and social impacts of the bill. He said—

Has the government done production modelling? We all talk about the work of our country and the rest of the world needing to be fed, housed, and clothed. These laws are going to reduce the amount of production that our country can contribute to that.

I think the economic modelling is extremely important. I do not think it has been considered at all how this is going to affect individual operations, which in turn is going to affect all communities ... This legislation is going to cause a significant downturn in employment and the death of rural communities. Our banks require modelling and budgets from us as business owners, but has the government prepared modelling and budgets to ascertain the extent of the negative effects on primary producers, businesses and the subsequent fallout to the communities in which they live?

That is a fair question.

It may come as a surprise to those opposite that the LNP is committed to environmental protection and laws to ensure that land clearing is undertaken in a properly regulated manner so that biodiversity is protected, along with our streams and rivers, particularly in the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef. Certainly, we are not advocating widescale unregulated land clearing. However, our chief concerns stem from the fact that the Palaszczuk Labor government's approach is not fair to thousands of Queensland farmers who have invested in their land, livestock and farming equipment with the clear expectation of being able to manage their properties to generate returns to pay their bills and service borrowing costs, as in any normal business enterprise.

If passed, these laws will have significant impacts on property valuations and, in some cases, place farmers in severe financial difficulty. I have heard firsthand from graziers such as Blair and Josie Angus from Kimberley Station at Moranbah about the impact that these changes will have on their land valuations, not to mention the impact on carrying capacity or earnings capability. Blair and Josie are doing the right thing: they are managing their property in a sustainable and responsible manner, with a view to developing it to increase production and profitability. Of course, that is now in jeopardy. If these laws are passed they will lose \$3.1 million on the valuation of their properties. That is a pretty sobering thought.

**Mrs Frecklington:** How much?

**Mr LAST:** \$3.1 million. That shows the real cost of these proposed laws and one can only imagine what it would equate to if multiplied across Queensland. These concerns are heightened at a time when Queensland needs sustainable growth opportunities, particularly in regional areas, which have suffered prolonged drought and loss of employment opportunities. I am particularly concerned that farm management and development projects will be stymied by Labor's proposed laws, which will place further pressure on jobs, particularly in rural areas. There is no question in my mind that, under the thin veil of protecting the Great Barrier Reef and reducing Queensland's carbon emissions, this Labor government is introducing vegetation management laws designed to garner inner-city green votes at the next election.

Whilst we knew that these laws were drafted behind closed doors in collaboration with the green groups, the greatest insult has been the farce that was the committee review process. The committee conducted six regional hearings in Rockhampton, Townsville, Cloncurry, Longreach, Charleville and Cairns, with more than 1,000 Queenslanders filling venues to have their say on the laws. I attended some of those hearings and saw firsthand the frustration and the anger that was evident in the people attending.

The committee heard firsthand accounts from farmers and industry groups who spoke from the heart and gave evidence believing that the government would take on board this advice and make the necessary changes to the proposed legislation. How wrong they were. It sickens me to say it, but the public hearings were a sham.

Despite overwhelming evidence calling for change, the Labor dominated committee disregarded the more than 1,000 Queenslanders who showed up to the regional hearings as well as the 13,000 plus who had their say through submissions by not making a single recommendation to change this legislation before the House. The only recommendations offered by the committee are those that try unsuccessfully to fix the issues these laws create in the first place.

The LNP members on the committee submitted a dissenting report for a number of reasons, including inter alia the lack of any meaningful consultation with industry groups and the broader community upon whom the laws will directly impact. AgForce described the recommendations the Labor MPs submitted from the committee process as 'an absolute disgrace' and 'a slap in the face' for farming families who took the time to have their say and travel vast distances to give evidence. QFF went one step further in condemning the entire parliamentary committee process, saying that it had failed farmers, regional communities and the environment. This whole process has clearly shown that the Labor committee members are completely wedded to a political agenda. Their attempt at consultation should be seen for what it was—a charade.

Whilst the LNP rejects in principle the laws as flawed and unfair, there are a few areas in particular where the proposed laws completely overstep the mark. One such area is the complete removal of high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture development approvals. Labor's justification for removing these already heavily regulated clearing provisions from the act has been ill-informed and inconclusive.

For example, IHVA has been a successful policy. It has enabled responsible small scale clearing to realise best management practices and positive environmental outcomes. Across all of Queensland only 5,608 hectares had been approved to be cleared under IHVA since that was brought in between 2 December 2013 and 5 February 2018. To put that in context, as a percentage of the total land use for agriculture, that is 0.0039 of one per cent.

These IHVA clearings delivered incredibly high economic returns and job creation. For example, according to QFF, if those 5,608 hectares that have been approved for IHVA clearing were used in the following industries, the regional economic stimulation and job creation would be as follows: the sugarcane industry, \$28 million in additional gross state product and 1,203 direct jobs; the mango industry, \$89 million in additional retail value and 617 direct jobs; the banana industry, \$269 million in



additional gross value of production and 2,243 direct jobs; the macadamia industry, \$73 million in additional wholesale value and 196 on-farm jobs; and the cotton industry, \$39 million in additional value and 65 on-farm jobs. These are real jobs for Queenslanders.

The value these crops produce and the people they employ go a long way in our rural and regional communities. Removing these provisions and only leaving a costly bureaucratic state development application process will stifle agricultural agility and growth in the state—an unacceptable and inequitable outcome.

It is our high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture that provides the food and fibre we rely on to feed and clothe us. There is a simple slogan that sums this up—and we heard it outside at the rally this morning: no farmers, no food. How true is that. High-value and irrigated high-value agriculture is crucial to Queensland's economy, providing tens of thousands of jobs and revenue for this state. Despite what the minister has said, these amendments will bring the development of high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture to a halt. It has simply become too difficult.

The bureaucracy and red tape surrounding applications to clear land under the umbrella of HVA and IHVA is such that farmers will simply not bother. That is a blight on this government and the process that they have implemented. That they would choose to go out of their way to make it more difficult for our farmers to develop their land is nothing short of disgraceful. The justification for removing these successful and sustainable provisions is flawed. In the consideration in detail stage I will be moving amendments to address this issue which I believe are practical and more streamlined.

The proposed expansion of high-value regrowth, category C, will add an additional layer of regulation under the vegetation management framework on leasehold, freehold and Indigenous land. The inclusion of regrowth that has not been cleared for 15 years will lock up over 862,506 hectares of land as part of this proposed change. This bill will extend the protection of high-value regrowth vegetation to align with high conservation values—and I question that—by amending the definition of high-value regrowth to be vegetation that has not been cleared for 15 years.

This creates enormous issues for farmers being able to productively use their land and plan for the future. When we consider that parts of Queensland have been in the grip of drought for over six years we start to appreciate that the reduction from 29 to 15 years will have a significant impact on farmers wanting to clear regrowth. One farmer said to me earlier today, 'When you clear brigalow it grows back like hairs on a cat's back. If you do not stay on top of it, you will ultimately lose valuable grazing country.' That is the reality. Our farmers know how to manage their land. These proposed laws are taking that option away from them.

The fact that the government is proposing to lock up previously accessible land without compensation is yet another kick in the guts for our farmers. Our farmers are within their rights to ask the question: will I be compensated for the loss of productive land? I wait with bated breath for the minister's response to that question. Why should they not be compensated? After all, many of our farmers purchased their properties in good faith and on the understanding that they would be able to develop this land, improve their cash flow and provide a future for their children. In many cases, they have had the rug completely pulled out from beneath them. In some cases, they will be driven to the wall.

I want to briefly touch on the practice of our farmers in the western areas of the state to clear mulga for the purposes of drought fodder. I take on board what the minister said in his contribution. I know my colleagues from Gregory and Warrego will expand on this practice, but suffice to say the proposed amendments to managing fodder harvesting for drought management will become more cumbersome and ultimately more expensive for our farmers engaged in this practice.

These farmers utilise mulga as a source of feed for their stock during times of drought. The last thing they need is an extra layer of red tape as part of the approval process. The amendments as proposed will make the clearing of mulga for fodder almost unworkable, which again defies logic. I will be proposing amendments in line with feedback from farmers and industry groups regarding vegetation clearing for fodder in the mulga lands.

Last week I had the opportunity to meet with John Frederickson, a grazier in Moranbah, who expressed his frustration with the proposed amendments regarding managing thickened vegetation. The amendments clearly demonstrate how out of touch this government is when it comes to managing thickened vegetation or, as it is commonly called, tree thinning. This particular grazier was explaining to me how he is required to get on and off his dozer to measure the circumference of trees and the

distance between trees to ensure compliance with the legislation. As members would appreciate, constantly getting on and off a dozer with a measuring tape is impractical and unworkable. This again highlights the lack of thought and common sense around this bill.

The proposed inclusion of provisions that facilitate the purposeful creation of administrative and bureaucratic blackholes through the development approval process is unacceptable. These costly and time-consuming processes have been deliberately established as a bureaucratic deterrent for farmers who want to manage their vegetation and should, at the very least, be limited with administrative due diligence clauses and time limits to ensure the process at least attempts to offer a solution to those who wish to clear their land.

It is well and good for the minister to stand up here today and say that there are millions of acres out there available for development—category X country, as he calls it. The reality is that the application process for our farmers is a bureaucratic nightmare. I will be moving a deemed approval amendment in consideration in detail around this particular provision.

The provisions within the bill relating to compliance action where unlawful clearing has been undertaken or where there is suspicion it is occurring defies logic. Of particular concern are the provisions giving authorised officers greater powers than Queensland police officers when it comes to the power of entry. The proposed powers will allow these staff to enter a landholder's property without a warrant or the owner's consent if they reasonably believe that a clearing offence has occurred. As a former police officer, I have grave concerns with the extent of these powers and I will be moving amendments relating to this provision during consideration in detail. Ms Wendy Divine from the Queensland Law Society outlined her concerns with this overreach at the Brisbane hearing when she said—

Our concern ... is that if the trigger for exercising the power of entry is that an officer has a reasonable belief that an offence has happened or is occurring our question is around the standard of proof that is going to be applied to that. If there is sufficient evidence to indicate that an offence is occurring or has occurred, we query whether the more appropriate method is to take that evidence to a magistrate and obtain a warrant rather than rely on an administrative process of giving 24 hours notice to enter someone's property.

Police officers have powers under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to conduct investigations into certain offences. Under section 160 of the PPRA, police have a power to 'enter a place without warrant' if they believe evidence for a part 2 offence may be concealed or destroyed unless the place is immediately entered and searched. However, under section 161, the police officer then has to apply to a magistrate as soon as reasonably practicable after exercising the powers of section 160 for a post-search approval order to have the entry and any evidence seized authorised as if a warrant were obtained. The Queensland vegetation enforcement unit does not, effectively giving them more powers than our police officers. If this part of the law is to remain then a similar post-search approval order should be included in the section to have the entry and seizure of any evidence approved by a magistrate.

It is very clear that the science these laws are based upon is not settled and, in many cases, flawed. These laws are based on ideology, not science. Even the government's own scientific adviser responsible for the satellite mapping technology said that vegetation regrowth could not be properly mapped and therefore the jury was out on the true rate of vegetation loss. It may come as a surprise to those opposite that, after clearing, trees grow back and in many cases they grow back thicker than the original vegetation. By SLATS's own admission there is no mapping of regrowth. This legislation has been introduced using SLATS data that fails to be based upon science. I have a pretty big electorate and I can assure members that there is a lot of regrowth in Queensland. When you drive around and see the extent of the regrowth, you really get an appreciation of the trees that are growing back right across this state. I see the member for Gregory nodding his head because he sees it as well when he is driving through his country.

To not base this legislation on science fails to tell the whole story on the extent and type of vegetation in Queensland. It defies belief that this minister would come into this place and introduce legislation that has no basis in science, is not supported by accurate mapping and is clearly reliant on flawed data. I recently visited Bruce Semple's property Coolibah at Dysart where he showed me his property maps of assessable vegetation, or PMAV. During my visit I inspected a stand of virgin brigalow comprising approximately 200 acres which is not showing on his PMAV, and this is despite Bruce making several attempts to have this anomaly rectified.

I have heard time and time again from farmers across this state about the inaccurate recording of vegetation on satellite imagery—lantana and woody weeds being shown as remnant vegetation and particular types of trees being shown in areas where they have never grown. The list of complaints is

endless. I say this to the minister: your mapping is inaccurate and, until such time as you put departmental staff on the ground to verify the accuracy of your maps, you should not be proceeding with this bill.

The total area of Cape York is around 14.5 million hectares and the total area of land that is being transferred to Aboriginal freehold is around 5.7 million hectares. Of those 5.7 million hectares, about two million is in Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal land national park and about 3.7 million hectares is unencumbered Aboriginal freehold. This land is owned by and is home to about 10,000 Aboriginal people who live in Cape York. Indigenous leaders, especially on Cape York, see these laws as an unfair restriction on the ability to realise the potential of their lands and provide sustainable futures for their people. At the Cairns public hearing Mr Shannon Burns from the Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation said—

The amendments to the Vegetation Management Act proposed by this bill would have significant impacts on Aboriginal land on Cape York. The proposed amendments would have the effect that virtually none of the 3.7 million hectares of unencumbered Aboriginal freehold could be cleared for high-value agriculture even though there are areas that have potential for high-value agriculture and Aboriginal people have aspirations to use it for that.

Mr Gerhardt Pearson, Executive Officer of the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, followed by saying—

We have only just started to sniff and enjoy the piece of dirt under our feet again in this short period and, essentially, this law takes that back off us.

...

This pervasive green movement that is very influential, particularly on—  
the Labor Party—

provokes down south a snuffing out of the opportunity of remote communities, white and black families on remote communities, and regional Queensland. These are communities that have a long history in providing for the strength of the economy of not just this state, but of this nation. Why would any government just for votes in fact arbitrarily take away and limit and devalue the potential for our communities to grow and an economy to grow and for the nation to benefit from that, for our children to benefit from the jobs.

The hidden impact of these laws is that our Indigenous Queenslanders, particularly on the cape, will miss out on economic and employment opportunities from these unfair laws. If the member for Cook were serious about representing her constituents, she would support the LNP's amendments to this bill.

During the course of the hearings the committee heard evidence from farmers located within the Great Barrier Reef catchment areas. The proposed amendments relating to the extension of category R to include regrowth vegetation in watercourse and drainage feature areas in three additional Great Barrier Reef catchments—namely, the eastern Cape York, Fitzroy and Burnett-Mary catchments—will have a significant impact on current and future development. Perhaps the minister could explain how that will work in sugarcane-growing areas around the Burdekin and horticultural areas around Bowen, because I can assure the minister that I have had no end of calls from concerned farmers about what this will mean for them going forward.

I want to leave members with the words of one of the witnesses at the public hearings, a Mr Guy Newell from Charleville, who said—


I am opposed to the amendments laid out in this bill. I am opposed to them because there is no evidence that justifies why further amendments to vegetation management in Queensland are necessary. Labor tries to explain why these changes are needed by claiming that increases in tree clearing in Queensland have been alarming and that this needs to be reversed to protect high-value regrowth, remnant ecosystems and the Great Barrier Reef.

What they do not tell you, however, is that less than 0.23 per cent of Queensland's land area was cleared in 2015-16 and that two-thirds of this vegetation management was carried out to control regrowth and other routine farm maintenance tasks such as removing invasive weeds; constructing fences, pipelines and roads; thinning; fodder harvesting; and managing encroachment. The other thing that the government failed to explain to voters at the last election is that, while they can measure changes in tree clearing, they cannot measure changes in regrowth. The government is trying to sell us only one side of the story.

The message from our rural and regional communities has been loud and clear: leave our vegetation management laws alone and stop attacking our farmers. The scaremongering campaign run by this Labor government over tree clearing in this state is nothing short of reprehensible. Our farmers need common-sense laws that work, not overbearing government regulation and red tape that locks up our farm land and holds back regional and rural Queensland. By stopping our farmers from sustainably managing and clearing land, it is inevitable that everyday Queenslanders will be forced to pay more at the checkout for the high-quality, locally grown produce we have come to expect and enjoy.

This legislation is about Labor buying Greens votes in Brisbane and not about the broader wellbeing of Queensland and its environment and residents. Farmers take great pride in the way they manage their land, and we should trust them to do the right thing instead of demonising them and running interference at every available opportunity. I am proud to stand here today and say that I support our farmers. I am proud to say that the LNP members, those on this side of the House, will consistently stand up for our hardworking farmers who are being unfairly targeted by a government with no interest in agriculture. We will fight this at every turn and we will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with our farmers who are the backbone of this state. I ask that this House reject this unfair bill and vote down this attack on our hardworking farmers.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order! Before I call the member for Nanango, I ask that members on both sides of the House keep audible chatter to a minimum. I know it is exciting to be back after a month away. However, at times during the last speech the audible chatter was quite loud, so I ask that all speeches be heard in silence.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.20 pm): It is a privilege to hold a seat in this House. It is a privilege that is hard earned, and we have it at the behest of our constituents—constituents across this great state who understand what it is to feed our people and to clothe our people. They are the ones who have spoken out against this bad law.

There is no-one sadder than me that the great Andrew Cripps does not have a seat in this place anymore, because the former member for Hinchinbrook worked his guts out for the people of Queensland, along with the other members of the LNP, to make common-sense vegetation management laws so that our farmers knew what they were working with. They knew what the boundaries were. These people are not criminals. They are people who are just trying to look after their land, to keep it in the place where it should be for the next generation. They are the custodians of our great state, and it annoys me so much that we are back in this chamber defending those common-sense laws.

Today is one of those days in this parliament that exposes the absolute ignorance and the blatant disrespect that those opposite in the Labor Party have for our Queensland landholders and farmers. Labor's proposed vegetation management laws are a brutal and unprovoked attack on the farming families and communities right across Queensland. No other issue so starkly demonstrates the difference between them and us. The party that I lead, the Liberal National Party, will always stand shoulder to shoulder with our regional producers, our farmers and our landholders across this state. The LNP will protect farmers' rights to run sustainable, successful businesses and support their families and the next generation. We will always respect and support the industry that is the economic backbone of this great state. Sadly, but not surprisingly, none of those principles matter to those opposite. If they did, they would not be reintroducing these draconian native vegetation laws that simply make it harder for our regional people to get ahead—and it is not the first time.

For decades the Labor Party have been trying to turn the screws on this proud profession to satisfy their own green obsession and buy those votes in the south-east corner. Make no mistake: behind each and every Labor member in this House is a union master pulling their strings. For decades Labor have put themselves, their green mates and their union masters before the real people of Queensland, and I acknowledge those sitting in the gallery here today.

The LNP is committed to protecting our precious environment. We support laws that properly and fairly regulate the vegetation management practices that farmers must carry out to maintain and boost the productivity of their land. We support laws that protect the streams and rivers of our Great Barrier Reef catchments, but the laws that Labor are proposing are not fair and will hurt farming and grazing families and their communities. They are not fair to the thousands of Queensland farmers who invested in land, livestock and equipment with the clear expectation of being able to manage their properties to make the money they need to pay the bills—the taxes that this Labor government keeps putting on them.

Labor's laws literally pull the rug from underneath these farming families. These laws lock up nearly a million hectares of agricultural land from routine practices of vegetation management that keep land in production. They shut down the ability to open up any new agricultural land, killing off thousands of potential jobs and denying billions of dollars in export income for our state. These laws reduce farmers to criminals on their own land by reactivating and giving more power to Labor's dreaded tree police. These laws tie up rural producers in reams of red tape including costly bureaucratic development application processes that see these landholders charged thousands of dollars just to manage their own thickened vegetation—and all at a time when Queensland desperately needs to grow this important

agricultural sector. We have had years of prolonged drought and loss of employment in regional areas. How does Labor defend this? With dodgy figures and no consultation, that is how. The very people these laws hit the hardest were not even given a seat at the table when the laws were written.

The bill was introduced in such a short period of time. On behalf of the LNP, I personally want to thank each and every one of the 13,000 Queenslanders who made submissions to the committee. I want to thank each and every Queenslander who stood out here on Speakers' Corner and rallied for their rights. I want to thank my family members—graziers from Wandoan—who stood out there to defend the rights of my family to continue farming in this great state. I am a proud daughter of an agricultural producer, and I am not going to stand in this chamber and let those opposite call my family, my friends and the farmers of Queensland criminals.


To add insult to injury, for decades we have had to listen to Labor peddling mistruths about vegetation management in Queensland. They were happy to trash reputations but they are now happy to stand over there and claim that chickpeas are going to solve the world's problems. Well, I have news for the Premier: you need land to grow chickpeas. It is funny that. My husband and I have grown chickpeas. We know what it takes to grow chickpeas. If you are going to stand up and take credit for Queensland farmers who are growing and exporting chickpeas to feed thousands of starving people across this world of ours, you need laws that allow landholders to manage their land full stop. But do not let the truth ever get in the way of a good story when it comes to the Labor Party and Annastacia Palaszczuk.

The hypocrisy of this Labor government is simply staggering. Not only that, they have hidden from Queenslanders the long-term impact the laws will have on all households. To make it simple for those opposite: if you make it harder for us to farm our land, it is going to be more expensive in the supermarket full stop. Again, it is simple but unfortunately this is what we are dealing with. There is no common sense on that side of the House.

I was proud to be a member of the LNP government that helped restore balance to the vegetation management laws. In 2013 I stood in this House and I spoke about Mr Alan Crawford, a grazier from Gordonbrook in my electorate. I dealt with Mr Crawford when I was a lawyer in Kingaroy. He continued to talk to me after he fell foul of another Labor government's obsession with farmer bashing in the Vegetation Management Act 1999. After responsibly managing his vegetation since the sixties, the tree police dragged Mr Crawford to court, prosecuted and fined him.

This took a huge toll on his life. He told me at the time, 'This has taken 10 years off my life.' Sadly, Mr Crawford passed away two days ago. I would like to send my heartfelt condolences to his family—to Val, their family and friends—and thank them for standing up to these draconian laws after they were at the front line. My message to the rural producers is clear. The Liberal National Party has and will continue to fight for your families. We will fight Labor's law at every turn. These laws are unfair, they are unjust, they are unworkable and every LNP member in this chamber stands to vote against this bill.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (12.30 pm): I rise to speak to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The Palaszczuk government went to the last state election with a clear commitment to end broadscale tree clearing in Queensland, and that is what we are doing here today. Queensland Labor has a long and proud track record on conservation, having first enacted vegetation management laws in 1999, but those opposite cannot say the same. On Tuesday, 21 May 2013, the then LNP government delivered a massive blow to Queensland's natural environment. On that day, the former Newman LNP government tore up Labor's sensible vegetation management laws and set in motion unprecedented rates of tree clearing in this state. It was a shameful act by a visionless government. On that day, the LNP turned back the clock on conservation, and the impact has been devastating.

The science shows that the annual rate of clearing of woody vegetation in Queensland has increased up to fourfold compared to 2010-11. That equates to around 1,000 football fields of vegetation being cleared in Queensland every day. According to the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study, almost 400,000 hectares of land was cleared in 2015-16 alone, and 40 per cent of that clearing occurred in Great Barrier Reef catchments. These excessive rates of tree clearing not only impact our landscape but also present a serious risk to our biodiversity and wildlife. Two plant species have become extinct in the wild because of land clearing, and 949 flora and fauna species are under threat.

At the 2015 election, the Labor Party made a commitment to Queenslanders to stop this damage. On 18 August 2016, the Palaszczuk government brought that commitment to the parliament. Members opposite had the opportunity to come into this place and set things right by voting for new laws. Did they respond to the overwhelming evidence that was mounting about the damaging impact of their laws? No, they did not. Instead, they allowed unsustainable rates of tree clearing to continue. The science shows that, if clearing remains at this rate, it will fragment landscapes and reduce habitat for native wildlife, increase sediment flows to the Great Barrier Reef and prevent Australia from meeting its international climate commitments. Today is a historic moment for the future of Queensland. Today we say to our children and our grandchildren that we care enough about your future to fight again for the protection of our environment.

One of the reasons this bill is so important is the protection it will provide to the Great Barrier Reef. It is important to remember that a key commitment to UNESCO to protect the reef's World Heritage status was to reduce riparian land clearing as part of the Reef 2050 Plan. Removing the riparian vegetation that holds riverbanks and stream channels together causes an increase of sediment pollution that washes out onto the reef. This bill will reinstate the protections that were in place for the reef by tightening the regulation on clearing of riparian vegetation and expanding it to cover all reef catchments. This amendment is critically important for the health of our reef.

The protection of essential habitat for near-threatened wildlife under the Vegetation Management Act 1999 was removed by the former LNP government, limiting the protection of habitat to only that of endangered and vulnerable wildlife. As a consequence of that removal, any clearing carried out under that act resulting in the clearing of habitat for near-threatened wildlife remained unregulated. Furthermore, this loss of habitat was unable to be counterbalanced with the requirement for an environmental offset for near-threatened wildlife. We know that habitat loss is the greatest risk to threatened species in Queensland. Therefore, this bill's reinstatement of essential habitat for near-threatened wildlife is absolutely necessary to ensure that the act once again provides the protection it once delivered.


In addition, the protection of remnant and high conservation value non-remnant vegetation that is included in the bill will further protect important habitat for threatened wildlife species. In 2015-16, 35 per cent of clearing occurred in remnant vegetation, which is structurally mature, supports biodiversity and reduces soil and water degradation. In introducing these protections, it is important to note that, as stated in the parliamentary committee's report, there are 23 million hectares of land covered by a category X exemption in PMAVs across the state. This means landholders can continue to clear these areas regardless of the value of the forest and bushland.

In its examination of this bill, the parliamentary committee has made a recommendation regarding the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 which has been supported by the government. We support the investigation of options to assist in the establishment of Indigenous community use areas, or ICUAs, under the act. ICUAs can support Aboriginal landowners to realise sustainable development opportunities. The declaration of an ICUA allows for clearing on Aboriginal lands to provide an opportunity for increased Aboriginal economic participation. A review of how the process for declaring ICUAs can be improved is a welcome recommendation.

The changes proposed by this legislation are backed by science that has been expertly prepared by the Queensland Herbarium and, importantly, peer reviewed by the country's leading science body, the CSIRO. Much has been made of the science behind the SLATS report during consideration of this bill in recent weeks. It is important to note, therefore, that the recent 2015-16 SLATS report was reviewed externally by international experts at the Remote Sensing Research Unit of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa. Again, the Queensland Herbarium's science is peer reviewed and it stacks up. SLATS has been peer reviewed many times over its period.

The government has acknowledged that there is room for improvement in the report, however. As the Minister for Natural Resources outlined in his introductory speech on this bill, our intention is that future SLATS reports will include increases in woody vegetation as well as clearing rates. It is important to remember, however, that many habitat values of remnant vegetation take decades to re-establish after clearing. Vegetation that has regrown over a few years simply does not match the biodiversity value of plants that have been in place for long periods of time. I believe that when we take action that is firmly grounded in science we achieve a beneficial outcome for all Queenslanders.

We can deliver economic growth in the agricultural industry and protect our state's most important ecosystems, particularly the Great Barrier Reef. Labor promised at the last election to end broadscale tree clearing in Queensland and that is what this legislation will do. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.38 pm): I rise to speak to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. Let me start my contribution right there with the title of this committee, in particular the part that says 'Agricultural Industry Development'. What an oxymoron that is, for there is no part of this legislation that will in any way further agricultural industry development in this state. It is quite the opposite. This legislation will put a stranglehold on the ability for the vast majority of landowners in this state to further develop or enhance their properties. I and all of rural Queensland will listen with close attention to the contribution by the member for Ferny Grove, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development, on this legislation. If the minister does not rise and speak against this legislation, then the minister will have failed the industry that he has been given the honour to represent.

As in 2016, this bill was introduced into the House just before the Easter break and associated school holidays. On this occasion, it also coincided with the Commonwealth Games and some serious flooding issues in North Queensland. Once again, the lack of consultation with the stakeholders emerged as an issue, as highlighted by Travis Tobin, the Chief Executive Officer of the Queensland Farmers' Federation, who stated—

Disappointingly, the government did not consult with the agricultural sector and key stakeholders before the 2016 bill was introduced and nor has it done so before tabling the 2018 bill we are here to discuss today.

This was echoed by groups such as AgForce, Canegrowers Growcom, local government, Property Rights Australia and Desert Channels amongst many others. Interestingly, this was not an issue that was raised by WWF, the Wilderness Society, Greenpeace or other environmental lobby groups.

During its process, the committee received 777 submissions on the bill and approximately 13,100 form submissions—submissions with substantially uniform content based on a template submission document or wording. This represented the largest number of submissions to an inquiry received by any committee of the Queensland parliament to date. They predominantly came from: the Environmental Defenders Office Queensland, 116; WWF Australia, 4,747; Queensland Conservation Council, 183; the Wilderness Society, 4,955; and Greenpeace, 3,068. The committee held public hearings in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, Cloncurry, Longreach, Charleville and Cairns. Due to the constrained time frame, the committee could not travel to other areas that will be significantly impacted by this legislation. All public hearings were attended by very large numbers, which is an indication in itself of the concerns surrounding this bill.

Throughout this process, time and time again the committee heard a consistent message regarding the impracticalities of this legislation. One would have thought—indeed expected—that these concerns would find their way as recommendations or amendments to the bill in the committee report, but that was not to be. I had great hope when I saw this paper tabled earlier in the day. I thought, 'The minister has seen sense and made some recommendations for amendments.' Not so!

The non-government members of the committee were very disappointed by the lack of substance in the recommendations in the draft report and opposed the passage of the report. The report was passed unamended with the casting vote of the chair. The non-government members have submitted a dissenting report which outlines our concerns with this legislation.

It almost beggars belief that a bill with such widespread financial impacts on such an important sector of our economy, the agricultural industry, would be released with no cost analysis having been done. That there was no intention of doing this was exposed at the departmental hearing in Brisbane on 19 March 2018 under questioning by the member for Buderim. Mr Mickelberg asked—

Has the department undertaken any modelling in relation to the effect the proposed legislation will have on agricultural production across the state in the future?

**Mr Hinrichsen:** No.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Does the department intend to?

**Mr Hinrichsen:** No.

This was a clear indication right at the outset that this legislation was going to be rammed through unamended regardless of the consequences to the industry. These concerns were outlined by the Angus family in Rockhampton. The transcript reads—

My name is Josie Angus and my husband is Blair Angus. We own 162,000 hectares in Central and Northern Queensland. I note that we run an award-winning beef business. We have developed 17 per cent of our land and this legislation takes away 10 per cent of that 17 per cent—2,700 hectares gone.

...

What do those 2,700 hectares mean for us? Our last independent valuation, done by HTW, showed a differential of \$1,250 per hectare between our developed and undeveloped land. That is \$3.3 million that this government wishes to rip off our family balance sheet.

That is just one case. The removal of high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture from this bill, which the committee heard is the most highly regulated part of the act as it is, was greeted with dismay by landowners looking to value-add or help mitigate the effects of drought on their properties. QFF, Growcom, Canegrowers and other intense agriculture lobby groups stated that this would be a major impediment to the continued development of the industry. Agriculture is losing HVA land every day to urban sprawl, hobby farms and lifestyle blocks, and other infrastructure.

The federal government has a policy called the Northern Australia infrastructure fund to help develop the north by building dams to create more growth and opportunities for intensive agriculture. What is the point in building new dams when landowners are obstructed from clearing land to utilise the water? This was particularly highlighted by the Indigenous representative Mr Gerhardt Pearson from the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation, who labelled the legislation as poison. Mr Pearson is well aware that this legislation will stymie any possibility of the communities of the north developing a viable agriculture industry to help lift them out of the cycle of unemployment and despair. It will be interesting to see if the member for Cook will vote to support this blow to the north or will do the right thing and vote against this legislation.

One of the constraints during the committee hearings was the need to keep area-wide management plans as the 'one size fits all' under this legislation. It simply will not work. Indeed, as we heard many times, this will do more harm than good in terms of erosion and land degradation. The proposed amendments around thinning and managing regrowth are also unworkable. Landowners will be subject to a complicated and expensive development application process.


The committee also heard constant complaints about the accuracy of the SLATS mapping. It was also concerning to hear the Herbarium admit that they do not map regrowth and cannot differentiate between woody weeds such as prickly acacia and lantana.

The devil is in the detail with this legislation, and I refer in particular to the codes. The codes are interim codes and will be rewritten, and they will be rewritten to reflect the intent of this legislation. The intent of this legislation, as per the minister's own words in the introductory speech, is that, 'It will protect an additional 862,506 hectares.' To listen to the minister's speech earlier one would think we had nothing to worry about; it was all business as usual. That is what we stand to lose.

I was very disappointed with the response of the Labor members of the committee. Those members went and talked to the same people that we talked to. They heard the stories of the Quartermaines in Cairns. They heard the stories of Cameron and Jackie Tickell amongst many, many other stories we heard. This legislation will send some farmers to the wall. They will not be able to stand it. It is complicated by the codes. The codes around thinning are absolutely unworkable. The codes around mulga are absolutely unworkable. We heard from contract earth movers who drive bulldozers for a living and they said that they will not work.

Watercourses were a big issue. With the thickening along watercourses, there stands to be a lot of erosion and degradation of those watercourses. It is another case where one size does not fit all. This legislation is seriously flawed. I would urge members opposite to vote against it.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Glass House I would like to acknowledge the principal, Jan Maresca, and students of Stretton State College in the Stretton electorate.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.48 pm): I am disappointed and I am frustrated that we are back in this House again debating vegetation management laws. In my time alone as the member for Glass House we did it in 2009, and after sensible changes in 2013 we were back in 2016. Now here we are again in 2018. If I am frustrated and disappointed I cannot begin to imagine what Queensland farmers are feeling. When I was a student I was taught that Queensland was built on the sheep's back.



As the sheep made way for beef, cane, grain, cotton and agriculture, Queensland continues to be built on agriculture. Why are those opposite determined to destroy our agricultural heritage, destroy present agricultural production and destroy future agricultural opportunity?

This bill might as well be called the anti-Queensland food and fibre bill, because that is exactly what those opposite are hell-bent on achieving. Unlike them, I want to continue to see Queensland wool. I want to see Queensland lamb, Queensland beef, Queensland sugar, Queensland bananas, Queensland pineapples, Queensland strawberries and Queensland cotton. I find it appalling and it galls me that, because of similar laws in other areas, we already import seafood from Vietnam and pineapples from the Philippines. Indeed, I find it hypocritical that whilst we sit here in this state, in this country, and say 'no more' and call for tougher and stricter environmental laws, we put the responsibility of growing food and fibre onto countries that do not already have our high environmental standards and farmers who have consistently demonstrated that they know how to manage and protect the environment because if they do not, their future production, their future opportunities and their families' economic development ceases to exist.

We can stick our heads in the sand and say that we are saving the planet by supporting laws such as these, but we are not: we are achieving the opposite. The government is putting the challenge of balancing agricultural production on the shoulders of those who cannot and have not been able to demonstrate the same capabilities that we have here in Queensland. Markets such as Indonesia will begin clearing rainforest to try and graze the beef they can no longer buy from Queensland. I dread to think where and who will have to grow the cotton, grain and cane to supplement what we are losing from Queensland. I can assure you, as I have said before, that it will not be a state or a nation whose laws are already some of the toughest in the world when it comes to protecting the environment or whose farmers care more and have a demonstrated history of protecting the land they work.

I commend the member for Condamine and the shadow minister, the member for Burdekin, for the contributions they have already made and for the contributions they have made to the consideration of the legislation through the committee process. I would like to focus on two aspects, one of which the member for Condamine already mentioned. There is an acronym going around: SLATS. Basically, SLATS is the way we measure land cover and trees across the state of Queensland. Unfortunately, because of the direction of this government, it only considers tree clearing—loss of vegetation. During committee hearings the question was rightly asked, 'Why aren't you mapping regrowth?' I will read into *Hansard* some of the evidence from that committee hearing. I refer to what Mr Dan Tindall, Acting Science Leader, Remote Sensing Centre, stated in reply to a question regarding regrowth mapping. He said—

I think it is a valid criticism. The SLATS program has only ever really had a mandate to map clearing up until this point. The government is committed now and we are looking at addressing this in the near future. I must admit that the mapping of regrowth is a very difficult thing to do. The way that we map clearing with the satellite imagery, there are indices and things like that that help us find those detections. Regrowth is a much more subtle beast in terms of the nuances of it changing over time, as Dr Neldner referred to, in terms of thickening and those sorts of processes. We are starting to think about how we address that and also how we address mapping of woody extent in the state so that we can tell the complete picture.

The member for Gregory, Mr Millar, asked—

Could we possibly see an increase in vegetation—more trees grown in Queensland—once this technology is hopefully adopted? Is the position that we might see an increase in trees rather than a decrease?

Mr Tindall replied, 'The possibility exists.'

This shows how inexact this science is. We cannot compare apples with apples if all we are looking at is tree clearing rather than regrowth. Let me give members a very poignant example. Many members know that I represent the seat of Glass House. My electorate office is based in Maleny. Maleny is a very green and lovely town; everyone goes up there to enjoy the green hills and the wonderful vegetation. This is what it looked like 100 years ago. There is not a tree in sight. Guess what: trees grow. I table those photos for the record.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of photographs depicting changing landscape in Maleny [576].

If we are going to make laws to try and assess the amount of vegetation in this state, we cannot look at just one side of the equation. We must look at both sides of the equation. Making laws that do not consider the regrowth which is already occurring is simply not acceptable.

The other aspect of the bill I would like to focus on is the reach of these laws. In South-East Queensland many of us have been saying for years that this is something that happens up in the west and north, but not anymore. By this government including in these laws the Burnett-Mary catchment, all of a sudden the electorate of Glass House has a very intimate and real role to play in the

implementation of this farcical legislation. Primary producers in Kidaman Creek, Kenilworth, Cambroom, Conondale, Harpers Creek, Elaman Creek, Curramore, Witta, North Maleny, Maleny, Reesville, Booroobin, Bellthorpe, Obi Obi, Mapleton, Flaxton, Montville and Balmoral Ridge will now all be impacted by these laws.


**Mr Bennett:** That's a long way from the reef!

**Mr POWELL:** I take the interjection from the member for Burnett. It is a heck of a way from the Great Barrier Reef. I want to return to a point made by the member for Condamine. The satellite imagery is poor. It cannot distinguish between a native tree and a weed species. Guess what already exists along just about every single one of those watercourses in the upper Mary catchment: weeds! It might look like a beautiful green tree, but guess what: it is a camphor laurel. The same environmentalists who say we need these laws to protect the planet are asking us to cut down those trees. An oxymoron exists before we even start.

I want to end where I began. I am frustrated and disappointed, but more so I am concerned about how frustrated and disappointed Queensland farmers and the communities that rely on them are feeling right now. This morning I caught up with farmers who were out in front of state parliament and I met the Agars from Wyandra. They are primary producers who made it pretty clear to me that when these laws come in you can kiss food and fibre production in their part of the world goodbye. I also met the Heinemanns—

**Ms Leahy:** That's my baker.

**Mr POWELL:**—bakers from Charleville. The flow-on effect of destroying agricultural production in places like Wyandra and around Charleville means that small business operators in Charleville also lose their wellbeing. Mrs Heinemann was holding up a sign that said 'stop bullying farming families'. Stop bullying farming families. For the sake of our farming communities and the future of food and fibre production now and into the future in the state of Queensland, vote this legislation down.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.57 pm): I am proud to stand here today to speak in favour of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is clear to us on this side why we need this legislation. The figures show that we are clearing vegetation in Queensland at an unsustainable rate: 400,000 hectares a year, an increase of 33 per cent from 2014-15. It is the highest clearing rate since 2003-04. Most worryingly, the clearing rates in Great Barrier Reef catchments have increased by 45 per cent in 2015-16 at a time when both state and federal governments are committed to taking action to prevent UNESCO from declaring that the reef is in danger.

One of the things that I want to address today as the chair of the committee is the claim that has been made about consultation during this process. There has never been a better consultation process by a committee in this House. How do they explain nine public consultations—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order! Members on my left!

**Mr WHITING:** There are claims that the process was rushed, but the process was the same as for every other inquiry in this place. The LNP has said that it wanted more consultation, but how long did it want?

**Mr Mickelberg:** The LNP did not say it: the people out west said it!

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Buderim!


**Mr WHITING:** They said that more consultation is needed. Is it six months or 12 months? It does not matter how long: they were going to oppose it no matter how much consultation there was. If you read through what has been said it is clear why there has been no RIS and no economic modelling: panic clearing. That was admitted by the landholders themselves. At Gracemere Mr Gibson said, 'As soon as word gets out that there is a bit of discussion about more tree-clearing legislation, panic clearing sets in.' Mr Ryan at the same hearing said, 'I would not call it panic clearing; I would call it smart because they want to get it done.'

Debate, on motion of Mr Whiting, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Mackenroth, Hon. TM; Gold Coast Commonwealth Games; Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): I rise to acknowledge the passing of the late Terry Mackenroth and pass on the condolences of all LNP members and myself personally to Mr Mackenroth's family and friends and of course to the Australian Labor Party.

Like many Queenslanders, my husband, Jason, and I were thrilled to attend the 2018 Commonwealth Games. The Gold Coast and every other community which hosted these events did an amazing job. It is interesting to note that Townsville and other areas in Queensland hosted the games. However, it appears that those on this side of the House are in trouble if they attended anywhere else but the Gold Coast, but I will leave that be.

The whole world now knows that Queensland is the greatest sporting state in this sports mad nation. Our athletes were inspirational. Our volunteers were also inspirational. We were in awe of all athletes we saw across all of the venues on the Gold Coast. I was impressed by the pride and professionalism of volunteers and other games staff. However, the performance of the state Labor government was less impressive. The opening ceremony was ruined for thousands by an embarrassing transport failure. There were huge delays getting in and out of the stadium, with many spectators not getting home until two or three in the morning. Instead of apologising though, this government said that anyone who expected a transport system to work well was a lunatic. What an insult to the Queenslanders who came out to support the games! Rather, it is probably lunacy to expect this government to run public transport competently.

What should have been a bumper fortnight for Gold Coast hotels, restaurants and bars became the quietest Easter anyone could remember. People were urged to stay away by this Labor government, and that is just what they did. Even when the impact of the government's bungled message was clear, the Premier did nothing to tackle it because the Premier and her focus was on whether she would speak at the closing ceremony. Photo opportunities and getting a speaking spot at the closing ceremony were the top priorities of this Premier for these games. The athletes were sidelined during the closing ceremony, but everyone got to see the Premier and Peter Beattie.

Our amazing athletes deserved to be in the spotlight, but this government blatantly used the games for self-promotion and to bury bad news—bad news like the Queensland Competition Authority's final report on South-East Queensland bulk water prices. The report recommended households pay between \$50 and \$90 more for their water each year which is three to five times the rate of inflation. Over the past decade bulk water charges have increased by an incredible 400 per cent. It takes an extraordinary degree of incompetence to push up the price of water by 400 per cent, but Labor has managed that.

**An opposition member:** Gold medal!

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is a gold medal performance by the Palaszczuk government. Its lack of planning and mismanagement saw this state spend more than \$9 billion on a water grid that is now redundant or defunct. Who pays the price for this failure? It is not the Premier or her predecessors. The price is paid by struggling Queenslanders who see their bills go up and up year on year under this government.

It is the same story with electricity. Last week we saw the energy minister trying to spruik the government's \$50 energy rebate. Fifty bucks does not go very far. It is less than \$1 a week. The rebate is a rotten deal for Queenslanders, and this government knows it. If those opposite believed that this rebate was so good, where was the Premier spruiking it? It should have been a win for the Premier fronting the cameras. Instead, she sent out the member for Stafford and he was left to sell this pathetic payout because the Premier and her Treasurer know the truth. Electricity customers are being gouged to the hilt by this government. Industry experts know what is going on.

The latest Grattan Institute report revealed that our publicly owned networks have been massively overvalued to justify high bills to the Australian Energy Regulator. The institute said that the value of the poles and wires should be written down by between \$1.7 billion and \$3.9 billion—a policy that the LNP took to the last election.

A second report by analyst Hugh Grant confirmed that almost half of the network charges paid by customers is going straight back to the government. Labor's secret tax has siphoned off around \$5 billion from consumers to the government. The profit margin on our network charges is a staggering 47 per cent. It is costing the average family \$470 a year.

Like I said last week, this government's electricity rort is enough to make a banker blush. The gold plating of the network ended under the LNP, but the savings have gone straight to the Palaszczuk government—not to the people who pay the bills. Labor gives back \$50 for every \$470 it takes from consumers' pockets. That is labornomics if I have ever heard it. What a scam! This government is squeezing every dollar it can out of every Queenslander and it does not understand the financial struggle that millions of Queenslanders face.

Let us look at fuel pricing. Prices are higher now than they have been for three years. When I became the leader of the LNP I said that I was going to offer solutions to this government, so we have handed this government our homework, yet the Premier could not even copy it right! It is a half-baked trial. How about you just implement the plan like the other states have and save Queenslanders some money? If this government had implemented our plan 14 weeks ago, people would have 100 bucks in their back pockets—two lots of the energy rebate that this government has offered people per year—but it has only done this after 14 weeks. This government should have the backbone to back what the LNP knows—looking after Queenslanders and doing something about fuel prices. Whilst we welcome the half-baked U-turn, why did it take so long? Why has it taken you so long to swallow your pride and just say, 'LNP, we agree. Let's get it done.'


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Through the chair, member for Nanango.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** After today's U-turn, I would also urge the government to think again about its waste tax. When Ipswich City Council announced it was ending recycling, the Treasurer did not waste a moment before announcing that she would fast-track a new waste tax through the parliament. However, she was unable to say exactly when the tax would be introduced and she could not say how much it would be or how much it would raise or what it would be levied on or who would pay it or who would receive it or what the tax was going to be spent on.

Some people would be fazed by this stunning lack of detail by the Treasurer of Queensland, but not this Treasurer. Her motto is, 'Tax first and ask questions last.' Under this Treasurer there have been five new taxes. Under Anastacia Palaszczuk and her tax addicted government, there have been five new taxes. At every turn we know that Queenslanders are faced with new taxes, higher charges and rising bills. What do they get in return? Secret reports that are flushed out into the media under the cover of the Commonwealth Games. There was the report on child deaths and the report on the Bundaberg water debacle. We had the prince in Bundaberg and he was not even told that he was drinking contaminated water—or alleged contaminated water. Shame on the Premier for hiding these secret reports! Queenslanders are tired of Labor's failures. They deserve a government that works for them, not a government that takes and takes and taxes and taxes but refuses to deliver.

*(Time expired)*

### **Mackenroth, Hon. TM; Australian South Sea Islanders**

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.10 pm): I want to commence my contribution to the Matters of Public Interest debate by associating myself with the remarks of the Premier, ministers and other members, including the Leader of the Opposition, in memory of Terry Mackenroth and to extend my condolences to Mary and all of Terry's family. He was indeed a great leader of the Labor movement and a great figure in Queensland politics.

Today is an historic day for Queensland. For the first time in this parliament's 158-year history we will hear the voice of an Australian South Sea islander. I acknowledge and note the first speech by the member for Mirani, which he will make later today. Today, Queenslanders with Australian South Sea islander heritage can feel extremely proud. Our Australian South Sea islander community has contributed much to Queensland's economic, social and cultural fabric. As multicultural affairs minister, I advise the House that the Palaszczuk government wants this vital community's voice heard—not just here in this parliament but also throughout Queensland. We cannot right past wrongs. We cannot ever atone for past practices that permitted the kidnapping and enslavement of South Sea islanders, but the Palaszczuk government will work closely with this significant Queensland community to identify positive steps towards a brighter future.

Indeed, work is already underway. In this regard I would like to acknowledge the work of my predecessor, the member for McConnel, who is now the Minister for Education. On 21 September 2017 the member for McConnel, the then minister for multicultural affairs, hosted a community meeting in Mackay to hear firsthand the needs and aspirations of Queensland's Australian South Sea islander community. I note that the member for Mackay and the current and former members for Mirani also attended that meeting.

At that Mackay meeting a decision was made to establish a statewide body so that the Australian South Sea islanders could speak with one voice. The members of a community-led interim working group were identified to explore the preferred approach for the establishment of a state representative body. Through funding from the Palaszczuk government's Community Action for a Multicultural Society—or CAMS—program, the Mackay Regional Council was tasked with assisting the interim working group. The funding allowed the Mackay Regional Council to recruit a part-time officer to assist in setting up the body but, unfortunately, recruitment has been disrupted by a range of unforeseen circumstances.

Therefore, today I have increased the state's funding contribution to enable this critical role to be a full-time officer and instructed my department to work with the council to quickly secure a suitable person to work intensively with the community to establish that statewide body. On this issue I want to acknowledge the input from the member for Mackay. She has been very active in speaking on behalf of the Australian South Sea islander community in relation to this issue. This morning my office has spoken with a delighted Mayor of Mackay, Greg Williamson.

The Palaszczuk government's multicultural policy titled 'Our story, our future', outlines the unique history, culture and contribution of Australian South Sea islander people. Our policy ensures that this significant section of the Queensland community is recognised by the Palaszczuk government as an integral part of Queensland's rich multicultural tapestry.

Yesterday I met with the member for Mirani and was heartened to hear what he had to say. I look forward to his remarks this afternoon. He has committed to working with people across his community, whatever their political persuasion, to ensure that the disadvantage and racism that has been experienced by Australian South Sea islanders for too long ends. I ask that everyone in this parliament does what they can when and wherever they can to join the Palaszczuk government and, indeed, the member for Mirani in this important endeavour. We owe it to those people of the Australian South Sea islander community who have suffered for too long. We owe it to the broader community, which has benefited from the Australian South Sea islander community for over 150 years. As a consequence of our diversity Queensland is a very strong state and the contribution of Australian South Sea islanders to that diversity and to our great strength is something that should never be forgotten and should be remarked upon whenever we have a chance to do so.

### **Stadiums Queensland; Mackenroth, Hon. TM**



**Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): Like most Queenslanders, I love sport. Queenslanders in general love sport. We have the best athletes in the country. That has already been shown by the number of gold medals that were won by Queenslanders during the Commonwealth Games. Their performance was exceptional. Queensland has the best State of Origin side.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I will not take that interjection.

**Mr Costigan:** We love 'the Grasshopper'.

**Mr MANDER:** I will not take that interjection either. Queensland has the best State of Origin side. I mention that Josh McGuire comes from Albany Creek State High School, which is a school in my electorate. Queensland has the best cricketers. Matt Renshaw belonged to the Albany Creek Hawks, which is a great club in my area. Queensland has the best female AFL players and the best netball players.

This Labor government seems to want to give sport in Queensland a red card. It seems to want to put obstacles in the way of Queenslanders enjoying their sport and the best sporting competitions in the world being held in Queensland. The mismanagement of Stadiums Queensland by this minister and this government is beyond belief. Queensland sporting teams—iconic sides—are threatening to leave these stadiums because it is becoming uneconomical for them to stay at them. We have a sports minister who would rather attack our sporting sides rather than support them. We have fans facing higher ticket prices and membership fees.

Yesterday, in the latest blow of all blows, the great tradition of having the first cricket test in Brisbane is now gone. I am sure there are members here who have friends from throughout Queensland who make an annual pilgrimage to Brisbane to attend the first day of the first test at the Gabba in November. Now, that has gone. Queensland has been relegated to holding a test match with Sri Lanka on the Australia Day weekend. That is simply not good enough.


In the past, Queensland has had good stadiums. It is at this time that I would also like to acknowledge and pay my respects to Terry Mackenroth and his loss to Queensland, his family and the Labor Party. It is pertinent to note that he had the vision to build Suncorp Stadium against a lot of opposition. I am proud that I refereed the first game at the redeveloped Lang Park between Newcastle and the Broncos. The Broncos got done that day. That had nothing to do with the refereeing. That was in 2003—15 years ago. We have no chance of getting an NRL grand final until we upgrade that stadium as well.

I call on the minister and I call on the Premier to overhaul the board of Stadiums Queensland and take action to make sure that we have sporting teams that can afford to stay in these stadiums in Queensland and to make sure that we can attract other sporting events from throughout the world to our state.

This is not the priority for this government. It will not be the priority until we get the economy going. This government is slowly stifling the entrepreneurial spirit that Queenslanders have had for years. We have seen poor economic management and report after report is displaying this. The CommSec State of the States report, which came out this week, says that we are in sixth position. We are nearly at the bottom. We are going slightly better than the Northern Territory. It is embarrassing.

The ANZ/Property Council industry sentiment survey states that Queensland's property sector has the lowest confidence in the nation. The Sensis Business Index states that confidence in Queensland's small and medium businesses is now below the national average. We have the second worst unemployment rate in the country. This is an absolute joke. When I was growing up we were always known as the economic powerhouse of this country. We are now fighting Tasmania, South Australia and the Northern Territory at the bottom of the ladder. We need a government that has the foresight not to sap the confidence of Queensland businesses and the corporate sector by continuing to tax, tax and tax.

### **Thuringowa Electorate, School Infrastructure**

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.21 pm): As members well know, the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to deliver on school infrastructure in Thuringowa and throughout the Townsville region. When I say deliver, I mean deliver, with over \$110 million in funding already being delivered or about to be delivered as part of our 2017 state election commitments to build state schools and infrastructure and create hundreds of local jobs while doing it.

Only last week I was rapt to join the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, at a number of important events in our fine city of Townsville. These key milestones were both the opening of the \$2 million quadrangle at the Kirwan State High School and the official opening of the \$54 million North Shore State School which is stage 1 of the massive \$90 million commitment for that school. I thank the minister for packing so much in during her 24-hour visit, including a visit to our Thuringowa State High School looking at the Stars Program and later, at James Cook University, where we met with some real community champions, the Coco family, who were down from Atherton and are now the ambassadors for quad bike safety. The family were down for the seventh annual North Queensland Injury Prevention and Return to Work Conference.

The past few weeks have been busy for all of us in Townsville, particularly after the Commonwealth Games events and the great festival in our city. We must acknowledge the former minister for education Kate Jones who, in her time, committed so much funding for Townsville schools that it took Armaguard to deliver it. Now we are seeing these school projects come to fruition. After much lobbying from all three Townsville MPs, a former principal in Mr Deputy Speaker, and Minister Coralee O'Rourke, our combined efforts ensured \$90 million was secured to build the new North Shore State School.

Prior to the redistribution in the 2017 state election my electorate of Thuringowa included areas adjacent to the northern beaches, including the suburbs of Deeragun and Burdell. The number of students at Northern Beaches State High School and in particular at Bohlevalle State School were very high—actually exceeding capacity at Bohlevalle. With the northern beaches one of the fastest growing areas in Townsville, if not the fastest, population growth dictated that we needed to invest in state schools. We thank the former minister for ensuring that funding of \$90 million.


After the redistribution, the member for Hinchinbrook is a recipient of that money. He joined us at the opening. I must commend the former principal of Kelso State School in Thuringowa, Mr Patrick MacDonald—Mr Mac as he is affectionately known—and the North Shore State School P&C and steering committee for working so hard to make sure it all came together—all within a year. What an impressive and modern school it is with—and I think the minister would have to agree—the biggest school car park we have ever seen so that all other electorates would want just a small part of it. The school exceeded enrolment expectations of 200 students in its first year, with student numbers hitting nearly 300. They already have a great and enthusiastic choir. I wish them well in future years with the growth in their school, with stage 2 of the high school commencing over the next two years.

Of course, the major benefit for us in Townsville is the boost to the local economy through hundreds of jobs in that particular construction alone. That state investment has spurred on the private school sector as well, in particular the Catholic Diocese in Townsville. Our state government has co-invested \$6 million in the construction of the St Benedict's Catholic School, which is in Thuringowa, not too far away from the North Shore State School. I will speak more about that after the official opening.

As you know, Mr Deputy Speaker, there is nothing better than having 2,000 students screaming out in celebration, particularly at the opening of the quadrangle at the Kirwan State High School. Our state Labor government invested in this project. It is a shade structure which is also a learning structure. It was great to see so many wonderful smiling faces. I took a photo of 2,300 kids sitting on the grass at the Anzac Day school ceremony in 2015. Never again. They now have that structure. Right beside that structure there is a new hall being constructed as we speak. It means more local jobs. Paynter Dixon are undertaking that work. I thank the school P&C, in particular Mr Des Morris, and the entire school community. It is an exciting time for Kirwan State High School. I cannot wait for that hall to be opened up.

I could tell members about Heatley Secondary College. Last week I did my first speech at their Anzac Day ceremony. We have \$10 million to invest in that school alone. We are getting on with the job of creating a new manual arts building there and new fences. I want to give a shout out to the manual arts teacher who had a snake envenomation. He is doing well. He is recovering. All the best to that teacher.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.26 pm): The Gold Coast Commonwealth Games confirmed what we all know to be true: our people are our greatest asset. I was so proud to see so many locals, including many of my friends, dressed in blue, yellow and white volunteering at the venues. I also want to take the time to acknowledge the performers at the ceremonies who spent over 100 hours in rehearsals. I think everyone on the Gold Coast knew at least one person who was helping out at the Commonwealth Games.

Our athletes certainly proved why we are called the Gold Coast, snagging 80 gold, 58 silver and 59 bronze medals. There were so many highlights, including Kurt Fearnley's gold medal moment, the Australian swimming team, the Dolphins, the Campbell sisters' victories in the pool, Lakeisha Patterson's performance, the final night of the swimming, the beach volleyball and bowls venues fun that was had at the Broadbeach Bowls Club. We also witnessed spectacular acts of sportsmanship from our runners who waited at the finish line for the final athlete to complete the 10,000-metre final.

There is no doubt that our people made the games great. As the opposition leader at the time that we bid for the games, I always wholeheartedly supported the Commonwealth Games. I felt they were going to be great for our city. I was so excited to show off the amazing places our locals call home and thankful for the benefits of the buildings, the infrastructure, the improved roads and tourism spin-offs that remain. As Emily Selleck from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, who also performed at the games, said, 'Say what you want about the admittedly bizarre alien references and other contentious parts of the show, it was an opening ceremony made possible by a bunch of committed volunteers who travelled far and wide.' I table the article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 24 April 2018, titled 'Whale of a time' [\[577\]](#).

Gold Coast locals did feel as though there were some missed opportunities from an organisational perspective. As a local MP it is obvious that MPs from Inala, Miller, Cooper and South Brisbane are fly-in fly-out visitors to our city. Labor does not get the Gold Coast, and this was reflected in the ceremonies. It is a shame that 11 magnificent days were bookended by ceremonies that were not reflective of the Gold Coast, Queensland and Australia as we locals know them and that they did not follow the traditions of past games. The athletes should have been the stars of both shows.

Concerns were widely expressed 15 months ago about the track record and local knowledge capacity, engagement and commitment of the overseas company awarded the tender for the ceremonies. The Labor government was questioned by the LNP and other sources about the tender processes for the ceremonies, which cost almost \$200,000 a minute, which were given to a foreign United States based company that is clearly not familiar with the Commonwealth Games, the Gold Coast, Queensland and Australia.


This morning the Minister for Tourism mentioned that it was the first question that I had asked her for some time on the Commonwealth Games. I do not need to ask questions of the tourism minister to get the facade of an answer that we get from the tourism minister. I go straight to the *Sunday Mail*, read by 600,000 Queenslanders. That is how that story first appeared: champion swimmer Mitch Larkin said athletes were disappointed and confused by the closing ceremony.

Can I say how disappointed and perplexed Gold Coast locals were when Brisbane Labor Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, and Kate Jones passed the buck once again and claimed that they had no idea what was going on at the closing ceremony. Even this morning we heard snide criticism of local members of parliament for going to events and simultaneous sarcastic mocking of local members of parliament who were working elsewhere, such as the member for Mudgeeraba and the member for Burleigh who were in Townsville where, as I understand it, the Commonwealth Games basketball events were held. I do not apologise for buying tickets and sitting with my wife and a friend in the bleachers at Cbus stadium for the Rugby Sevens game while the Minister For Tourism was sitting in one of the few corporate boxes for which tickets were sold on the same day.

Locals were asking: what does the Minister for the Commonwealth Games do if she purports to have no responsibility for the Commonwealth Games? Why do we have a minister when she is so clearly not across her brief? It seems as though being a minister in this Labor government means smiling for photos and nothing more. They had enough authority and ministerial oversight to demand a speaking role for the Premier, yet one of the main concerns was the long, self-indulgent speeches by politicians and bureaucrats at the closing ceremony. There were eight speeches!

We are all sick of hearing the same acknowledgements of the same people by all those speechmakers, including two nights later at the Film Festival when the same acknowledgements were given. Even our champion swimmer Kate Campbell said that there should have been a few less speeches and a few more athletes. Clearly they did not learn their lesson, with some volunteers saying that during the Commonwealth Games volunteers' thank-you gathering the Premier and Commonwealth Games minister once again stood up to repeat the same points as one another. They descended on the coast to make speeches and Gold Coasters were driven away. Many Gold Coasters have not seen the Gold Coast this empty for decades. We will hear more about this. It could have been so much better.

### Distribution of GST

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.31 pm): I will always fight for Keppel because I am passionate about growing jobs in our local economy. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government has delivered the strongest jobs growth in the country over the past year and we want that to continue. However, while that success is under attack by the LNP's proposed changes to the GST, the Queensland LNP and the member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry, have said absolutely nothing on the issue. Right now, GST is distributed to ensure all Australians have access to high-quality services regardless of where they live. Under the changes, regional Queenslanders will be at a disadvantage. We will not stand for it.

A \$1.5 billion cut every year to Queensland will have devastating—devastating—impacts on regional Queensland. It would be like losing 5,000 teachers, 5,000 nurses, 3,000 police officers and 1,135 firefighters across the state. That would be an enormous loss by anyone's standards. It is about the same amount of damage inflicted on Queensland by Campbell Newman's government. I will let Malcolm Turnbull know this for free: if he wants to have a shot in the next federal election, he wants to stay as far away from Campbell Newman as possible. Regional Queensland's health services and schools would be the hardest hit if Malcolm Turnbull's and Michelle Landry's proposed changes to the GST distribution go ahead. Our regional and rural communities deserve access to high-quality healthcare services and a good education. That is exactly what the Palaszczuk government is fighting for.

Central Queenslanders must tell Malcolm Turnbull and Michelle Landry that their GST reform plan is completely unacceptable. It is clear that if it is allowed to happen Central Queensland will pay the heaviest price. The proposed reforms utterly fail to appropriately recognise just how vast and



decentralised Queensland is, our large Indigenous population, the high costs of service delivery and the frequency of natural disasters. Indeed, Queensland is the only state in Australia where more than 50 per cent of the population lives outside the capital.

The proposed changes will have an unacceptable and unreasonable impact on services such as schools and hospitals right across the state, including in my electorate of Keppel. Does the so-called party of the bush not realise that to provide public hospital services to acute patients in very remote parts of Queensland costs around 40 per cent more than to provide it in Brisbane or that building hospitals in rural and remote areas, such as Cape York and the Torres Strait, can cost double that of building similar infrastructure in metropolitan areas?


We know that Senator Pauline Hanson supports the \$1.5 billion cut to Queensland. One would think that every senator of this state would stand up for Queensland no matter what, but no. It is unbelievable that One Nation would have the gall to come to Queensland for the Productivity Commission hearing and say that \$1.5 billion should be taken from Queenslanders every year. That is money that we could spend on roads, hospitals and schools. Simply taking billions of dollars from Queensland and giving it to other states is not tax reform; quite simply, it is ripping off Queenslanders.

The Queensland LNP is missing in action on this critical issue. Queensland is facing a cut of \$1.5 billion and there is nothing but silence from those opposite and nothing but silence from our federal member for Capricornia, Michelle Landry. Where does Michelle Landry stand on this? Will she stand up to stop Malcolm Turnbull's cuts to the Queensland economy?

With the LNP's silence on this issue, the member for Nanango has demonstrated that she cannot be trusted to stand up for Queensland, instead choosing to toe the party line to protect her mates in Canberra. The LNP could not even be bothered putting in a submission or appearing at the Productivity Commission hearing. We may disagree with Western Australia's stance, but at least its Liberal opposition put in a submission advocating against the Turnbull government. In fact, the opposition in Western Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory all appeared or put in submissions to the Productivity Commission inquiry. It is clear that under the member for Nanango it is the same old LNP. She sold out Queenslanders when she voted to sack 14,000 workers and she is selling out Queenslanders now on Turnbull's \$1.5 billion GST cut.

We need Central Queenslanders to tell the LNP that they are sick of being ripped off by Canberra. They are sick of being ripped off by Malcolm Turnbull and Michelle Landry.

### Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.35 pm): Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system that Labor is not delivering. Under this Labor government our public health system is lurching back to the bad old days and we have a health minister who cannot even run his own office. Ambulance ramping is increasing, our emergency departments are overloaded and elective surgery waiting times are blowing out once again. Promised infrastructure upgrades are years away and it seems that regional Queenslanders are treated like second-class citizens. That is all because this health minister puts politics before patients.

Everything that goes wrong is always someone else's fault and Queenslanders are fed up with the blame game. On the ground the story being told is one of clear incompetence and a lack of leadership. It is clear that, in Cairns and Townsville, Labor is not doing enough to protect our front-line health workers. In the past two years under Labor, at the Townsville Hospital violent assaults against our hardworking nurses and doctors have increased by over 22 per cent. I was shocked to hear some of the stories from our doctors, nurses and ambulance officers who regularly face assault while doing their jobs. When in government the LNP increased penalties for serious assaults on hospital staff from seven to 14 years, but this soft-on-crime Palaszczuk government needs to enforce those laws and provide hospital staff with the protection that they deserve.

I have seen that the Rockhampton Base Hospital is under strain because of a lazy Labor government. At the Rocky hospital, 20 per cent of ED patients are not being seen within clinically recommended time frames and 16 per cent of patients are left on an ambulance stretcher for 30 minutes or longer. Under Labor, we have a Minister for Health who is more interested in picking fights with Canberra than actually delivering health and hospital services for Queenslanders. This minister is too busy taking his riding instructions from Beth Mohle and the QNMU.

When emergency department waiting times blow out, Labor blames patients or the flu season. Six months later the minister is still blaming last year's flu season for the ramping that is happening today. Already he is blaming the next flu season, which is not due to start until next month.

The minister is blaming our vulnerable family members in aged care for being 'dumped' in hospitals for supposedly unnecessary procedures. That is an insult to all our grandmothers and grandfathers residing in Queensland nursing homes. For years those people have paid their dues in Medicare levies and they do have a right to access our public hospital system when they need to. To trivialise catheter changes or dressings shows that the minister has no clue about the complications that can and do arise for elderly patients when infections occur.

This minister has absolutely no idea. He blames the cost of GP services at a time when recent Medicare data showed bulk-billing rates at record-high levels. Despite the fact that Queensland Health runs Queensland public hospitals, if you ask this minister anything that goes wrong is always the fault of the Commonwealth. A lot of mistruths have been told around the state by the minister, but the fact is that Commonwealth funding continues to grow at a rate faster than what the state is providing. In fact, Queensland is now one of only two states that has not signed up to the record new national partnership agreement that will deliver more than \$27 billion for the Queensland public health system over the next five-year agreement to 2024-25. That will deliver more nurses, doctors and paramedics for Queensland hospitals.

When it comes to health and Labor, they cannot be trusted because they will say anything and do anything to get elected and cover up for their own incompetence. We know that this minister, with his PhD in union recruitment, does not know the first thing about our health and hospital system. Queensland patients should have confidence when they show up at an emergency department that they will be seen and will be treated, and will be treated on time. Labor just cannot get the basics right.

Labor's litany of failures speaks for itself. Queenslanders have not forgotten Labor's fake Tahitian prince. They have not forgotten Labor's \$1.25 billion Health payroll debacle. They have not forgotten Dr Jayant Patel. They have not forgotten Anna Bligh writing off Queensland Health as a basket case. They will not forget the failures of this minister or the previous minister—failures like opening up our hospitals to 'Dr Love' and 'Dr Google'; a minister who cannot run his office and cannot send a letter.


When will this minister finally take responsibility for his own mismanagement of the health system in Queensland and own up to his mistakes? When will he keep Health staff safe from violent assaults? When will he stop blaming patients—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Member, resume your seat for a moment. I ask members to direct their remarks through the chair.

**Ms BATES:** When will this minister and the previous minister keep Health staff safe from violent assaults? When will he stop blaming patients for getting sick? When will he give our front-line Health staff the resources and the funding that they need? 'Dr Dolittle' should hang his head in shame.

### Port of Townsville

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.40 pm): The Port of Townsville is the largest commercial port in north Australia and supplies a population of nearly 800,000 people in North Queensland with essential things like cars, fuel, gas, food, furniture, electrical goods, clothing, cement and bitumen. Local farmers export their produce like sugar, frozen meat, cattle, fruit and vegetables. Mining companies ship out their commodities like copper, zinc, silver, lead and fertiliser. More importantly, in excess of 8,000 jobs are connected to the Townsville port.

However, there is a growing problem that is limiting jobs and economic growth in Townsville. Over the past 40 years ship sizes have grown significantly and are continuing to get bigger. Townsville's channel has not kept up with this growth and is approximately half the width of channels in other major ports. Larger ships are already bypassing Townsville to pick up and drop off freight for North Queensland at capital city ports that they can access. This is dramatically increasing the cost of living for North Queenslanders as goods sail past us and are then driven up from Brisbane.

Trade forecasts show a potential trebling of trade over the next 30 years. Motor vehicle imports will increase from 15,000 units to more than 45,000 units. Fuel imports will increase from one million tonnes to two million tonnes. Cruise ship tourism will grow to 30 ships within the next five years and 60 ships by 2030.

However, all of this is at risk. Trade through the port is being limited by the capacity of the access channel. Should this limitation continue there is a real risk that trade will decline as larger vessels more frequently used to achieve economies of scale in shipping will be unable to access the port. This also

means that larger cruise ships are bypassing Townsville and our small businesses are missing out. It is through our commitment to the Townsville City Deal and the understanding of the strategic and economic benefit to regional North Queensland that the Palaszczuk government has committed \$75 million to widening Platypus Channel to allow those much larger ships to berth at the port, but, more importantly, remain a key focus and driver for the economy for North Queensland and create 120 full-time-equivalent jobs during construction.

Where is the federal government's investment into the Port of Townsville? The Palaszczuk government has put its fair share up already. The Palaszczuk government has asked Malcolm Turnbull to match state government funding of \$75 million. What have the feds done about it? Absolutely nothing. NAIF—that is what we keep hearing from Senator Canavan. What about the NAIF? What has it achieved in the last two years? It has achieved null, zero, zip, the big donut. However we want to say it, it means the same. There has been no commitment to North Queensland by Malcolm Turnbull.


Would members not think that Senator Ian Macdonald, who is based in Townsville, would push the case for increasing job opportunities in Townsville, would fight for a lower cost of living for North Queenslanders and would support large infrastructure projects like this in North Queensland? What have we heard from Senator Macdonald? We have heard nothing. He is happy to stand for politicians' gold cards and entitlements, but not for increased trade, jobs and economic growth in Townsville. In fact, according to today's newspapers, the only time we hear from Senator Macdonald is during election time when he spends 85 per cent of his communications allowance in the electorate.

What about the member for Nanango, the Leader of the Opposition? Surely the self-proclaimed voice of regional Queensland would have something to say about this. She has the same thing to say about Senator Macdonald—zero, the big donut, absolutely nothing. Remember that it was the former Newman government that wanted to sell the Port of Townsville. Who was in that cabinet? It was the Leader of the Opposition.

It is about time the Turnbull federal government stopped treating North Queenslanders as second-class citizens and it matched state government funding of \$75 million to widen the port channel. Next week the federal government will hand down its budget. That is the opportunity for Malcolm Turnbull to invest in the Port of Townsville and North Queensland. This is about jobs and lowering the cost of living for North Queenslanders. It is that simple.

I will take the opportunity to launch my petition online today for federal government funding for what Townsville deserves. It is about time those opposite decided whose team they are on—North Queensland or Malcolm Turnbull and Canberra.

### Independent Public Schools

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.45 pm): The LNP's vision for Queensland children is to receive the best education in Australia. We want to give our kids the best chance to succeed in life. The LNP introduced independent public schools because we wanted to empower local principals, teachers and parents to run their schools. Research shows that more autonomy improves school performance and student outcomes. Local decision-making, greater control over resources and increased funding enable locally tailored programs that increase collaboration and maximise our children's potential, increasing their opportunity to get a job.

The LNP believe that local school communities, parents, teachers and principals know what is best for the children at their school. We want to give them the ability to make those decisions without interference. Since the introduction of independent public schools we have seen innovative partnerships with local universities and industry groups, expanded music programs through partnerships with nearby schools and primary schools working with kindies to ensure school readiness. More independent public schools will empower more local principals and parents to be the masters of their destiny and have greater freedom to shape their own strategic direction and make decisions which will directly benefit their students and the needs of their local community.

This is part of the LNP's plan to support local decision-making and provide Queensland mums and dads with more choice. Independent public schools are destined for the scrap heap under Labor because they decentralise government and cut the Teachers' Union out of the decision-making processes, which are driven locally. Labor do not like it and the QTU does not like it.

Since 2013 some 250 independent public schools have commenced across Queensland, but the program has stalled under Labor. Last week there was a media exclusive to every media outlet in Queensland stating that a major overhaul was to be announced in education the next day. The Premier turned up and announced the reading program that has been announced by every Premier in Queensland for the last 20 years. Then the big overhaul to education by the Labor Party was \$1.5 million for 3,000 volunteers to go into our schools and read to our students. The volunteers now have to be registered and licensed with the government and receive training.


It already happens. Volunteer grandparents and parents are already going into our schools and reading and writing with our children. It is nothing new. It is a waste of \$1.5 million. They would be better off spending the \$1.5 million on teacher resources, more teacher aides or support for children who are not doing as well as they should or could or are not realising their full potential.

At the press conference the Minister for Education was asked a question about independent public schools. She said to the journalist, 'I'm not aware of that.' The journalist responded, 'But I'm asking a question that is in relation to the answer to the question on notice you have given to parliament.' It was signed the day before by the minister and she said she did not know anything about it. That night it was revealed that there was a secret review by the Labor government and the QTU into independent public schools in Queensland—a review that no-one knew about. It was not disclosed to anyone—but the union knew about it, the QTU. This is similar circumstances to the ETU telling Minister Bailey what to do in his portfolio. The Queensland Teachers' Union are now telling Grace Grace, the Minister for Education, what to do in her portfolio. There are 250 successful independent public schools operating across Queensland and they are destined for the scrap heap under Labor.

David Gillespie, the chair of the Brisbane State High School council, said last week that his school was able to choose specialist teachers who may not have been allocated otherwise. He warned 'it would be a real retrograde step' if the IPS system was scrapped in Queensland. Kylie Lang in the *Courier-Mail* today says, 'Penalising independent public schools might appease power-hungry unions but it won't magically lure teachers to less popular locales, and it certainly won't help students.' We need more independent public schools, not fewer. We need to support our teachers to go out to rural and regional Queensland. If that means paying a more decent salary to teachers to go out to rural and regional Queensland then we should do it. If that means giving proper residential accommodation to teachers in rural and regional Queensland then we should do it—but not scrapping IPS. IPS should be extended, not scrapped.

*(Time expired)*

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (2.51 pm): I rise today to talk about the incredible success of the 2018 Commonwealth Games that were held in my home town just over two weeks ago. Our Aussie athletes certainly did us proud, taking home 60 gold medals, 59 silver medals and 59 bronze medals. The passion and excitement of Australian and Commonwealth spectators was in full force, with more than 1.2 million tickets sold and a total of 1.5 billion viewers tuning in from across the globe.

For me it was the people behind these numbers that made the Commonwealth Games truly special. These games would not have been possible without the dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm of our volunteers who were so appropriately named 'Games Shapers'. At every event I went to I was greeted by friendly smiling faces, many of whom had travelled far and wide to be a part of the action. I take this opportunity to thank every one of those volunteers, our emergency service workers and all of those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to contribute to the success of this world-class event. We truly could not have done it without them.

I also take this opportunity to thank the Yugambeh language group for allowing the Commonwealth Games to be held on their land. This was of course the first time that a major international sporting event had a reconciliation action plan which delivered a games that recognised, respected and celebrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and has provided a lasting and meaningful legacy through employment and training, procurement, showcasing arts and cultures, building a culturally capable workforce and providing authentic cultural experiences.

For me the proudest moment was seeing packed stadiums cheer on our para-athletes. In the words of the legendary Kurt Fearnley—

We are too often marginalised by invisibility. These Games have helped remove that cloak. I hope future Games build from this platform.

Leaving a more inclusive footprint with the largest ever integrated parasport program in a major sporting event is no doubt a legacy of the Commonwealth Games and one that I, too, hope continues.

There are many legacy outcomes from the games that locals will benefit from in years to come. We delivered almost \$1 billion in transport infrastructure across the Gold Coast which saw seven million trips across the games network, with 5.3 million of these trips made on public transport. Because of the games, we have the second stage of the Gold Coast Light Rail which was delivered in record time and on budget. We have the duplication of the heavy rail line between the Coomera and Helensvale stations and \$160 million worth of Commonwealth Games road network upgrades. We said work would begin after the Commonwealth Games on the widening of the M1 from Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes and the Gateway merge and that is exactly what we are doing, with heavy construction happening now. We are also getting on with the job when it comes to the business case for stage 3A of the Gold Coast Light Rail. The Gold Coast truly is a hub of energy at the moment and it is great to see so much happening in my home town.

The health and knowledge precinct is also no doubt a major legacy investment, representing a future brimming with optimism and opportunity when it comes to driving jobs and the economy on the Gold Coast. This precinct represents a jobs bonanza for Queenslanders, supporting a whopping 26,000 full-time jobs once fully developed and occupied. Only yesterday I had the great privilege of joining the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, Kate Jones, at Metricon Stadium—a stadium that was built by both a state and federal Labor government—to announce that Carrara will now have its own drop-in pitch and for the first time ever host international cricket, with Australia set to play its fierce rival South Africa in a Twenty20 International match in November.

Aside from the fact that we all enjoy these fantastic events, we know that for every dollar we spend on major events we generate 10 times that for our local economy. Getting a T20 match leaves the door open for more opportunities. We know that there is a desire for the Big Bash to come to the Gold Coast. That is certainly on the cards and something that I would personally like to see.

I was also particularly pleased to attend the Nerang mountain biking in my electorate which was well supported by a sold-out crowd of 2,281 ticketed spectators within the venue precinct. This number did not include the large number of spectators who watched the event from the non-ticketed areas. Having walked along the track, I overheard many visitors talk about their next visit to the Nerang National Park and remark on some of our fantastic small businesses like Cadence Cafe, who literally had to turn people away at the end of the day because they were so busy.

Alongside the Commonwealth Games, the Trade 2018 program brought business leaders from across the world to foster new partnerships which will benefit our regional economy. The Commonwealth Games has put my home town on the map for being a world-class key tourism hub. I will make sure that we continue to deliver for our city in the future.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): The time for matters of public interest has expired.

## MOTION

### Order of Business



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (2.56 pm): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 1 to 13 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 22 March (see p. 736).



**Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.56 pm), continuing: It is great to be on my feet again on the address-in-reply talking about my favourite thing in the world, and that is my electorate of Townsville. When I last spoke I talked about jobs and what jobs mean to Townsville. Everyone in this House is no

doubt aware of how tough we have been doing it in Townsville. Earlier this year I had the opportunity to talk about jobs at the UDIA breakfast. I was joined by the member for Thuringowa and the member for Mundingburra. We spoke with passion about what was happening in our electorates. When it came to jobs, the realisation was that in January 12 months ago our unemployment level was 11.4 per cent; now 12 months later it is 8.3 per cent. Why is that? It is about investment by the Palaszczuk government in jobs—jobs in Townsville, jobs in our region, jobs that make a real difference for families.

What does that investment look like? The Back to Work program was one of the most successful programs that we have seen driving our economy and pushing down unemployment levels. I have had countless conversations with employers telling me how great this was. The Back to Work program gave them an extra set of hands in their workplace so that they could go out and grow their business. That is exactly what is happening. They are finding that employers who are running small businesses now have the opportunity to grow their business.

What was the LNP's answer to growing jobs? 'Let's give tools to tradies after they have done their four years of training, after they had been an apprentice.' This was going to be the big factor that would get employment happening—'Four years into the job let's give the tradies the tools that they need.' We all knew on this side that that was never going to work. In fact, that is the conversation I had with people in the streets as well.

The Palaszczuk government has also put on additional nurses and midwives, put additional teachers in our classrooms and additional firefighters and police are walking our streets. Spread across the front page of the *Townsville Bulletin* on 10 March this year was '5,600 jobs on the horizon for Townsville over the next 12 to 18 months'. That will be through a range of projects. They call it a jobs bonanza, and that is exactly what it is. Why is that happening? It is about bringing investment back into the region. It is about investing in infrastructure projects to get jobs happening and to get our economy moving again.

We also saw the Buy Queensland local procurement policy announced in Townsville. What does that mean for us? It means that locals can now start to build local projects. In the past we had seagulls who used to fly in, do the job and fly back out and leave us to clean up the mess. Now locals are building our local infrastructure which means local jobs. Locals are building the Townsville stadium. When the first game is played in the stadium when it opens in 2020, I want to see every single person who contributed to building that stadium walk into that stadium with their families, sit down and say to their kids, 'I helped build this because I am a local.' We will see the Cowboys win that game and the premiership that year as well. Another example is Watpac working with Thomas Steel. Six million dollars worth of local work is going to a local contractor to supply that steel. That is great news for us.

Recently the minister announced the success of the Land 400 deal, and the member for Thuringowa has very clearly articulated in the House what that means for Townsville. It means jobs and a very clear jobs pathway for our defence people. Who can forget—because this is really important for us—the collapse of Queensland Nickel? It was the Palaszczuk government which accelerated over \$400 million worth of work to create job opportunities for people in Townsville. We were left reeling after Queensland Nickel closed its doors.

Health and education are the cornerstones of the Palaszczuk government. In my electorate I note that the primary healthcare facility on Palm Island is worth \$16 million. That is a game changer for the people on the island. Last week when I was on Palm Island we launched the health strategy which is about Palm Islanders determining the health strategy and the health direction for the people of Palm Island. That is a huge step—people determining their own health needs. It is a great step, and I congratulate the Palaszczuk government and the minister for allowing us to do that. An unrelenting determination on closing the gap on health priorities will always be part of our approach to health.

When it comes to education we heard the member for Thuringowa today talk about the opening of the new school in Burdell. The three Townsville members have worked hard to get that happening. The Newman government sold the site where the Mount Louisa school was going to be built. We had to buy it back and build that school. We see extra teachers coming into our school. We see improvements through NAPLAN, and early intervention means we can start to put together an individual learning plan for our children. It is about using that information to get the best out of each and every one of our kids.

I talk to teachers in my electorate, and there is one who is driving the science agenda by the name of Sarah Chapman. She is the head of department at Townsville State High School. She is an absolute champion when it comes to science and driving the science agenda in our schools. We have

made changes to the senior assessment and tertiary entrance, and we debated that bill at the beginning of this year. That will be a huge change—a huge step in the right direction—for our seniors leaving school.

When it comes to the Queensland Certificate of Education, for the last two years the northern region in my electorate has led the outcomes for seniors here—99.25 per cent of all seniors who finished year 12 exited with a QCE. That is an absolutely amazing achievement, beating everyone in Brisbane and everyone else across the state. This is the dedication that teachers in my electorate have.

I turn to water infrastructure. We all know that over the last four years Townsville has gone through drought and it has really impacted on our community. It was the Palaszczuk government which committed \$225 million for the first stage of that water infrastructure. Where are we at now with the federal government? Queue the crickets again because they still have not committed to water infrastructure. It is the No. 1 priority for us. Where is the money for that water infrastructure? The federal government signed the Townsville City Deal which highlighted water as the key priority. Where is the federal government? It has gone missing yet again. It continues to ignore Queensland and the needs of North Queenslanders.

Defence is huge in our city. We have 6½ thousand serving members in the Defence Force who do an outstanding job day in and day out. When our serving members come back they come back with a burden, and quite often it is PTSD. We need to do something about this. We need to address the black dog that continues to walk amongst our troops who have served our country. That is the first step that we are taking. The Palaszczuk government has committed to provide an oasis hub in North Queensland to ensure defence personnel get the help they need when they need it and with the support of their family and every single person in our community. That is our commitment to defence. That is our commitment to Townsville. I stand with the other two members of Townsville who stand by our defence troops every single day. We thank them every single day for the work they do.

In speaking about defence, last week each and every one of us attended Anzac ceremonies in our communities. Every single one of us laid a wreath. Every single one of us paid our respects. This year is the 100th commemoration of when the guns fell silent and we will recognise that on 11 November this year. For a city like Townsville, defence plays a major role in our community. Over 20,000 people are directly connected to defence, either themselves or through their families. This is the time we need to show our respect for when our diggers laid down their lives. Our diggers continue to do the job day in and day out. When our diggers go to Afghanistan they continue to do the job, allowing us to sleep in our beds at night and to enjoy the freedoms that each and every one of us enjoyed on Anzac Day when we laid those wreaths. We respect our diggers. It is because of them that we enjoy the lives we lead now and forevermore. I thank them again for the work that they do and that they will continue to do in the future.

Each and every one of us in this House would not be here without a range of great people who support us. I will no doubt forget to name someone and I will no doubt receive that email, but I will attempt to acknowledge the key people who helped me and supported me through my campaign. I particularly thank my campaign manager, Nikki Burnett, who worked 30 hours a day. If she could give more, she certainly would. She is an absolute trooper and she is my right arm. She continued to support me, walk beside me, doorknock with me and give me the chocolate I needed to keep me going each and every day. It is very important to have at least one of the five food groups represented.

Col Hegarty is a long-time Labor mentor for me and a long-time motivator for me. There were times I needed a kick in the tail and it was at those times that he gave me a kick in the tail, and if he did not I would not be here. People like Col Hegarty are the salt of the earth and our true Labor people. I have a number of wise owls in my corner and they include former members like Mike Reynolds, who spent some time in the Speaker's chair. Mike Reynolds spent a lot of time tucking me under his wing and telling me what I should and should not be doing. I also thank Tony Mooney, who worked with me just about every day on my campaign. I also acknowledge the support from the LNP—sorry, the ALP.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** Thanks for all the LNP's help! I appreciate all the support from the LNP for the way they continued to call me a Labor thug. That actually worked in my favour and I really appreciate that. I will continue to stand by my unions—the QTU and the AWU—which continue to support me in doing my job. I thank those opposite for reminding people that I have those unions behind me. I would also like to thank the ALP for their support, particularly Evan Moorhead and Jon Pursley.

I have talked about the AWU—Bede Harding and his entire family. His kids came and handed out how-to-vote cards for me. I thank Rod Harding for his unwavering support and acknowledge David Moyle, Peter, Luke and all the many members who supported me. I thank Jim White from the Plumbers Union, Tom Pfund from the TWU who came out and helped me, Barry Thompson from the QTU and every single teacher who worked on booths, made phone calls, handed out how-to-vote cards or rang me and supported me every single day. Without their support I would not be here.

The people closest to us are our families. I would like to thank my mum. She continues to tell everyone that she is 27 years old. I would like to question that, but I am not prepared to say her age. Mum lives in Brisbane but flew up again—the member for Broadwater met my mum at the previous election—and handed out how-to-vote cards every day in pre-poll, from when it opened to when it closed. That is the dedication my family has. My kids from Brisbane came up, handed out how-to-vote cards and supported me during the two weeks after the election when votes were still being counted. Finally, I need to mention my wife, who is my rock. Each and every one of us in this chamber has a significant other. Without their support and encouragement we would all not be here. I think we should all take a little time to reflect on that significant other who helps us each and every day. In my family, we say we draw strength from family.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Mirani, I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.11 pm): Having been given the opportunity to address the House, it is with a great sense of accomplishment and humility that I stand here before you all today in this the 56th Parliament as the member for Mirani. It is with much pride, as a fifth-generation Australian South Sea islander, descendent of the sugarcane labourers known as the Kanakas, that I would like to acknowledge the ancient first people of Australia and their descendants of all tribes, who cared for and walked these lands for many thousands of years. We as Australian South Sea islanders have always respected their people and their traditions.

My people's roots go deep into the Mirani electorate's history as far back as the 1870s. Their blood, their sweat and their tears are literally in the soil of the Mirani electorate. In most cases, these humble people were buried where they fell in the sugarcane field. We were the disposable labour force brought in by fair or foul means from the Pacific Islands to live and work in slave-like conditions on Queensland's sugar plantations. The South Sea islanders were a people who had no monetary value. Unlike American slaves, who were bought and sold in auctions, we were cheated of wages and left to drown on reefs or shot at sea with the favoured Enfield Snider carbine, as they did not penetrate the hulls of the boats of the time. Such was the nature of our return tickets in the early 1900s when the White Australia Policy was introduced.

My people, the South Sea islanders, built the great wealth of the sugar industry that has made this state prosperous today. We survived generations of racial oppression, disadvantage and poverty largely because of our ancestors' tenacity, resilience and strong work ethic. I stand here today with an overwhelming sense of pride, ready to carry on my ancestors' legacy and bring those core hereditary attributes into my work for the Mirani electorate—an electorate that is rich in diversity, an electorate that I firmly believe has the potential to grow.

From inside our family history within the Mirani electorate, my grandfather Cedric Andrew, with whom I spent most of my young life, was the grandson of Lucy Querro. In the 1870s, as a 15-year-old girl, Great-Great-Nana Lucy was kidnapped from Oba Island in Vanuatu while she was playing on a beach. When they settled in Australia they were pushed up into the rocky hillsides, on hard marginal land, to grow their gardens and whatever cane plots they could to provide income and food.

Despite this dark history and his humble beginnings, my grandfather Cedric steadfastly maintained his morals and principles, instilling these philosophies into his children and his grandchildren until his death in 2012 at the age of 101 years. Grandfather was a man of immeasurable inspiration and integrity who wanted the betterment of and fairness for all humanity. He witnessed firsthand the people chained in misery alongside the Pioneer River being tormented by sandflies and mosquitoes. These people were flogged and beaten for even a shadow of insurrection. He worked all his life in the cane and during the off-season on the railway as a fencing ganger. He was referred to as the 'skipper'. Although he never learned to drive or had a licence, he was always on a pumper running the line.



Grandad was also known in the community as a person of trust and would be sought after when young men would act up or fall into bad company. He would give them a job alongside him on the railway or cutting cane to instil some self-worth, respect and dignity to carry with them as they moved through life. He was widely respected by many for touching their lives, even to this day. I can vouch for that personally. He raised his family in a little wooden house he built outside Mackay in the cane fields of Homebush. I can remember always cutting wood for the wood stove with a cross-cut belly saw. We always used the old hardwood sleepers that were discarded from the cane loco tracks. Every afternoon in the cool we would be working in the garden, watering our fruit trees and vegie garden and raking up the mango leaves, picking and eating the fresh fruits and digging sweet potatoes from the rich soil. Nothing was wasted. Even the coals from the wood stove were carefully spread back into the soil. Every Friday we would go into town in Uncle Charlie's FJ Holden ute. I will never forget sitting in the back with my cousins, brother and sisters singing—or some days I would just sit in the back with my dog Ranger and watch the cane fires burn on our way back to Homebush.

In the years I was growing up I never did see those old people with money, but they were never without a smile on their faces and always had kind words to say, no matter how tough the times were. I can see grandfather Cedric now, 'smiling like a goat in a cabbage patch' at me speaking about these things. This is something he frequently said with a cheeky grin.

My grandfather from my mother's side, Mr James Searl Peterson, was also born in the electorate of Mirani, at St Lawrence. He was a serviceman in the Great War 32nd Battalion and enlisted in Sarina for the Australian Imperial Force. My mother has told me stories about their battles in France, where hundreds went in and Grandad was one of 12 who came out. James ran bullock teams across the Sarina and Eton ranges and later worked on railroads with Cedric. Grandad James passed when I was young in life, so unfortunately I did not get to know him as I should. Together these two men crossed paths and worked and camped together 'down the line', as it was referred to working on the railway. This saw them travel through little towns of the Mirani electorate including the communities of Koumala, Carmila, Ilbilbie, Flaggy Rock, Clairview, Kalarka, St Lawrence, Wilmalgi, Ogmore, Cooltandra and Marlborough. It is with this legacy in mind that I will stand strong for Mirani.

Having personally known and lived with the poorest, most marginalised Australians, the South Sea islanders, I will be doing my best to be a voice in parliament to represent the silent minority with as much equality as the majority. I will boldly represent them along with the diversity of the people living in the Mirani electorate and be their strong voice in this House.

Having listened to many people within the vast boundaries of the Mirani electorate, I can say that all are concerned with the rising cost of living for families and the elderly. They grapple with high electricity and water prices, fuel and transport expenses, food prices, health care, education and child care, while many still lack modern, reliable communication. Household budgets buckle under inflated insurance costs and associated housing expenses. Struggling small businesses and the many farmers in my electorate contend every day with increasingly time-consuming and complex regulations that drain cash flow and restrict business from achieving best efficiency.

We as a rural community are clearly outnumbered and often left out of the grand designs and the decision-making in the big city. Country people are left feeling increasingly powerless when decisions are made in this way. It seems as if, 'It's no issue to us so there is no issue,' or, 'We don't use them so they don't need them.'

This is the mentality that comes into play. Common ground can be sought, which can be achieved by fewer restrictions, through more communication and negotiation with communities, landholders and businesses that present a genuine need for their actions, resources or tools. For example, we as rural citizens help contribute towards public revenue to fund public transport subsidies to the tune of \$1.43 billion for this coming financial year for the south-east corner alone. Most rural communities will never see equitable facilities but do not seek to restrict or pass judgement on what is needed or not needed elsewhere, yet people in the city dictate terms to rural people on what firearms they should or should not possess. No electorate demographic should ever be disadvantaged by another due to either geographical location, rural setting or high-density living conditions. The bush is the bush and the city is the city and should be treated as such. Both have specific requirements that do not overlap.

Concerning firearms, we as a rural community rely on firearms for more situations than I can mention here today. The first one that comes to mind is a genuine need, and this has been demonstrated over time and has many precedents regarding the use of firearms within the rural

landscape. It is a nasty truth that those who seek to inflict grievous harm are not fazed by gun control laws. Flat-out restrictions do not fit all situations. The ongoing intention to further amend the firearms act to limit access to certain weapons attached to genuine need is creating a clear disadvantage for the people who put food on our plates. We should show them some respect.

Rookwood Weir and other projects like the upper Connors Dam will provide significant water resources that in their absence have stalled agricultural development in the Mirani electorate for arguably 30 years. To delay proceedings will only translate into increasing eventual construction costs and further denying opportunity in growing economic diversity, local jobs and the flow-on benefits to not only numerous rural communities in the Mirani electorate but the entire state.

The management of vegetation will require a strong bipartisan approach to establish a stable, long-term plan featuring honest negotiation and thorough onsite research and contributions from landholders across the different land types. After many years of working on the land with farmers and graziers, I have noticed that each area considers things differently. To fully stop selective clearing would actually cause more erosion than not clearing as the grass cannot survive in the thick regrowth, causing soil particulate run-off into waterways and in due course contributing to reef and marine decline.

Through my own environmental interactions through feral pest control, I know that the reduction of wild pig numbers will reduce the loss of valuable topsoils, native vegetation and rainforest, destruction of waterways and completely dug-out agricultural paddocks and, therefore, restore the natural balance of the ecosystem. When the feral animals are removed the ground heals, the grass returns and the native animals come back in numbers and restore the natural order of things. I have found it disturbingly misguided to be tagged as a pig shooter when what I do as a 'shooter person' positively impacts the betterment of the land and the reef and very likely outweighs the good intentions of people who consider themselves naturalists or environmentalists.

I was always told that you cannot catch a fish from the office or the living room. My goal is to advocate for commonsense solutions to these serious concerns and, particularly for our farmers, to reduce statutory response and review time frames. History shows us that governments can become weighted down by bureaucratic cancer, creating unnecessary repair work with little long-term logic applied. A quality parliament must stay focused on the delivery of best outcomes for the 4.6 million Queenslanders who elect its members.

Allowing oppressive decision-making ultimately white-ants the credibility of this institution. However, taking a progressive approach and entrusting ownership and authority of decision-making closer to and directly involving the stakeholders at all stages is, as I see, a vastly more productive and efficient way of achieving the best outcomes. A key tenet is to always listen, respond quickly and afford respect to all people. It is without denial also that we have made great advancements as a nation and a state and yet there is still so much work to do. It is my plan, with the simple dynamics of hard work and honesty, to do what is necessary to represent my electors who have entrusted me to do the job I was elected to do.

As the newly elected member for Mirani, I would like to thank One Nation—and I know there are some people in the gallery here today—Pauline Hanson and fellow candidates who ran alongside me: Steve Dickson, Jim Savage, Jane Truscott, Chelle Dobson and many others. I am also very honoured today to introduce and welcome four international special guests who have come a long way. They are Vanuatu dignitaries and a member of the Vanuatu parliament who are in the gallery today who have travelled to witness my first speech: Mr Atkinson Vira, member of the Vanuatu parliament; Mr Westley Nwango, Ambae chief and member of the council of chiefs and retired serviceman of the Vanuatu military forces; Mr Alicita Vuti, Ambae chief and interim chair of the Ambae council of chiefs in Port Vila; and Mr Jameson Bani, assistant to the interim chair of Ambae council of chiefs for Saralokambu and member of the chief's technical advisers for Ambae as a whole. These dignitaries of Vanuatu have made a momentous effort to attend here today, as Ambae is in a state of emergency with ongoing concerns regarding their local volcano, which is named Monaro—not the one that we think.

My heartfelt thanks go to my lovely wife, Kym, and our adorable daughters, Kyrah and Jorja. I love you dearly. My heartfelt thanks go to my dear mother, who is 79 and never missed a day of giving out pamphlets and worked so hard—I love you, Mum—and my father, who just turned 81 and who did exactly the same thing. It is just unbelievable to see the work ethic of that man. My thanks also go to my Auntie Olga, who is in her nineties and who again stood there every day giving out pamphlets, who along with my grandfather Cedric has made me a humble but strong, proud person of high moral

principles who stands before you today. I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for your unwavering devotion to the campaign and I thank many other friends who helped contribute to my win. I quote—

A journey to make real impact that changes lives, give meaning to life and living, and turns vision of the masses into realities demands a true focus, an utmost zeal and robustness and an unfailing tenacity to do whatever necessary within the powers and reach of a true leader, and with all needed dexterity, wit and wisdom to make real impact have a meaning and give real liberation to the masses!

My ancestors came here from many different islands—Vanuatu, the Solomons and New Caledonia—where many different languages were spoken. One linguist counted 105 distinct Indigenous languages in Vanuatu alone. In order to have some measure of agency, the islanders had to find a way to communicate with each other and also with the plantation owners, overseers and missionaries. One of their first acts of political, cultural and social agency and resistance was the development of a common language. This became known as Kanaka pidgin English and the islanders taught and disseminated it to each other in traditional meeting places known as Nakamals, or circles of government. Many linguists believe that Bislama, now one of the official languages of Vanuatu, originates from Kanaka pidgin English. It is now with the spirit of my grandfather Cedric that I will close with the *Lord's Prayer* in pidgin to pay homage to my ancestors—

Papa bilong mifala

Yu stap antap long heven,

Mipela wanem nem bilong yu i tambu long usim nating

mipela wanem kingdom bilong yu ikam

mipela olgeta man meri long world, mipela wokim olgeta samting

long wei bilong yupela.

Mipela askim yu tedei long givem kaikai long mipela,

Mipela to askim yu long fogivem mipela long olgeta samting nogud mipela

workim bibor,

olsem mipela mus forgivem olgeta man husat i buggarupim mipela.

Mipela askim yu long no ken tekim mipela long rot, emi triam long pulim

mipela long pasin nogut

mo, mi laikim yu blokem Seten i no ken kum insait mipela.

Amen.

Everything that we have as government is from the people; everything that we do as government should be for the people.

Interruption.

## DISTINGUISHED VISITORS


**Mr SPEAKER:** On behalf of the Queensland parliament I would like to acknowledge visiting dignitaries from Vanuatu and express our welcome and gratitude for you visiting Queensland's Parliament House.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

## ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the honourable member for Pumicestone I remind honourable members that this is the member's first speech and it should be listened to with the courtesies reserved for such occasions. I call the member for Pumicestone.

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (3.33 pm): Mr Speaker, I rise today in this chamber as a member of the 56th Parliament of Queensland honoured to serve and represent the people of the Pumicestone electorate. The privilege of this position is something that I take most seriously, and I will never lose sight of this in every dealing that I have with my constituents and every action I take as their state representative. I stand here today and solemnly promise the Pumicestone electorate that I will use my voice and I will put my heart into this job as I represent them fairly and justly. The people of

Pumicestone now have a state representative who will put their best interests first; one who will put their heart and soul into delivering for them. This is what they expect, and under my representation this electorate will no longer be taken for granted.

Those who know me will attest that my heart is in the right place and I put my heart into everything that I do. I do not believe that we can be good politicians without having a good heart in the right place. My personal guiding principles are founded on honesty, equity, accountability, responsibility and trust. These are the values that have been instilled in me by my parents, Owen and Patricia Bellamy—who are here with us today—which I will utilise to represent my community wholeheartedly during my term in office. I want my constituents to not only trust that they are being represented but to actually feel that they are being represented as they deserve.

As the renowned modern poet Maya Angelou said, 'I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' I want to place on record my thanks to those who put their trust in me to represent them. I will serve all residents of my electorate, and I want those whom I am yet to win the trust of to know that I will work hard to earn this from them. I would like to thank the LNP and members who provided me with this profound opportunity to represent my community—the community in which my husband Steve and I have raised our family, but more so a place that we are all so proud to call home.

As a child my family moved to Queensland from Victoria and settled in Morningside, where my siblings and I attended Seven Hills State School. It was during this time in year 7 that I was first captured by politics. My social conscious was sparked. Standing there as a student in the House of the people understanding the fundamental principles of democracy, representation and advocacy—at that point I knew this was something I wanted to be part of. Now, some 30 years later, I again stand in the House of the people humbled to my core.

From a young age I developed a love of running, netball and swimming. To me sport was everything, and I am so grateful to my parents for encouraging me to pursue athletics. Like many children and young people today, I too struggled to fit in. I became one of those kids who was bullied because I was different. I was very tall, skinny and a kind of awkward adolescent. I was vulnerable because of this. In sport I found solace, and in fact it was sport—in particular, running—that I found the freedom to express myself and develop inner pride and the self-confidence that I needed to become the woman who stands today in this parliament. Victims of bullying today find it harder to escape their abusers due to the connected world that we live in. Today we must realise that what was accepted in the past is no longer accepted today, and we must all play a part in standing up and stamping out this bad behaviour. I still recall clearly the old saying, 'Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.' Well, they do and for so many in our community they have lasting effects.

My parents were both hardworking teachers who raised their five children with the strong ethic of 'a hard day's work for a fair day's pay'. They taught us compassion, empathy, tolerance and charitable values, and I thank them. I will use this and demonstrate it throughout my role as the state member for Pumicestone. In 2003 Steve and I moved to Ningi in search of a larger parcel of land on which to raise our family, one that was close to the water and provided the lifestyle that we wanted for our kids. Soon after settling at Ningi our family grew rapidly from four to six and then to seven the following year. Five sons later, now ranging from 22 to 13 years of age, my home has always been a hive of activity, not to mention an overabundance of testosterone. If you look in the gallery they are here today. I can confidently say that raising these five energetic boys has more than prepared me for the rigours of this chamber.

I am proud that all of my sons were born at the Caboolture Hospital, and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hardworking doctors, nurses, ward staff, administrators and volunteers who work tirelessly at the hospital for the good of our entire community. They are exceptional people who are dedicated to the health and wellbeing of others, and they should be commended.

My life after school, be it working or studying, has taken me on a journey for which I am grateful. I have experienced so much across various sectors of employment, education and finance and within all these roles I have worked at the coalface with people to help them achieve a better life. I am proud to have worked as a teacher aide at Bribie Island State School and during this time I undertook further study in education. This work and study provided me with an in-depth insight into educating today's young people and from this firsthand experience I understand and know the battles of our teachers and the struggles of our students. Every parent who sends their child off to school wants nothing but the

very best education for their sons and daughters. They want their child to attend a school that fosters quality teaching, that helps shape their child's resilience and that provides a positive atmosphere to stimulate their child's intellectual and emotional growth through their educational journey.

The parents I speak to also want their schools to be inclusive of all children, not just in words but in real actions. Like me, most parents I speak to believe that the education system should provide for all children to reach their full potential and achieve their life's aspirations. We may have written the policies on inclusivity that read well on paper, but the reality is there is still such a long way to go before every child with a disability is truly able to succeed through our education system. Like thousands of other Queensland parents, I have a child with dyslexia. Dyslexia is a disability that is extremely hard to diagnose and even harder to understand. For my son our educational journey began in term 1, but it was not until five years later and thousands of dollars spent on treatment and specialists that we were able to obtain a formal diagnosis for his dyslexia.

In essence, while the formal diagnosis helped put the framework around my son's learning disability, the lack of funding for dyslexia and other learning disabilities in Queensland fails students like my son in our schools. I still recall the day when one option suggested to us was to have a doctor diagnose our son with anxiety. Why? Because funding could be sourced to assist him in the classroom if he suffered from anxiety and not dyslexia. Naturally, we were at odds with this advice and did not heed it, so we struggled, as many parents do, to ensure our son received the very best education despite the obstacles in our way.

From my days as a teacher aide to being a parent of a child with a learning disability, I am, needless to say, looking forward to my role as the shadow assistant education minister. I look forward to working with my colleague the member for Kawana, the shadow education minister, in holding to account Labor's commitment to education of our children and the education system as a whole.

Pumicestone electorate is a place with unique beauty and boundless offerings. It has diverse needs and immense possibilities. One thing more than anything else binds the diversity that is Pumicestone together, and that is community spirit. It is almost inconceivable that there is no formal support base on Bribie Island to provide personalised support for domestic violence and elder abuse victims. Since January last year over 1,100 domestic and family violence related incidents were reported to the police in the Pumicestone electorate. Times this by five or even 10 on average for the number of people closely associated with each of these incidents and we can see how unacceptable it is not to have a DV service within my electorate to support the many thousands of residents impacted each year by this insidious crime.

Not too long ago a small group of Bribie Island locals, concerned about this lack of support, decided to do something about it and what it has shown is that there is a community ready and willing to help. Like many community minded groups, Hairdressers with Hearts has sprung up from the hearts of local people. The two powerhouse women behind this initiative are Sonia and Tammy. Through their work they have encountered men and women of all ages who are victims of violence and abuse. It is from these humble beginnings that a most worthwhile community driven initiative is emerging in my electorate—an initiative that is helping mothers and children get back on their feet at a time when support is needed most and helping elderly residents to regain control of their lives.

It is the commitment of people like Sonia and Tammy that keep people connected in the community and make it an even safer place to live. I am a firm believer that we can never do enough to protect those who are most vulnerable and I look forward to keeping the House up to date on the progress of this grassroots initiative happening in my electorate. We simply must do more for our senior citizens who find themselves in highly vulnerable situations that lead to abuse and we must be open to new initiatives in addressing domestic and elder abuse and rid our communities of this plague. Addressing these two issues with local actions and initiatives will be a focus of mine during this term of parliament.

I want to acknowledge the immense and diverse life experience that exists within the Pumicestone electorate due to our large retiree population. The breadth and depth of knowledge that exists must be recognised and I look forward to seeing what opportunities can be created to share the expansive knowledge bank that resides within the electorate. Pumicestone truly is a playground in the sun offering diverse, friendly communities made up of stunning neighbourhoods which provide ideal places to raise your family, enjoy your retirement years or discover that sea change you have been dreaming about for so long.

Very soon after becoming the state member, I coined the phrase 'Pumicestone fun, sun, everyone', as this is what our electorate offers. The electorate is the gateway between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast and it is visited in droves by people who, like its many residents, realise all that Pumicestone has to offer. It is a place that abounds in nature's gifts, of beauty rich and rare. In fact, I think the national anthem could have been written in Pumicestone! From the beautiful Bribie Island with its west banks spanning the Pumicestone Passage all the way to the tip of Caloundra, Woorim's rolling surf and the many sparkling beaches dotted around the perimeter that rival the best that Queensland has to offer on any day, we live in a unique part of the world in the Pumicestone electorate. There is really no other place quite like it.

The Pumicestone electorate comprises close-knit welcoming communities and landmarks like the Caboolture Aero Club and airfield, the State Equestrian Centre, the Caboolture historical museum, the Abbey Museum, our Volunteer Marine Rescue centre, cultural and historical landmarks of great significance, amazing fishing and water activities, not to mention some of the best weekend markets and recreational areas for all to enjoy. You cannot pass over the Bribie Island Bridge without seeing the pelicans sitting proudly atop the light posts as if they are welcoming you to the island and all it has to offer. All this and more—all of what is Pumicestone—deserves the very best representation.

I want to acknowledge Lisa France, the former LNP member for Pumicestone who made a significant contribution to our electorate. Just the other day I was visited by a constituent who pulled out a Lisa France pen from their handbag to sign a form and, after a little chuckle at still having that pen some 3½ years later, we exchanged our admiration for the work that Lisa did in the electorate that still holds her in high regard today. I also want to pay tribute to the member for Glass House, Andrew Powell, who, prior to the boundary realignments, represented parts of what is now within the Pumicestone electorate. In my view, and many others I expect, the member for Glass House is one of the finest politicians we have in this state and I thank him for his support and guidance, which I value more than words.

I am particularly proud to be a female member of the LNP standing alongside some inspiring, strong, compassionate women colleagues and, when I talk about inspirational women, I need to look no further than our very own Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington. I also want to acknowledge some incredibly dedicated people who stood beside me in the past 12 months working tirelessly on my campaign, forsaking their own precious time with family and loved ones so that Pumicestone could have a member who is committed to their home and their best interests.

Whilst I cannot mention all by name, I want to acknowledge particularly Cameron Matheson, Ray Adams—who is here today—Vicki Morris, Ross Dunn, Michael Leighton and Andrew and Nicole Smith. I am truly grateful for their dedication and support and guidance over the past 12 months. To all of those who volunteered on my campaign, I thank them from the bottom of my heart—in particular Val, Kate, Rim, Deb, Steph, Joy, Melissa, Kym, Geordi, Con and their families. There were some very long and exhausting days, but we got the job done and we made it fun.

For some members, the journey to this House involves literally just a short drive, but for others it takes much longer. For me, my journey was a relatively short drive, but a drive that involves a stretch of road that has fast become the bane for motorists in my electorate. Bribie Island Road stretches almost the length of the Pumicestone electorate—from Caboolture through to and over the Bribie Island Bridge—and is now a most pressing issue for residents. It is time this government directs its attention and gives a commitment to my community to deliver the long-overdue upgrade to this road that it needs. I will continue to fight for this upgrade, as I will for many other improvements to road infrastructure within my electorate. I would like to acknowledge my staff: Sally Grant and Daniel Downes who, along with me, work tirelessly to support the community that is the Pumicestone electorate.


I have saved the very best for last. It would be impossible for me to be standing here today without the support and encouragement of my wonderful family. Once again, I wish to pay tribute to my parents, Owen and Patricia; my in-laws, Robert and Rosina; my great-uncle, Charles, who is almost 92—a World War II veteran—and who has flown up from Melbourne to be here with me; and my aunt, Pauline. Their love and support means everything to me. I thank my sons, Bryce, Jack, Daniel, Matthew and Stephen, who over the past 12 months have spent many weekends on the roadsides with me and letterbox dropping. I love them so much and I am so proud of the young men they have become. Finally, I am so proud to be the wife of Steve. He has been a great source of encouragement and strength to me, in particular over the past 12 months. I am so happy that he has come on this journey with me.

I think that members can tell from my speech today that I am a local member who is about people, for people and with people. I will never lose sight of the real reason I am here today and that is to make the people of the Pumicestone electorate my No. 1 priority. Collectively, this 56th Parliament can make the most difference to the lives of Queenslanders and the most difference to the future prosperity of our great state. I am looking forward to the journey ahead.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Wilson, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.55 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the amendments to sessional orders circulated in my name be agreed to, effective immediately.

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#### Amendments to Sessional Orders

**1. Sessional Order 1 (c)** on Wednesday after '*Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument*'—

*omit—*

Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (6.00pm—7.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—12.30pm—

Government Business

12.30pm—1.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—6.00pm—

Government Business—

6.00pm—7.00pm—

*Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)*'

*insert—*

'Notice of motion for debate during Private Members' Motion (5.00pm—6.00pm) (Notice may be stated in the House and delivered to the Clerk)

10.15am—11.15am—

Question Time

11.15am—12.30pm—

Government Business

12.30pm—1.00pm—

Introduction of Private Members' Bills #

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—5.00pm—

Government Business—

5.00pm—6.00pm—

*Private Members' Motion (motion for which notice was given immediately prior to 10.15am to take precedence)*

6.00pm—7.00pm—

Government Business'

I wish to speak very briefly to this amendment that has been circulated. With the changes to the sessional orders and the sitting hours of the new parliament, on Wednesdays there is an automatic adjournment at 7 pm. That has resulted in a situation where the strict adherence to the time for the adjournment debate would require either less than the full hour being debated for private members' motions or, alternatively, private members' motions not being voted on.

To overcome this anomaly—and I thank the members on all sides who have worked for temporary solutions over the past sitting weeks—it is proposed that we move private members' motions from a 6 pm commencement on Wednesdays to a 5 pm commencement on Wednesdays. This ensures that we do not have any restrictions on the hour-long debate. It allows for the question to be put and not interfere with the automatic adjournment.

This motion has been circulated to the members of the CLA and, of course, I have advised the Leader of Opposition Business of this motion as well.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 789, on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.57 pm), continuing: As I said before, after conducting the consultation and hearings on this bill I did not hear anything to make me come to the conclusion that we needed to make any changes to this bill. No-one had any alternatives as to how to protect the reef from run-off and nutrients. The committee did not hear how we could abate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that are released by land clearing. There is nothing in the bill that will prevent farmers from doing their everyday business.

There has been a lot of misinformation peddled by the LNP and I want to address some of it. I think that misinformation was epitomised by the member for Burdekin. At a rally in Townsville the member for Burdekin said that people would not be able to clear a tree in Queensland again. I hear that he was made to walk back from that statement by Blair Knuth, the organiser of that rally. The member for Thuringowa called him out for it as well. I will not use the word that he used, but he said that it was not true, that it was rubbish. That is essentially what we have been hearing from the LNP on this issue.

We have heard a lot from the LNP members in their dissenting report and in their speeches about the codes. They have said that the codes would be unworkable, but they have not given any examples. They have only repeated opinions. We have learned from this process how the codes will work. The fodder code is still self-assessable. Under the old act farmers could clear all of their property for fodder. Under the change that we are proposing, farmers can clear 500 hectares and then self-audit and do another 500 hectares. They check in about what they have done. As one of the postdoctoral research witnesses said, that is enough fodder for cattle.

Farmers can clear for weeds in any category of vegetation if they do not take out any native vegetation. If they take out native vegetation, there is a self-assessable code for that. Category R in the riverine is still self-assessable. It does not apply if there is no native vegetation within that riparian zone. If there is encroachment by woody weeds that is not part of the ecosystem—for example, gidgee in some places—farmers can clear that weed under the encroachment code. It is a self-assessable process.

We have heard evidence of how the codes will work. There is nothing in the codes being proposed that will prevent landholders managing their land responsibly. The LNP will cling to any opinion that they want to believe. They will not address evidence that proves otherwise.

What we have seen in the dissenting report and speeches of those opposite is the tired old LNP tactic of casting doubt on the science. The member for Burdekin has said we are using shonky science, but it is their grasp of science that sets the shonky standard in this parliament. They claim the maps are inaccurate and there are more trees growing than ever. They claim trees actually cause erosion and we need more grassland to stop it. They did not even talk about the issue of climate change—not once. In fact, their denial of climate science is the shonkiest stance of all. The Leader of the Opposition said there is no other issue on which our differences are so stark. That is only partially true. The starkest difference that I can see is that the LNP does not believe in climate science. Those opposite do not believe we need to do anything about climate change. This bill is a crucial step in the struggle against climate change.



On the issue of mapping, the constant theme of those opposite is that you cannot trust the science of the mapping or the mapping itself. Dr Silcock, one of the post doctoral research fellows we heard from, made a great point: Queensland is the only state that does this regional ecosystem mapping. It is better than anywhere else in Australia. The Herbarium is working at updating the mapping all the time. We have heard often over the last two years that the mapping will much better account for regrowth in the future. Queensland has about 180 million hectares and there will be some mistakes, but we should be proud of what we have achieved with our mapping and proud of the continuous improvement that we are seeing.

The LNP members indulge themselves in the belief that there has been an increase in woody vegetation and trees throughout the state. It has been said you can see it in the SLATS 2012-14, which has an increase from 2011-2012 in woody vegetation of 400,000 hectares. The 2012-14 SLATS report, compared to 2005, shows a drop of 2.4 million hectares in woody vegetation. There has been a 57 per cent increase in brigalow clearing from 2014-15 to 2015-16 and 48 per cent of the Brigalow Belt has been cleared. Are we talking about an increase in trees? It may be an increase in actual foliage. Foliage protection cover varies from year to year. Authors of SLATS say foliage protection cover is a very unreliable way to measure an increase or decrease of woody vegetation.

The LNP also try to spin the line that having more trees means more erosion. The truth is, as we saw from expert testimony, that we need a combination of grassland and woody vegetation to prevent erosion. We heard from Professor John Brodie from James Cook University, with 300 peer reviewed papers to his name, who said that grasses are not very good at bank protection except in very small streams. Dr Seabrook rebutted the claim that excessive mulga and gidgee are causing erosion. In terms of science, I will listen to the scientists and not the LNP.

The LNP tried to use the line that this bill will limit the expansion of the agricultural sector. This is a thin argument and those opposite cannot sustain it. Indeed, I do not see them trying to sustain it.


**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Buderim, the member has the call.

**Mr WHITING:** The member for Buderim did not like to hear that there is one million hectares available to the agricultural industry for expansion. We heard in public hearings that there is one million hectares available for expansion with this act.

In terms of Cape York, we have heard the LNP say it would stop expansion. This bill will not stop agricultural growth as there are already many agricultural operations in the cape. There are many pastoral leases on the cape and we heard they are operating well. There are other expanding industries in the cape region. We have heard from Aboriginal corporations about their expanding tourism and carbon abatements operations as well. It is one of their best business opportunities. In fact, this bill gives them the foundation and the security to build on these industries. This bill provides a solid base for them to expand these businesses and give them economic opportunity. I reject the claim that this bill will stop economic growth and expansion in the north. In fact, I believe it will expand it.

At the conclusion of many of the hearings, as the chair I specifically asked landholders what message they wanted taken back to the minister. They said they wanted certainty and surety more than anything else. This legislation can deliver that for the long term. I urge the LNP to be a part of it and to accept this as the foundation for ongoing tree-clearing regulation into the future. Do not prolong the uncertainty for rural producers by saying they would ever change it; that is not what they want or need. I say to the LNP do not be on the wrong side of history with this issue. Those opposite will be judged in the future on what they did to protect the Great Barrier Reef, on what they did to help limit CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. I commend the recommendations of the committee and the bill to the House.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (4.05 pm): I am a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee and was involved in its examination of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Firstly, I acknowledge the hard work of the committee secretariat staff. They did an amazing job to coordinate the inquiry in such a short time frame. We conducted eight public hearings across the state and heard from almost 130 witnesses. The committee received 777 submissions on the bill and approximately 13,100 form submissions. This represented the largest number of submissions to any inquiry received by any committee of the Queensland parliament to date. The bill was introduced to the House on 8 March with the report tabled on 23 April. This was despite the Easter holiday period, the Commonwealth Games, coupled with some major flooding in the north taking place during this period. Despite these events, a request for an extension of time was rejected.

The significance of this proposed legislation on the agricultural industry was deserving of a much more wholesome engagement and many submitters expressed their anger and disappointment at this constrained time frame, both online and at the public hearings across the state. The committee held public hearings in Brisbane, including a videoconference to Bundaberg, and also travelled to locations across Queensland to hear from affected groups and individuals at regional hearings in Rockhampton, Townsville, Cloncurry, Longreach, Charleville and Cairns. The committee encountered impressive receptions at each regional hearing, with consistent crowds of over 150 interested members of the public in attendance and over 400 present at the public audience in Rockhampton and Charleville.

Whilst in Cloncurry, the committee undertook a site visit to local cattle properties to view and discuss vegetation management challenges, techniques, principles and approaches, with great assistance from Cloncurry mayor, Councillor Greg Campbell, which I thank him for. Despite all of this, I am very disappointed that the final report of the committee did not recommend any amendments to this legislation. Instead, this side of the House has had to submit amendments that those most affected have asked for.

Many present at the hearings had travelled substantial distances to attend the proceedings and share their experiences and perspectives with the committee. For example, in Cairns Mr Justin MacDonnell revealed he had driven 1,400 kilometres, spent six hours on a plane and was going to spend two nights sleeping in a swag beside his car before he got home. Mr Luke Quartermaine stated that he and his wife and his five-month-old baby had to swim two rivers and boat across one other to get there for that hearing. In Longreach, Ms Robyn Simmons told the committee she had driven over 10 hours so she could have her say.

The explanatory notes advise that stakeholders have not been specifically consulted on the bill. This was a source of concern amongst many of the groups and organisations that provided evidence to the committee. A large number of local councils, businesses and landholders expressed their disappointment at being left out, of having their voice excluded from the bill's development despite the fact that they will be the ones impacted by the changes it proposes.

Locally in Bundaberg, while I consulted with peak body industries such as Bundaberg Canegrowers chair Allan Dingle and Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers chair Allan Mahoney and managing director Bree Grima, I heard similar concerns about the lack of consultation with these affected groups. The BFVG's concerns were about the negative impacts to their members with the removal of the high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture provisions and also the thinning guidelines. Ms Grima advised that an objective, evidence based approach was required to deliver a sustainable solution for industry and as a collective they are keen to observe the economics that support the bill—but we have none.

Similarly, the Bundaberg Canegrowers had concerns with the removal of the provisions for high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture, along with consequences of the expansion of category R and category C provisions to the Burnett and Mary River catchments, the issues of urban creep removing good quality agricultural land and the consequences of this legislation on the biofuels future of Queensland.

The Queensland Law Society submitted that consultation would have been welcomed by all affected stakeholders given the sensitive nature of this legislation and the significant public debate on the issues during 2016. The Queensland Farmers' Federation and the Local Government Association of Queensland further called for a regulatory impact statement process to be undertaken prior to the approval of the bill to enable a comprehensive understanding of the environmental, social and economic impacts across all Queensland communities.

Currently, high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture clearing applications must meet defined criteria prior to the landholder applying for a development approval. The bill will remove the ability to apply for a development approval for clearing for high-value and irrigated high-value agriculture by removing it from among the list of relevant purposes for clearing under the act.

At the public hearing in Cloncurry, Flinders Shire Council Mayor, Councillor Jane McNamara, told the committee—

With horticulture ... one acre, whatever that is in hectares, basically equates to one full-time job. If you put in 100 acres of anything that is high-value agriculture related, that is an extra 100 jobs for Hughenden itself ... The flow-on effect then into schools, education, health—the whole atmosphere for this area changes ...

North Queensland landholders and Indigenous organisations also highlighted that many of the expressed concerns were intensified for those on state and Aboriginal land tenures on Cape York, where approximately 98 per cent of the land is covered by remnant vegetation. The Cape York Land

Council Aboriginal Corporation and Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation argued that the amendments proposed unfair and unreasonable constraints on development that will perpetuate Aboriginal social and economic disadvantage across Cape York.

It is not the LNP saying this; it is people in the community. This is an unfair impediment on a region that is already struggling with very high levels of unemployment and low levels of economic activity. Several representatives even called this legislation poison law for their communities. It is not just poison law for the north; it is also poison law for my community and the communities of all other members in this state.

Affected landholders, local governments and natural resource management groups also stated that the amendments would serve to further restrict development in their catchments areas, with impacts on farming capacity and production. For example, Councillor Rob Radel from the North Burnett Regional Council stated—

If you have a look at an overlay of a map of our North Burnett area, you will see that we have one of the most extensive river and creek systems throughout Queensland. Category R is going to have a huge effect on how much viable land we have and how those waterways can be accessed.

Central Burnett Landcare Inc. similarly emphasised that, in the Burnett River catchment—

... many farming enterprises ... rely on creek & river flats land for their best agricultural production. In particular the sugarcane industry and horticultural industries will be severely affected.

Proposed section 30A provides for entry without a warrant. It is noted that the trigger to exercise the power to enter a place is that 'an authorised officer believes on reasonable grounds that a vegetation clearing offence is happening, or has happened, at a place'. The Queensland Law Society queries whether in many cases this reasonable-grounds belief would be sufficient grounds for a magistrate to even issue a warrant. The QLS considers the most appropriate course is to obtain a warrant, given that it is a fundamental legislative principle that legislation confers power to enter premises and search for or seize documents or other property only with a warrant issued by a judge or other judicial officer.


Under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, police officers have powers to conduct investigations into certain offences. Under the PPRA police do have a power to enter a place without a warrant. However, police officers then have to apply to a magistrate as soon as reasonably practical after exercising that power for a post-search approval order to have the entry and any evidence seized authorised as if a warrant was obtained. This legislation does not have that. If section 30A is to remain, a similar post-search approval order should be included in the section to have the entry and seizure of any evidence approved by a magistrate.

I will finish with the many reasons this legislation should not be passed. There is a lack of any meaningful consultation with industry groups and the broader community that the laws directly impact. The government has failed to complete a cost analysis or a regulatory impact statement on the economic and social impacts on regional Queensland.

The justification used for the removal of high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture from the act has been ill informed and inconclusive. These provisions were already the most regulated part of the Vegetation Management Act and, from evidence presented to the committee, put in doubt the basis for its removal. The inclusion of regrowth that has not been cleared for 15 years will lock up over 862,000 hectares of land into the high-value regrowth classification.

The bill excludes area management plans, which provide for an alternative approval system for vegetation clearing in particular regional ecosystems. The proposed accepted development vegetation clearing code managing fodder for harvesting for drought management is unworkable, particularly in the mulga lands. The proposed accepted development vegetation clearing code for managing thickened vegetation is impractical and unworkable.

The expanded powers of entry give departmental officers powers that even police do not have. The inaccuracy of the mapping has been proven. By SLATS own admission, there is no mapping of regrowth. This legislation has been introduced using SLATS data that fails to be based upon science. To not base this legislation on science fails to tell the whole story around vegetation in Queensland. I say to all members that we need to vote this legislation down for the sake of our farming families' futures.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.15 pm): Today I rise to speak to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I begin by acknowledging the committee secretariat who worked tirelessly on this bill and my fellow committee members. I particularly acknowledge my LNP colleagues, the member for Bundaberg, who just spoke, Mr David Batt, and the member for Condamine, Mr Pat Weir.

This legislation is fundamentally flawed and it should not be passed. At its heart, this legislation is based on toxic ideology rather than fact. Those opposite have been motivated by self-interest rather than the best interests of Queensland. That is clear because we saw this bill introduced to the House in March and here we are, just over a month later, as those opposite rush through this legislation, effectively ignoring the submissions of 13,000 Queenslanders who attempted to have their say.

As the committee travelled briefly across the state to receive submissions on the bill, we heard heartbreaking stories about the effect that the bill will have on farmers and communities. Families told of their despair and of their fear that the property that they had sustainably farmed for generations may no longer be viable. In communities such as Charleville, people told of their fears that this bill will result in the degradation and destruction of their homes. Labor members of the committee continue to support this bill, despite the fact that they know it is flawed and that it does not take into account the damage that it will do to farmers and our rural communities.

The time has come for the Labor members of this committee, the members for Bancroft, Mount Ommaney and Ipswich West, to stand up and do what is right. The farmers of Queensland need someone in the government to listen to their concerns. Unlike the minister for agriculture, who has hidden from scrutiny since the introduction of this bill, at least the members for Bancroft, Mount Ommaney and Ipswich West have travelled the state. They know that this bill is flawed because they have seen the impact firsthand. They have heard from young families who have lost hope for a future in agriculture. They have seen grown men break down in front of them as they contemplate a future where their livelihood is destroyed. To simply ignore those concerns shows the contempt that Labor has for rural communities.

Therefore, my message to the members for Bancroft, Mount Ommaney and Ipswich West is simple: stand up for what you know is right, have some conviction, show some backbone, cross the floor and oppose this bill; save the rural communities and the farmers who feed and clothe you. I recognise that the members for Bancroft, Mount Ommaney and Ipswich West will suffer at the hands of their ignorant union masters if they do cross the floor, but standing up for what is right is never without a cost and they should do what is right.

Perhaps those opposite cannot understand why Queenslanders are so concerned about these laws. Why are rural people and their city cousins so concerned about the impact that these laws will have on those who feed and clothe us? I guess it is understandable that those opposite would be ignorant, when we consider that their agriculture minister is a figurehead in Brisbane who rarely ventures out of the comfort of his office to speak to the people who are impacted most by his decisions. I have been teaching my children about how their actions impact on other people and how they need to consider the needs of others and not just themselves. My three-year-old can grasp that, but seemingly those men and women who sit in the privileged position of government cannot. That is quite simply appalling.

Given that those opposite have so little regard for the impact these laws will have on the people of the bush, allow me to enlighten them a little. Farmers and graziers put the food on their table. Later today when they enjoy the food put in front of them by the excellent catering staff here at parliament, just remember who put the food there. It was farmers—Queenslander farmers whose livelihoods are being put at risk by these laws and by decisions made by Labor members. It is clear that Labor are only interested in green preferences and that they ignore all of the science that should underpin any vegetation management legislation.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** That may be the case, but their ignorance of the science is disgraceful. One would think that the minister for agriculture would want to hear the concerns of those he represents in the agricultural sector, but he has been pathetically silent on this issue which is one of the most significant threats to agriculture in this state and one that clearly has rural communities and agricultural producers concerned. I wonder if Minister Furner has the courage to go back to the Hacon family in Cloncurry and explain to them why he intends to vote for this bill. If he had any moral courage he would front up and explain his position. The minister will not because he clearly does not care about the farmers of Queensland and he is only interested in where he can get a photograph opportunity.

Farmers and graziers are usually born on the land and they make their living and feed their families from the land. They nurture and protect it to pass it on to the next generation. At their heart they are the true environmentalists. I quote from Grant Maudsley, the President of AgForce Queensland, in his submission to the committee, where he said—

**Mr Whiting:** Another independent witness.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** You would do well to listen to him, member for Bancroft, because he does represent the farmers of Queensland who are a stakeholder when it comes to this piece of legislation. You failed to do so. That is why you will be condemned.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle):** Member for Buderim, please speak through the chair and not directly across the chamber and do not use the word 'you'.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** My apologies. Mr Maudsley said—

We have to grow food for this state and we have to look after the environment. We accept that and we are proud to do that.

I come from a family of graziers. My mother's father and mother managed and owned cattle stations in Queensland and the Northern Territory, as did my grandfather's parents. I know the value of looking after the land, caring for our environment and farming sustainably. These are practices that I still apply today on my own small property where my wife and I are focused on managing our land sustainability while still running a commercial cattle operation. It is a simplification by those opposite to assume they know better than farmers when it comes to managing our rural environment. In fact, it is downright patronising.

I was very concerned to see that no modelling has been undertaken in relation to the effect this legislation will have on future agricultural production in Queensland. When questioned on this matter during committee hearings departmental officials admitted that no modelling had been undertaken and, staggeringly, none was planned. Despite the mountains of submissions this committee received from farmers and landholders raising this very concern, the Labor government still sees fit to ignore them.

We heard from fourth generation farmer Scott Dunlop, who outlined his concerns about the economic impacts of this bill. He said—


I think that economic modelling is extremely important. I do not think it has been considered at all how this is going to affect individual operations, which in turn is going to effect all communities. This legislation is going to cause a significant downturn in employment and the death of rural communities.

It is easy to dismiss that which people cannot see right before their eyes. Frankly, this Palaszczuk Labor government has no excuse. Not only are they paid by the taxpayers of Queensland to open their eyes and see the impact of their decisions, but through this very brief committee process we have seen through the more than 13,000 submissions from Queenslanders that they are trying their level best to be heard by this government.

The Premier this morning all but gloated about attending an official function in the bush to open a museum. One cannot just head out west for a photo opportunity, throw on an Akubra and consider oneself to be a friend of the bush. It might look good on a glossy brochure, but, frankly, Queenslanders see right through hollow gestures.

Farmers had the decency to come to our front door today and the Premier simply ignored them. Those opposite could have listened to Queensland farmers who have been trying to tell their stories. They could have come down to this morning's protest, showed some courage, showed some backbone and talked to the people whose livelihoods they will destroy. Those opposite had that opportunity and they have shown they simply do not care.

Queensland farmers deserve better. Queenslanders across the state deserve better. They deserve a government and a Premier who stands for the rights of all Queenslanders and does not hang them out to dry when it suits her. Queensland needs fair laws for farmers and this legislation should be rejected.

 **Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (4.25 pm):** It is an absolute pleasure to stand up and bring a different tone to the chamber. I also feel passionately about this, but I do not intend to character assassinate or marginalise. I have always known that one gets a lot further in life with a jar of honey than a gallon of vinegar.

I rise to speak in favour of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The objectives of this bill are to amend the Vegetation Management Act 1999, the Planning Act 2016, the Planning Regulation 2017 and the Water Act 2000 to reinstate responsible land-clearing laws in Queensland. The Newman government's amendments to vegetation management saw tree-clearing

rates skyrocket. That is a fact. The rate of excess tree clearing reached an alarming rate of 395,000 hectares in 2015-16, according to the annual deforestation report in October 2017. Excessive land clearing in Queensland under the former government reached a rate of a thousand football fields every day.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr HEALY:** I have always been told that you will never learn anything when you are talking.

The 2015-16 Statewide Landcover and Trees Study, SLATS, showed the rate of tree clearing in the Great Barrier Reef catchments had soared by almost 50 per cent since 2012-13. The Palaszczuk Labor government made an election commitment to implement new nation-leading tree-clearing protections to stop this shocking escalation of land clearing in our state. I would like to say that again. The government made this election commitment to the people of Queensland. This bill will deliver on this commitment.

These laws will help protect the Great Barrier Reef and the tens of thousands of jobs that depend on the reef. The Great Barrier Reef is the largest living structure on earth. It is bigger than the United Kingdom. This World Heritage Listed site is the largest and longest coral reef system in the world and it is internationally recognised for its outstanding biodiversity. It supports hundreds of thousands of coral and marine species.

As the member for Cairns, I represent a community on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef. The reef is precious not just to everybody in Cairns and our region where 80 per cent of the leisure diving on the Great Barrier Reef takes place, but it is precious—and we recognise this—to all Queenslanders, to all Australians and to the global community, to which we have a far broader commitment. We know the Great Barrier Reef needs our help. A key commitment of the Reef 2050 Plan is to reduce land clearing. It is simple and straightforward.

Both state and federal governments committed to this planning and it is what has stopped UNESCO from putting the reef on the 'in danger' list. The Palaszczuk government's Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 is critical to protecting the reef and its status.

The Great Barrier Reef is crucial to North Queensland's and indeed Australia's tourism economy. In Tropical North Queensland our tourism industry is worth \$25 billion and supports around 23,300 jobs. This is 17.6 per cent of employment in this area. A crucial part of Tropical North Queensland's tourism industry is the reef, which attracts visitors from around the world and contributes to the hundreds of millions of dollars being invested in Cairns and the surrounds. Indeed, the reef attracts around three million visitors a year and contributes \$6.4 billion to the Australian economy. I am trying to register the importance of this particular natural phenomenon.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McArdle): I ask members to keep their conversations to themselves or to take them outside.

**Mr HEALY:** For Queensland the reef contributes \$6 billion to the Queensland economy and supports more than 60,000 jobs. The Deloitte Access Economics report released on 26 January 2017 identified the social, economic and iconic asset value of the Great Barrier Reef, estimated by them at \$56 billion. That is why recently the federal government finally put their hand in their pocket and have just invested over half a billion dollars to ensure the protection of this vitally important asset, which is not just a state asset but a natural asset to Australia and to the world.

The health of the Great Barrier Reef is critical to growing Queensland's \$25 billion tourism industry and the thousands of tourism jobs reliant on the reef. Beyond the economic and tourism value of the reef is the value the reef has to all Queenslanders. It is in our DNA. It is something that we all know is precious, unique and something we need to not only cherish but also protect.

Queensland is where life is—maybe not for some today—beautiful one day and perfect the next, and we want to keep it that way for future generations. These amendments are important to ensuring the reef will be enjoyed by future generations, for my two children and their children and for the hundreds of thousands of people who come from around the world to visit monthly or annually. The Great Barrier Reef is one of the world's greatest natural assets. It is in our backyard and it is our duty to protect it.

I would like to acknowledge and pay my respect to the committee members. I appreciate their passion. I get that. I understand that. I also recognise that it is hard work. I acknowledge that, so I want to keep my comments friendly and happy and not make recommendations as to who should do what. I am very proud to support the Palaszczuk government's Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Members, there is far too much audible conversation during the speeches. I remind you to listen to each of the speakers with the respect you have shown so far. Please continue with that, otherwise I will ask you to leave and take your conversations outside.

**Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.32 pm): I rise today to put on the public record my vehement opposition to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill is ill-informed, it is irresponsible and it will cause irreparable damage to the agricultural sector in Queensland.

Farmers and graziers from the back country in Boulia, Bedourie and Birdsville to Duarina, Clermont, Emerald and Springsure in the east have expressed their strongest possible opposition to this bill. One only had to look out the front this morning to see the opposition to this bill. They understand that this legislation is bad for Queensland; that it will lock up 1.7 million hectares of developed farming land; that quarantining remnant vegetation and restricting farmers and graziers from thinning or undertaking other responsible vegetation management activities will actually produce perverse outcomes that will contravene the policy objectives of this legislation; and that removing the development of high-value agriculture as a purpose for clearing significantly undermines the viability of Queensland's agricultural industry and our export potential.

Like me, they also understand that there is absolutely no scientific justification for amending the existing legislation—that it is a political power play and a page straight out of the Greens' playbook. The Labor Party have ignored all logic, science and truth on the issue and are insistent on selling out our agricultural sector for their own political gain. The government's own acting science leader for the Remote Sensing Centre, who is responsible for tracking ground cover, land use, vegetation changes, fire scars and water bodies across Queensland, conceded during a committee hearing last month that the mapping of regrowth is very difficult to do and that there may actually be a net gain in vegetation in Queensland. He confirmed what we have always known—that the government is great at using clearing rates to justify their blatant attack on farmers and graziers but are conveniently bad at using available technology to measure revegetation rates around the state.

The reality is that the science behind this legislation is wrong. The Labor Party are using flawed computer generated algorithms and skewed data to support their political agenda in the city, and our farmers and graziers are paying a very steep price for it. This legislation is flawed. There is no doubt about it. I have a great respect for the democratic process. I can agree to disagree with members opposite in the service of the greater good of our state, but nothing about this legislation is in the service of anything other than a dirty political deal.

The Labor Party have showed complete ignorance of the effects this legislation will have across Queensland. During the committee proceedings, the executive director of land policy from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy admitted that the government had not commissioned any kind of economic modelling to show exactly how this legislation will impact our agricultural sector and thousands of farming enterprises across the state. They do not know and, what is worse, they do not want to know and they do not care. The legislation revokes the rights of farmers and graziers to develop their land including land which is freehold or has been previously cleared legally. It quarantines vegetation as high-value regrowth in areas previously unrestricted and, where vegetation is 15 years or older, this legislation removes all rights of farmers and graziers to undertake routine land management activities without a single dollar of compensation. It is akin to rescinding a liquor licence from a country publican without cause and without compensation.

In the context of this debate, it is important for us to understand that a large proportion of the vegetation management activities undertaken in rural, regional and remote Queensland is for the purpose of maintaining previously cleared land and for other routine vegetation management practices including the construction of fences and firebreaks which are very important for rural and regional Queensland. These types of vegetation management practices are conducted as part of the broader land management plans devised by primary producers which make concessions for unexpected natural disasters, fluctuations in commodity prices and other factors like financial viability. However, this bill will slap so much red tape on the agricultural industry that it will significantly impact the productivity and the profitability of thousands of farming and grazing businesses right across Queensland.

This legislation will also undermine the potential of agricultural development supported by the Rookwood Weir project. The billion dollar Rookwood Weir project was touted as the driver for new high-value agricultural development in the Central Highlands. However, this bill calls all of that into question. If this bill is passed, it will remove the development of high-value agriculture as a purpose for clearing which means we will have no new cotton, no new chickpeas, no new sorghum and the list goes on. To put it simply, this legislation will stop the second most profitable export industry.


Our farmers are environmental stewards. They have to be because their livelihoods depend on it. They work hard to put food on our tables and fibre on our backs. They are the backbone of the agricultural industry and contribute to Queensland's \$10 billion agricultural export industry—a very valuable industry for the state. In the electorate of Gregory alone, the Central Highlands produces agricultural products with a gross value of \$740 million each year. The central west region contributes nearly one quarter of Queensland's total exports. The farmers and graziers I represent certainly have a lot of skin in the game. However, if this bill is passed, not only will it stifle agricultural production in the bush but it will also stifle development in the city. This legislation will affect the budget bottom line in Queensland. Not only will every single Queenslanders end up paying more taxes; it will affect the infrastructure programs across the state—hospitals, schools and roads. They will all take a hit.

I come from agriculture. I think everybody knows that it is very dear to my heart. It has been part of my life and the lives of my father, my grandfather and my great-grandfather—generation after generation. It is something I am passionate about. We should all be passionate about it. I know that the LNP and members on this side of the House are very passionate about agriculture. I take this opportunity to thank the shadow minister for natural resources, the member the Burdekin, and the shadow minister for agriculture, the member for Gympie, who are very keen on making sure this bill is not passed. I call on those opposite and the minister for agriculture to not pass this bill. Having listened to the pleas of hundreds of primary producers around the state who have been kicked down by seven years of relentless drought, I am imploring members of the Labor Party opposite to please not support this bill.

This legislation will stop agriculture in its tracks. It will undermine investment opportunities in our primary industries. It will compromise the significant contribution agriculture makes to the Queensland economy. It will prohibit primary producers from developing and implementing long-term business management plans, undertaking drought preparedness activities and improving productivity. We need a more moderate approach to vegetation management—one which will deliver environmental, social and economic benefits. There is no need to rush this legislation through. We in this House have a responsibility to produce policy outcomes that are in the interests of all Queenslanders. Unfortunately, this bill will not do that.

This bill will lock up 1.7 million hectares of developed farm land with no compensation. It will ban all future agricultural development in Queensland by removing agriculture as a relevant purpose under the Planning Act. This legislation is being introduced to satisfy the green groups, as payback for preferences to Labor in inner-city seats. This legislation is based on politics and politics alone. It is greedy politics by the Labor Party—to save their jobs and not create jobs in agriculture. It is back to the bad old days of the Labor Party when farmers and graziers were demonised for political purposes.

I cannot and will never support the kind of legislation that stops agriculture and the future of farming generations in their tracks. The young kids at today's rally were aged five and six, were dressed in their green shirts and had their boots and hats on. They want to be farmers and graziers. They want to be just like mum and dad. They want to be the next generation on the land. They need every bit of support. This legislation stops them and agriculture in their tracks. I call on members opposite to do the right thing and not support this bill, because it will stop agriculture in its tracks.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.42 pm): It goes without saying that I will be speaking against the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am a Brisbane boy. I was born and raised in Brisbane. I represent an electorate on the edge of Brisbane, just 25 minutes drive from here. I am the first to admit that I do not know the first thing about land management. In fact, I struggle to look after my own lawn, which is on a 600-square-metre block of land. I do understand that this issue is something that my country cousins are very passionate about. I also now understand that it affects not only people in rural and bush areas but also me and my constituents in the south-east corner.

This issue has been debated over the past four or five years. I must admit that initially I was not that engaged with it because I did not fully understand it. I was intrigued by the passion of my colleagues from the country—people like shadow minister Last and the members for Gregory, Warrego, Condamine and Nanango. The new member for Callide has already shown his passion in this area as well. That passion prompted me to find out more about why this issue was so important to them. Over the past two or three years I have gone about trying to educate myself about this issue from a city perspective—as somebody who represents an electorate in the leafy suburbs of Brisbane.



I went to one of the parliamentary inquiry hearings held around the state. In Cairns I attended a rally by people who do not normally protest. Farmers, landowners and graziers are not what you would call regular protestors.

**Mr Janetzki:** They are too busy working.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection. They are angry. They feel threatened. They feel that they are under personal attack and they cannot understand it. Everybody knows people from the country. You have to spend only five minutes with them to realise that they are the salt of the earth, that they are genuine and that they are passionate about the land and about what they do. This issue has riled them more than anything I have seen before.

As I have tried to educate myself more about this—as I went to the parliamentary inquiry and listened to submission after submission, as I went down today to the rally and talked to people, some of whom have travelled literally thousands of miles, taken time away from their properties and taken their kids out of school because this issue is so important to them—I have started to learn a hell of a lot more about the realities and facts of this issue. Earlier the member for Cairns talked about facts and said that he does not want to character assassinate. He will not last long in the Labor Party if he is not an expert in that area!

Let us look at some of the myths. At the moment, broadscale land clearing is not allowed.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection. I have seen on the ABC that photo of two bulldozers with a big chain between them, mowing down trees. You cannot do that now. It is already heavily regulated. You must seek approvals to clear your land. That is quite a rigorous process. It is a good and proper process. We should have processes like this to make sure that our land is cleared appropriately, but this legislation goes a heck of a lot further than that. Let us debunk that myth right at the start.

I also speak now to members of my electorate so that they understand and have some comfort about my position on this bill. Just 13 per cent of Queensland's land mass is currently developed. That includes urban development. Some 87 per cent of our state is undeveloped. I think that is a pretty good ratio. If we go a step further, in 2015-16 vegetation was managed on just 0.23 per cent of Queensland's area—that is less than a quarter of a per cent—with most being regrowth. The myth that is being promoted by the Labor Party about the environmental damage that is being done to our state by farmers, graziers and other primary producers is exactly that: a myth. It needs to be put to bed right here and now.

Honourable members should imagine this if they live in the suburbs of Brisbane. Imagine that someone comes to their property and tells them what they can and cannot do on that property without one ounce of compensation. That is simply not fair in anybody's language.

The other issue that is becoming very evident as well—and I think it has been mentioned already by a couple of speakers—is the mental health impact this is having on our people on the land: the uncertainty of making an investment on a property and then suddenly realising out of the blue when the government changes legislation that they can now no longer get some sort of return on that investment they have made. That is wrong as well. Anybody with a sense of decency or fairness would know that that is not right.


I have talked to some people—and I do not want to mention their names because I would be worried about whether or not they get future funding outside of here—who deal with mental health issues in the outback. They are based in South-East Queensland, but they go there all the time. They said, 'We are here because the people we represent who we deal with who cannot be here today because they have to work their properties begged us to come and to tell you'—me and the other people who took the time to go out there and talk to them at the rally—'the impact this is having on them mentally'. Heaven help me—I do not even want to mention the number of people out in the bush who will be impacted by this. They are already doing it hard; they already have record suicide rates—far higher than those in the city. Again, that is something that really concerns me.

The other thing that I do not think has been mentioned too much is that when I attended the Cairns hearing of the parliamentary inquiry Gerhardt Pearson from the Cape York Institute was there. He made a point which I think was very valid. He said that this legislation is toxic; it is poison for his people. He exposed the hypocrisy of the Labor Party, who crow about giving the Aboriginal people their land back, and he said, 'Now you won't let us use it. Now you won't let us get a return on the land that we fought so hard for.' It was a very, very telling testimony and one that had great impact on many people, and it had great impact on me.

The last thing I want to say on this is that this government has gone through a charade with regards to consultation—a total charade. When we saw the former environment minister and now health minister a couple of months ago, before the consultation, before the bill was introduced, saying, 'We have got the numbers; we'll get it through now,' we know that already there was a predetermined outcome, despite the Premier saying, 'We are going to go out and consult and listen.' They have not listened. How could they sit on that parliamentary committee and not be moved by not only the emotion but the facts put before them? This is a charade.

I am a boy from the city. I will say that I trust farmers: those who have lived on the land for generations, those who derive their income from the land and who are dependent on it for their future. I trust their ability to look after the environment.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (4.53 pm): I appreciate the opportunity to speak in favour of this bill. I would like to highlight the hypocrisy of that side: in one minute we had members on that side of the House saying that we have rushed through this legislation and then in the next minute we had the member for Everton outlining that we have been debating this bill for years. It is very clear that the Palaszczuk government introduced this government legislation in the previous parliament. We were very clear during the election campaign that we were going to introduce this legislation. We have introduced it and we are debating it today again because we know that it is the right thing to do.

I rise to speak in favour of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The objects of this bill are to amend the Vegetation Management Act, Planning Act, Planning Regulation and Water Act to reinstate responsible land-clearing laws in Queensland. The purpose of this bill gives effect to providing consistent protection to regrowth vegetation near watercourses in all Great Barrier Reef catchments and reintroducing key provisions in the Water Act requiring landholders to obtain riverine protection permits for clearing vegetation in a watercourse. These amendments build upon our record and commitment in protecting Queensland's biodiversity and our state's greatest natural asset, the Great Barrier Reef, and delivers what we promised: introducing legislation to protect remnant and high conservation value regrowth vegetation.

The Newman government's changes to the Vegetation Management Act enabled tree clearing on a reckless scale. The Statewide Land Cover and Trees Study report for 2015-16 identified that the total statewide woody vegetation clearing rate was approximately 395,000 hectares per year. This is 97,000 hectares per year higher than the 2014-15 vegetation clearing rate. These excessive clearing laws have quadrupled since the member for Nanango and the LNP tore up Labor's sensible laws. Clearing in Queensland is now at a rate of a thousand football fields every day thanks to the LNP.

The Newman government's amendments were branded the biggest roll back of environmental protection in Australia's history by the World Wildlife Fund Australia and recognised as a concern to the health of the Great Barrier Reef by UNESCO. We know that these weak laws are threatening Queensland's biodiversity, damaging the Great Barrier Reef and impeding upon our efforts in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Labor has vowed to repeal the Newman government's reckless position on tree clearing. The Palaszczuk government has made every effort to consult on these laws with industry and environmental stakeholders whilst maintaining a firm position that the science is extremely clear. This reckless land clearing is a threat to our state's biodiversity and great asset, the reef.

Despite the fearmongering and rhetoric being peddled by the LNP, the simple fact is that the agriculture industry thrived under the decade of Labor's tree-clearing laws, growing by more than \$2 billion in sector profitability during that period, which shows that we can get the balance right between agriculture and our environment. I am proud to support the Palaszczuk government's legislation that aligns with our position in relation to vegetation management clearly outlined in our commitments during the 2015 state election campaign. As a natural wonder of the world and UNESCO World Heritage site, the Great Barrier Reef is our state's greatest natural tourism advantage and a major economic driver for our coastal communities. Supporting almost 60,000 direct and indirect jobs, the Great Barrier Reef is a major contributor to our tourism industry and state economy, contributing more than \$5.5 billion to our national GDP.

As a member of generation Y, I believe in my peers being able to experience the richness of the Great Barrier Reef as well as future generations. My generation is concerned about climate change. We need to act before it is too late. We know that one of the biggest threats towards the Great Barrier Reef is climate change. I urge that side of the chamber to think about the future generations and the effects that widescale land-clearing laws have on our environment and the sort of Queensland that we want to leave behind for future generations.

As Assistant Minister for Tourism Industry Development, I know the importance of creating jobs for young Queenslanders and backing an industry which will support our future. As an emerging pillar of our state economy, tourism is worth \$25 billion to Queensland. That supports one in every 10 jobs. That is why I stand with the Palaszczuk government backing policies that protect our natural assets that are driving opportunities and jobs in the tourism sector. We know that the Great Barrier Reef is a living, breathing example of people wanting to experience natural environments and wonders that are crucial to cherish for future generations.


That is why the Palaszczuk government's ecotourism plan aims to strike the right balance in protecting our environment and ensuring tourists from interstate and abroad can appreciate the beauty that Queensland has to offer. Alongside our commitment to protecting our natural environment and the Great Barrier Reef for future generations, it is our priority to ensure that Queenslanders can capitalise on opportunities evident in the clean and renewable energy sector. Like the tourism sector, clean energy is affording Queenslanders with a wealth of job opportunities.

It beggars belief that the federal LNP wanted to make an announcement about saving the reef on the weekend—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member, you have actually used unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Ms SCANLON:** I withdraw. Now they are trying to prevent laws that stop run-off into the reef. I am proud to be a part of a government that is committed to protecting the Great Barrier Reef and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, making Queensland the leading clean energy state by achieving a renewable energy target by 50 per cent by 2030 and embracing clean energy jobs.

I call on the LNP to support this legislation, protect our biodiversity and back Queensland's economic future to support the jobs of tomorrow in exciting new industries. The science is very clear and we must act now. If we fail, we are failing Queensland's future generations. I am proud to support the Palaszczuk government's legislation, which was arrived at after consultation with Queensland environmental and industry groups. This legislation clearly aligns with our 2015 state election commitments, protects the environment and invests in opportunities for future generations of Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (5.00 pm): The Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is a direct attack on the rights and interests of rural people in Queensland. The Land Title Act clearly gives total and absolute security and tenure and absolute ownership rights to the holder of freehold title. Any reservations or interests in a lot that accrue to the benefit of other persons, including the state, must be registered in the land titles register and duly noted on the freehold certificate of title. The object of the Land Title Act is to consolidate and reform the law regarding the registration of freehold land interests in freehold land and in particular to define the rights of persons with an interest in the regulation of freehold land.

The application of the revised Vegetation Management Act over freehold land has the potential to cause substantial economic burdens through the direct loss of productivity and ensuing loss of productive potential that is granted to freehold title holders throughout the state. Amending the proposed section of the vegetation act will remove all elements of doubt surrounding the legality of the act's application on freehold land and remove any liability by the state for compensation for loss of production on freehold tenure. Freehold title has granted absolute security of tenure and absolute ownership rights to the holder of freehold title. These are the rights that should be upheld by any government that wishes to be regarded as the government of the people. For thousands of years people have fought over property rights and certain freedoms. Australian soldiers are still giving their lives today to defend these rights. As stated by Justice Mason in the High Court of Australia—

If the courts of common law do not uphold the rights of individuals by granting effective remedies, they invite anarchy, for nothing breeds social disorder as quickly as the sense of injustice which is apt to be generated by the unlawful invasion of a person's rights, particularly when the invader is a government official. The appellant is entitled to have his right of property vindicated by a substantial award of damages.

Dan McDonald states in his submission that this bill is an absolute violation of justice and that, as evident in the explanatory notes, the writers of the bill openly acknowledge that this bill does not comply with the Legislative Standards Act 1992. Socialist ideals or otherwise, there is no lawfully justifiable excuse for any bill to proceed when it is noncompliant with the Legislative Standards Act.

Fundamental principles of real property law are embedded in the Australian Constitution, the Property Law Act 1974, the Land Act 1994 and the Land Title Act 1994. The *Land Title Practice Manual* is given statutory recognition by section 9A of the Land Title Act. The *Land Title Practice Manual* provides the following description of freehold land—

Land is any part of the earth's surface which can be owned as property, and everything annexed to it, whether by nature or by the hand of man.

It further states—

Land tenure is the means of identifying who has the right to use and occupy land in accordance with the varying degrees of ownership.


Security of tenure is a term which is commonly used to differentiate between the 'value' of certain tenures. For example, freehold is considered a more 'secure' and valuable tenure than State leasehold.

...

Outright freehold title is where the land has been alienated from the State and the ownership rests with the individual owner for an estate in fee simple. This simply means that the State has no right or claim to the land and, should the State require the land, it must acquire it from the owner either by negotiation or by resumption and payment of compensation. However, with very few exceptions, all minerals and petroleum are reserved to the State. These reservations were extended to include quarry material as from 31 December 1991.

The most offensive provision in this entire bill is without doubt clause 4, which seeks to amend section 19O. This provision seeks to remove the rights over the property which reside in the registered name of the owner's title and place those rights in the hand of the minister. This is undeniably unlawful. It is then asserted that the right to the effective use and benefit of the landholder's private property will then be allowed or denied at the sole discretion of that minister. Such a position not only clearly constitutes the taking of that property in a manner inconsistent with the fundamental principles of property law but also clearly constitutes the crime of trespass. It is worth noting that the violation of justice that is embodied in this bill only arises as a direct result of the failure of the government to comply with the fundamental principles that are legislated within the Legislative Standards Act 1992.

I drove 3,500 kilometres across the breadth of Queensland to attend vegetation management hearings in Rockhampton, Cloncurry and Charleville. With the exception of committee members, there was nobody present from the government who pushed this legislation. They are not interested in the views of rural people, the true conservationists. Their arrogance is monumental. This bill is not about achieving environmental outcomes: it is about appeasing Green ideology so the Labor Party can remain in power. This morning hundreds of people gathered at the gates of Parliament House asking to be heard by the government which is advocating this bill; however, they were ignored. This was a most shameful act of treachery by a government that claims to support farmers. I do not support this bill in any way, shape or form.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (5.07 pm): I rise today to speak to this legislation as an MP from an urban area which covers approximately five suburbs and takes approximately 10 minutes to traverse by car. This ease of travel is something that my regional colleagues can only dream of. In fact, I believe that it takes my good friend the member for Callide a few hours of driving just to get to his office from home. The closest thing to agricultural land in the area that I represent is likely my plot at the Labrador community garden, where I proudly serve as the vice-president—although admittedly recently I have not tended to it as much as I probably should have.

Not having my constituents directly impacted by changes to vegetation management means that I have to take the word of my regional colleagues and the immense amount of feedback they have received from their constituents. My uncle, Paul Edwards, works the land at my grandfather's gorgeous Kalbar property Yellunga. I will say that I was thoroughly disappointed he did not bring his tractor to the rally this morning as he joked he would over the weekend. Regardless, I asked him what he thought of the laws and in his usual succinct manner he said, 'No good.'

Many other members in this House will see just how disillusioned people are with politics. The flawed and hastily conducted consultation on this bill is certainly something that would have added to that for the predominantly regional communities which have been impacted by these changes. On the other hand, it is extraordinary to hear that over 1,000 people attended the public hearings and over 13,000 submissions were received by the committee—the largest ever received for any inquiry of the Queensland parliament—most speaking against the legislation. It is great to see that so many people were involved in the process, and it is a testament to the great passion people have about these changes. Having hundreds of them outside this place this morning bringing their bush concerns to the big smoke also shows just how important this bill is to their lives and livelihoods.

One of the most ridiculous parts of this legislation is the intention to make every applicant wanting to take control of thickening vegetation to apply for a development approval under the department of state development. One issue highlighted at the Charleville hearing spoke of thinning 400 hectares of a 10,000-hectare property incurring a cost of \$3,000 for submitting the required development application. This morning we heard about the proposed removal of the ability to clear for irrigated high-value agriculture, something that is already highly regulated. This will have to go through the same DA process.


In the last four and a bit years since the LNP's common-sense legislation, only 5,608 hectares or 0.0039 per cent of the area used for agriculture or 0.003 per cent of the total land area of our state has been approved to clear under these regulations. Furthermore, 76 per cent of these were for 30 hectares or less. These are clearly small, highly productive patches of land. The whole point of this is to give farmers flexibility to allow them to have better environmental outcomes, to adapt to a changing climate and to assist in the profitability of their operations. Farmers know just how rare and valuable prime agricultural land is. They are true environmentalists. It is an insult to portray them as the villains. Their land is their life and, as such, they care for it.

This is an attack by Labor on what it perceives as an easy target. There is only one farmer for every 277 Queenslanders—less than half of one per cent of our population. They more than pull their weight, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs. In fact, Queensland is responsible for a quarter of our nation's agricultural output. I was astounded to see that the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy had not undertaken any modelling in relation to the effect this bill will have on agricultural production and that it does not intend to. How can it not consider the costs of this on agricultural production and on our rural communities? What we do know is that two-thirds of the vegetation management carried out in recent years has been to control regrowth and other standard farm maintenance tasks.

Other concerns with the bill do not relate to this industry. As a young person, one aspect of this legislation that concerns me is the potential impact it may have on housing affordability. This has been outlined by the Property Council of Australia in its submission to the committee. It flags the potential implications of vegetation being mapped as a matter of local environmental significance to local government planning schemes. The examples were given of Brisbane City Council, which generally includes regrowth in its biodiversity overlay general ecological significance areas, and Logan City Council, where offsets are required depending on the type of vegetation and the manner of the clearing. This mapping and how it relates to planning schemes, in its opinion, will significantly impact the extent of development that can be achieved in urban areas. It also flagged that any developments that do occur will do so at an increased cost.

The Urban Development Institute of Australia also stated in its submission that the amendments impact the ability of its members to plan, design and deliver appropriate, diverse and affordable housing for Queenslanders—exactly what many young people are crying out for. Changing the definition of 'regrowth' will lock away significant amounts of land. Strict environmental controls and planning requirements already exist and the changes in this bill will give uncertainty to the urban property market in the south-east. We do not want to see future developments across Queensland impeded in this way.

People want to live here and they want to live in the south-east. Hundreds of thousands of people will move here and be born here over the coming decades, and who can blame them? We need to make sure that this bill does not make the affordable housing that is so desperately needed harder for them to obtain. I hope that I have added to the concerns of other speakers to illustrate the impact that these laws will have. They mean more than just a potential increase in the price of smashed avo on toast from one of Chirn Park's fabulous cafes, although this is a very important consideration.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I want to begin by thanking my fellow members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: the chair, the member for Bancroft; the deputy chair, the member for Condamine; the member for Bundaberg; the member for Mount Ommaney; and the member for Buderim, even though he did not acknowledge me in his speech. I also want to thank the committee secretariat, the Hansard reporters as well as all of those people and groups who made submissions to the committee.

Many of the submitters were firm in their views about the bill—both for and against—but they were always polite and articulate to the committee. I also want to acknowledge those people who travelled long distances to attend our committee hearings, and I thank them for doing so. I also want to thank the various advocacy groups that made submissions to the committee including AgForce, the

Environmental Defenders Office, Canegrowers, World Wildlife Fund, Queensland Law Society, Greenpeace, Growcom, Queensland Conservation Council, Queensland Farmers' Federation and the Wilderness Society. In total, the committee received over 13,000 submissions, conducted eight public hearings right across the state and heard from almost 130 witnesses.

When on 8 March 2018 the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy introduced the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 he honoured a commitment made at the last election by the Labor government to reinstate nation-leading tree-clearing laws in Queensland. This election commitment was outlined in the Labor Party 2017 policy document *Saving habitat, protecting wildlife and restoring land: ending broadscale tree clearing in Queensland (again)*.

Like all Labor candidates in the 93 Queensland electorates across Queensland, prior to the 2017 state election I made a commitment that if elected as the state member for Ipswich West I would support the reintroduction of vegetation management laws that would reduce tree-felling rates in Queensland. This bill delivers on that election commitment made by me. However, the Palaszczuk government's election commitment goes back even further to the state election held on 31 January 2015. As the minister said in his introductory speech—

The Labor government has a long and proud history of delivering nation-leading reforms in vegetation management, dating back to the introduction of the original vegetation management laws in 1999. It was a Labor government that 14 years ago put an end to broadscale clearing of remnant vegetation here in Queensland. Those reforms delivered the largest single reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in Australia's history and allowed the Howard government to tell the Australian people that we had met our international commitments under the Kyoto protocol.

These good works made by successive Labor governments were brought undone by the Newman-Nicholls government that was elected in 2012. The slash-and-burn mentality of the LNP government set Queensland back 15 years. Under its watch, tree-clearing rates in Queensland escalated to unprecedented levels. The Statewide Landcover and Trees Study, SLATS, report released in November 2015 showed that the rate of clearing of woody vegetation increased from 78,000 hectares per year since 2009-10 to about 296,000 hectares per year in 2013-14, an increase of over 300 per cent. In turn, this has increased carbon emission rates and risks to the Great Barrier Reef from sediment and pollutant run-off.

Vegetation clearing also has serious impacts on wildlife, waterways and wetlands such as when vegetation is cleared for purposes of development, mining or agriculture. Clearing, along with other pressures like excessive fertiliser use, has had serious impacts on water quality in the Great Barrier Reef. The bill before the House proposes to, amongst other things, reregulate clearing of high-value regrowth native vegetation on freehold and Indigenous land. High-value regrowth will be redefined as mature native regrowth that has not been cleared for 15 years.

The bill proposes to restore a responsible vegetation management framework that takes seriously the challenge of protecting the environment and the health of the Great Barrier Reef as well as reducing carbon emissions while still allowing landholders to manage their land. In 2015 the Australian and Queensland governments developed the Reef 2050 Long-Term Sustainability Plan to reverse the decline of the health of the Great Barrier Reef. The Queensland government subsequently made a commitment to reduce Queensland's carbon emissions by reinstating nation-leading vegetation protection laws that were repealed by the Newman-Nicholls government and to reintroduce riverine protection permits to guard against excessive clearing of riverine vegetation.

Reversing the decline of the reef's health is supported by maintaining vegetation cover in the Great Barrier Reef catchments. The bill prohibits the clearing of high-value agricultural land and irrigated high-value agricultural land, reinstates protections for high-value regrowth to freehold and Indigenous lands and extends the existing protections of regrowth vegetation in watercourses for the Burnett-Mary, eastern Cape York and Fitzroy Great Barrier Reef catchments.

Report No. 6 of the 56th Parliament by the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee made eight recommendations. Recommendation 1 was that the bill be passed. I fully support all of those recommendations.

In closing, as Seqwater said in its submission—

These new protections will serve to protect important vegetation along watercourses, in particular the mid-Brisbane River, which is the conduit for 40% of the SEQ water supply. Such vegetation is essential to protect source water quality, by stabilising stream banks, filtering overland flow and preventing the transport and delivery of sediment and nutrients downstream.

I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.21 pm): I rise to oppose the bill. Today, we have heard about the impacts that this bill will have on rural and regional communities. We saw the faces of the people outside this building—not just the graziers but also the small business owners and the kids who want a future.

I am from a town where agriculture is everything. Without agriculture, my little home town of Ingham would not exist. I cannot for one moment imagine what a state without such communities would be like. I am not going to base my argument on those things. I am not going to base my argument on my pedigree of growing up on a farm. I have seen my dad be an extremely sustainable farmer. He reduced his chemical usage and fertiliser usage as he was told to. He would clear and leave wildlife corridors. My wife and I own a farm and only half of it is used for production. The other half has creeks, rivers and trees. There is a stone hut on the property that was built nearly a century ago from stone sourced on that property.

I am not going to debate the fact that, in the past few weeks, this bill has been tabled and we have reached the point at which we are at today. We heard members such as the member for Condamine talk about the miles he travelled to hear stories from people who probably today feel like they have not been listened to. There were agricultural groups that were not at the table. As the member for Buderim did a great job in revealing during the committee hearings, there was no modelling on the impacts of the bill. Today, the environment minister all but said that we still need to ground truth things like SLATS.


Instead, I will talk about what I regard as a common-sense suggestion that was put forward by the shadow minister. I understand that, as the member for Ipswich West said, this is something that the government wants to do and wants to achieve. To my mind, what the member for Burdekin has put forward would enable every person in this parliament and, more importantly, people in those regional communities to get something out of what we are debating. It is far from perfect, but, to my mind, the member for Burdekin has suggested some great changes to the bill that do not undermine one thing that the government is trying to do.

The member for Burdekin has made suggestions such as ensuring that officers do not have the right to walk onto a property without a warrant. That is just the rule of law. The member for Burdekin has also suggested allowing a deemed approval to ensure that, if somebody is in the right, they cannot be denied a legal right by a stalling process. The member for Burdekin has also suggested amending the definition of 'high-value regrowth' where people would effectively be penalised because they have not been able to clear owing to not having the financial capacity because of drought or because their property is large enough that they are able to manage it over a longer cycle than what the legislation seeks to put in place. They are good compromises.

In his excellent contribution to this debate the member for Buderim urged the Labor members of the committee—the members for Ipswich West, Bancroft and Mount Ommaney—to cross the floor. That would be lovely, but I understand that agriculture and property rights in agricultural communities are probably not at the forefront of the minds of those three members. They should be for other members, particularly the member representing our most northern area, the member for Cook.

In her maiden speech—an excellent contribution in this place—the member for Cook spoke of her proud association with her people and what she wanted to achieve in this place. She was quoted in her local newspaper as saying that her intention was to stand up and fight for people, to give a voice to those who do not have a voice and to be a passionate advocate for regional and remote communities. I say to the member for Cook that this is her opportunity. The communities in her electorate more than any other, her people in her electorate more than any other, need sensible laws to enable a balance to be struck, because to give with one hand and then not allow those people to be able to make a living on their land is not giving at all.

I conclude my contribution by going back to where I began. Today, we saw what this bill means to a group of people who have probably never been in a protest in their life, but they turned up today because it meant something to them. They turned up because they feel that not just their rights and not just their investment, but their communities are also worth fighting for. In politics, there is always an ability to strike a compromise. The member for Burdekin has put forward that ability. In doing so, we have an opportunity to restore the faith in this place. This government said that it was prepared to listen to submissions that were put forward. Those submissions have led to these good suggestions being proposed and they have the potential to make this bill good legislation. In its current form, I cannot support the bill.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.28 pm): I also rise to oppose the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Here we go again with the Labor Party rolling out its ideological—

**Mr Costigan:** Warlords.

**Mr HART:** I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday—warlords. The members opposite have an ideological feeling about what they should do because they made a promise at an election to garner Greens preferences. That is what this bill is all about—Greens preferences. Those members opposite do not care one iota about our farmers. It might be news to those opposite that milk, meat and cheese do not come from Coles; they come from a farm.

It is grown by our farmers. If we do not treat these people with the respect that they deserve that could cease and we will all have a massive problem. I do not know about those opposite, but I cannot live without my cheese, butter or milk. I might be from a city electorate, but my family had a dairy farm in southern New South Wales. They loved their land. They took care of their land. They knew exactly what they were doing. They knew exactly what they could do to their land to make it the most productive it could be. They are the sorts of farmers that we need; they are the sorts of farmers that we have.

Today a thousand-odd farmers from all over Queensland came to Parliament House. I spoke to a gentleman who had driven 10 hours overnight to get here. He was that passionate about having his voice heard by those members opposite in this argument. It was most disrespectful that those opposite did not bother to go out and talk to those farmers, especially the Premier who did not bother to go out and talk to those farmers. She was specifically invited. We raised it during question time. We asked her to please go out and talk to those farmers. That did not happen.

The committee process in this place is a good process. When it works it works well. In this case the committee process was an absolutely farce. We had six members of this parliament on that committee. From the other side we had the member for Bancroft. I hardly think there is too much farming in the member for Bancroft's electorate. Maybe he knows a little bit about farming. I would like to think that the member for Bancroft went to these hearings with an open mind, but I suspect it was completely closed. We also had on the committee the member for Ipswich West. I know there are farms in Ipswich West. I know the member for Ipswich West has an open mind most of the time. I am rather surprised that he is going to vote with the Labor Party. I am very disappointed in the member for Ipswich West. Then we have the member for Mount Ommaney. There are no farms there and she does not care.

There were about 14,000 submissions to the committee. That has to be one of the biggest bundle of submissions that has ever been put into a committee. That has to be kept in perspective. There were 773 actual submissions and there were over 13,100 form submissions. People were keen enough to put something in. Unfortunately what happens with these form submissions is you are a member of a group somewhere, they send you an email and they say please forward this email, it might have some effect. All these submissions came from the Environmental Defenders Office, the World Wildlife Fund, the Queensland Conservation Council, the Wilderness Society and Greenpeace. That is pretty much the 13,000. There were a couple from a few farmers. There were eight from some landholders in North Queensland and seven from Middlemount. Most of the submissions came from the green groups that I mentioned.

I congratulate the committee for going to Rockhampton, Townsville, Cloncurry, Longreach, Charleville and Cairns and listening to the people there. I had a look through the report because I thought I might pull out a couple of things that some of the people had to say at the committee hearings. I came across one that I thought was well worth reading into the record in its entirety because I think it says everything more eloquently than I was going to say it. This is from a Mr MacDonnell. He was obviously under a bit of time pressure at the meeting in Cairns—

Mr Chairman, I appreciate that we are over time, but I am going to completely reject your suggestion that we have only 10 minutes. I have driven 1,400 kilometres, I have spent six hours on a plane and I am going to spend two nights sleeping in a swag beside my car before I get home. I have not come this far—because it is so important to my family—to be rushed in a few minutes.

...

Together with my wife Pauline and my three children we run Brigalow Beef Company. Our operation spreads across two properties in Central Queensland: 31,500 hectares of land is under management, 65 per cent of which is considered remnant.

...

Under the proposed legislation we will only be able to manage timber thickening on 400 hectares, even though I have 11,500 hectares of freehold land that suffers from timber thickening. That is a 96.5 per cent reduction in the area that I can manage for production.




That is pretty telling, is it not? Are those opposite listening? I hope they are. He continues—

The Labor Party has a parliamentary majority. There is no upper house. Without consultation, an essentially urban focused government could pass legislation without understanding the true consequences. That is essentially why I went to such an effort to be here today, because I want to look you, Jim and Jess, firmly in the eye. After this legislation goes through some of your colleagues will be able to hide behind ignorance, they will say they did not know the full implications on regional Australia—and how could they, they are from urban electorates—but yourselves, you have travelled to all the regions, you have heard the heartfelt evidence given by people. You will have seen people sit in front of you and cry, you will have seen such emotions.

If this process is a sham, like many of us are meant to believe, and that when you leave here you go back, issue a divided report down party lines and the Labor Party goes ahead and moves the legislation, the only hope for the people who have presented before you and the people sitting in this room today and sitting beside me, our only hope is in Chris, Jim and Jess. Our hope is that you show some intestinal fortitude and that you stand up to the powers that be in your party and your Deputy Premier and let her know, given what you have heard, you could not in all conscience vote for this legislation.

What came out of that? Not too much, I have to say. Those members of the Labor Party with the casting vote by their chair moved only those eight recommendations. As we have heard from many members here tonight, those eight recommendations basically just fix the changes to the legislation that this bill puts in place.

I support our shadow minister and the very sensible amendments he will make later. If those opposite really care about our farmers and where their next carton of milk will come from they will support our shadow minister. I will not be holding my breath, because I do not think that will help at all. I implore those opposite to take this opportunity to do the sensible thing and support these amendments or do not support the bill at all. I will not be supporting it.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (5.38 pm): I absolutely will be supporting the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is the fourth time that I will be making a contribution to a debate on vegetation management laws in Queensland. Each and every time I have argued for the long-term sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef and, indeed, the agricultural sector. If we look at agricultural sector growth in Queensland, since 2006 gross total value of production has almost doubled. Let us start dealing in some facts.

I understand how important agriculture is to Queensland. In fact, as the innovation minister I can inform the House that we are working very hard to grow innovation in the agricultural sector because we know that it is a key part of our growth. That is exactly why I am very proud that in each and every single year that I have served in this parliament as a member of a Labor government the agricultural sector has grown. When I was the environment minister, I had the privilege of working very closely with a number of key bodies representing the sectors, including AgForce and Canegrowers. We know that you can drive much better value from your land when you have good management practices in place.

However, we also know about the science that the Canberra colleagues of those opposite went to UNESCO and said would make a difference in maintaining the Great Barrier Reef for future generations, including not only my children but also my children's children. As I have said four times previously in this parliament, I want to be on the right side of history on this one. I want to be able to look my children and my grandchildren in the eye and say, 'When mum was in parliament, she fought for the Great Barrier Reef. I did not do it for green preferences; I did it because I believe the responsibility sits on our shoulders to fight for the long-term sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef.'

Those opposite want to argue the science as they did last time, the time before, the time before that and originally in 1999 when we first introduced this groundbreaking legislation. The only reason Australia met its Kyoto targets is the reforms put through the Queensland parliament. Their conservative federal government's science says that one of the major impacts to the long-term sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef is land use. Increasing sediment loads can have far-reaching effects on reef values, including increased turbidity smothering seagrasses and corals. Pesticides from run-off have been detected in inshore areas of the World Heritage area and are of concern as they can have a negative impact on the Great Barrier Reef. The science has been conclusive for the best part of two decades now. Quite frankly, we have no choice but to stand up for the Great Barrier Reef.

Normally I would not say this, but I am so glad that I heard the speech of the shadow minister for tourism, the member for Broadwater. What was his contribution? He spoke for 10 minutes, but not once did he talk about the 65,000 tourism jobs that rely on the Great Barrier Reef or the more than \$6 billion contributed to the Queensland economy. The shadow minister for tourism did not have the guts, the gumption or the heart to talk about the Great Barrier Reef and the impacts on it. Do members know why? He is not a silly man; he knows that land-use practices have a direct impact on the Great Barrier Reef. Once again, just as he chickened out of Townsville, he chickened out of having a real debate about the Great Barrier Reef.

I thank and commend my colleagues who brought this legislation to the parliament. I understand there are mixed views on the legislation, but the idea that they did not see it coming or that it has come as a surprise or a shock when this has been Labor Party policy since 1999 is ridiculous. We made it very clear that if the Palaszczuk government were re-elected our No. 1 priority would be passing the vegetation management bill. I am so proud that this week we will deliver on our election commitment. The member for Burleigh stood there and said, 'They're only doing it because it is an election commitment.' Of course! That comes from a man who went to the 2012 election promising to reduce electricity prices, but then increasing them by 43 per cent. We know what they say about election commitments.

Members opposite talked about people crying. Do they want me to talk about the people from my community who came to me crying because they had lost their jobs, even after Campbell Newman was videoed standing with the union and saying that their jobs were safe? I still see people who are crying.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order. The minister is speaking to matters that are not contained in the long title of the bill. I ask that she be drawn back to the long title of the bill.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I remind the minister of the long title of the bill and ask her to keep her contribution relevant.

**Ms JONES:** When speaking about this bill, the member for Burleigh talked about people crying. We know people were crying because of the broken promises of the LNP government.

Today is a very proud day for Queensland as we deliver the regulation required to meet our commitments to the international community to protect a World Heritage listed area of our state. We are the custodians of the Great Barrier Reef. The responsibility is on every single one of us, particularly us as legislators in this state, to deliver the legislation that will protect the Great Barrier Reef for future generations. Unlike the shadow minister who embarrassingly squibbed it tonight, as the tourism minister I will fight for the 65,000 tourism jobs that rely on the Great Barrier Reef, generating income for Queensland communities right along our coastline. I will be going around telling every single one of those tourism operators who rely on the Great Barrier Reef that their shadow minister for tourism did not even talk about the Great Barrier Reef in a debate on a bill designed to protect the very reef that they rely on for their income. It was a gutless and shameful act.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! The minister is using unparliamentary language. I ask her to withdraw.

**Ms JONES:** I withdraw. In conclusion, I will debunk the myths peddled in recent times. First, this was very clearly an election commitment. We said that if we were re-elected we would do this as a matter of urgency and, as always, the Premier is delivering on her election commitment. Secondly, this has been Labor Party policy since 1999. We are the side of politics that will always fight for the Great Barrier Reef and deliver environmental protection to ensure that we have biodiversity for generations to come. Finally, this is legislation that works. It is legislation that has the backing of the international community, which is relying on our government, in partnership with the Australian government, to deliver protection to the reef for future generations. It is a proud day for the Labor Party, as it is the party that will deliver that protection.

 **Mr PERRETT (Gympie—LNP) (5.47 pm):** I rise to speak to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This is about property rights, investment confidence in our agricultural industries, trust between farmers and the government, the future of food and fibre production, and empowering Indigenous Australians to break out of poverty. It is also about the political appeasement of the activist green movement, which is driving this government and holding rural industries hostage.

The consultation process of the Labor dominated committee was purely about going through the motions. It was disingenuous. It has been a charade. The last time Labor tried to railroad this legislation through the parliament, giving only 19 working days, including the Easter and school holiday period, for consideration, as committee deputy chair I secured extra hearings. This time, the consultation period included Easter and the school holidays, the distraction of the Commonwealth Games and major flooding in North Queensland.

In the Gympie and Wide Bay regions, landowners were callously snubbed, despite the addition of the Burnett and Mary rivers to category R. Not one hearing was held in my region. Other than Brisbane, the only place south of Rockhampton where meetings were held was Charleville, which is 720 kilometres west of Gympie. The expansion of category R to the Mary and Burnett river catchments

makes it virtually impossible to conduct some activities and restricts vegetation control within 50 metres of a defined or mapped watercourse, which means gullies and small drainage features. It was cowardly and gutless not to schedule hearings in the region.

The last time, Minister Lynham promised meaningful consultation, saying—

I have repeatedly said that a key element of achieving this commitment will be through thorough consultation with a range of stakeholders.

Those were shallow words, because this time the minister did not even pretend to consult. Clearly, 'consultation' means meetings behind closed doors.

It is no secret that many of the activists groups that have the ear of the government are anti agriculture, anti resources and anti economic development. They have a grip on the government's policy agenda and this is payback time. Pandering to them for preference deals is in Labor's DNA. Gerhardt Pearson of the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation said—

The Beattie ... and the Bligh government were influenced by the environmental movement in South-East Queensland more than 15 years ago ... just for votes.

...

This pervasive green movement that is very influential, particularly on your party, Mr Chairman, provokes down south a snuffing out of the opportunity of remote communities, white and black families ... this law may very well pass, it is poison law ... It is bad law.

This bill will hold back Indigenous people from developing agricultural businesses to satisfy the environmental wishes of city dwellers and appease their consciences. There is a complete disconnect.

The current laws are fair and reasonable. They maintain strong protection for native vegetation while providing sensible opportunities for landholders to grow their businesses. As true environmentalists and responsible custodians of the land, it makes good business sense to let farmers sustainably manage their land. Grant Maudsley of AgForce said—

... rather than being 100 per cent focussed on ecology the whole time, we have to do both. We have to grow food for this state and we have to look after the environment. We accept that and we are proud to do that.

Prohibiting clearing for high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture will restrict supply, drive up food prices, stifle regional development, make it harder for farmers to grow their businesses, accelerate the urban drift of young rural and stagnate local jobs. Short-term sugar-hit job creation programs cannot beat supporting successful local industries to guarantee the economic and social health of rural and regional centres.

Minister Lynham's claims that there is plenty of land available for the agricultural sector is dismissive and ignorant. This legislation will pit one industry against another because it effectively caps areas for agricultural production. We all know that the sugar industry needs to expand its areas to keep the mills viable. If we lose a cane farm to mangoes, for example, the sector faces a slow death. It is concerning that no modelling has been undertaken on the effects this will have on agricultural production, on meeting our future food and fibre needs and on the social and financial effects on rural and regional communities.

Last time, Minister Lynham said the changes would not be rushed because they are 'integral to landholders, farmers and their business and the jobs they support across the state'. How was it integral then but not now? The department of natural resources has not even bothered to look into the impact. When asked if they intended to do anything the answer was no. If the department has not undertaken economic modelling, what and where is the advice provided by the department of agriculture?

Dr Bill Burrows, a former DAF principal scientist, said—

... it will not pay to thin thickening grazed woodlands based on eucalypt tree cover ... One may well ask whether the bill's advisers on eucalypt thinning were ignorant of DAF's long-term clearing/thinning experiments in the grazed woodlands ...

The minister for agriculture clearly hears nothing, sees nothing and says nothing. A day before the election last year, the minister signed a Wilderness Society pledge to introduce tougher vegetation laws within 100 days. The minister had signed away any commitment to stand up for the agricultural sector. This same minister clearly does not want farmers and graziers to raise their concerns because in the debate on this bill two years ago he said—

I believe one month is adequate enough time to get out there and talk to stakeholders ...

In fact, where was the minister this morning when hundreds of farmers were on parliament's doorstep? The industry's key representative in cabinet is missing.

The government was more than willing to commission a study into the social and economic impact on the smaller scale compulsory Defence land acquisition last year, yet the same courtesy is not extended to farmers and graziers and their reliant rural and regional communities. There is no regulatory impact statement with these misguided laws. They are bad for the more than 26,000 farm businesses directly employing 60,000 people and supporting more than 315,000 jobs throughout the agricultural supply change.

The deafening silence from Minister Furner shows that nothing has changed from when the previous minister, the former member for Bundaberg, abandoned the sector. This is the biggest threat to Queensland farmers since the Gillard government smashed the cattle export trade in 2011. That was when Minister Furner sat in the federal parliament and stood by as his Queensland Labor Senate mate Joe Ludwig decimated the live cattle trade in 2011, which cost the Australian beef industry billions of dollars. It was purely designed to appeal to animal welfare activists. Hypocrisy has no limits when I read the minister's recent comments that he is looking forward to Beef Week. That catastrophic decision sent many primary producers broke—and some are still recovering. Minister Furner said nothing then and says nothing now.


Who in the government has been a rural landholder—someone who has derived their sole income from the land? If one has been one they know that those who support this legislation are environmental vandals. Using unqualified clearing rates from the SLATS report to spin a political agenda is disingenuous. The government knows this because briefing notes, released under the right to information laws, reveal that ministers were told by departmental officials in 2016 that we had accurate information on vegetation losses but no accurate information on vegetation gains. There is no reference to thickening rates, which means the reports are not a true reflection of Queensland's vegetation.

The government's voodoo science will restrict landholders from managing and controlling environmental weeds. The expansion to the one-size-fits-all approach to category R regulation will accelerate erosion. Noxious and environmental weeds are out of control in many parts of the state and in my region. Letting trees grow uncontrolled either side of mapped drainage features will create a haven for cat's claw creeper to grow and smother the very trees they are trying to save. The native grasses will thin, allowing GRT and lantana to dominate and choke the remaining grasses. The government has no idea what it is doing. This is environmental vandalism at its worst.

Infestations of giant rat's-tail grass, lantana and Noogoora burr will take over if people cannot mechanically remove them, increasing the use of pesticides. The environmental legacy will be devastating. It will make the minister an environmental vandal at the altar of political expediency.

The vegetation mapping is unreliable and has continually proven to be wrong. Scientist Dan Tindall admitted the mapping could not differentiate woody weeds, such as lantana and prickly acacia, saying that these non-native woody weeds were mapped as some sort of vegetation resource, if not as endangered regrowth. It is environmental vandalism to not manage those weeds, but the maps say the farmers cannot.

The measures in the bill are extensive and aggressive, will apply a brake on investment and job creation, will shut down farm management and adversely impact the agricultural, resource and property industries. For these reasons the bill should be rejected.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (5.57 pm): I rise to speak to the bill before the House today. It has been hard to sit here and listen to some of the garbage spoken by those across the chamber. The minister who spoke previously talked about the farmers causing the reef to die. What did they do under the Bligh government? They pumped out Gladstone Harbour onto the seabed and let it run down. They killed the fishing industry. One of my old friends up there went broke.

Where were all their greenie mates then? They were nowhere to be seen. I had to write a letter to the minister of the day outlining that they had a duty of care to the fishermen. One of them ended up in hospital. There were dead dolphins and turtles on Fraser Island. No greenies popped up then. Where were they? They were nowhere to be seen.

It has been hard to sit here and listen to those opposite say that the farmers are destroying the Barrier Reef. I have friends who were in Hawaii recently on a cruise ship. They said that Australians were telling American tourists not to bother to come to see the reef because it is dying.

**Mr Costigan:** How's that for an advert?

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, how is that for an advert? Are we going to continue to bag the Barrier Reef and tell the world that it is dying?

**Mr Stevens:** For political purposes.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, for political purposes, blaming the farmers for everything that is happening. It does not work. It is ridiculous. My son is a diver. He takes trips around the world. He takes people to Indonesia because he cannot get them to come to see the Barrier Reef.

**Mr Pegg:** That's not very patriotic.

**Mr SORENSEN:** It is not, is it, but that is your fault for condemning the Barrier Reef all the time.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Member for Hervey Bay, it will help the debate if you speak through the chair.

**Mr SORENSEN:** In our community we hear so much about bullying, so how do we allow this to happen to our farmers? This government is bullying farmers because it puts politics before people.

**Mr Stevens:** And always will.

**Mr SORENSEN:** And always will. I take that interjection. Queensland farmer groups and representative organisations were not consulted about this amendment bill. It was rammed through within about a month if you take out all the weekends and the Easter holidays. The government ran away from public input and, in particular, input from the professionals in primary industries. They have walked away from those people. The committee process was a complete sham. They were not going to listen to anybody. They have the numbers. They do not care. They think there are only a few farmers out there, so what?

Everybody in Queensland should be concerned about the government's tactics of riding roughshod over people. I know what it is to be a farmer. I was a farmer in my younger days. Farmers have enough pressure without this government pitching untruths about how their property should be managed. Farmers already know how to manage their properties. Best practice in farming management comes from farmers. The farming community get together and have field days and things like that to make sure they follow best practice.

This government prefers to buy food from overseas companies, just like the big supermarkets. There was a report on ABC Rural the other day about supermarkets not purchasing saffron from Australian producers but buying it from Iran and Spain. Jobs go overseas. Why?

**Ms Grace:** Because they cannot supply it here.

**Mr SORENSEN:** No. There are other negative impacts. These laws will affect our Indigenous people. The last time this legislation was before the House the committee held a hearing in Cairns. The Indigenous people wanted to clear some land to grow fodder for cattle. One of the reasons they wanted to do that was that they did not want to risk importing other species of weeds. If they could grow fodder up there, they would not import weeds. As members know, there are certain weeds that come into Australia now from overseas such as rat's-tail grass and things like that. We cannot afford to have those weeds introduced in the cape. If they have drought-stricken cattle, what do they do if they cannot grow their own fodder? They have to import fodder and then risk importing foreign weeds. Then they have to use chemicals to get rid of the weeds. There are environmental concerns with that. We do not live in utopia. We have to control pests.


At the moment—and this is what really hurts me—the farmers around my area have a problem with a disease that is affecting their grass, especially the bluegrass. There was a program on the ABC the other day about it. What did the department say to one of those farmers? 'We don't have the money to do anything about it.' Some of the farmers around my area were worried about being quarantined if they spoke to the media. They were frightened of being quarantined if they went to the media and said, 'We have a problem here.' This is like a mealy bug or a fungus that is killing the grass. One of the farmers in the Wide Bay area has lost over \$100,000 and nobody wants to talk about it. Our shadow minister has tried to make representations to the minister, but I do not see much in the way of results. Whether it is a foreign fungus or not, we do not know. People out there are really worried about this, but nobody wants to do anything. Why? Is it because they do not have any funds?

I am sick and tired of people bagging our Barrier Reef to the point where we have Australian tourists going overseas telling people that the reef is dying or dead and not to go there. We have Australians actually sitting on a cruise ship telling American tourists to not bother coming. There was an article in the paper recently talking about Queensland not getting its fair share of tourism and we wonder why. If our own people are telling others that the reef is dying, what do we expect?

It has been hard for me to sit here today and listen to those opposite. I was born on a farm, so it has been hard having to listen to some of the garbage dribbling out of people's mouths. It was

unbelievable. When people grow up on a farm and live in the bush, they respect the environment. To treat farmers with such a lack of respect—I know the feeling that people get when governments do not take any notice of them and then we wonder why people have no faith in governments. It is because the government runs right over the top of them—‘We don’t need them. We can buy our food from overseas. We can import it. We don’t need farmers.’ That is the feeling people get.

Having been a councillor, I know that this is going to mean thousands of dollars in development fees. I have been through it all. You have to have a study into this and that. You have to have a study into the black-breasted button quail and into the blue butterflies and all the rest of it. It is going to cost heaps. Some people will walk away from those developments. That is from the development council. It is going to happen. When I see some of the stupidity that is going on, it is unbelievable.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.07 pm): I rise today as a member of the committee to speak to the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I firstly want to place on the record my thanks to the parliamentary committee secretariat who worked tirelessly on the bill. They did a fantastic job looking after this particular piece of legislation. I am sure that all of the members of the committee would join me in thanking them. I have immense respect for the hard work they put into drafting this report. I also want to thank all of the committee members—the member for Bundaberg, the member for Buderim, the member for Condamine, the member for Ipswich West and me, as the lone female—who participated in the hearings and, of course, the member for Bancroft, who did a wonderful job in pulling together the report and also in facilitating and running the many hearings where we heard from witnesses.

As we have heard today, over the last few months our committee travelled to Cloncurry, Longreach and Rockhampton, among many other places, and we heard from hundreds of witnesses. On our tour we had the opportunity to hear firsthand from many landholders and environmental groups. I want to thank the many, many witnesses who travelled hours and hours—some travelled across flooded roads—to share their stories and views with us. Hearing from witnesses is an essential part of the committee’s work and, in addition to the many submissions and departmental briefings, they formed the basis for the final recommendations in our report.

These hearings are instrumental in putting a face and a voice to the submissions. They are an opportunity to hear firsthand the core concerns of landholders and environmental advocates. During these hearings some key themes emerged. I will speak to these.

One of the key concerns raised by landholders was around fodder harvesting for mulga. Many farmers raised concerns that they may be unable to harvest mulga in times of drought, both declared drought and undeclared drought. One of the recommendations our committee report made was to ensure farmers can continue to use the mulga crop to feed their stock during times of drought, both declared and undeclared. Indeed, over the past six years our farmers have seen plenty of that. This approach is supported by the Queensland Herbarium, which agrees that our farmers are doing it tough and they should not have to wait until their land is drought declared to use mulga to feed their stock. I am pleased that this legislation gets the balance right and allows farmers to continue harvesting mulga for fodder while also moving to put an end to broadscale land clearing.

Another outcome we saw was a commitment to continue to improve the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study data. Our SLATS data is generally recognised as being amongst the best in the world but, in keeping with the Palaszczuk government’s commitment to innovation, we will not stand still. We will continue to improve our data collection methods and ensure that our data continues to be among world’s best practice. We have released the first major dataset from SLATS since 2013 and are committed to continually improving this data to ensure the clearest possible picture of the state of Queensland.

Our committee also recommended an increase in extension staff in regional Queensland. It was saddening to hear from many farmers during our hearings that they were also impacted by Newman’s Public Service cuts in the form of natural resources departmental staff. This means that our farmers can no longer access departmental staff when they need them. We recognise that it is critical that our farmers and landholders have access to quick—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Those on my left.


**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Manager of Opposition Business, I warn you now.

**Ms PUGH:** We on this side of the House recognise that it is critical that our farmers and landholders have access to quick and easy information when they need it. I hope that members on all sides of the House can agree on just how important it is that all Queenslanders have access to information when they need it.

To further scaffold this commitment to implementing additional staff, our committee's report also recommended that we have a concerted education campaign around the implementation and implications of the bill as there has been a large amount of misinformation around what this bill will mean for our farmers.

It is disappointing that many of the contributions from those opposite today have not directly addressed the legislation. I intend to respect the efforts of the over 120 people who appeared as witnesses by speaking to the legislation and the committee's recommendations. Witnesses from all sides agree that the vast majority of farmers are doing the right thing. However, the dramatic increase in large-scale clearing we have seen since Newman reversed his 2012 election commitment not to change the legislation cannot stand. I went to the last election with a clear commitment to support the Palaszczuk government's legislation to end broadscale land clearing. I am proud to be part of the committee that has been responsible for consulting widely on this legislation, and the recommendations by the committee reflect our commitment to get the balance right. I am proud to support this bill. I commend it to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.13 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. Later some people from the minor parties will speak to this bill. Those minor parties will have members believe that they are against this legislation. I do not doubt their genuineness in their heart of being against this legislation, but I am very concerned about their actions at the last election. You will find how-to-vote cards that clearly elected many members on the other side, delivering a majority to this Labor government which allows them to move this legislation because, in the words of the minister, 'we have the numbers'. The reason they have the numbers—

**Mr Knuth** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** I can hear the member for Hill interjecting. I have seen the how-to-vote cards. The how-to-vote cards clearly indicate that they would prefer a Labor candidate over an LNP candidate. He may well say that on the other side there was a reverse position, and I take that. The facts are that at least 50 per cent of the time the Katter party supported Labor candidates. Those Labor candidates are now members in this place and are using their numbers to pass this legislation. The Katter party has to take responsibility for that.

More important than the Katter party, this morning I saw Pauline out there saying to the farmers, 'This is terrible.' I have seen their how-to-vote cards. At least the Katter party had a reverse position on one side for half the time. That was not the case for One Nation. In many seats in Brisbane One Nation caused the outcome to be a Labor member. Now that we have that Labor Party member in parliament, Labor has the numbers to pass this legislation. Those minor parties need to look in the mirror and ask themselves, 'How deeply do I believe in this legislation?'

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Member for Toowoomba North, in terms of your contribution, I remind you of the long title of the bill and I ask you to address the bill more specifically.

**Mr WATTS:** I will now do that, now that I have clearly made the point that the minor parties betrayed the farmers.

The Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 is very important from many perspectives. One of those perspectives—something that is fundamental to the functioning of our democracy—is property rights. This House must recognise people's property rights. As soon as this House starts taking away people's property rights, we find ourselves in a position that is much more akin to Russia or China, where the government will simply ride roughshod over people and take away what was previously marked out as theirs. If you live in Brisbane and you have a title deed over your house—there is a peg on each corner—it says that property belongs to you and you have the right to build a house and an extension and to do this and that. These people—

**Mr Dick:** In accordance with the law.

**Mr WATTS:** That is right: it is a law. Absolutely it is a law.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members will cease interjecting.

**Mr WATTS:** The minister is in here changing the law and stealing people's property rights. People have made an investment in a property—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr WATTS:** Does the minister deny they have invested in a property?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, if you could take your seat.

**Mr WATTS:** I am more than happy to take the interjection from the minister. Clearly what has happened—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, I am on my feet. I warn you and I ask you to pay attention to the chair and to the debate in the House. I remind the minister that when a member has the call and I ask him to cease interjecting he should cease interjecting or he will find himself warned as well.

**Mr WATTS:** I apologise, Mr Deputy Speaker. I saw the other Deputy Speaker coming up and I thought you were getting up for him to take the chair. I apologise. I have great respect for the chair.

We are talking about the property rights of farmers. Say someone gets their money and they invest in property. Let us assume that they have invested in some mulga scrub so they can drought proof their property in the future, so they have some feed for their stock in drought times. That is a good investment to make, particularly if they need to keep the breeding herd alive as the tough times come. This is exactly the story as it was told to me this morning out the front as I was talking to a farmer. They have invested their money in some mulga scrub ready for them to be able to manage the regrowth of that mulga, which takes about seven years for them to be able to clear and use it as feedstock in a drought. This legislation will stop them being able to do that. This legislation will see animals starve. This legislation will devalue their block.

Let us look at what happens when we devalue people's property. The rates base for local governments is fundamentally founded on the valuation of a property. If a person's property is less productive, the valuation of their property must go down. When the valuation of a property goes down, the council's rate base will go down. When the council's rate base goes down, its roads will start to go to rack and ruin and many other things will start to fall apart in that area. The simple facts are that if people in country areas cannot make a profit from their investment they will no longer be able to stay there. They will either go broke—and we heard earlier about some mental health issues that are developing in the bush where people have been put under pressure by drought. Let us hope that nobody goes down those lines. I ask everybody to seek serious mental help if they have any of those feelings.

The simple facts are that if people's investment goes down in value and they cannot stay there and make a living they will have to leave the area. When they leave the area, they will remove their income along with the opportunity for other people in the area by taking their family with them and no longer buying their groceries or going to the shops in that area. There are lots of potential bad outcomes here. The time in which to speak is very short. I apologise because a lot of other issues need to be brought up, and I know other members have brought them up also.


One of the things that struck me is that if we manage vegetation at the rate we did in 2016, which was 0.23 per cent of the Queensland land mass, most of which was regrowth, it will take 410 years to get back to the beginning. Even if it were being managed on that time scale—and I am no expert; I am certainly not someone who knows how quickly trees grow—the fact of the matter is we are talking about 410 years. If land is managed at the rate it was in 2015-16, it seems like that would be long enough for some new trees to grow. In terms of the clearing not being sustainable, that does not make sense because the tree will have grown, seeded, died, grown again, seeded again. The cycle will have been completed three, four or five times before it is time to clear that block even if it is managed at the rate that it was in 2015-16. It is crazy to start saying, 'No, we're going to end up with some barren desert.' What we will end up with is really poor biodiversity because we will have woody weeds popping up all over the place.

We have heard others talk about how absolutely useless the science is in measuring this growth. I can tell honourable members a brief story from some time ago when the same department was using satellite imaging to talk about someone affecting vegetation in their area. It was a vineyard that this person's grandfather had planted. Guess what happens to a vineyard in winter? That is right; the leaves fall off the trees. There was no clearing, but the department was convinced he had cleared the land, but he had not. The simple facts are that this needs to be ground truth science. If the government says that this area contains these kinds of vegetation, then go and have a look. If it is full of prickly acacia, lantana and other woody weeds, let them clear it because we do not need that stuff.



The last thing I want to mention very briefly is that police have less access to criminal activity on private land. They have to go through a more rigorous process to go and check out the bikies and other people who might have committed serious offences such as sexual offences. They have to go and get a warrant to go onto that land. This legislation will give officers of the department the ability to just wander on and wander off people's land without any real checks and balances in place. I think that is a very dangerous precedent. Not only are we stealing their property rights; we are stealing their investment, we are stealing the land off their children and its productive nature and we are also treating them like criminals, and farmers are not criminals. They feed us. Cha Cha Char steaks come from the Darling Downs. I recommend that members take a trip out west, have a look at what they are talking about and consider rejecting this bill.

*(Time expired)*

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise to address the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As I have previously said in this place during the 55th Parliament, Queensland farmers take a responsible attitude and approach to vegetation management. In fact, farmers can always be trusted to be some of our best environmentalists, given the right assistance and appropriate incentives within a sustainable legislative framework. It can be said that the responsible care and due diligence with respect to the land of which farmers are custodians means it is in their interests to ensure the protection and long-term sustainability of such lands that they own and manage. Unfortunately, the Palaszczuk Labor government instead chooses to demonise our farmers and graziers to acquiesce to an extreme left-wing Greens agenda, and we have seen this time and time again under this socialist Palaszczuk Labor government.

The then Beattie Labor government's Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Management Act 2004 was a blatant anti-farming policy and served only to attack landholders' rights. The current legislation before us goes far beyond what even Beattie could have dreamed of and is one of the most anti-farmer, anti-agriculture and anti-rural documents ever presented to the Queensland parliament. The Labor Party does not care about our farmers and our graziers.

I have worked across Queensland in many rural communities, particularly in south-west Queensland. As a doctor and as a former president of the Rural Doctors Association of Queensland, I have had many patients who are rural landholders and farmers and I have seen their families as well. I saw them again outside today. The significant distress that this legislation is causing many of those people in their communities—mental health concerns—is unacceptable. To see those families today, to see those farmers and to have visited many communities in recent times and also in my previous role working in those rural communities, it is truly heartbreaking to hear their stories and the distress that they are feeling at this time.

It is for those reasons that the Liberal National Party opposition will not be supporting the passage of the bill before the House, as noted by the non-government members of the committee in their statement of reservation. The Palaszczuk Labor government has shown an extreme lack of any meaningful consultation with industry groups and the broader community on whom these laws will ultimately directly impact. Labor has failed to complete a cost analysis or undertake a regulatory impact statement on the economic and social impacts with respect to rural and regional Queensland.

High-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture are already highly regulated areas of the current bill. The non-government members of the committee found the justification used for the removal of clearing for high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture from the act both ill informed and inconclusive. The inclusion of regrowth that has not been cleared for 15 years will secure over 862,506 hectares of land into the high-value regrowth classification, subsequently having a significant economic effect on regional and rural communities, which again seems to be of little consequence to this government.

The non-government members of the committee also highlighted: firstly, the exclusion of area management plans that provide an alternative approval system for vegetation clearing in particular regional ecosystems; secondly, the proposed accepted development vegetation clearing code—managing fodder harvesting for drought management as being unworkable, particularly with respect to the mulga lands; thirdly, the proposed accepted development clearing code for managing thickened vegetation being impractical and unworkable; fourthly, the expanded powers of entry that give the department powers that even the police do not have as being unfair; and, finally, the proven inaccuracy of the mapping. By the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study's own admission, there is no mapping of regrowth. This legislation has been introduced using SLATS data, which fails to be based upon science. To not base this legislation on science fails to tell the whole story around vegetation in Queensland.

The LNP argues that the following amendments should be made: firstly, regarding a deemed approval clause for clearing applications under the development application, if a decision for a vegetation-clearing application is not made within 20 business days, the application is taken to have been approved and the department will have only one extension opportunity of 10 business days; secondly, amend the definition of high-value regrowth vegetation from an area that has not been cleared—other than for relevant clearing activities—for at least 15 years to an area that has not been cleared for 29 years; and also install a development assessment process for vegetation management to support and maintain high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture.

Definitions for high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture can be modelled off the definitions in the current act for high-value agriculture and irrigated high-value agriculture clearing. Omitting the reference to clearing, for example, high-value agriculture is to establish, cultivate and harvest crops but not grazing activities or plantation forestry. Irrigated high-value agriculture is to establish, cultivate and harvest crops or pasture other than plantation forestry that will be supplied with water by artificial means.

At this point I would like to make particular mention of the lack of sufficient consultation with agricultural groups, Indigenous groups, individual local councils and the Local Government Association of Queensland. The Queensland Farmers' Federation and the LGAQ called for a regulatory impact statement process prior to approval of the bill to enable 'a comprehensive understanding of the environmental, social and economic impacts across all Queensland communities.' This was, however, denied by the government's own department.

AgForce opposes the removal of thinning self-assessable codes, the removal of area management plans and the changes to fodder harvesting self-assessable codes. The Queensland Farmers' Federation opposes the removal of IHVA clearing provisions and notes that only 5,608 hectares have been approved to be cleared since IHVA was brought in. To put that into context, as a percentage of the total land area used for agriculture that is 0.0039 of one per cent.

The Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation both said that the new unfair laws will perpetuate Aboriginal social and economic disadvantage across Cape York. The hidden impact of these laws means that Indigenous Queenslanders, particularly in the cape, will miss out on economic and employment opportunities. In essence, these laws are bad for Indigenous Queenslanders as it will deny yet another generation the right to develop and prosper from their lands. Mr Gerhardt Pearson from the Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation stated—


The first economic opportunity that hit the soil of Cape York was in 1873—145 years ago. For most of that time, our people, the Indigenous people of Cape York, did not participate. We were removed from our country. It has been only since 1992 that we have gained back land. There is a range of titles: Native title, pastoral leases, Aboriginal freehold, reserves, former reserves. We have only just started to sniff and enjoy the piece of dirt under our feet again in this short period and, essentially, this law takes that back off us.

I always hear Labor and the Greens talking about the importance of reconciliation, but when it comes to practical measures to achieve this outcome Labor and the Greens seem to fail time and time again.

In 2013, while in government, the LNP introduced sensible vegetation management laws and practices. Graziers and farmers were able to maintain fence lines and pull fodder to feed stock. With respect to vegetation management, Queensland's food production and supply and our state's agricultural exports will be affected by Labor's draconian proposals. Labor's proposed legislation will destroy jobs, destroy rural families and destroy our agricultural sector. Labor's laws will put the economic prosperity of Queensland at risk. As such, the myopic approach being taken by the Palaszczuk Labor government will have significant economic ramifications for many communities across Queensland. These changes will see rural and regional communities directly impacted by increased levels of stress, anxiety, depression, family dysfunction, social isolation, marriage breakdown and suicide. This follows years of insidious drought that has slowly drained farmers and communities of their livelihoods.

Recently as I travelled around Queensland in my shadow ministerial role I heard firsthand how these laws will adversely affect families and their communities. This treatment of our regional and rural communities by the Palaszczuk Labor government is plainly callous. I urge all members of this House to vote against Labor's proposed vegetation management legislation as well as the Palaszczuk Labor government's Marxist ideological and socialist political agenda. What is needed in Queensland is a government that can balance competing interests, a government that can drive and create economic prosperity, and a government that can create real jobs whilst delivering sustainable environmental

protection. This is what the Liberal National Party will always be able to achieve when in government, unlike those members opposite. I do not support this bill, and in doing so I encourage all members to read the LNP's statement of reservation with respect to this legislation.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.34 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. In 2015 during the Queensland state election the Queensland government made a commitment to protect the environment through vegetation management legislation, and we made this commitment again during the 2017 election. We know that regrowth vegetation provides a range of environmental and ecological values. It assists in managing erosion and reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients entering waterways; it provides shelter for domestic stock; and it provides habitat, including food resources for fauna, which also assists in managing pests. Vegetation provides habitat through the provision of hollow logs and debris on the ground. Regrowth can also be valuable in providing wildlife corridors within landscapes. That is why it is important to recognise the value of regrowth in this bill.

During the last parliament the Palaszczuk government introduced a bill to do just this, and we know that it was defeated in the House. During that time there was comprehensive consultation as there was with the current bill. During the time of the last government it was a pleasure for me to be on the Agriculture and Environment Committee, and I would like to remind members of some of the information we gathered from Australian professors who are world leaders in their areas of environmental expertise.

Professor Bunn, Professor Catterall, Associate Professor Maron, Professor Possingham and Dr Reside represented a group of 28 senior environmental scientists from institutions across Queensland. They collectively represented a group of 14 professors, three ARC laureate fellows and directors of eight research institute centres that are focused on environmental science around terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems, carbon accounting, remote sensing, and conservation and natural resource management. The newly formed committee responsible for the current bill also travelled and listened to many stakeholders, and there is a lot of collective information about this bill here in the House. Associate Professor Maron reported to the former committee—

The aim of the Vegetation Management Act is to protect native vegetation biodiversity, manage ecosystem processes, avoid land degradation and reduce carbon emissions, but instead the current version of the act is seeing over 100,000 hectares of native ecosystems being cleared each year including endangered ecosystems. Run-off from terrestrial land uses is reducing water quality and increasing the stress on the Great Barrier Reef. Biodiversity is continuing to decline and opportunities for the recovery of threatened species and ecosystems are being foreclosed.

We can do better than this. We need to leave our land in good shape for future generations. I see that the current committee heard from landholders who believe it is better to have grass on waterways instead of trees to reduce run-off and erosion. The same arguments were put to the professors. Professor Bunn stated—

... in nearly every catchment that you look at, whether it is the Gulf of Carpentaria or from the Normanby all the way down to Brisbane, most of the sediment that gets into the channel, channel network and then out to the coastal zone comes from the channel network ... 'most' is greater than 90-95 per cent of the sediment load.

Professor Bunn continued—

... when you clear vegetation you increase amount of surface run-off that gets concentrated down into the channel network and increase the power of the stream to cause erosion. That is exacerbated when the vegetation clearing goes into those gully networks and the riparian zones as well. Not only do you decrease what they call the roughness, the slowing down of water in those landscapes, but you also reduce the resistance of the ground to erosion from that event. Those two things work in unison to create a greater erosion potential. What we see then is the generation of increased channel erosion, further concentration of the flow into the channel network ... slope gullies or alluvial gullies. Certainly when you look at where the big erosion problems are across the Queensland coast, these are usually in places where those events, gullying and channel erosion, have occurred.

Dr Reside reported that we also need to look after the biodiversity of our ecosystems. Queensland has the largest number of endemic animals of any state in Australia—animals found nowhere else on the planet. We are still finding and describing new species every year, species that have never been seen before. These are geckos, frogs, skinks and lizards. Most of these are in North Queensland. This remarkable biodiversity is under threat from tree clearing. Dr Reside did not say to stop clearing all land but to regulate and protect biodiversity. Some of these species are found only on private land. We need intact ecosystems—the systems that are most likely to withstand climate change. Intact ecosystems are essential. Professor Possingham said—

It is a fact that extinction rates are 100 to 1,000 times the background rate. Triple-bottom-line sustainable eco-systems would mean that ultimately everything should be stable—the economy, social issues and the environment—and they should all be going flat or up ... At the moment we are losing on the biodiversity side. The fact is that we are losing species at 100 to 1,000 times the normal historical rates.

Mr Kealley, the Senior Manager of Environment and Sustainability for Canegrowers, also appeared before the last committee and quoted Paul Schembri when he said—

... the drivers of the environment and economics are aligned. You cannot have a successful business or profitable business unless you manage those two things effectively. The cane industry has its Smartcane BMP, best management practice program.

Recently I was talking to a miller from North Queensland who reported that only about 15 per cent of his growers had obtained their BMP. To get the balance right, there needs to be more done to assist farmers to engage in BMP for sustainable cropping, which will also improve their crop output. We can do this and have more output rather than clearing more land. In the long run farming cannot be sustainable without viable ecosystems. It was the compelling science that convinced me that this legislation on tree clearing needs to be amended. Important decisions about the environment must be made on fact, not on matters of the heart. That is why I commend this bill to the House.

**Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (6.43 pm): It is interesting to hear the member for Mackay reading out a departmental speech, because she has never really understood a lot of the things that occur with vegetation management.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Warrego is telling lies there. It is not a departmental speech.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): First of all, the member needs to withdraw that statement about an accusation of lying. It is unparliamentary.

**Mrs GILBERT:** The member—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** First of all, member for Mackay, I am instructing you to withdraw that statement of calling the member a liar.

**Mrs GILBERT:** Yes; I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It seems that you find the member's comments offensive and would ask for them to be withdrawn. Is that your point of order?

**Mrs GILBERT:** I do, yes.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member has taken offence and I would ask for the comments to be withdrawn.

**Ms LEAHY:** I withdraw. I rise to oppose the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill—this legislation—will cause catastrophic economic impacts on the hardworking food and fibre producers and the rural and regional communities in my electorate. This is a massive assault on property rights and it is a totally unprovoked attack on farmers and their families. This legislation is precisely what happens when Labor is aided into majority government with the help of One Nation and Katter party preferences. Even in my own seat of Warrego, the Katter party preferred the ALP ahead of the LNP. Farmers cannot trust the minor parties: they say one thing in the bush and they do the opposite when it comes to preferences.

It is so true: no farmers, no food, and food should not be political. These farmers pass on their farms from one generation to the next. Today outside the House we saw Jacqui and Cameron Tickell with their children and Jacqui's dad. That is three generations of one family involved in agriculture, and very successfully I might add. I want to speak of another child in my electorate—Hailey Chiconi from Taylor's Plains north of Mungallala. Hailey is four years old. In her submission to the parliamentary committee she said—

We want to stop the bad people from stopping us from feeding the cows.

When a four-year-old understands the impact of this legislation, it beggars belief that those members opposite do not understand it. This legislation will force up the cost of food—food like blueberries, melons, table grapes, onions, garlic and carrots that are all grown in my electorate—and God knows what it will do to the future of the price of a steak or a leg of lamb. It is not just my electorate that will be affected. One only has to read the Property Council or UDIA submissions to this bill to see what they say when they talk about how it will affect housing affordability in the south-east corner and the impact that it will have on lending decisions made by financial institutions. What do members opposite say to their constituents about how this legislation will impact on housing affordability and the costs of living?

Today Scott and Adma Sargood travelled down to Brisbane to join their fellow farmers outside this House, and I want to thank Scott and Adma for what they are doing to provide facts and education about vegetation management and for the efforts that they have put in in circulating the parliamentary

petition which seriously protests against these laws. Over 15,000 people signed the petition initiated by Scott Sargood and it was tabled in the House today. That petition was only out for 77 days, therefore 200 people per day made their protest by signing that petition. They are angry. They feel betrayed by this Labor government.

They are already battling the drought and some have been battling that drought for over five years, and some have been using mulga for that length of time just to keep their stock alive and now this—restrictions and more paperwork while they are trying to feed their stock. They are trying to manage their property and landscape during a drought. I have no doubt we will see additional pressure on families brought about by this legislation. Some, unfortunately, will not be able to cope. There will be more mental health issues and I urge anyone who feels that they are not coping well because of this legislation to seek help and I urge them to talk to their local general practitioner.

These petitioners—the 15,000 people—are asking for workable and practical vegetation management laws to ensure that land management is undertaken in a properly regulated manner that also protects the biodiversity of the region. Many of them use mulga not just during the drought time; they use mulga as part of their yearly management plan. Mulga is like a haystack. It is not something where farmers just go along and decide, 'We're going to clear this.' It is actually part of their ongoing property management plan. There is one thing for sure: those people are certainly not getting anything workable or practical from this legislation when it comes to the management of those mulga lands, which, I might add, have not really had that amount of mulga. The mulga has built up over years and years. The seed bed is quite incredible and has thickened dramatically.

It might be of interest to some of the members opposite to know that, when the Cobb and Co coaches used to go through Charleville, they had to carry hessian because there were not enough large trees for people to go behind to go to the toilet. I will leave it to members' imagination, but in those early years there just were not the trees out there.

I am already aware of reports of families leaving communities such as Charleville because they can see the forthcoming economic impact on local jobs in those towns. Those people have lost confidence in this government. I refer to butchers such as Dunnes Meats in Charleville. I can tell members that Zorro is really worried about the impact that these laws will have on all businesses in the town of Charleville. I share his concerns, because already families have packed up and left. Donna and Laurie Heinemann, who are bakers in Charleville, were here today at the protest. They are really concerned about the impact that these vegetation management laws will have on their business, as are stores such as DJs and Western Rural at Charleville, Midwest Rural at Roma and Wallumbilla and people such as Trevor Mead and the Paulsen brothers who have grocery stores at Quilpie. They and many other small business operators right across South-West Queensland and my electorate are really worried about the future of their communities, because they can see the economic impact coming from this vegetation management legislation.

What did this state Labor government do about the regulatory impact statement—or any economic impact statement? During the committee hearings, after questions were asked by the member for Buderim, we heard that the state Labor government said that it did not have any economic modelling on the impacts of this legislation on the agricultural industry nor would it do any economic modelling in relation to this legislation. What a way to treat a massive industry such as the agricultural industry! How insulting is that! This government has failed to conduct its due diligence. It has not done a regulatory impact statement. When it was asked whether it should do it, it thinks, 'Oh, we couldn't possibly do that. It might lead to additional clearing,' which is a total, absolute load of rubbish.

This government's answer to consultation was an absolute sham. In my electorate we saw that firsthand. That consultation went for seven weeks with Easter in the middle. On the day before Easter, there was a hearing in Charleville. What an insult! Not one hearing was conducted in the Brigalow Belt. Just two hours in Charleville were given for people in the whole of Southern Queensland to put forward their concerns. There were people in Charleville who wanted to speak, but they could not because the committee ran out of time. It was absolutely appalling. Furthermore, the witnesses at that committee hearing gave some very good recommendations about the codes and the economic impact, only to be ignored by the Labor controlled committee. It was absolutely appalling. It was absolutely disgraceful and a disgraceful way to treat my constituents.

How would the members opposite feel if the state government passed legislation with no consultation and went ahead and took out the kitchens in the homes in the suburbs of their electorates and then said, 'Your family can stay living there. They can pay the mortgage, but they can't use the kitchen and we won't compensate you.' That is precisely what this legislation does to my constituents.


It takes away their ability to manage sustainably the vegetation without compensation. It says, 'You can keep paying for the devalued asset.' In fact, this legislation does that to 1.7 million hectares in Queensland with no compensation.

I have been listening to the contributions to this debate by some of those opposite and I have come to the conclusion that they do not know how to use a map and a compass. They also do not know how to read a map, especially when it comes to river catchments. If we follow the arguments put by the members opposite in their contributions about the Great Barrier Reef catchments and that there should be vegetation management restrictions in the reef catchments, then 75 per cent of Queensland should not be subjected to this legislation. Only 25 per cent of Queensland's landmass drains into the Great Barrier Reef. For those members opposite who are challenged by geography, I point out that the other 75 per cent drains to the Murray-Darling Basin, the mighty Eyre catchment and through to the Cooper Creek or gulf catchments.

**An opposition member:** That's irrelevant.

**Ms LEAHY:** I will take that interjection—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.54 pm): As the new member for Lockyer, this is the first bill that I have the opportunity to speak to in this chamber, but I can tell members that it is with mixed emotions. It is fitting that the first bill I speak to is the Vegetation Management and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, as it is something that my rural community is very concerned about, but I am anguished that there seems to be a predetermined outcome.

The Lockyer feeds much of Australia and the world. A recent report from Cardno outlined that the world-class Lockyer farmers produce \$670 million worth of produce. Although my electorate has a significant output in grazing, the largest contribution that my electorate makes is in the category of food for human consumption. This bill is vitally important to those agricultural businesses in my electorate and the over 6,000 people who are directly employed by them in my community.

I thank the members of the committee: the members for Bancroft, Mount Ommaney and Ipswich West, but I would particularly like to thank the members for Condamine, Bundaberg and Buderim for their dissenting report and their huge contribution in understanding the issues and guidance. I commend the shadow minister, the member for Burdekin, for his input into this bill. I would also like to commend the member for Callide, who travelled long distances to personally attend the public forums, as did many other LNP members, to truly listen to and understand the issues.

I am absolutely amazed at the government rushing this bill into this chamber. Not allowing adequate consultation on such an important issue can only be interpreted as arrogance, but the more I see a government that does not want to listen, firstly pushing the report through without extending time frames and then totally ignoring 13,000-odd submissions, I have come to the conclusion that our Queensland community is being hoodwinked by a government that is set on delivering laws based on ideology, not facts and science.

Others have said that this bill is about protecting the environment and the Great Barrier Reef. The LNP is committed to environmental protection and laws to ensure that land clearing is undertaken in a properly regulated manner so that biodiversity is protected along our streams and rivers, particularly in the catchments of the Great Barrier Reef. We do not achieve that by causing fear or angst. I remind this parliament that it was the LNP, when the member for Glass House was the minister for environment, that fought for and protected the reef. It was the LNP that invested in water quality improvements. It was the LNP that implemented best management practices for beef and best management practices for cane. It was the LNP that delivered the healthy harbour report for Gladstone. It was the LNP that led the fight on the eradication of the crown-of-thorns starfish. It was the LNP that canned Labor's crazy plan for a megaport at Abbot Point. That is true investment in protecting our Great Barrier Reef.

The Lockyer state electorate is made up of much of Queensland's high-value agricultural land. Although there are some wonderful natural areas, the reason we are debating this bill is the outlandish claims of massive clearing by our farmers. Those claims made today in this chamber by those opposite that the science is clear are simply not true. The committee discovered that this science is flawed because of the inability of the SLATS to map regrowth or differentiate between the clearing of weeds or invasive species as opposed to native growth.

During a committee hearing on this bill Mr Dan Tindall, the acting science leader for the remote sensing centre, stated in reply to a question regarding regrowth mapping—

The SLATS program has only ever really had a mandate to map clearing up until this point ... I must admit that the mapping of regrowth is a very difficult thing to do. The way that we map clearing with the satellite imagery, there are indices and things like that that help us find those detections. Regrowth is a much more subtle beast in terms of the nuances of it changing over time, as Dr Neldner referred to, in terms of thickening and those sorts of processes. We are starting to think about how we address that and also how we address mapping of woody extent in the state so that we can tell the complete picture.

When quizzed further by the member for Condamine about the ability of the SLATS to differentiate between native and invasive species, Mr Tindall stated—


In terms of SLATS maps, it is non-discriminate in a sense. It is all woody vegetation in the state. In terms of whether we can detect them and separate them, we have done some research on that in the past with our colleagues in Biosecurity Queensland. In some cases, yes, we can do it really well; in some cases, no. Having said that, we did some of that work some years ago and we now have a range of new satellite sensors and technologies at our fingertips. It is just about getting the time and some resources to look into that.

Not even this admission by the government's own scientific adviser is enough to halt the blatant attack on our farmers.

Debate, on motion of Mr McDonald, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT


### Nambour Hospital

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (7.00 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the Nicklin community's concerns about the future of the Nambour Hospital. Since the opening of the great facilities at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital at Birtinya in March 2017, the Nambour Hospital has been on life support. We have gone from 3,000 full-time-equivalent staff to just 1,200-1,800 workers removed from our community, 1,800 people who were adding to our local economy, buying a hamburger or a coffee at a local store, having their cars serviced at a local mechanic while they were at work. The impact on local business has been devastating, with several unable to remain open or viable. There is no indication of how many of these staff will return in the future or when they will return.

Nambour Hospital was reduced from 425 beds to its current capacity of 129 beds. Indications are that this will increase, but to just 250 beds after full redevelopment and that is a loss of over 40 per cent. Nambour and the areas surrounding it are experiencing population increases. A refurbishment of Nambour Hospital should therefore increase its capacity to serve the health needs of our region. It is great that we have the Sunshine Coast University Hospital to provide specialist care that may have previously seen patients transported to Brisbane, but that does not mean that Nambour Hospital should reduce the important service it provides to our community.

Finally, there is very little information available to the public about what is happening at Nambour Hospital. Funding is still being sought, schematic plans have not been released and promised public consultation has not occurred. There is a great deal of angst in the community around the Nambour Hospital and the government needs to urgently address the lack of information, planning and consultation. I call on the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services to urgently hold the promised community consultation to listen to the Nambour community, to inform our community on the future of the Nambour Hospital, to fully fund our hospital refurbishment in the next budget and to deliver a full suite of services in the Nambour Hospital, restoring it to a facility that meets the full needs of our community.

### Fall of Saigon, Commemoration Service

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.03 pm): Yesterday afternoon I was honoured to represent the Palaszczuk government at the Vietnamese commemoration of the fall of Saigon honouring the Australian and Vietnamese soldiers who fought there and the civilians who lost their lives. I want to thank the Queensland chapter of the Vietnamese community in Australia, led by Dr Bui and his truly wonderful team of volunteers, like QI, Bac Lam and Phuong Nguyen.


At the conclusion of the Vietnam War, approximately three million South Vietnamese fled the country. There is no firm figure to account for how many Vietnamese lost their lives when they fled. However, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, up to half a million people

may have died. I must admit that the true scale and horror that the Vietnamese community faced in fleeing was not clear to me until I watched a documentary earlier this year with my Vietnamese community, *Vietnamerica*, which is an eye-opening view into the truly staggering journey that many people have faced to be here today and a must see.

My partner's parents were two such refugees who made this long and perilous journey. Lan and Tan left Vietnam by boat and arrived in Australia with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Everything else they had was taken by pirates at sea. Sadly, they were counted amongst the lucky ones as countless more perished at sea and never arrived at their destination. Nonetheless, they first stayed at the Wacol camps in the electorate of Inala before moving to a home in Durack and then to Sinnamon Park in my electorate of Mount Ommaney, which they call home today. They have worked hard their entire lives, allowing their son and daughter to study at the local Catholic school in Darra, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, both of their children going on to complete tertiary studies. My partner has made his parents very proud in going on to become a doctor.

I have said it before in this place and I will say it again: education has allowed not just my partner but countless other members of my local community to excel in their chosen paths and do our entire community proud. The community of Mount Ommaney is an exceptionally welcoming place and, indeed, our Vietnamese community is so prolific in the Mount Ommaney electorate that the most common last name in both of my state high schools is Nguyen. I am proud to be the local member for such a diverse community and I thank the Vietnamese community for its strong contribution to our local area and for welcoming me as their local member.

### Whitsunday Electorate, Anzac Day

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.06 pm): Anzac Day might have come and gone for another year but we should never forget those who made the ultimate sacrifice in times of war. Personally, it was very different for me this year as I proudly wore a set of replica medals in honour of my cousin, Corporal Noel George Costigan, who served in the Pacific in World War II. His actions led to him being awarded the Military Medal. He then went off to the Korean War, where he was badly wounded. Noel was taken to a US field hospital, then airlifted to Australia. Sadly, he never walked again. He was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life—47 years in a wheelchair when disability services were virtually non-existent.

My late mother, Nola, was actually named after Noel and I also carry his name as Jason Noel Costigan. That is something I am very proud of, given Noel's special place in our community, particularly in Walkerston, the place we call Scrubby, where he was proudly a member of the Walkerston Pleystowe sub-branch of the RSL. May he rest in peace.


This year for Anzac Day I had the great honour of not only wearing those replica medals, thanks to military historian Graham Jackson, but also laying a wreath and speaking at three services, starting with an incredible and moving dawn service on Hamilton Island. Congratulations to Glenn Bourke and the Hammo team for again putting on a wonderful service with the support of the Royal Australian Air Force, local schoolchildren and the wider Hamilton Island community. I joined Mr Bourke in lamenting the loss of Mr Graham Wyatt, who was a regular at these dawn services until his passing some 18 months ago, but I am sure Graham was there in spirit.

After Hammo it was on to the mainland for the parade and main service in Airlie Beach, where the big crowds were treated to a flyover by a RAAF Globemaster. Again, hats off to the RAAF. The service was a huge success largely thanks to the Airlie Beach-Whitsunday sub-branch of the RSL headed by new president Rod Davies, backed up by his predecessor Terry Brown and supported by RSL members such as Bill Rose, Josef Concy and Richard Filewood, just to name a few. I also wish to recognise our Navy and air cadets who participated in the service, bugler Bryce Fraser, Mick Patullo on the bagpipes and Airlie Norton and Jenny Borelini, who gave us a wonderful rendition of the Australian and New Zealand national anthems respectively.

After Airlie it was on to Proserpine, where the Proserpine RSL sub-branch also did a tremendous job. Congratulations to President Jason Raiteri, patron George Nezdelloff and members for another moving service in a town with a very special connection to Gallipoli, for it was in Proserpine, that great sugarmilling town that I represent, where the famous Gallipoli sniper Billy Sing enlisted for World War I. It is my hope that one day we build a special memorial in Proserpine in honour of Billy Sing, just like in Clermont, his birthplace. Lest we forget.



## Anzac Day

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (7.09 pm): Last week in cities and towns around Australia, as well as outposts all over the world, Australians came together and paused to pay tribute, commemorate and give thanks to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice nearly a century ago. Anzac Day is a big day in our house, as both my husband and I served in the Australian Army at home and overseas and have been attending dawn services together for over 20 years, although admittedly these days our marches require a little less Brasso and boot polish than they once did.


Last Wednesday I attended a number of marches and services throughout Logan. At Springwood I was pleased to join our former servicewomen at the head of the parade, as was seen in marches throughout the country. I acknowledge the initiative of the By the Left organisation, which seeks to demythologise the increasing appearance of female veterans in our society. At the Springwood service, retired Major General Low Choy gave a keynote speech in which he charged the young people in attendance with continuing and upholding the traditions not only of the day but also of what the Anzac legend encompasses.

I remember the first time I heard then Brigadier Low Choy speak, which was when he addressed my army recruit course in 1994. He challenged me and my cohort to make a career of service, noting that most uniformed careers last less than seven years. I took him up on that challenge, as did others present that day. The officer cadet who sat next to me on that day, a friend and colleague of over 20 years, also spoke last week at Springwood as the Commanding Officer of 25/49 Royal Queensland Regiment. Also at Springwood I watched my daughter participate in her first-ever Anzac Day march with her Girl Guide unit, which is a proud moment for any mum and one that brought back memories of marching with my Brownie Guide unit way back in the 1980s.

Once again this year's services at Beenleigh were a credit to the Beenleigh and Districts Returned Services League, under the stewardship of President David Draper. The dawn service, gunfire breakfast, march, commemorative service, lunch and the usual activities at the club represent their biggest day of the year and they do not disappoint. The sea of young faces at the dawn and morning services is always a source of pride, with each parade featuring local schoolchildren who were proudly wearing their family medals. I recognise the participation of St Matthew's Catholic Primary School and the Chisholm Catholic College drum line at Springwood, and the Mount Warren Park State School and Beenleigh State High School which supported the services at Beenleigh.

I always look forward to seeing the TS Walrus Australian Navy Cadets, 11 Army Cadet Unit and the Air Force Cadets participating. I see those young people taking up Major General Low Choy's challenge. We look to those young people to carry on the traditions. I look forward to seeing them at future services. Lest we forget.

## Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Athletes


 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.12 pm): This evening I rise to place on the record my congratulations to the athletes from Ninderry and the Sunshine Coast who represented our region, state and country at the recent Commonwealth Games. A record 37 athletes from across the coast represented us with pride and distinction. In fact, if the Sunshine Coast competed as a separate entity we would have come 13th in the overall medal tally, with five gold, five silver and five bronze medals. I acknowledge our local sporting clubs and schools and the coaches who have played a part in the development of the athletes and, importantly, their parents who have no doubt made considerable personal and financial sacrifices to help their kids to follow their dreams and reach their potential. I also acknowledge the ongoing work of the Sunshine Coast Sports Federation and its president, former Olympic boxer Benny Pike. Since its inception 50 years ago that not-for-profit volunteer organisation has helped raise over \$2 million, which has been reinvested in our local athletes and sporting clubs.

At the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, a total of five Sunshine Coast athletes competed. In 2006 in Melbourne we had eight athletes and in 2010 we had nine athletes. In 2014 in Glasgow, our team of 13 athletes, consisting of 11 women, brought home seven gold medals. As I said earlier, at the most recent Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, a team of 37 athletes represented our region.

In particular, I mention former Bli Bli State School student Ashley Fey, who won a silver medal with the Hockeyroos. Bli Bli, in my electorate, is important because it was the home of Queensland's first-ever Commonwealth Games athlete, Jim Achurch, who won a gold medal in the javelin at the 1954 Commonwealth Games in Vancouver. Old newspapers clippings from 1954 talk about the local community uniting to help raise money to send Mr Achurch to Canada. Sixty-four years later, our local

community, led by the Sunshine Coast Sports Federation, is still rallying around our athletes to support them in their sporting endeavours. The Sunshine Coast has come a long way since 1954. Again I thank all the athletes, their support teams, their families and the Sunshine Coast Sports Federation for all the work they do to help our local athletes reach their full potential.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Karawatha Marching Band and Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills**

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (7.14 pm): This evening I rise to speak about some of the local heroes from my electorate who helped make the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games such a fantastic success. Members of the Karawatha Marching Band and the Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills did not compete in any events, but they certainly deserve a gold medal for their efforts in fostering such a wonderful atmosphere at the Commonwealth Games. I am sure many members of this House and, indeed, thousands of games attendees would have heard the Karawatha Marching Band, which performed outside Nerang station and also in Broadbeach for Festival 2018.


I commend all the students from the schools involved—namely, Stretton State College, Kuraby State School, Runcorn Heights State School, Runcorn State High School, Runcorn State School, Calamvale Community College and Rochedale State High School. Students from 16 schools auditioned and students from the above schools were selected. The students had to learn the music they were playing by heart, as there was no sheet music. As one can imagine, that was a huge challenge for the students, but it was a challenge that they were well and truly up to.

Today one of the students who played at the games, Erin Blyth, visited parliament as part of the Stretton State College captains tour. Many people who attended the games have told me how great the Karawatha Marching Band was. I recognise the organisers: my good friend Craig Millar, Shannon Sowden and Alex McKenzie. Following its success at the games, the Karawatha Marching Band has been invited to perform at the Shanghai Tourism Festival in September 2018. I am sure that the good people of Shanghai will have the opportunity to watch and enjoy the music of the Karawatha Marching Band. On 24 May at 6.30 pm, a gala concert will be held at Runcorn State High School involving 550 students from over 50 schools.

This evening, I also recognise my friends from the Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills who worked so hard to clean the athletes' village for the duration of the Commonwealth Games. It can certainly be said that the members of the Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills are not afraid to get their hands dirty. On 16 April I farewelled my friends from the Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills as they left for their final shift. Members of the Sunnybank Hills Rotary Club had cleaned the athletes' village for the previous 14 days, so they were looking forward to a well-earned rest.

In particular, I recognise President Terry Newman, Brett Fraser, Prue Fraser, John Arthur, Joe Forgione, Bill McKenny and Ralph Praeger from the Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills, as well as John Barker from Toowoomba North Rotary Club. For his efforts, we might have to make him an honorary member of the Stretton electorate. Overall, during the Commonwealth Games Rotary raised approximately \$250,000, of which the Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills will receive approximately \$10,400. That is a fantastic result for our local community. I commend all of the local heroes in Stretton, the Karawatha Marching Band and the Rotary Club of Sunnybank Hills for helping to make the Commonwealth Games such a fantastic and wonderful event.

### **Political Donations**

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (7.16 pm): Today I rise to speak about a matter of deep concern in my community and central to the broad perception that our system is broken. In countless conversations while campaigning and since winning the seat of Maiwar, voters have told me that they feel they cannot trust politicians whose overpriced election campaigns are funded by vested interests. Concerns about the corrupting influence of political donations in government decision-making and setting policy are certainly not new and those concerns are particularly salient regarding the motivations of corporate political donors. Individuals or not-for-profit organisations might choose to support one politician or party on the basis of shared values, but for-profit corporations are essentially limited to pursuing a single value. Their stake is profit; their only value is the dollar.

Queenslanders understand this intuitively. They know corporations donate not for the good of us all but on the basis of self-interest. The recent work of the Crime and Corruption Commission and its report on Operation Belcarra acknowledged political donations as a key concern, stating that they increase the risk of corruption.

**Ms LEAHY:** I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I seek your ruling in relation to whether this is anticipating debate on legislation currently before the House.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I have sought advice from the Table Office and it appears that you are straying into areas of bills that are before the House, as well as a PCCC report. I caution you. I find that you will need to change your tack or I will sit you down.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I will turn to some evidence that came from the head of the CCC in a recent parliamentary inquiry.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Again, member, if it actually relates to the bill before the House I caution you not to stray into that area. If you cannot make a contribution that is not related to those matters then I will cease your contribution. If you would like some advice, I am happy to provide that to you.


**Mr BERKMAN:** I would make the point that I am trying to make a broader point about donations made by for-profit corporations as opposed to the specific subject matter of the bill that is before the House at the moment. Indeed, the evidence that I am talking about that was given by the commissioner himself was in relation to developer donations at large. I will quote Mr MacSporran. His evidence was that 'in an ideal world his personal view would be'—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am receiving advice that you are still going to be infringing standing orders by continuing your contribution. It is my understanding you are referring to evidence to the committee which is unable to be spoken to.

**Mr BERKMAN:** I am content to move past anything that relates to the Belcarra bill itself and speak much more broadly about the powers of the government and the opposition as they relate to the PCCC. We know that together the government and the opposition, through the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, could task the CCC to investigate the influence of all political donations across Queensland. I have no doubt that moving beyond just local government and shining a light on the influence of donations at the state level more broadly would find ample justification for broader reform.

This is not a big ask. If Labor and the LNP were serious about tackling corruption rather than pandering to vested interests there would be no hesitation in taking this step. I am tonight calling on the parliament to do so. If it will not, we as a community are left to ask serious questions about what it is our major parties are hiding. What nefarious relationships with political donors are they unwilling to bring into the light of day for real scrutiny? Queenslanders expect leadership from our Premier, our government and the opposition, and it is time that people's expectations were met.

### Beef Australia Expo

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.22 pm): Next week in Rockhampton we will see Australia's most significant agricultural event. We cannot underestimate the importance of the Beef Australia expo to our city and to the Central Queensland region. Rockhampton will welcome beef industry delegates from all over Australia and around the world.

The event continues to grow each time in terms of the numbers of visitors it attracts and the economic activity it generates for Rockhampton and the region. About 90,000 people passed through the gates in 2015. There were 1,100 registered international delegates from over 40 countries and more than 500 trade exhibitors. We are expecting this to increase again this year.


The boost to our local economy is incredible. The hotels and motels will be full and the shops, restaurants and bars enjoy demand like no other. It was estimated that total expenditure by all attendees and exhibitors in 2015 was at least \$74 million. As the local member, I fully appreciate the positive impact the event brings to our city and the region.

I expect that Rockhampton will continue to benefit as we highlight not only our beef but also the many beautiful tourist attractions that we have in our area. Central Queensland businesses have developed and will continue to develop lasting economic relationships around the globe and with other visitors from across Queensland and interstate as a direct result of Rockhampton hosting such an important international expo.

There are hundreds of short-term casual jobs created and supported by Beef Week. That is why I am so proud that the Palaszczuk government is supporting the 2018 event and the beef capital so strongly. The Palaszczuk government will contribute more than a million dollars in cash and in-kind support for this great event. Our in-kind contribution will include awareness programs, a comprehensive program of Department of Agriculture and Fisheries seminars, conferences, property tours, event

biosecurity, advice for exporters and profiles of the latest technological advancements and improvements from research undertaken by this government. I thank all those involved in organising Beef Week. The Rockhampton community is eager to welcome people to the region.

### **Southern Downs Regional Council, Deamalgamation**

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (7.25 pm): I rise in the House tonight to talk about the issue of deamalgamation in the local government area of Southern Downs, which is a large council in my electorate of Southern Downs. In 2008 the Stanthorpe shire council and the Warwick shire council were merged. At the time it was a deeply unpopular event. I remember as the ADC to the Governor travelling around the state at that time finding many communities unhappy about the amalgamation of their shires. The community of Stanthorpe and the Granite Belt attempted to demerge from the Southern Downs Regional Council some years ago. Work was done by the Save our Shire group in that regard, but the attempt was unsuccessful.


On Sunday I attended a rally advocating for deamalgamation at the CF White Oval in Stanthorpe which was officially attended by 1,300 people. I believe more attended because not everybody signed the attendance sheet. There was a motion passed that the community supported deamalgamation. I believe that tomorrow the Clerk will table a petition with approximately 5½ thousand signatures, which is about the population of Stanthorpe, requesting deamalgamation from Warwick.

I note that the Mayor of the Southern Downs Regional Council announced yesterday that she is providing in principle support for deamalgamation and the creation of a Granite Belt regional council. She has noted that their support would be dependent upon a proper financial case being made and it having factual content. I urge the council to assist in that process by opening their books to those who are advocating for the change.

I thank the Minister for Local Government for his positive engagement with me. I understand from him that there is a process to go through. My understanding is that he is happy for those advocating for deamalgamation in Southern Downs to have access to that process and to be able to put their case to the people for the people to decide.

I would like to state for the record that as the member for Southern Downs I take this matter very seriously. I represent everyone in my electorate of Southern Downs whether they support deamalgamation, are undecided or oppose deamalgamation. I see my role as making sure that my constituents have access to a process and are able to express their will in relation to how they are governed at a local level freely and fairly. I urge all concerned to assist in this process by getting out of the way and allowing the people to have their say.

### **Greater Springfield Regional Connect**

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.28 pm): It was my pleasure to recently launch and co-host the first ever community support services forum for the Greater Springfield region within my electorate of Jordan. Greater Springfield Regional Connect brought together key government agencies including health, communities and police, along with community support organisations, notable charities and local school principals.

One of the key issues that I have identified early as the state member is, whilst there are a number of key government agencies and community support services operating in Greater Springfield, many are doing great work in isolation of each other. It is also clear to me that the local community does not necessarily always know what community support services are currently available within our region.

The purpose of the Greater Springfield Regional Connect is to better understand the needs and working of the Greater Springfield community through identifying organisations, building connections and forming collaborations. The idea for this was inspired following a discussion that I had as a candidate with the wonderful staff who operate the YMCA Springfield Lakes Community Centre—Bec Andlemac and Ellie Lloyd. They have different community support services accessing their centre and, whilst they knew that a lot was happening within the region, it seemed to lack coordination.

As a candidate, I also doorknocked a lot of homes in Greater Springfield. It is a truly wonderful community, but there are people out there doing it tough—I see it, our community services sector sees it, our schools see it and our charities certainly see it. I pledged that, if elected, I would work in collaboration with the community centre to start up this forum, with a very simple premise: first, raising

an awareness of who was servicing Greater Springfield; second, bringing those groups together to see where the natural collaborations are and what we can be doing better; and, third, identifying the gaps—what is not happening in the region and who could be providing that service.

Our first Greater Springfield Regional Connect forum brought together 40 participants and was a great success. I was buoyed by the incredible energy in the room, the desire to work together and, most importantly, the collaborations and connections that are already forming. Funding is a critical issue for these organisations, and where we as a government can lock in longer term funding to give existing service providers and their workforce the certainty and stability they need to continue to deliver vital support services is important. A recent example of this is the five-year funding contracts for those working in the homelessness sector through the Queensland government's Partnering for Impact initiative.

From our participants on the day, we know that we have barely touched the surface. By 2030, there will be 138,000 living in Greater Springfield. Currently, there are close to 36,000. My role as the member is simple: I want more—more for Greater Springfield in the way of services and more for Greater Springfield in the way of social infrastructure. Most importantly, I want more for our young people growing up in the region no matter what their economic or social circumstances are. I strongly believe through the work of Greater Springfield Regional Connect that we can do this and so much more.

The House adjourned at 7.31 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, Furner, 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, McMahon, 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